



THE TRUSTEES OF NORTHWOOD HOUSE CHARITABLE TRUST

Following its gifting by the Ward family to Cowes Urban District Council in 1929, ownership of the Northwood House estate passed to a Trust – subsequently a charitable Trust – and until 2002 the sole Trustee was the Isle of Wight Council. However, under its stewardship the House fell into disrepair, and in 1998 Northwood House Forum, which comprised representatives of the Isle of Wight Council, Cowes Town Council, the Friends of Northwood House, Cowes Community Partnership, the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust and other interested individuals, was set up with the remit to find a sustainable use for Northwood House.

As a result of the work of the Forum an amended scheme was approved by the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The scheme was adopted on 31st July 2002. The 1929 Deed of Gift and the 31st July 2002 Scheme are the governing documents of the charity. Under the new Scheme the Council became Custodian Trustee – having no role other than to hold the deeds and the bank account – and the day-to-day management was overseen by a group of seven local people as Management Trustees. The 2002 scheme required certain local bodies to nominate Management Trustees, though it must be emphasised that nominees are not representatives of nor advocates for their nominating body. Additional trustees can be co-opted. The Trust also benefits from professional advice from appointed Advisers who bring their knowledge and expertise to the support of the Trust. See below for details of the current Management Trustees (2011).

The current nominating bodies are the Isle of Wight Council, Cowes Town Council, Cowes Community Partnership and the Friends of Northwood House & Park, though it should be noted that in 2010 the Isle of Wight Council made clear their decision to withdraw from any involvement in Northwood House, including no longer being Custodian Trustee. As a result a new Charitable Scheme will be drawn up.

Despite the new Scheme, between 2002 and 2010 the Isle of Wight Council effectively acted as both Custodian and Management Trustee and under their management the house was allowed to fall into disrepair. Eventually, on 4 May 2010, 'out of the blue' the Management Trustees received a letter from the Council giving two months' notice of their withdrawal from any input to Northwood House. Since 2008 the Trustees had been engaging in negotiation and consultation with the Isle of Wight Council about their withdrawal, but this letter took everyone by surprise and caused at least one significant problem: it included the information that buildings insurance cover would be withdrawn with effect from 30 June. It was extremely difficult for the Trustees to identify an alternative provider of such specialised insurance at such short notice but with just hours to go it was successfully put in place, which in turn made it possible for events and activities to take place in the House.

As of 30 September 2010, the Council withdrew from all involvement in the House or the Park and handed over responsibility to the Management Trustees. This was not without its difficulties. Since that date the Trustees have had to deal with every element of the management of Northwood House and its grounds, from negotiating with the Council over the money due to the Trust to finding someone to fix the drains, mow the lawns and mend the roof - and everything in between.

Nevertheless, the Trustees and their advisers have been able to put in place alternative, better-value solutions to most of these problems; luckily, too, individuals and organisations have been coming

forward with support and help, for which the Trustees are very grateful. In particular, our team of volunteers have put in huge amounts of effort, time and commitment, doing everything from painting and decorating to clearing the drains, collecting leaves and mending the windows. For the last few years - and with more urgency since the handover - the Trustees have worked hard to try and find a sustainable future for the building which will ensure the survival of this much loved local landmark. The Trustees' vision is once more to put Northwood House and Park at the heart of life in Cowes.

THE CURRENT MANAGEMENT TRUSTEES (1 AUGUST 2011)

ANN THWAITES (Chair)	After High School and an intensive London secretarial course, Ann worked initially as a PA, progressing into administration, for a Courtaulds company, a PR consultancy, English Butter Marketing Company, an acquisition company and a growing building business in Birmingham. Post-children she became a school governor and a Parish Councillor in South Buckinghamshire, being Chair of each at particularly challenging times. Sailing and retirement brought her and her husband Philip to Cowes. She became a Cowes Town Councillor and its nominated Trustee on the Northwood House Charitable Trust in September 2009 (she resigned from the Council in 2011), and is currently Chair of the Trust.
JANET ALLAN (Friends of Northwood House)	Janet graduated with a journalism degree from East Texas State University. She wrote for magazines in the furniture and gift industries, eventually publishing and editing a magazine for interior designers. In 1986, Janet moved to England with her husband, Peter, and provided marketing and secretarial support for his newly formed business, Allard Industries. The business was sold in 1990 and the couple retired to the Isle of Wight in 1997. A founding member of the Friends of Northwood House, Janet was the nominated trustee of the Friends in the 2002 Scheme and served as chair of the Trust 2003-2007.
DAVID CHRISTIE (co-opted)	David is a practising barrister, specialising in employment, with particular emphasis on senior executive restrictive covenant and breach of confidence work. He frequently appears in the Employment Tribunal, EAT and CA dealing with all areas of employment law including race, sex and disability discrimination and TUPE. He also specialises in commercial litigation including civil fraud, misrepresentation, and the other commercial torts, acting for both Claimant and Defendant in the Chancery Division, Companies Court and Queen's Bench Division.
GINNIE GLEDHILL (co-opted)	Ginnie has been an HR professional throughout her career, notably at ACAS and in the Further Education sector, where she was HR Director of an FE College in Kent and became a Chartered Member of the Chartered Institute of Personnel & Development. She returned to the Island eight years ago and carries out HR consultancy alongside work in the voluntary sector; besides her role as a Trustee of Northwood House Charitable Trust, she is a Governor of the Isle of Wight College, serves on the Independent Monitoring Board of HMP Isle of Wight and is a keen amateur actor.
MAGGIE ANKERS (co-opted)	Maggie owns and runs the well-known Villa Rothsay Hotel in Cowes, in partnership with her sister and her mother. In her spare time she is a champion golfer.
LIZ MACKENZIE (Cowes Community Partnership)	Liz brings extensive professional experience in the areas of corporate governance and strategic partnership to Northwood House Charitable Trust and has well-developed skills in strategic planning and business development along with her professional qualifications in business strategy and marketing. Her background includes non-executive directorship of a Business Link in London and being Chief Executive of North-West London Chamber of Commerce. She returned to the Island ten years ago and divides her time between her work as a director of a number of companies and trustee of several charities, and renovating properties.