



## **REPORT TO COWES TOWN COUNCIL NORTHWOOD HOUSE CHARITABLE TRUST**

**MARCH 2011**

In the Park we now have permission to start remedial work on the trees and shrubbery. The tree surgeon will start work shortly.

Work to prepare the Park for spring has begun and the Friends continue with their Park working bees timetabled for the first Saturday each month. The Green Gym has agreed to assist in May, charging only for their insurance. Meanwhile the contract for grass maintenance is in place. The leaves have been slowly but regularly cleared from the open areas.

In the House, careful work has started on the Rotunda interior, amongst other things carefully scraping away some areas of rather grim Bakerloo Line brown paint to expose marbled paintwork underneath. Regulations these days are apparently much tighter than they were a few years ago, and we plan to replace the rather surprising orange ceiling with a colour closer to the blue which was there before. Just washing the floor and pillars made a huge improvement.

It is only 5 months since IWC left the premises and we have achieved immediate objectives to do with making the house itself safe in various ways including keeping out the elements and unblocking all sorts of drains and gutters which we are told have been blocked for years. Some of the worst woodrot has been repaired. The house smells fresh and clean.

Addressing the perception that Northwood House is closed down has also been a priority. Signage in the grounds has been updated and recent publicity in the Beacon has already resulted in enquiries.

Our best publicity comes from meetings, exhibitions and various successful events already held. When asked if we could be the venue for family and friends to get together and celebrate in their own way the all-too-short life of Jamie Rolfe we were able to work closely with his family and provide a very special venue which they were delighted with. Over 200 friends and family participated. The charity antiques fair last weekend in aid of the Motor Neurone Disease Society was very well attended, creating a lot of interest as well as raising funds for the charity as well as the Charitable Trust. Over 400 people paid to attend and there were 30 stalls. People said Northwood House was the ideal setting.

The best way to register interest in booking an event for anything between 20 and 200 people is to visit [www.northwoodhouse.org](http://www.northwoodhouse.org) and complete the short enquiry form so that we can respond quickly and efficiently.

And the website is updated constantly with news of events and activities.

The informal Jazz evening organised by the Friends of Northwood House & park, will take place on Saturday. 125 tickets have been sold, which is a sell-out. We hope it could be the first of many musical evenings at the house or in the Park.

I am very pleased to welcome Janet Allan as the Trustee nominated by the Friends of Northwood House & Park. Previously a Trustee, Janet brings to the Trust useful experience and skills.

The task of the Trustees is to find and work for a sustainable future for the House and Park and that is what we will continue to do.

Ann Thwaites, Chair of the Trustees  
2.3.2011