

# Isle of Wight Society Newsletter

May 2018

Issue 123

# 2018 Conservation Awards Winner

# **Northwood Cemetery Chapels**



# The two chapels at Northwood Cemetery have been restored from near collapse and are winners of the 2018 Conservation Award.

Built in 1856, these Listed Grade II cemetery chapels are one of few pairs of chapels left in England. Both chapels at Northwood had suffered severe ground movement and also WWII bomb damage. Shrapnel holes on the cemetery walls and gates were also repaired. The West chapel was derelict and the East chapel was in poor condition. New piled foundations fifty feet deep were formed to support the western chapel, which was in danger of collapse. Extensive structural repairs were made to both chapels, and new stone work inserted in the wide structural cracks. Both chapels were reroofed. New stained glass was made for the West chapel and the glass refurbished in the East chapel. New oak floors, insulation and inner skin, electrics and heating were provided. A new stone built kitchen was added to the West chapel reusing original stone from an earlier structure demolished some years ago. The East Chapel is once again in use for funeral services. The West chapel is now used as a Heritage Resource Centre.



Friends of Northwood Cemetery organised the project, gaining a Heritage Lottery Grant. They have brought back into use both chapels for excellent community use, saving them from collapse. Exemplary craftsmanship has been shown in this project, which proved to be a very major undertaking.

Everyone concerned is to be warmly congratulated.

**Certificates of Merit** were presented to four properties. These were **Alexandra House** Ventnor, **Chapel House** Chale, **Carisbrooke Mill** and **Pavilion Cottage**, Osborne.

The Lower Terrace, Osborne received the Landscaping Award for replacing Osborne House into the landscape as original designed, and Artecology with their Vertipools and Eelevator were given an Ecological Landscape Design Award. The Small Project Award was given this year to Shanklin War Memorial.



On 17th July 2017 **I, Alexandra Terrace** suffered a sudden complete collapse of the masonry of the front bay over all four storeys, requiring scaffolding throughout the building to hold up the floors and roof turret before the road could be reopened. New timber framed bays were constructed and tied back into the existing structure, with strengthened floor joists. As many old bricks were salvaged as possible for reuse. Reconstructing the intricate buff brickwork details necessitated working with brick manufacturers to replicate the originals. Locally sourced stone was used to ensure the original character of the house was replicated. Sills and arch stones were carefully moulded. Double-glazed replica sash windows were used to ensure the period character.

The restoration has saved the building and restored it to its very prominent place at the end of the terrace. If ARID Design had not begun work so rapidly, disaster could have struck this imposing terrace. So thanks are due to another development owner who said, "Take the men off my site, Alexandra terrace is more important!"

### Chapel House, Chale.

This was an 1880s Methodist Chapel in use until 2005. It had been empty for 10 years, with no gas, water, drains or heating. The chapel has been converted into a 3 bedroomed house, now used as holiday accommodation.

A mezzanine level and an interior bridge have provided 1st floor accommodation, including a lounge adjacent to the main stained glass window. All the original features were maintained. The windows were allowed to give full height light with no visible separation externally. New internal walls, doors, fittings and details are complementary to the existing structure.

The work shows a very sensitive approach to the restoration of the building, which is a great asset to the Island tourist provision. Jules and Sarah Russell are to be congratulated on their project.





### **Carisbrooke Mill**

This Mill, dating back to middle ages, was working until 1939. The Mill House was a home before being given a facelift in this project and now offers views of the leat and the stream. Old timbers from the mill were reused wherever possible and left exposed. The garage was converted to a utility.

The attached, derelict, roofless barn was completely rebuilt. What remained of the masonry and stone walls was restored. A new mansard roof was made to copy the original that had suffered storm damage many years ago. Dark timber cladding was used on the upper wall level. Internally, the timber roof beams were wooden pegged.

All the work has been carried out for owner Geoff Underwood sympathetically and to a very high standard by ARID Design. Good original design features have been inserted in keeping with the character of the old mill and its outbuildings.

### Pavilion Cottage, Osborne Estate

Built as the cricket Pavilion for the cadets of the Royal Naval College, Osborne, in 1904, it was used by them until 1921. It was repaired by Hubert Saunders for sports use in the 1930s by the firm of Groves and Guttridge. Later it was turned into accommodation and used by Convalescent Home staff.

By 2017 the timber frame was suffering from much decay. Cladding, floors, and ceiling had to be removed, while the roof remained jacked up in place. Extensive repairs were made to the framework, windows were salvaged and repaired, and new cladding used to replicate the original. Internally work was completed to upgrade the pavilion into luxury holiday accommodation.

The building has been conserved to a very high standard by G J Banks (IW) Ltd., and has been given a new lease of life by English Heritage, increasing the tourist provision on the Island with a little gem of a building.



**Also at Osborne House**, English Heritage regained unity of the house and landscape. Prince Albert's vision of architecture, art and nature had been spoilt by the preservation of the House but neglect of the terrace, which created a dark line splitting the house from the surrounding parkland. The terraces were a gloomy reminder of former glory. There was much render failure and damage to features so some pillars and decorative ware were recast using the original Victorian moulds. Failed tanking on the upper terrace had allowed water into the loggia, so the upper terrace was waterproofed. Internal restoration of the loggia is waiting for the old render to dry out. The shell alcove was completely repainted, sourcing original colours. The fountain was restored to glory, with additional Minton tiles to match the originals.



Both terraces and house now fit in the landscape as Prince Albert and Thomas Cubitt intended. Ptolemy Dean Architects Ltd. were the architects, and the builders were CRL Ltd. and Crick Smith Ltd.



**Shanklin War Memorial** is on Local List of buildings worthy of protection but the stone work had eroded and many names were illegible. Over the last few years improvements have included

an accessible entrance. In 1995 a second free standing memorial was added for those who gave their lives in WWII, and added to this were the names of 12 Shanklin Fire Service personnel who died when their headquarters was bombed in 1943. Over the last years, the original cross and inscriptions were extensively repaired with new stonework on the two weathered sides. It was found that the lower chamber was hollow and now improved support has been given to the eleven foot high cross above the names.

The work has been done very carefully and given back respect to the memorial in this, the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI. The upkeep of the memorial and the surrounding garden is an example of excellent community spirit.

The **Vertipools** and the **Eelevator** are two projects by the Ecological design group Artecology. **Vertipools** have been added to the sea walls at Bouldnor and Compton, giving sealife a chance to colonise at a higher level



The **Eelevator** gives eels a chance to migrate upstream giving them purchase over steep drops caused by new drainage under the main road. Both are well thought out designs.



Awards continue on pages 9-12

# Notes from the Chair May 2018 before the AGM

### Dear Members.

Next year will be our 50th Anniversary. We are going to mark it in various ways and hope you will participate too. We will let you know further details later. (Please check the web site. www. Isle of Wight Society). We have decided to produce a coloured booklet showing our progress and involvement in Island affairs.

Last month Society members attended the funeral of Malcolm Pinhorn who was our founder, lately living on the mainland. His wish was to return to the Island for interment at Mottistone Church and on one of the few better days, with a promise of spring, this occurred. In his 49 years of involvement the Constitution has enabled the establishment of; the Conservation Awards event, the publication of books and pamphlets about the Island, the 500 word monthly contribution in the County Press newspaper, representation on various bodies, invitations to consultations, an expectation to comment on planning applications, and the setting up of a web page. He may not have anticipated some changes but clearly he was a man of vision.

I took part in the judging for the Conservation Awards and continue to be thankful for this event. It gives a good picture of what is being achieved throughout the Island to nurture and preserve our environment. It is well recognised that innovators develop ideas here and the eel ladder tiles, by Artecology, are an example of a design and execution that has global relevance.

As I step down from the Chairmanship I extend my thanks to all the committee members for their involvement and contributions. I am quite confident that the new Chairperson will continue the work we do. Thank you all for the support you give.

Yours sincerely,

Helena Hewston.

## Malcolm Pinhorn 1932 – 2018

Malcolm was born in London, went to school at Ardingly and then Cambridge to study Law. He did his National Service as an Officer in the R.A.F. The appeal of being a solicitor in his father's firm was less attractive after his father died. Instead he became a professional genealogist and became Chairman of the Society of Genealogists.

This interest was sparked after being shown a mid 19th century letter by an elderly Mrs Pinhorn in the New Forest. It was from Eldridge, the Newport Solicitors, explaining that a Mr Pinhorn had died intestate and all the descendents would receive 7/6pence. Eldridges were able to supply Malcolm with many names and addresses, a wonderful start to his family history.



Malcolm became a genealogical publisher and bookseller, taking over Phillimore and Co., long before everything was on line or up in the cloud!

Siobhan and Malcolm moved to Shalfleet Manor, where he continued to publish

and research. Malcolm became very concerned with what was happening to older buildings on the Island, and Newport in particular. He invited various experts to talk to other concerned Islanders, such as Steve Ross, and formed the Isle of Wight Society in 1969. Sadly it was too late to save Hazzards House which was pulled down to make way for council offices.

The family moved to Montgomery, but it was too cold so returned to the Island! They lived at Newtown then Hulverstone and later Calbourne.

Just a week before he died, Malcolm finally registered the Pinhorns with the College of Arms, a fitting conclusion to the life of one so bound up in Genealogy.

## **Regeneration – the way forward for the Island?** From the Vice Chairman, David Burdett

The way a community manages its affairs is regularly under discussion. It can pay to look at history to see where mistakes have been made so that we can adopt a system that will achieve the best compromise.

In very general terms, prior to the 1800s, communities used to manage their own affairs through the parish and estate owners. In the 1800s the first additional form of community management was the Local Board of Health. In the latter part of the 1800s these became absorbed into Urban District Parish and Town Councils.

In the 1920s central government began to make an impact by amalgamating smaller councils into larger ones managing wider areas. In the 1950s there was another change to larger Borough Councils. Hazzards House was demolished to make way for County Hall extension.

In 1996 Borough Councils were dissolved and the Island became a Unitary Authority. All this was in the name of more efficient management.

However it was realised that local communities had lost their voices so they were encouraged to recreate the original town and parish councils. By 2010 the Island was once again emparished.

The difference now is in funding. The first parish councils knew that they had to raise funds locally for things they wished to achieve in their area. Now the Isle of Wight Council has responsibility for all the important community functions. To do this they levy rates across the community. In addition central government provided financial support to County Councils through the Rate Support Grant.

Over several decades central government has decided that they should not have a large Civil Service running many of the community functions. They established specialist agencies and delegated duties and powers to them. The government could then control the way money was spent rather than hand it out to County Councils to use as they saw fit.

In 1990s the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA), with its base at Guildford, started to invest government money on the Island to boost existing industry and help start new industries. They called their work Regeneration. Their major plan started with the whole of the Medina Valley. This gradually shrank to cover East and West Cowes, then to just East Cowes. While SEEDA were involved in several projects around the Island their major investment appears to have been in East Cowes where they spent £12 million buying the GKN North site and preparing it for redevelopment. The only business they managed to attract was Waitrose who set up a store in the heart of the town.

With a change in government all the development agencies were dissolved and their assets handed over to the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA). Basically their brief was to attract builders to construct as many houses as possible on the land they owned. In East Cowes HCA sold land to Red Funnel for the enlargement of the ferry marshalling area. HCA also spent a considerable amount on the ground-works for an industrial estate south of the power station.

The end result of spending all this tax payers' money so far has been the creation of some jobs in a chain store and the demolition of some industrial buildings.

Another way central government is trying to boost industry through reliable management is by setting up Local Enterprise Partnerships. The Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (SLEP) was given £500 million to boost industry in the Solent Area. A joint venture by the IoW College and GKN attracted £14 million to set up the Centre of Excellence in Composites Advanced Manufacture and Marine to prepare youngsters for an apprenticeship in the aerospace and boatbuilding industry.

In 2017 the Isle of Wight Council created two posts for Regeneration officers to consult the public and come up with regeneration projects within regeneration areas. At the February meeting of the IoW Society at East Cowes Heritage Centre, Mr Chris Ashman, the Director of Regeneration, spent an hour and a half explaining the Council's policy and answering many questions. By the end of the meeting it had become obvious that, while the community are having an opportunity to say what they think is needed to ensure a balanced and thriving

community, nothing will happen until businesses see an opportunity to take part that will benefit themselves as well as the community.

The major industries of the Island have been ship and aircraft building. These industries developed here because, initially, they were both marine related. Industrialists came to the Island because of what was here. Now, unless there is a large government subsidy such as Vestas enjoyed twice, the Island has less to offer new manufacturing businesses than sites on the mainland. We need to critically look at what is different about the Island that will attract business then market that intensively.

With the creation of the Welfare State in the late 1940s, the government offered in exchange for taxes to care for individuals from the cradle to the grave. This policy over the decades has led us as a nation to expect the government to resolve our problems, including the job creation that provides all communities with the financial lifeblood they need.

The adoption by the last government of a "Localism" policy, whereby decision making is to be encouraged at local levels did not tell the whole story. If decisions to do things are made by local authorities then they are the ones who will have to fund their projects. It looks as though we shall have to return to the mental attitude of "if you want it you must pay for it". This is going to be a large challenge to Parish and Town councillors who will be unwilling to tell their neighbours that they are going to take more of their money!

Another power in the community is the voluntary sector. The Isle of Wight probably has as many voluntary organisations as anywhere in the country, with interests covering the whole range of community activity. The total number is in the region of 1800. Through lottery and other grant funding organisations such as Down to the Coast they carry out a lot of very good work around the Island. However these projects seldom create many long-term jobs that the younger generation need to keep them on the Island.

We need to unite our Island community in some way to help produce a well-educated work force and attract as diverse a range of industries as possible to generate the financial stability required to support an enjoyable life style. The ingredients are there. We need to find the catalyst to trigger a happy self-supporting community.

# William Arnold - Cowes Customs Officer - By Colin Arnold

William Arnold accepted the job of Collector of Customs at Cowes in 1777. This followed a family tradition, for his father was Supervisor of Excise for Poole. His uncle was the first of the Suffolk Arnolds to move to the Isle of Wight, where he took the position of the Collector of Excise for the Island.

William's duties were many and varied, for, besides seizing smuggling vessels, he was responsible for the registration of new sea-borne vessels and for giving clearance to local ships and all sea-going merchant vessels in the area. He had a marked talent in dealing with people, and was a tolerant and understanding man as well as a champion of men's rights.

At the time when he took up his duties, smugglers would flaunt the customs openly and often landed their illegal cargoes during daylight hours, under the very eyes of the Customs men, who could do little to stop them. The local Customs' cutter was too frail to carry much in the way of armaments. Until Arnold improved matters, compensation for injury to Customs men, in the course of their duties, was non-existent.



Arnold was determined to put a stop to the blatant practices of the smugglers and persuaded his superiors to allow him to find a large cutter for his own use in combating them. He fitted out a vessel called *The Swan*. The ship was fitted out at Arnold's own expense and George Sarmon of Cowes was appointed as captain. Unfortunately the ship became grounded off Hurst Castle, whilst pursuing a smuggler's vessel. *The Swan* was not insured, but



the Crown agreed to pay for a replacement vessel, also called *The Swan* and again captained by George Sarmon.

Three years later George Sarmon's son Francis took over the ship. He later commanded *The Swan III* and *Swan IV* and fought many skirmishes with the smugglers. Sadly, Captain Sarmon's career ended suddenly in 1797. Whilst on board ship he was killed by a musket bullet from a French privateer. This was a shock to Arnold. Typically, he made sure that Sarmon's widow was helped financially.

Control of inland smuggling was also under Arnold's

jurisdiction. His officers patrolled between Cowes and Newtown, Culver Cliff and the whole coastal areas south and west.

In 1778 William took on the job of Deputy Postmaster, which was to some extent a nominal position. But in 1785 he was promoted, in as much as the returns of the Cowes Collector were separated from Portsmouth. He also became the Principal Collector for Trinity House at Cowes. Arnold earned himself a high reputation and his judgement was valued. His advice on how to deal with discipline in The Merchant Service was sought by Pitt's Board of Trade in 1789.

For many years the family lived at Birmingham House at Cowes. A red plaque on this building tells us that this was the birthplace of his son Thomas Arnold, who became famous as the Headmaster of Rugby School, where he reigned between 1827 and 1841. In William Arnold's time, the surroundings were very different from today. Fields lay around the area and William and his wife Martha took a hand at farming. They kept cattle, sheep and pigs and grew hay for winter feed.

In 1795 William bought 17 acres of land at East Cowes. He also built a large family house at this side of the Medina which he called Slatwoods. It was built on an oak-covered hill, overlooking the River Medina and the sea. On his estate William continued farming and rearing heifers and sheep.

The big house stood for 100 years but was demolished for redevelopment in about 1913. All that is left is Slatwood Lodge, situated at the bottom end of Old Road.

William Arnold died of a heart attack in 1801 and was buried at Whippingham Church. His memorial tablet can still be seen in the church.

Picture of The Swan by G H Wheeler

Picture of William Arnold by Colin Arnold (no relation!)

# Isle of Wight Society Subscriptions

Due 1st January - The Rates are:

Full membership £12, Joint Full £20 Senior membership £10, joint Senior £18 Corporate membership £20

Subs should be paid direct to: The Treasurer, Isle of Wight Society. East Cowes Heritage Centre, 8 Clarence Road East Cowes, PO32 6EP or by Bank Transfer to the Society Account Name Isle of Wight Society Bank Lloyds Bank Code: 30-95-99 Acct Code: 00331217

### **Society Information**

Chairman: Mrs Sarah Burdett BEM Treasurer: Mr D Burdett 92 Greenlands Road, East Cowes, PO32 6HT Email burdett.sd@gmail.com Executive Committee: the above officers with Colin Arnold (Ryde), Diana Conyers (Ryde) Helena Hewston (Newbridge) and Wilf Curtis (East Cowes). Monthly meetings open to all members are held on the 4th Tuesday of the month at East Cowes Heritage Centre, Clarence Road, East Cowes, PO32 6EP The contact address for the Society is the East Cowes Heritage Centre. Website: www.isleofwightsociety.org.uk The Conservation Awards has really become a celebration of good conservation work on the Island. Several other projects with many good features were entered and all are to be congratulated on their attempts to retain the character of the Island.



**Nelson Mansions**, Ryde, was a derelict Georgian building, said to have been lived in by Lord Nelson while the Hamiltons lived next door. It has now been carefully restored by the firm of Nelson & Palmer Ltd. This has given a much needed boost to the character of this corner of Ryde.



We take for granted buildings like **Holyrood House**, Newport. We think it has always been there and always will remain. But unless owners and builders care for them and adapt them for new uses, they fall into disrepair. ARID Design added two new dormers to match the existing ones. Can you tell new from old? Extensive woodworm and rot in the old timbers was dealt with, rebuilding much of the upper floors retaining original features wherever possible. IWS Conservation Awards and RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) Joint entries.



**Gassiots** is a development by Barnes and Edwards Property on the site of the old Oakfield School Ryde. When the school (built by Mr Gassiot in 1878) was demolished, stone, tiles and timber were carefully salvaged. These reclaimed materials were then cleverly reused in some of the new properties. Other new buildings in the development reflect the character of nearby mansions. This has been a development in a prominent location many have watched grow to completion with satisfaction.

Two other joint entries, Grace Church, Ryde and Myrtle Cottage, Brook appear in the RIBA entries.

### **The RIBA entries**

### Winner : Small projects

178 Park Road, Cowes by Elmstone Design

Architecture is often thought of as the realm of large public buildings or grand private mansions. But employing an architect for a small scale, modest extension for the addition of a kitchen and dining room at Park Road in Cowes shows how good design can transcend budget or scale. Here a Victorian end of terrace house has been imaginatively extended down a steeply sloping site and inside the building cascades down into the garden with every inch of space used. Secret storage spaces and beautiful materials make for a homely yet modern interior flooded with daylight with an inclined ceiling that takes a small space and makes it into something grand and airy. 178, Park Road



# Winner: Residential Building

2, Marsh Road, Gurnard by

the Manser Practise Architects & Designers Matters of flooding and sea level rise are ever more present today and how a building will respond to



climate change ensuring they have long and useful lives is an important consideration in the design of Marsh Road in Gurnard. Here the delicate timber box sits on steel legs in the shape of a W floating about Gurnard Luck and affording magnificent views across the Solent from a tin clad tower. The building was very economical and uses a simple timber frame faced in painted boards which in some ways resemble the clinker built boat that hangs beneath. Inside the building is of exquisite simplicity being based on a standard sheet of plywood that forms the grid of the lofty open plan space.

### **Winner: Public Building**

**CECAMM**, Whippingham Business Park by Pick Everard

Buildings are more than the materials they are made of or the spaces they create, they are primarily about creating spaces for people and the new CECAMM building is about the future of the Island's youth with training facilities for the cutting edge technologies that will shape their future. The building accommodates some extraordinary facilities and a grand atrium gives it a sense of civic importance and pride for the students who will study



and learn there. It is above all a utilitarian space, but of great functional complexity and the planning and arrangement of the machinery, classrooms and changing facilities are a complex sequence that is all about making a building, as the great 20th century architect Le Corbusier observed, like a beautiful machine.

### Cambridge Cottage, Cowes

by the Manser Practice Architects and Designers. This is something of a stealth house, occupying an exceptionally steeply sloping site adjacent to Holy Trinity Church in Cowes. It is almost invisible from Baring Road and entered from above takes the form of a single storey black wall only punctuated by louvres resembling those on the bell tower in the church below. But through this mask the house opens out to capture the panorama with cantilevered balconies that seem to float against the forces of gravity out over the landscape to make a dramatic terrace of plateaus that fall away down the hillside. The building is very grand inside and the attention to



detail is exceptional with every corner and junction refined with mathematical precision to make a house which is at the cutting edge of material technology yet seems a natural part of the surrounding content.

**38 Park Road** Cowes, by Wight Architecture This house is a bold statement in the street scene and draws on the language of the international modernist style of extreme of extreme simplicity and geometric clarity. The white cube has the pristine appearance both inside and out and the living rooms on the ground floor take advantage of the full height windows to draw the open plan interior though to the outside garden. Buldings of this sort are best set off



against a natural background and the new planning once mature will provide the necessary juxtaposition to this brave modernist design.

### 11 Birmingham Road, Cowes by

the Manser Practice Architects and Designers.

This house is a building of two faces and two distinct characters. To the road the modest brick elevation respects the surrounding context whilst to the rear white weatherboarding takes its cue from the boat yards of Cowes' marine heritage. This duality is

11, Birmingham Road



apparent inside as the ground floor comprises of the smaller cellular bedrooms and ancillary spaces leaving the first floor to open up to the apex of the roof as a great open living space that resembles a sail loft. Leaving the roof beams exposed shows the carefully detailed building construction and again resembles the pragmatic beauty of the boatyard.

#### Florins, Yarmouth by HMS Architects

This house replaces an existing building along the High Street in Yarmouth. The street frontage is finely proportioned with a splendid semi-circular entrance portal. Set over four floors the building draws on



the Georgian typology of grand reception rooms on the first floor with a low basement level with and bedroom and attic stories above. Set on a slope towards the water, the first floor affords spectacular panoramic views across the Western Solent and inside the levels are connected by an exquisite staircase that spirals around a central light well drawing the different levels together. The architect Henry Murray-Smith has paid special attention to the design and detailing of the interiors with fine joinery and fitted, sometimes hidden cupboards that draw on the Island's great expertise of fine cabinet making.

**Yards Hollow**, Limerstone by Elmstone Design Set amongst the rolling landscape of the south western downs, this elegant Victorian house has been sympathetically extended to provide an open plan living, dining and kitchen space with a new utility room and other internal alterations. The building has



received a new external coat in the form of a through colour render finish that unifies the appearance of the house. There is some good detailing with crisp metal gutters and downpipes that retain the original character whilst making the house a useful and comfortable home.

# **Grace Church**, Marlborough Road, Ryde by HMS Architects

Extending the existing church has been imaginatively undertaken with a white rendered addition that follows the form of the existing brick building and is slightly set in as if the drawer of a cabinet has been slid out. The space extends the seating capacity of the church but more importantly provides a huge shop window to the street making the church, and the



activities within, more open and inviting to the passer-by. Opening the building this way is symbolic of the congregation that brings its ministry and welcome to all and this new extension will serve to keep the church at the heart of the community.

#### Old Myrtle Cottage Brook by modh design.

The reuse of a storage barn to become a holiday annexe shows how architecture can be created from the tiniest of spaces. Using the full height of the pitched roof inside provides a bed deck with the bathroom and kitchen below, leaving the main



living space double height giving this small building a sense of space and light. Outside the stone wall fronting the road has been carefully rebuilt whilst the other walls of the building are clad in blackened timber with some fine detailing of the full height windows and doors.

The Isle of Wight Society was formed in 1969 to stimulate interest in the beauty, history and character of the Island, and to encourage high standards of planning, building development and Conservation. The Society is affiliated to the national Civic Voice organisation and is a Registered Charity, No. 276986.