

2017 Conservation Awards Winner



Northwood House

The ceiling of the central bar area has been excellently conserved and is a worthy winner of the IWS 2017 Conservation Award.

This major project was completed in just six weeks. It involved inserting major steel beams into the existing collapsing structure, suspending a new wooden frame to support the dome from them, inserting new floor beams and restoring the beautiful painting to its original condition. The distortion had broken the curved corridor roof glass. No-one could replicate the original but an exact copy was made in modern Lexan based material.

Without remedial action the whole dome would have collapsed. It was only when the cleaner suggested that someone might like to stick back up the pieces of plaster work that were falling from the ceiling that it was realised just how bad the situation had become! Cracks had appeared all around the domed ceiling rim together with radial cracks.

A wooden end beam had disintegrated due to water ingress, leaving the dome unsupported. Upstairs the floors were severely distorted, in some places by six inches.

Today, the main corridor and the original gentlemen's billiard and smoking room have ceilings to be proud of, and ones that should stand for many years to come.

Northwood House Trustees, Tim Wander the project manager, John Sutton of Elmstone Design, and SJS Fabrication and all those who worked on the project are to be congratulated on an excellent piece of work.

Certificates of Merit were given to three properties. These were **Niton Parish Church**, **The Man in the Moon** Newport, and the old **Greenmount School** in Ryde.

Haven Hall, Shanklin received the **Landscaping Award** for perfectly fitting new building within the improved landscape, and **Tapnell Farm** was given a **Rural Regeneration Award**.



Niton Parish Church has been buffeted by gales for hundreds of years. The spire had begun leaking so badly that the timbers supporting the bells were saturated and tarpaulins had to shroud the spire. Much stone work repair was needed to the spire, towers and the south east and south west windows.

After considerable fundraising, work was carried out by GJ Banks. Clearing out old cement mortar and replacing it with lime mortar, carving new stone blocks and waterproofing the walkway at the top of the tower have made the tower watertight again. Two windows have been restored. The church can now stand up to wind and rain again!

Greenmount School Ryde was made up of two buildings, the old National School in Green Street and the Bible Christian Chapel in Newport Street. Redundant since the school moved to the Mayfield site, the buildings have now been converted to residential accommodation. There are thirteen units fitted carefully into the school building, and eight into the old chapel for Housing Association use.

The work has been sensitively completed by the designer Robert Aubrey of ermc Ltd, and Vectis Builders Ltd., for the developers Daldorch Estates Ltd. Many original features have been retained.

Much needed residential accommodation has been provided in upper Ryde. The buildings have been restored to good use, maintaining and improving the character of the area.



Part of the old Greenmount school.



The old Bible Christian Chapel



The Congregational Chapel in Lower St James Street Newport had been turned into a night club in 2002. In 2014 Wetherspoons took over the building and transformed it into a venue for everybody.

The stone work was restored and cleaned, the entrance greatly improved, and the interior sensitively repainted. A comfortable and calm space has been created in the old chapel, which is a benefit to all the community. The architects were KD Paine.



Tapnell Farm has turned redundant farm buildings into a restaurant, café and children’s activity areas. The architect for the work has been Colman Cotter. The Contractor was West Wight Developments.

Now the public have another amenity on the Island for all ages, and the wide structure of the original barns can be clearly seen. The play barns and “meet the animals” areas give youngsters plenty of space to let off steam. The latest amenity is a farm museum, or “mooseum,” which looks at the dairy industry.

The IWS created a special “Rural Regeneration” award for this extensive project.

Our Landscaping Award this year went to Haven Hall at Shanklin. An imposing Edwardian house had been turned into a hotel, which needed much careful restoration work to bring it back to its former glory. This was achieved for owner David Barratt by architect Sean Macmillan.



It was difficult to believe that the single storey owners’ suite extension, seen to the left in the picture, was new. It fits so effortlessly into the landscape. This landscape had been

created to help the house in its new role as a wedding and events venue. An Edwardian mansion has been given a new lease of life.

The RIBA New Build Awards 2017

The Principal Award winner is

“The Lion Tree House” Yarmouth



The Award is made for the dynamic contribution made by its form, its functionality, the architecture it expresses and its detail. There is a response of the whole building to the setting of a heritage asset and to the special interest of a Conservation Area.

The new dwelling element maintains the scale of built form and good neighbourly disposition which other houses in the High Street possess. It presents architecture of its own time. The glazed link to the Listed Grade II house Shandon gives apparent continuity across the new component, and allows the eastern façade of the old house to remain on view. It also allows sea views from the rear courtyard.

Architect: Henry Murray Smith

Builders: J R Buckett and Sons

RIBA gave two commendations in 2017.



Firstly, to ***“The Briars” at Seaview***, for an exemplary outcome in the design of internal and external spatial improvements to an existing dwelling house. The Architect was Lindsay Mattinson, Building work by Hermans and Luck.

The second commendation, for the ingenious resolution to a very complex range of physical and visual constraints and opportunities presented by the site in its context went to



“The Sea House,” Seaview. Colman Cotter was the architect and MCM the constructors.

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