

# Thinking of the Future

When it comes to quality and hygiene St Monica Trust found what they were looking for from Electrolux Laundry Systems



*One of the beautifully maintained listed buildings at the Cote Lane site*

Cote Lane, Bristol is the location of a superb retirement community of more than 250 people which has been run by the St Monica Trust for over 80 years. Listed buildings have been converted into 150 sheltered flats and a 76-bed care home.

The site has its own historic chapel, and is set in beautiful gardens with stunning views. There's a strong sense of community and it's this that the charity has endeavoured to recreate as it has begun to expand and develop within the local area.

St Monica Trust strives to offer a wide choice of accommodation and support enabling people to maintain their independence and enjoy a fulfilling life. Residents range from the more active who choose to live in self contained apartments with some domestic help to those requiring more support who live in sheltered accommodation or en-suite rooms in the fully staffed care homes.

As well as the original Cote Lane site, St Monica Trust now has two additional complexes in the Bristol area; Westbury Fields, a modern, purpose-built retirement village set around a village green, and for those who prefer urban living, Monica Wills House with its unique room garden situated in the centre of Bedminster



*Sheltered accommodation at the purpose built Westbury Fields site*



*Retirement apartments at Westbury Fields*



### Time For a New Laundry Solution

With all this expansion going on it's little wonder that the laundry services needed to be looked at. With outsourcing dismissed as being too expensive, the Trust began to look for sites to rent as a location for one central laundry as this was worked out to be more economical than running three different laundries.

However after looking at available premises to rent, the Trust realised that there was a much better solution. The Cote Lane site had available land that could accommodate a laundry. Having the laundry on one of their sites would make it easier to manage, be a long term solution and also be nicer for the laundry staff as they wouldn't be relocated to an industrial estate elsewhere.

St Monica Trust always strive to be one step ahead. In fact their motto is "Doing things well, doing things better and looking for ways of doing better things" Therefore, John Cook of Electrolux Laundry Systems had been discussing the idea of a barrier laundry design.

### What is a barrier laundry?

With a barrier laundry, clean and dirty linen never come into contact with each other meaning cross contamination is avoided. A Barrier washer extractor has two doors located on opposite sides of the machine. This allows the machine to be installed in a wall that divides two separate laundry rooms. Dirty linen is loaded into the machine in one room (the dirty side) and the clean linen is then unloaded into the other room (the clean side).

Both doors can never be opened at the same time and staff moving from the dirty side to the clean side must pass through a tiny room where contaminated gloves and gowns are removed and hands are thoroughly washed. On a regular basis and at several stages of the laundering process, laundry staff measure the microbiological quality of the linen which should be lower than 12 colonies per 25 cm<sup>2</sup>.



*A barrier washer extractor*



*The body of the machines sit in the dirty side. On the clean side they are flush to the barrier wall (as above).*

*To the right is the door to the airlock where staff must wash their hands and remove protective gowns.*



*One of the first plans drawn up by Electrolux Laundry Systems*

The Trust were interested in the barrier laundry process and had been keeping it in mind for the future. But after deciding to build a new central laundry, and with the increased awareness of infection control the project was accelerated.

### **Developing the Project**

Over the following months, Ian Joyner, Facilities Manager, St Monica Trust and John Cook began to put together plans for the new laundry.

Because this was the first barrier laundry site in the UK, expertise was brought in from Electrolux in France. Landry Guillohon Product Manager and Barrier Concept specialist of Electrolux Laundry Systems helped explain the system and answer any questions. He also organised a visit to France so that Ian could see the concept in a working environment.

Mechanical engineers were brought in to help with the layout of the various services and the design of the water recovery system. This system was included to make long-term savings as well as reduce the environmental impact of the laundry.

As dirty laundry was to be stored over the weekend, a refrigerated room was built into the laundry plans to prevent any bacteria growth.

Adding Wetcleaning programmes to one of the washers would mean the laundry could process delicate items of clothing and soft furnishings that were previously sent out for dry cleaning.



*A barrier laundry is not just about the machinery. Just as important is the hygienic process used. For this reason, it was important to consider the way in which the staff would work and any new equipment they would need such as trolleys, coloured bags for different laundry, PPE etc.*



*Putting in the barrier wall*



*The finished laundry.  
Right hand door = laundry delivered to the dirty side. Left hand door = clean laundry collection.*

### The Finished Laundry

At the beginning of November 2007 the new laundry was opened. It is now working from 7.30am - 4pm five days a week. While the machinery was being installed, the six members of staff were trained on the process, machinery and linen hygiene in general. Refresher training will be carried out over the next few months.

Two months on and the laundry staff are very happy. "It's a much nicer workplace" says Pauline Champness, Senior Housekeeping Supervisor of St Monica Trust. "It's a lot lighter in the new building and it's nice to know we're working in a healthier environment."

### Next Steps

John continues to work with the staff to ensure they are confident with the new process. He is also helping them develop tailored operating and monitoring procedures.

Electrolux's Certus Management Information System (CMIS) is currently being installed. The system provides data from the machines to allow close monitoring. The data is transferred to a PC where it can be used to ensure the laundry is running as efficiently as possible and to provide proof that the hygienic system is being followed.



**For further information about the St Monica Trust please contact:**

St. Monica Trust  
Cote Lane, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, BS9 3U  
email: [info@stmonicastrust.org.uk](mailto:info@stmonicastrust.org.uk)

web: [www.stmonicastrust.org.uk/](http://www.stmonicastrust.org.uk/)

**For more information on Electrolux products and services please contact**

Helena Crowhurst -Marketing Executive  
Electrolux Laundry Systems  
Tel: 0870 060 4108  
email: [helena.crowhurst@electrolux.co.uk](mailto:helena.crowhurst@electrolux.co.uk)  
web: [www.electrolux.co.uk/laundrysystems](http://www.electrolux.co.uk/laundrysystems)



*The dirty side with the three barrier washers.  
Towards the right is the door to the refrigerated room for weekend storage.*



*The clean side. Laundry to be tumble dried goes along one side of the room and flatwork to be ironed flows along the other side.*

*Thinking of you*  
**Electrolux**