

Richard Stacey

Expect significant challenges, it will be stressful but fun and worthwhile (eventually). The general flavour of comments received before setting up Evoke.

The challenges faced have been far beyond the expected ones and for a fledgling company to face the impacts of a global pandemic and lockdown was extreme to say the least. However, we were able to adapt immediately and seamlessly to the new world and a life of working from home.

The fun aspects have continued throughout and far outweigh the stressful times. Ticking off the milestones on our 'success board' in the office has been immensely satisfying. As have the positive reactions, welcome and support from the local planning and development community as well as clients, professional partners and friends in the industry (also some of our competitors!). Thank you.

My favourite Linked In posting? Our Halloween Pumpkin and Zombies (David, Jon and I) through the office window. Worthwhile? The tears, the sleepless nights? Yes, without a doubt. Far outweighed by the fun. May the journey continue...



David Fletcher

Well I didn't expect our first year to go quite like that! But what a year it's been! Full of challenges but also full of reward. It's been fantastic to see how clients and friends alike have welcomed us and helped us so much in our first year, for which we will be eternally grateful.

It's been great to watch how we have grown as a company and a personal highlight for me was when we moved in to our swanky new office in Work.Life in The White Building. If you haven't been to visit us yet, then please do, the Thursday late afternoon meetings just before beer and pizza seem quite popular!

What do I want to see in Year 2? An end to the dreaded C word! Nope not that one the COVID-19 one and a return to catching up with friends and clients face to face (sorry Zoom it's not the same).

Roll on Year 2!



Beth Wilson

Looking back to our first day at Evoke exactly one year ago, we were full of enthusiasm and perhaps a bit of trepidation, anxious to know what challenges and opportunities the first year may bring.

Little did I know when writing 'Evoke Day 1' on the first page of a new notebook, we would have all faced some of the most challenging days of our whole career, mainly through factors beyond our control!

I've heard many words to describe 2020. 'Frustrating' and 'difficult' spring to mind. But actually, looking back at our first year at Evoke, the words that stick are 'excitement', 'growth' and, above all, 'teamwork'. We've had overwhelming support from the planning community for which we are so grateful. We just wish we could have had a great big party to say thanks!

As we enter our second year and reflect back on our first, I look forward to continuing to build on the great team we have created, hopefully with a few less curveballs thrown our way!



Jon Williams

12 months?! Really? Already? When we opened our shiny new laptops and best biros 12 months ago I don't think any of us could have imagined the curveballs that 2020 has thrown our way. However, looking back now, despite the odd moment of nervousness and apprehension, I can honestly say that it has been an enjoyable and rewarding 12 months here at Evoke, largely thanks to the overwhelming support and confidence of our clients and friends in the world of planning – thank you all!

As a team we have pulled together to tackle the challenges thrown our way whilst trying to figure out the new 'normal' (we're still working on that). We've been lucky enough to celebrate personal achievements and milestones along the way as well as sharing the success of a number of great schemes we've had chance to work on.

Personal highlight: Toasting a great 12 months at The Woodspeen and having time to digest the rollercoaster of the last year. One regret: Not buying shares in Zoom!

Here's to a positive year ahead.

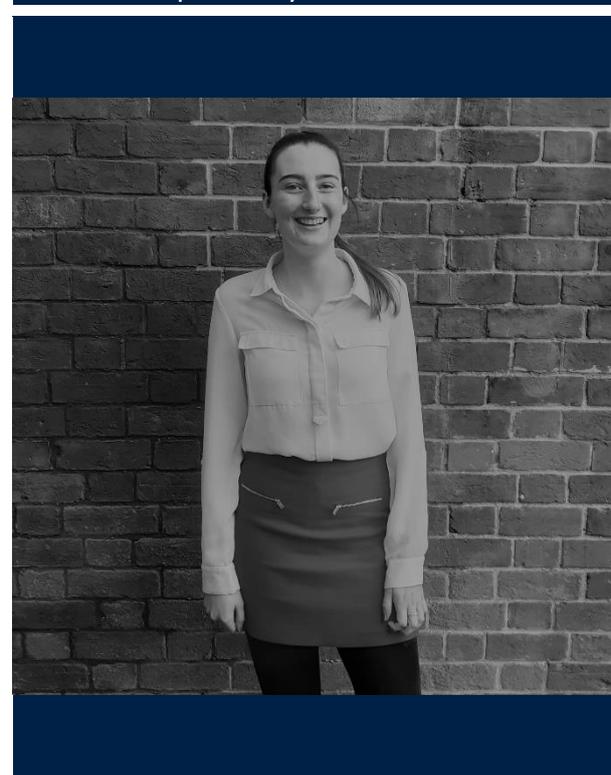


Meg Hopkins

Evoke has accomplished a lot of firsts over the past year... from first employee and first project win to first planning permission granted (to name just a few), it's definitely been a year with lots to celebrate!

My experiences of the past year are a little different to the others, joining the company part-time in January whilst finishing my undergraduate degree and then starting full-time in June. My story with Evoke still contains a lot of firsts though... first job post-graduation, renting my first flat, and let's not forget the First Class Honours (thanks to the Evoke team for their continued support throughout my final year and dissertation).

This past year has certainly been an exciting one for both Evoke and myself, and it's been wonderful to see just how much we have achieved as a team – teamwork really does make the dreamwork! It's been so great to be welcomed into such an amazing crew and being able to grow with the company. Here's to many more years and lots more firsts to be achieved! We're still working on the goal of 'taking over the world', but watch this space...



Clare Goodsell

Well what a year that has been...a lot of which was not in the business plan! Having been away from the workplace for almost 5 years (looking after little ones) I was really excited to be heading back to the world of work helping set-up Evoke.

Looking back on the last 12 months we had some amazing highs (first month of profit) and lows (I don't think I need to say what this is!), but I can honestly say it's been a fantastic year. To say it has been a challenge is an understatement, but despite the difficult circumstances everyone has faced, we have continued to grow and its down to the incredible team here at Evoke.

Personally, I'm looking forward to getting back into the office with everyone, definitely miss the coffee and bagels, and of course continuing to build the wonderful team that is Evoke!



