

**St Albans Civic Society Awards Evening
13 October 2015 at The Maltings Arts Theatre**

The St Albans Civic Society held its annual awards evening at the Maltings Arts Theatre on 13 October 2015.

The new feature this year is the introduction of the Trevelyan Prize. This is awarded annually to a project that has achieved the finest quality in terms of conservation / restoration.

After a careful selection process, from nearly 30 nominations, three projects were commended and one project was awarded the Trevelyan Prize; all received certificates. One project was awarded the Society's plaque as the winner for 2014. The certificates and the plaque were presented by the Mayor of St Albans City and District, Councillor Salih Gaygusuz.

Councillor Salih Gaygusuz, Mayor of St Albans City and District, said: "*I was most impressed with the quality of all the shortlisted projects that have been under consideration. Each of them is of the highest quality and is worthy of praise. On behalf of our City and District, I also want to recognise the Civic Society for the significant contribution they make to the life of our District, not least with their annual Awards which encourage and recognise excellence.*"

Details of the Award winner, the Trevelyan Prize winner, and the three commended projects are given below. Photographs of the five projects are available on One Drive or disc (if requested).

PRESS RELEASE – No Embargo

The Society's Award 2014:

Odyssey Cinema, London Road

Instigator: The Odyssey Cinema

Architect: Richard Macan-Lind, EHW Ltd.

Contractor: Procare Building Services Ltd.

More than just a restoration project, this is a complete re-birth!

It is evident that extreme care has been shown in the exceptionally sympathetic refurbishment of this Art Deco building. Period features and design motifs have been salvaged or faithfully copied and used to very great effect, producing a balanced atmosphere of glitz, opulence, expectation, relaxation and comfort, all with great integrity.

A highly satisfactory result and a very great asset to St Albans.





*Members of the Odyssey team
with the Mayor and the President of St Albans Civic Society*

The Trevelyan Prize 2014:

**Abbey Parish War Memorials and
the St Albans City War Memorial, St Peter's Street.**

Instigator: St Albans City and District Council
Designers: Deborah White, Paul Gallagher – SADC
Contractors: PAYE Stone work – London SE9 (Plaques)
Harton Ltd – Bedford (Paving)
BJ Building – St Albans (VC memorial stone)

The work of restoration is, indeed, a magnificent and worthy achievement to mark the centenary of World War I. Drawing on painstaking research by members of SAHAAS, it has been meticulous in its execution. The cleaned and renewed stonework with its carved lettering and decorative surrounds reaffirm, quietly and without ostentation, that 'We will remember them'.





*Deborah White and Councillor Annie Brewster
with the Mayor and the President of St Albans Civic Society*

Commendations:

New Detached House, 61 Marshal's Drive, Marshalswick

Instigator : Mr and Mrs Richard Taylor - St Albans

Architect : Saunders Partnership - Welwyn

Contractor : JAW Construction – Dunstable

This spacious, well appointed house, which replaces an earlier, conventional red-brick one on the site, is a welcome, modern addition to Marshal's Drive.

Apparently two storeys high, in fact the house has four habitable floors, with extensive living accommodation on the ground floor, bedrooms and bathrooms on the upper two floors, leisure and service facilities in the basement, all linked by an impressive top-lit staircase. The house is built to the highest standards, well insulated and very energy efficient. The attention to detail extends to the external spaces which are carefully landscaped, so that house and garden become one.

A welcome supplement to the, all too few, good, modern houses in St Albans.

The Warren, Earthworks, Hixberry Lane, Highfield

Instigator : Earthworks - St Albans

Architect : Ecovril - Old Knebworth

Contractor : Harts of Oak – Hoddesden

Literally like a phoenix from the ashes, this charming and modest oak-framed building replaces one destroyed by arson in 2011. Consistent with the ethos of the charity, which provides horticultural training on organic principles for those with learning difficulties, the building is a model of ecological construction using natural materials, as well as being virtually self-sufficient in energy use. Where appropriate the trainees were allowed to participate in the construction process.

A truly fitting architectural expression of the aims of the charity on this its twentieth anniversary.

Farrow & Ball, Market Place

Instigator: Farrow & Ball Ltd.

Architect: THMP

Contractor: M2K (Endrate) Ltd.

This is a welcome example of how discerning customers may be attracted by the way the product being sold is demonstrated. The muted external colouring, the non-flamboyant yet clear signage, and the full use of the shop windows on the two available façades, together with the arrangement of the interior, are not just a means to an end but permit the whole shop to be its own showcase; and all work together brilliantly.

There is no overstatement here, only a very sure touch which shows great respect for its location in the heart of St Albans City.

Notes for Editors:

The main features of the St Albans Civic Society award scheme are:

- it started in 1986
- it relies on nominations from members of the Society
- it is retrospective, and projects must have been completed during the previous calendar year
- the Awards Panel visits, judges and reveals the winner at an Awards Evening
- A plaque is awarded to a building or project, which:
 - **contributes most to the preservation and enhancement of the character of St Albans**
 - **achieves the highest standards of architecture, planning, landscaping and civic design**

The Trevelyan Prize is:

- an annual award, instituted in October 2015
- it recognises and commemorates the contribution the Trevelyan family (Geoffrey, and Peter) have made to the work of St Albans Civic Society.

The prize will be an annual award to recognise a project, completed in the previous year, that has achieved the finest quality in terms of conservation / restoration.

This year, the members of the Society's Awards Panel were Peter Denney, Michael Dunckley, Margaret Grover, Alan Smith and Peter Trevelyan; all members of the Society.

***Requests for JPEG files of the photographs should be addressed to:
Peter Trevelyan (ptrevelyan@aol.com 01727 843656)***

***For other information contact the Chairman of the Society:
Tim Boatswain (timboatswain@hotmail.com 07873586074)***