

CPRE Norfolk Awards



1980 to 2004



Campaign to Protect
Rural England
NORFOLK

Foreword

By definition, the typical CPRE campaigner is almost always objecting or asking for modifications to someone else's ideas and therefore often appears unduly negative. This often prompts the question "Well what would you do instead?"

The marvellous thing about the Awards Scheme is that it gives us a living library of best practice that can inform future ideas and the opportunity to reward projects that have been executed with the sort of forethought, ingenuity and professionalism that we all like to see.

I attended my first awards ceremony in the year 2000 and I remember thinking that not only were the projects extremely worthy, but that it was also great to see the expressions on the faces of the winners as all their hard work was recognised. The varying nature of the projects also illustrates our intention not to favour just the traditional solutions; we love to see new ideas and solutions as well.

So here we are, after twenty-five years, celebrating a true landmark in the history of the project. The scheme itself has also had some recognition in that CPRE National Office have recognised the merit of the idea and are encouraging other branches around the country to set up their own scheme.

I suspect that when it was launched as The Norfolk Society Awards Scheme back in 1980 no one expected it would still be going well into the next millennium. That it is, owes much to the ingenious people of Norfolk and the dedication of the organisers. Martin Walton, Nancy Legg and David Thompson please take a bow.

John Sansby, Chairman, CPRE Norfolk

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Introduction by Martin Walton.

I have been associated with the CPRE Awards (Norfolk Society,) for the last 20 years, and have been Chairman of Judges for the last 13. These awards have been running for 25 years, and we decided it would be appropriate to celebrate this with a booklet containing some of the best entries. As the judges have looked at several hundred projects over this period we can only highlight some of the best of these from each year.

The Awards scheme is an excellent way of showing our appreciation to those throughout the County who have made a major contribution to the enhancement and preservation of the Norfolk landscape and its architecture. Also our aim is to inspire and encourage others. It is a way in which CPRE can show that we are a positive and forward looking organisation.

Over the years we have spread the remit of the project as widely as possible, much wider than any other County in the country. We now include school projects, landscape improvements, new buildings, restorations and conversions. For schools there are two small yearly donations from modest bequests left by Jock Raffe and Bill Young, both of whom were especially concerned with environmental education of the young. It has been very heartening to see such excellent work carried out by many schools in Norfolk. It is very important that all children learn from an early age that the environment and sustainability are the way forward for a better quality of life. Now school grounds are seen as an outdoor classroom, rather than just a simple grass playing field.

In judging the awards we work on the same principle as the Chelsea Flower Show. The quality of all entries is important. There is no single “prize winner”. So there can be any number of Awards, Highly Commended, or Commended projects.

Our criteria are as below:

1. Respect the integrity of the original building.
2. Restraint (modesty) in intervention.
3. Distinctiveness in extensions to old buildings. (When enlarging a building make the new of its time.)
4. Use of materials and quality of detailing.
5. A building formerly “at risk” and now “saved” by respectful restoration.
6. Environmental changes sympathetic to the local ecology.

Judging the awards is carried out by a small committee, whose members have varying areas of expertise, and a passion for the Norfolk countryside. We always have an architect on our panel to enlighten us about the qualities of buildings, whether on historic restorations or on new buildings. There are many historic buildings which no longer have a use, but it is important that a new use is found which respects the integrity of the original structure, and gives them a new economic viability. We have seen some excellent projects, from the restoration of large country houses, to granaries, coach houses and barns.

It is important at this time that the CPRE looks to the future, encouraging high quality new architecture which incorporates the best practices in sustainable building techniques and materials. Over the last few years we have been encouraged by such projects, and are seeing many more develop.

There have been some excellent new school buildings and extensions designed to give children a bright and stimulating place to study. Much excellent work has been done by Norfolk County Council, in providing and designing these schools. The County Council are also to be praised for their many countryside projects throughout the County.

In conclusion I must add that many people have contributed their time and knowledge to the Awards over these first 25 years to make them the success they have become, and I must specifically thank David Thompson of LSI. Architects who has unstintingly given us eight years of his time in acting as our architectural judge. I would also like to thank Nancy Legg, my fellow judge, photographer, and administrator during the last 18 years. We look forward to future enthusiasts to carry on this important work.



SELECTED PROJECTS 1980 TO 2004

1980 1982

LANDSCAPING THE COMMON AT GREAT HAUTOBOIS

Mr. Alan Spink of the
Parish Council.



PLANTING SEVERAL THOUSAND TREES IN NEATISHEAD VILLAGE OVER A LONG PERIOD



Village postmaster
Mr. Wrigley planted and
tends this large number of
trees single handedly in his
village over many years.

SELECTED PROJECTS 1980 TO 2004

1983

TREE PLANTING PROJECT ON THE MEMORIAL GREEN, EAST HARLING,
BY THE LOCAL BROWNIE PACK

An important
example of involving
young people in their
environment.



MODERNISATION OF A GROUP OF THREE COTTAGES,
SWANTON MORLEY BY JOHN CARRICK



SELECTED PROJECTS 1980 TO 2004

1985

RESTORATION OF COTENHAM FARM BARN, PANXWORTH, FOR USE AS FURNITURE-MAKING WORKSHOPS, BY MR.S.SIMPSON

This complex of farm buildings has been converted into a furniture workshop, with the large thatched cart shed as an excellent open building for seasoning timber. The use of these redundant buildings brings employment into a rural area.



MANAGEMENT OF SAHAM TONEY NATURE RESERVE, BY THE PARISH COUNCIL



SELECTED PROJECTS 1980 TO 2004

1987

RESTORATION OF THREE COTTAGES, AND CONVERSION TO A PUB, “DARBY’S”, AT SWANTON MORLEY BY JOHN CARRICK

This is a most successful conversion, which has created an excellent traditional pub, full of farming memorabilia. It has created a focal point in the centre of the village. John Carrick, the owner, has gone on to develop several other projects, including shops, a post office and a barn conversion with banqueting facilities.

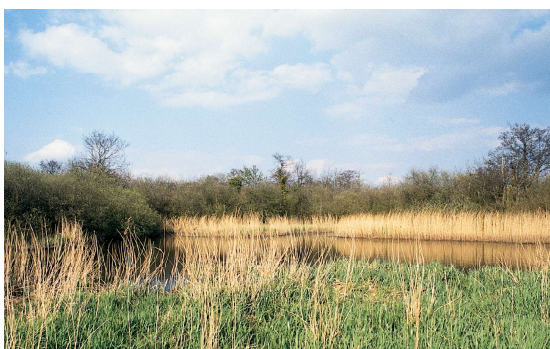


RESTORATION OF THE PLEASURE WHERRY “HATHOR”

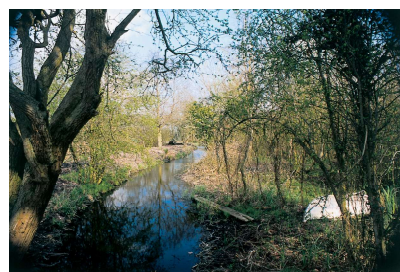


This beautiful pleasure wherry, once belonging to the Coleman family, has been completely restored by Peter Bowens, and is now used as a holiday charter boat.

CREATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE “TED ELLIS TRUST” MARSH AND BROAD AT WHEATFEN, SURLINGHAM



After the death of the remarkable naturalist Ted Ellis, his widow Phyllis formed a Trust to carry on the management of this special landscape, and to create education facilities to further knowledge of Broadland ecology, which he had studied and



documented for the whole of his lifetime.

SELECTED PROJECTS 1980 TO 2004

1988

RESTORATION OF A GROUP OF BARNs AT LETHERINGSETT, AND CONVERSION TO A WORKSHOP FOR HIGH QUALITY FURNITURE MAKING



This range of buildings, which had fallen into disrepair, occupies a prominent position between Letheringsett and Holt. The restoration work kept the character of the buildings and has created local employment.

CREATION AND MANAGEMENT OF A “WORKHOUSE GARDEN”, AT GRESSENHALL RURAL LIFE MUSEUM

A traditional working cottage garden of 1914 was the vision of Mary Manning and her team of enthusiasts. Box edged paths, vegetable plots, cottage garden flowers, and chickens faithfully create an image of the Workhouse Master’s garden.



SELECTED PROJECTS 1980 TO 2004

1989

RESTORATION OF A GRADE II* LISTED NON-CONFORMIST CHAPEL AT OULTON



This disused early congregational chapel of 1728 was bought and beautifully restored by the Norfolk Historic Buildings Trust, with grants from English heritage and Broadland District Council. It can now be hired for meetings, weddings, concerts and other events.

CREATION OF A SIX ACRE WOOD, BY DR.G.F.WATTS, AT MOULTON

This woodland has been planted with a wide variety of native tree and flower species. A large pond has been created, and meadows planted with cowslips etc. Meandering paths enhance the delightful use of this area.



SELECTED PROJECTS 1980 TO 2004

1990

RESTORATION AND CONVERSION OF CROSTWIGHT HALL AND BARN

This hall and its barns were in a ruinous state when taken on by a developer, who sensitively restored the hall, and converted the many barns into residential use. This has made a new community in this very small village.



RESTORATION OF HISTORIC BOATHOUSE AT SENNOWE PARK



This Edwardian boat house, contemporary with the remodelled hall by Skipper, has been beautifully restored by owner Tom Cook.

SELECTED PROJECTS 1980 TO 2004

1991

RESTORATION OF AN HISTORIC BUILDING AT LITTLE WALSINGHAM



This former garage in the centre of Little Walsingham has undergone a major restoration by architect Anthony Rossi, and forms a new shop. During the work a very rare mediaeval shop front was revealed, and is now on view.

CREATION OF A NEW LAKE IN THE PARK AT RAINTHORPE



A large new lake has been created by George Hastings, adjacent to this fine Elizabethan country house.

SELECTED PROJECTS 1980 TO 2004

1992

RESTORATION OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS & SHOPS, AND CONVERSION TO A CAFE, (BYFORD'S), AND SHOPS, AT HOLT

This sensitive and extensive restoration of a group of buildings, revealed a far earlier date than most of the Georgian buildings of Holt. Byford's now makes an important impact on the streetscape, and has a café and other shops.



RESTORATION OF GUNTON HALL, AND CONVERSION OF ALL ANCILLIARY BUILDINGS TO DWELLINGS



This grand house had fallen into a derelict state following a fire in 1882. Architect Kit Martin restored the house and outbuildings to a very high standard, converting them into a number of residential units. He has also begun restoring the large historic park.

SELECTED PROJECTS 1980 TO 2004

1993

RESTORATION AND CONVERSION OF GRANARY & MILL BUILDINGS AT STALHAM STAITHE BY MEADOWHOUSE BAR-LASER LTD

This group of buildings has been run as a family business for many years. When it closed it was sensitively converted to a modern use, (producing bar-coding), while maintaining its visual importance at Stalham Staithe.



DRAYTON FIRST AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

These schools, under the headship of Mrs. Pat Howe, have created a school garden, a wildlife areas, and a pond which have encouraged children in nature study and gardening. The environment pervades the whole curriculum, including creative writing, science, poetry and art. Our Society is very keen for all children to experience such a wide policy as this from the earliest age.



HIGH ASH FARM, CAISTOR ST.EDMUND

This farm has been managed with an excellent environmental policy, maintaining hedgerows, creating wildflower meadows and verges, and off-road riding for horses. There is an education building, (a converted barn), enabling parties of children or adults to study the rich diversity of habitats on this farm.



SELECTED PROJECTS 1980 TO 2004

1994

RESTORATION OF WAXHAM BARN



This Grade 1 Listed building, which is the largest barn in Norfolk, dating back to pre-armada times, has been restored after a Public Enquiry that prevented its demolition. Now, (in 2004), with the four wings also restored, it once again graces the landscape. This is a great success by Norfolk County Council. Early campaigners included CPRE Norfolk.

SELECTED PROJECTS 1980 TO 2004

1995

CONVERSION OF A BARN COMPLEX AT HORSEY, FOR HOLIDAY USE

The National Trust has achieved a very sensitive conversion of this dilapidated group of barns, incorporating good ecological features, including use of grey water, composting toilets, etc. In the main barn the design has respected the open structure of the interior.



RESTORATION OF A LARGE GROUP OF COTTAGES, PULHAM MARKET



This important group of timber-framed cottages has been very carefully restored by the owner, using a good local firm of builders. This has successfully created a number of rentable homes in this small community.

SELECTED PROJECTS 1980 TO 2004

1996

RESTORATION OF THE UPPER WENSUM VALLEY, SAYER'S MEADOW, SPARHAM

This work was carried out by the Norfolk Anglers Association to improve the life of the river by creating “riffles” of stones to make shallows, and to change the flow and course of the river. Work was also done on the river banks, creating a much better environment for fish, river wildlife, and plants.



A NEW FRESHWATER BIRD RESERVE IN THE UPPER STIFFKEY VALLEY

Lord Buxton has restored the landscape of a barren and over-worked farm to create an ecologically enhanced landscape. Improvements have been made to the river Stiffkey for the benefit of wildlife, and small lakes created as freshwater areas for birds.



SELECTED PROJECTS 1980 TO 2004

1996

RESTORATION OF ST.MARY'S CHURCH, HOUGHTON ON THE HILL

This isolated church was in the “lost village” of Houghton on the Hill, and had fallen into considerable disrepair. A campaign to rescue the building started by local people, led to major input by Norfolk County Council. The discovery of some of the earliest wall paintings in Europe has led to ongoing research.



THE STONE HOUSE, LUDHAM

This is a Listed house, which had fallen into disrepair owing to a lack of money in the past. This meant that the original features of this 17th century house had remained intact. Major restoration was carried out by a new owner over five years. A particularly unusual feature of the house is the 18th century Georgian façade, which required “stitching back” to the older building. The beautifully knapped flint



was probably taken from the adjacent ruins of the pre-reformation St.Benet's Abbey.

SELECTED PROJECTS 1980 TO 2004

1997

RESTORATION OF THE MODEL FARM, HOLKHAM



This fine group of buildings by Wyatt had, over time, fallen into a sad state, the main farmhouse being used as a grain store! An excellent restoration was done, returning the house to its former state, and once again a residence.

KETT'S COUNTRY WALK

This excellent walk, created by Norfolk County Council across 11 miles of open countryside, follows the route taken by Robert Kett and his rebel followers from Wymondham to Norwich. Some new permissive footpaths have been created, and new woodland planted on part of the route.



SELECTED PROJECTS 1980 TO 2004

1998

THE ECOTECH CENTRE, SWAFFHAM



This new building is for the study of the environment and sustainability. The structure uses many techniques for energy conservation, such as solar gain, and a biomass boiler. The design, both externally and internally, is very exciting.

KELLING HEATH HOLIDAY PARK

This large caravan park is managed to a very high ecological standard, and won the David Bellamy Gold Award. Caravans are discreetly hidden amongst the trees. Management of the heath involved using the “flying flock” of Hebridean sheep to keep the land free from scrub. There are very good interpretation boards, and guides to the site, and a breeding programme for owls and red squirrels.



THE WAVENEY VALLEY REGENERATION PROJECT

This project by the Norfolk Anglers Conservation Association in conjunction with District Councils of South Norfolk and Mid Suffolk aimed to bring new life back into the River Waveney by good management. New “riffles” were created to form shallows, which altered the current of the river, making a



better habitat for fish. Holding dykes were created to nurture young fish before release into the river.

SELECTED PROJECTS 1980 TO 2004

1999

KING'S HEAD COTTAGE, BANHAM

This was a very rundown timber framed building on the “buildings at risk” register. After negotiations, the Norfolk Historic Buildings Trust purchased the house. Research proved it to be probably the oldest inhabited house in the county, dating back to the 1300's. After sensitive restoration, the house is again lived in.



FRESHWATER ECOLOGY LABORATORIES, HOW HILL, LUDHAM



This is a new building of high ecological sustainability, using green oak felled on the site. The structure stands on legs, making only a light footprint on the ground. The interior is equipped with a suite of rooms, including a classroom and a laboratory. The How Hill Educational Trust enables children to study the freshwater life of the Norfolk Broads.

SELECTED PROJECTS 1980 TO 2004

2000

LENWADE MILL



This large water mill, which stands in a prominent position on the Norwich to Fakenham road, had been empty for some years and looked very run down. The redevelopment of the building, and conversion for residential use while retaining the internal features, has brought the building back to life, and made a great impact in its river setting. The old granary at the rear has been very successfully converted into residential units with architectural flair.

THE GREAT EASTERN PINGO TRAIL, BRECKLAND



The pingoes of Breckland are a unique feature of this area, created by the melting of the ice at the end of the ice-age. Norfolk County Council and the Brecks Countryside Project have created various long way-marked walks through this peaceful and very remote area. There is an ongoing management plan for the site, and good interpretation material and leaflets.

CARBROOK MILLENNIUM GREEN



A large area in the centre of the village has been made into a village green of several acres by a community group, to celebrate the millennium. A large sum of money was raised for the project, which incorporates newly planted woodland, a meadow area, a huge new pond, a children's play area, and an amphitheatre. There is an interesting very large piece of sculpture in wood, which represents a fox with a bird clinging to its back, and a hare being chased.

SELECTED PROJECTS 1980 TO 2004

2001

RACKHEATH HALL

This hall had fallen into a state of neglect when it was purchased by property developer George Braithwaite. He took on the major restoration of the Hall, converting it into apartments, which sensitively brought the house back to its fine style. He also built a number of new dwellings adjacent to the house, the whole creating a new community.



BOSTON SQUARE SENSORY GARDEN, HUNSTANTON



This new community garden is very imaginative in its architectural design and planting. It provides many sensory experiences especially for those with sight and hearing disabilities. The landscaping and planting reflect the local ecology from beach to cliff top.

SELECTED PROJECTS 1980 TO 2004

2001

RAVENINGHAM HALL



The large greenhouse in the walled garden, manufactured by Bolton & Paul, had fallen into disrepair, like many of those on large estates. As one of his millennium projects Sir Nicholas Bacon meticulously restored this greenhouse, and brought it back into use. This is a major feature of the historic walled garden.

JUNIPER HOUSE, KING'S LYNN



This is the office of King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council, and is an exciting contemporary approach to office development. It incorporates many good environmental innovations, making it the first council to have an office which is self sufficient in energy.

SELECTED PROJECTS 1980 TO 2004

2002

KENNINGHALL COMMUNITY WOOD



This is an inspiring project which embraced the whole community. The moving force behind the scheme was Lucy Whittle, who grew hundreds of trees from seed in her garden, and then organised the village to rent land to start planting the community wood. A large amount of money was raised by events and grants, and further land was purchased to extend the planting. Children and the whole school were very involved in all aspects of it.

COLBY PRIMARY SCHOOL



This is a school with a strong environmental policy, led by an enthusiastic staff. Children are taught a wide range of skills in caring for a new pond, a greenhouse, keeping hens, growing vegetables, using a wormery, and running a recycling system on all materials used in school. Other features include a small wind turbine, and there is an excellent resources room converted with grant aid from the old toilet block. This school gives children a wonderful start in understanding the environment by active participation. This project received the Jock Raffe Award.

SELECTED PROJECTS 1980 TO 2004

2002

“GREENYARD”, HARGHAM

This is a very elegant house, with out-buildings, which has incorporated the best practices of environmental construction. Most of the timber for building was sourced from local trees felled by the 1987 hurricane. There is a very efficient reed bed sewage system.



EXTENSION TO WYMONDHAM ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

A beautifully designed extension has been added to this small church as a national memorial to those who died in the Japanese Prisoner of War Camps. The building is an excellent example of bringing contemporary architecture into an historic market town. The chapel is of great simplicity and light in its interior design, and uses interesting symbolism in its geometry.

SELECTED PROJECTS 1980 TO 2004

2003

COLNEY WOODLAND BURIAL GROUND THURLTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



This site is an environmentally friendly burial ground for cremated ashes, in a woodland setting. The buildings are of timber, and very innovatively designed to fit into the site. It is open to the public, with interpretation boards and walks showing the flora of the site. The overall experience is of tranquillity in a natural setting.



This school, like most Norfolk schools, is Victorian. The new extension is of a very high standard of design, incorporating many new environmentally energy saving methods. The unique feature of this school is the small wind turbine, which, combined with solar panels and modern insulation materials, makes it extremely energy efficient. The contemporary looking, clean lined building is a very pleasant place for learning and teaching.

DIDLINGTON NATURE RESERVE



This area contains several disused gravel extraction sites, and has been purchased by a private owner to create a nature reserve of about 130 acres. It contains many species of birds, mammals, and insects, including one very rare beetle. Many organisations have assisted in monitoring the site, and advising the owner. The previous owner has helped with contracting work. This is a wonderful natural oasis in Breckland.

SELECTED PROJECTS 1980 TO 2004

2004

CLEARWATER 2000, BARTON BROAD

This is a major restoration scheme to clean the water of Barton Broad of the phosphates & nitrates which were in the mud, and caused the decline of plant and animal life. A lengthy boardwalk has been created, which enables the public to walk through swampy carr to see the broad. Two car parks have been formed, one with a half-mile footpath to the boardwalk, the other for disabled visitors. Both are very well landscaped with native shrubs and trees.



RESTORATION OF ROADSIDE WILLOWS IN BROADLAND

The willow-lined roads have been a feature of the Broadland landscape for centuries. When they were first planted, the roots provided a mat under the road, which supported the surface, preventing it from spreading into the dykes. Over the years the willows have been neglected, but now the Norfolk County Council has a programme of regular pollarding, and replacement where necessary, to ensure the future of this special landscape feature.



SELECTED PROJECTS 1980 TO 2004

2004

TANGLE PICKERS, BRANCASTER



An imaginatively designed house on the coast at Brancaster, which has used local materials of brick, flint, and wood with extremely good detailing. The main living area is on the first floor, giving wonderful views of the marshes, creeks, and hills.

THE ORCHARDS, AYLSHAM

This fine building, designed by John Adey Repton in the 1840's, is near Aylsham Town centre. It was almost lost to demolition after a fire. The building has now been restored to a very high standard, & converted to apartments, with additional new housing. It is a Housing Association development, which has greatly enhanced the streetscape, and brought new life to the area with its multi-occupancy.



Acknowledgements: Architects & Designers Not Mentioned in the Text

- 1992 "Byfords". Holt Developer M.A.G.. Saunders. Designer M. Pert
- 1993 High Ash Farm, Caistor St Edmond Farmer Chris Skinner.
- 1994 Restoration of Waxham Barn Architect Anthony Rossi.
- 1995 Cottages at Pulham Market. Peter Blackburn owner/developer
- 1996 The Stone House. Ludham. Brian Greenwood, restoration.
- 1998 The Ecotech Building. Swaffham.
Paul Lucas, Real Architecture Ltd.
Kelling Heath Holiday Park. Kevin Hart, Environmental Manager
- 1999 Freshwater Laboratory, How Hill. Norwich City Architect Norman Smith.
- 2000 Lenwade Mill. Wood Stephen, Design Management Consultants.
- 2001 Juniper House. King's Lynn Jeremy Stacey Architects.
Rackheath Hall. Architect David Marris.
Boston Square, Hunstanton. Rhona Fleming of
Jeremy Stacey Architects.
- 2002 "Greenyard", Hargham, Neil Winder & Sally Beevor,
Greenyard Architecture,
Wymondham R.C. Church. Paul Lucas, Real Architecture Ltd
- 2003 Colnev Woodland Burial Ground. Graham Brown Architect
John Dejardin Landscape Architect
Thurlton Primary School Extension. Mark Kenney N.P.S Architects.
Didlington Nature Reserve. Angela Knapp, Owner.
- 2004 "Tangle Pickers", Brancaster. Architects Cowper Griffiths.
"Clearwater 2000" Barton Broad The Broads Authority.
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