



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS AND THANKS!

I am taking this opportunity to thank a variety of people who during 2011 have made it possible for the Trustees of Northwood House Charitable Trust to carry on the task of preserving, protecting and maintaining Northwood House and Park for the future.

First of all, our stalwart volunteers who have given so much time and effort to bringing the House back to life. Their painting, cleaning and refurbishing work have helped make it possible for the Trust to make the beautiful function rooms in the House available for all sorts of celebrations during 2011, including weddings, parties, AGMs, receptions and even a wake. Because of all this work – both on the part of the volunteers and also the Trustees and their Advisers – and the effort put into promoting the House, 40 couples have already booked their wedding for 2012 and 2013. We look forward to welcoming even more, as people begin to appreciate the lovely backdrop and service we can provide for ceremonies big or small.

Not forgetting, of course, all those who have helped in the Park gardening, planting, pruning and leaf collecting - the biggest job of all! We have some very special trees in the Park but they do drop an enormous quantity of leaves, and everyone's effort has been welcomed. We have received many compliments about the Park, now that it is clean and tidy, colourful in the summer and enjoyed by so many. If you would like to join any of the various working parties – inside or outside – please email me on chairman@northwoodhouse.org.

Sadly, the only criticism of late has been about dog dirt. The Park is for everybody to enjoy and dog dirt is just not acceptable anywhere, whether it's under the trees, on the grass or on the paths. Whether it's dog dirt or litter, please use the bins. We are very grateful to Cowes Town Council for funding the emptying of the dog and litter bins in the Park this year and I hope their support of Northwood House & Park will continue. We hope that everyone who enjoys the Park will support the Trust by keeping it clean and tidy. Northwood Park has been enjoyed by the people of Cowes at least since 1929 and long may that continue.

Looking to the future, the Trustees' aim is that in 2012, despite all the economic difficulties and our limited funds, we will continue the remarkable recovery which the House has experienced since the departure of the Isle of Wight Council only 14 months ago – and with the great support of the people of Cowes who enjoy the House and Park, we are encouraged to believe that we will succeed! We have received some unexpected and very welcome donations of money, the most recent being used to buy the Christmas lights in the upstairs bay window of the House which we hope have brought a little joy to Park users after dark. We plan to set up GiftAid as soon as we can to increase the benefit of any kind donations of money.



In addition to my heartfelt thanks to people in the community for their support I also want to thank Advisors to the Trust and of course my colleagues for their dedication, hard work, time and skills as well as their determination in taking on the huge task of working towards a sustainable future for Northwood House and Park.

On behalf of the Trustees of Northwood House, I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Ann Thwaites, Chairman, Northwood House Charitable Trust

Please note: the Trust office will be closed between 23 December and 3 January inclusive.