



1929

NORTHWOOD HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Nearly 90 years ago the Ward family gifted Northwood House and Park to Cowes Urban District Council. With your support it will continue to contribute to the community reflecting the vibrancy and history of the Isle of Wight.

Dear friends and supporters

You will know from previous editions of this newsletter that 2016 was an event filled year for Northwood House and Park.

We undertook major refurbishment work to the House in the first few months. We hosted Cowes Patron's and The Big Lunch celebrations to mark the Queen's 90th birthday in June and welcomed HRH the Duke of Edinburgh to the House during Cowes Week. The Earl of Wessex opened the 5th Isle of Wight Literary Festival in October.

There were so many highly successful events enjoyed by residents and visitors to Cowes and the Island.

We also provided a venue for community activities such as the Wight in Bloom awards and the Big Toy Wrap.

The Summer is a busy time for the House team with brides and grooms a plenty. Over the year we have welcomed nearly 30 couples to the House for marriage ceremonies or celebrations. Encourage your friends and family to consider hosting parties and celebrations at Northwood House (see page 7) – there still are dates available in 2017.

Once more I would like to extend our thanks to the many volunteers that help in the Park and running the events that raised over £26,000 for Charity funds last year.

Plans for 2017

This year will be just as busy for all those involved with the Estate. The main building refurbishment projects are barn/ carriage house and Church Lodge. (See Tim Wander's article on Page 4.)

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Members social events are in planning and we are increasing the number of Car Boot Sales between April and October (See Dates for your Diary on page 8).



Help with parking and the cafe would be very much appreciated. Please email Lynne Scott lynnescott@ukclub.net if you can give up some time to help.

So please come and enjoy the Park throughout the seasons, join in the events that appeal to you, and bring your friends and family along too. We look forward to seeing you.

Janet Allan, Chairman

Northwood House Wedding Open Day

Sunday 5th February 2017

It's hard to beat Northwood House in Cowes as a place to celebrate the most special day of your life. If you know of any couples who are planning a wedding then please send them along.

Our annual Wedding Open Day gives couples the opportunity to see what the venue has to offer. A number of key Island wedding suppliers will dress the venue and set up promotional displays to provide inspiration. Doors open between 10am and 4pm and entry is free.

If couples can't get to the Open Day, then call 01983 293642 to arrange a no obligation viewing. Some great wedding dates are still available in 2017 with bookings now being taken up to 2020.



RECENT EVENTS

Christmas Events

A flurry of seasonal events rounded off 2016 at Northwood House. Members and volunteers gathered to “dress the House” just before the festivities started, festooning the reception rooms, hallways and Rotunda – fortified by homemade soup and seasonal punch. The giant tree in the Ballroom bay window enticed visitors down the recently repainted hall.

Christmas Fair

Our Christmas Fair on the 27th November was very successful.

Local businesses packed out 31 Stalls, and were so pleased with the results that 12 have already booked for 2017!

Over 40 children visited Santa in his grotto, to put in their Christmas requests.

A big success this year was Santa Paws – 60 canines came for cuddles and pictures – and no grumbles growls or accidents amongst them.



Members Christmas Drinks Party

On December 11th the members' Christmas Drinks Party rounded off the year. Sixty members mingled and enjoyed canapes and festive drinks served by the volunteers. Northwood House Director John Pollard entertained with a medley of Christmas music played on the grand piano in the splendour of the festively decorated Ballroom.

Progress on the House

The refurbishment work funded by Coastal Revival Fund has certainly improved the appearance of the House. We are now looking at the next phase of keeping the buildings safe and dry and looking their best.

Most recently we have been working to complete the Church Lodge Phase One Heritage Lottery Fund report which is essentially a blueprint for the full restoration of this iconic building. Lottery funding will help refurbish the Lodge for use as another source of income for the Charity.

St Mary's entrance

We are adding a new set of guttering and drainpipes around the entrance from St Mary's. Because the House is Grade II* full listed building consent was required



and only authentic cast iron guttering can be used. Once installed it will prevent water from soaking the walls under the roof and will stop the external wall from staining.

Parapets above the Rotunda

The Rotunda is now subject to significant water ingress (i.e. damp) especially on the face towards the garden. 176 years facing the Solent has resulted in the upper parapet wall separating and cracking and an overall loss of the top lime mortar cap.



The best technical solution is to cap the entire parapet wall with a modern approved rubberised type material. But this is proving to be expensive - so a traditional approach fixing the worst parts with lime mortar and redoing lead work has been undertaken.

The lintel over the main door to the Rotunda car park has been opened up and a large stainless steel plate bolted to the back of the three lintel stones. Now good for the next 100 years!

UPDATE ON THE HOUSE & BUILDINGS



Removing the roof from The Old Barn

The Old Barn (also known as the Coach House) is the oldest building on the estate (c. 1724 and part of the original Bellevue House). It is listed in its own right.

The roof has been gradually falling in over a number of years and has suffered serious water ingress. Sadly the entire roof and floor timbers have now rotted away. All that can be salvaged is the stone shell. The 1940s chimney added during World War II has also been found to be very unstable.

Installing an internal steel shell and temporary roof

Elmstone Design has helped us develop

a cost effective solution that will remove the roof and provide an internal steel framework that will support the building. By inserting a temporary roof inside the barn a large dry area for summer furniture and garden items will be provided. Longer term if funding becomes available we hope to replace the entire roof and create a Heritage Visitors Centre.

Removal of the old pig sty

Lastly we have had to say goodbye to the old pig sty - also known as the cow briar. This building dates from the 1940s when it was used by the Home Guard and as a dog kennel for rescue dogs during World War II.

The structure has been moving with the real risk it would all fall onto the main SSE electricity transformer. The only option was to remove most of the building - retaining the old wall to the drive way and some half walls.

Tim Wander

If you would like to know more about the history of Northwood House and Park copies of Tim Wander's book Northwood House and Park are available from the Northwood House office for £10.



PARK NEWS

Flowerbeds still delight

Although the flowerbeds are mainly dormant at the moment, as a result of the mild autumn and winter some plants are still in flower. At the back of the lawn the alstroemerias have continued to bloom, and the planters around the house have been kept flowering with winter planting. The herbaceous border has flowered continuously this season, hardly surprising as there are now some 70 varieties planted there.

During the autumn, and continuing into the winter, plants have been cut back, divided or removed as appropriate and the ground has been enriched with manure and compost. Our greenhouse area has been improved to help us maintain a supply of new planting for the coming season. The shrubbery in front of the south wall of the churchyard has been dug over, weeded, improved with compost and manure. Some new planting has taken place, which will continue in the coming months, together with further pruning.



Opening the space around the War Memorial

One of the most noticeable improvements has been to the area around the war memorial where shrubs have been cleared. This opens up a vista from Ward Avenue to the House and allows light through. The stumps will be removed and appropriate flowers sown in the area. The hedge behind has had new whips put in the gaps and will thicken up to frame the area.

Controlling shrubs and leaves

We have also been clearing bays etc from the scrubby area to the west of Park Court; this will encourage the growth of the hedge which Park Court management had previously planted to divide their land from the Park. Similarly, at the junction of the car park and Ward Avenue, work has begun to cut back overgrown shrubs.

The never-ending job of leaf sweeping has continued throughout the autumn and winter. This not only keeps the paths clear, but prevents the build up of soil at the edges which would ultimately cause them to become overgrown.

Carol Hope

What are you celebrating in 2017?

Have you got a special birthday or anniversary coming up in 2017 and are you looking for a place to have a party? Northwood House is one of the most popular venues on the Isle of Wight for hosting celebrations throughout the year.

Whether it's a special anniversary, surprise birthday party, christening or a club dinner, we have everything you need to create a fantastic event that your guests will really remember.

There's no doubt about it, Northwood House is a great venue for a party. It's been holding them ever since the place was built back in 1838, so it's part of our heritage.

With a variety of function rooms available we can cater for small intimate events for just a dozen people, right up to large seated dinners for up to 160 guests and everything in between.

We have a list of quality local caterers that you can choose from to get the food you want for your event. They offer everything from simple finger buffets to hog roasts and a la carte dining if required. You set the budget with the caterer and tell them what you want and they will be able to create a menu for you.

We also have contacts for venue bands and discos if you need them to help your party

PLANNING A PARTY?

go with a swing.

To get more help in organising your party please get in touch with us.

With lots of great weekend dates still available in 2017 don't delay in giving us a call!

**Darren Cool and Dan Selle
Northwood House Events
01983 293642**



Dates for your Diary

February

Sunday 5th February – Wedding Open Day

March

Sunday 12th March - MND Antiques Fair

April

Sunday 9th and 23rd – Cowes Car Boot Sale

Friday 28th April - Fashion Show

May

Sunday 14th May - Volunteers fair

Sunday 7th and 21st May – Cowes Car Boot Sale

June

Sunday 4th June - Cowes Big Lunch

Sunday 4th and 18th June – Cowes Car Boot Sale

Later in the year...

More Car Boot sales - Members Summer BBQ - Lawn Lounge and entertainment during Cowes Week - Island Highland Gathering - Isle of Wight Literary Festival ... and much more! Look out for emails, posters and additions to our website and Facebook page.

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

The Charity relies on an army of volunteers, and we are always looking for more hands to help. If you would like to get involved in any of these activities please get in touch!

- Catering and serving at members' parties
- Managing Car Boot sales car park and the Stable Café
- Running the Northwood House Café at events
- Helping in the office
- Maintaining the grounds
- Stewarding at large events
- Fundraising

Our volunteers meet monthly. For details of the next meeting contact volunteers@northwoodhouse.org and bring a friend to join in!

**NORTHWOOD HOUSE CHARITABLE
TRUST COMPANY LTD**
A CHARITY WORKING TO PRESERVE
NORTHWOOD HOUSE AND PARK INTO THE
FUTURE

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