

On the move

News, views and advice for the communities of **The Burgesses** and **Mill House**



Latest project update

Moving stories

Road trip to River View

Welcome to the second issue of **On the Move** and as you will see, things really have been moving!

Inside you can catch-up with some of the first residents who are ready to move into their new homes. Find out how the redevelopment project is progressing and take a look at some of the photographs from our road-trip to River View on that chilly December day.

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Plans for the future: project update

We are really pleased to let you know that everything is going according to schedule with the redevelopment proposals for Mill House and The Burgesses.

In these early weeks, a lot of the work is behind the scenes – our development team has been very busy talking to the local council and meeting the architects who are producing detailed drawings. We have also made sure that funding for the scheme is in place.

We know that you are all very excited to see the full plans and that even if you are making a permanent move off the site, you will always have

a special interest in the project. Before the latest designs for the new building are made public we will be showing them to you first, at the next residents' meeting on Thursday 15 February at 11am. We can't wait to hear what you think!

As you know, we decided to approach the project in two phases so that we can provide better housing solutions for residents of both Mill House and The Burgesses. The planning application will include both phases of the project but that won't change the timescales we have given you.

If you have any questions about the project, Linda and Jackie will be very happy to help you.

Moving stories: Mary Taylor

Mary Taylor is counting the days until she moves out of The Burgesses and into a bungalow where she already feels at home: "I'm so excited, I can't wait!" she laughs.

Mary will be staying in Kinver and living right opposite her daughter Polly. She is already a regular visitor and she has known some of her new neighbours for decades. "The day it was confirmed that I was going to be moving, I had two telephone calls from people living nearby, congratulating me. I felt at home from the moment I stepped through the door."

As the child of a father in the RAF Mary is well-used to moving home and is making the most of the opportunity to get her new home just the way she likes it before she moves in. A new bathroom has already been fitted and she is about to choose new carpets.

"I had a wish list for my perfect home and I've ticked every box. I've got a great location, plenty of space and best of all, an enclosed garden. There is even a greenhouse! I love gardening and I like growing flowers from seed. I'm really looking forward to getting started.

"I've been living in The Burgesses for five years and although it's a lovely community my bungalow is small, cold and damp. Because it backs onto the woods there is very little natural light and I have my lights on, all day. I know that

I am going to be very happy in my lovely sunny new home."

Mary admits that she was taken aback at first, by news of the redevelopment of The Burgesses and Mill House.

"I had a wish list and I've ticked every box!"

"The residents' meeting was a good idea because we all got the same information, at the same time. Everything has been well explained. We've been given the facts and above all, incredible support. Jackie Ilic has been amazing. It doesn't feel as though I'm making this move on my own, she's there every step of the way. When I bought a new roll of wallpaper, she was the first person I wanted to show and she was as excited as me.

"I think the development is good news for the village, too. We need more homes designed for older people, so we can live comfortably and safely near our friends and families.

"In the space of a few weeks I'll be welcoming a new great grandchild and moving into a new home. It's the best possible start to a new year."





Road trip news

Just before Christmas last year a group of neighbours from the Burgesses and Mill House joined Jackie and Linda on a trip to River View, the newest retirement living community development by Housing Plus Group.

The residents were given an exclusive tour of the building before it opened to the public.

"The aim of the visit was for all of us to see the kind of specification and facilities that are possible in new developments," said Jackie.

"Everyone was really impressed by the building and excited to think that something like that could be built in Kinver.

"People were surprised by the attention to detail in a building that has been carefully designed to meet the needs of older residents. Ivan Simpkins, who has difficulty using his wheelchair in Mill House, couldn't believe the level of accessibility in River View and the freedom that brings for people with limited mobility. More than one person commented that the new apartments felt like a home, not just four walls."

Lots of photographs were taken to show to residents who couldn't make the trip. Here are a few taken during the visit.





Moving stories: Joan Allmark and Tom Rowley

Mill House residents Joan Allmark and Tom Rowley believe it's never too late to take a chance on romance. Having met at Mill House, Joan and Tom have decided that the redevelopment project is the ideal time to set-up home together. They are moving into a newly-built bungalow in Kinver.

"When I moved into Mill House two years ago, the last thing I imagined was that I'd be moving out as part of a couple," says Joan.

Tom and Joan have been living in neighbouring apartments in Mill House. When Joan moved in, Tom popped round with a kindly welcome and the two soon became friends.

"My granddaughter said, "He likes you, Nan!" but I told her not to be daft."

Soon, though, Joan and Tom went on their first date, a day trip to Bewdley where they enjoyed a meal and a walk by the river. They have been together ever since.

"It's lovely to have the companionship. We've been on holiday to Wales and Cornwall. I used to go away before I met Tom but it's much nicer to travel with someone special."

Although she hadn't lived in Mill House long, Joan had settled into her flat and the green-fingered resident had even given a facelift to the communal gardens. Understandably, she was upset to learn that the site is to be redeveloped.

"Once I'd had time to think about it, though, I realised that it's a blessing. My flat is at the front of the building and I have breathing problems made worse by the traffic fumes and sandstone dust. I've suffered with asthma and even had pneumonia while I've lived here.

"We decided we might as well move in together and make it official"

"Tom and I had thought about getting a bungalow together but it seemed a lot of upheaval. We would probably have just carried on as we were, living next door to each other. When we heard about the redevelopment we decided we might as well move in together and make it official.

"We are moving into a nice area, near the village and with our own garden. Our families can stop worrying about us. My daughter Daniella lives in Kinver and she's over the moon. Tom's family are happy that he's got someone to organise him!"



Moving stories: John and Eileen Dearden

Two is a lucky number for John and Eileen. At the moment they live at Number 2 The Burgesses. Soon they will be making the move into Number 2 The Saplings, a newly-built bungalow nearby in Kinver.

"Our daughter lives at Number 2, too, so we are keeping-up the family tradition," says John.

It was the desire to live near their daughter Susan that brought John and Eileen to Kinver five

"We're really excited to move. We'll have more space and our own garden."

years ago. John admits that they hadn't planned another move: "We thought we'd be here for the rest of our lives. It was a shock to hear about the redevelopment but it made a big difference that we were given as much information as possible and kept in the picture as we've gone along. We have had a huge amount of help from Jackie Ilic, too. We only have to pick-up the phone and she's there."

Jackie has been working closely with residents and their families to help people make the right move. She thought that the new bungalow in The Saplings would be perfect for John and Eileen and took them to have a look around.

"We loved it straight away. It's beautiful and we are excited to get moving now. Our old place is too small, really. We'll have more space in our new bungalow and our own gardens front and back. It's good to be able to move into somewhere brand new, that can be decorated and carpeted just the way we like it."

The next issue of On the move will be with you at the end of April

- Updates on the development project
- Catch up with neighbours making the move

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