PRESS RELEASE  9th March 2011

CHELTENHAM CIVIC AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Following the judging on Wednesday 2nd March, the results for the 2010 Cheltenham Civic Awards are announced. The annual Cheltenham Civic Awards scheme is organised by Cheltenham Civic Society and sponsored by Cheltenham Borough Council. The objective of the scheme is to encourage and acknowledge good design within the town. Awards and Commendations are made by an independent panel drawn from a wide range of organisations across the town for projects completed within 2 years preceding 31 October 2010. A commendable number of nominations were received despite the current economic climate such that standards for both the quality and quantity continue to be maintained for the scheme.

The presentation ceremony will take place at 4 pm on Thursday 14th April 2011 at the Town Hall in the presence of the Mayor and the guest presenter will be Angela Brady, President Elect of the Royal Institution of British Architects.

Angela Brady will also give the annual Civic Awards lecture in the evening at 7:30 pm on Thursday 14th April at St Matthews Church entitled “The Future of Architects in a Changing World”.

Awards and Commendations have been made for 2010 as follows:-

Category One: The Restoration of or an Improvement to a Building or Structure

Award  The Sandford Parks Lido

The judges were impressed with the attention to the restoration of the detail of this important heritage facility within Cheltenham despite the funding constraints. This ranged from the colour of the paving surrounding the pool to the conservation of the pumping and water aeration systems, as well as the major investment in the stabilisation of the pool itself to ensure its long term survival. This is a project that may never have a completion date but the ongoing commitment to maintain the detail and ambience of the fresh air style of the nineteen thirties hopefully ensures that it can be enjoyed by future generations. The increasing number of annual season ticket holders is testament to the value of the restoration work, and its exemplary status within English Heritage.

For the conservation of the architectural and historical features of the town and its immediate surroundings and the promotion of high standards of design in new developments.
Registered Charity No 234749
Commendation  
Douro Villa, Douro Road

This previously rather run down villa has been restored in all its glory. The quality of the restoration was obviously to the highest standard and judges were most impressed by the quality of the stonework. The old wood and asbestos garage has been removed and the new walls and garage have been built in old brick which serves not to detract from the magnificence of the stone villa. The panel noted the well executed roof to the sunken garage. This is fine restoration of a Lansdown villa for 21st century living.

Category Two: A New Building or Structure

Award  
Maggie’s Centre, College Baths Road

This was a difficult project of attaching the very specific requirements of the Maggie’s Centres to the caretaker’s cottage. It is not really a building that can be appreciated from the outside. But the path leads you into a building that is something special. The quality of the wooden interior and its design present a warm secure shelter for those who enter and yet each space seems to provide a different feel and use, whether it be for a group session, to talk privately with someone or simply to be by oneself. The space between the old and the new seems to move seamlessly. The outside of the new pavilion does not attempt to match the Victorian cottage but the “odd couple” sit comfortably together.

Award  
Zed House, Malvern Road

The entrance from Christchurch Road gives no clue as to what to expect as this house is at the end of a long drive where a former annexe to the Grange now forms part of a contemporary house. The brick cottage now sits in juxtaposition with a modern airy flat roofed extension overlooking a contemporary garden. The flat roof has been covered in sedum and solar heating panels are hidden away on the south facing roof, both adding to the whole buildings sustainable credentials. The Panel were unanimous in the award and felt it to be a house to be lived in.

Commendation  
New house in Southwood Lane

Certainly this was a challenging site as a house surrounded on 3 sides by office blocks, replacing a substation. The result is a house where it feels as if all four sides of the house have been combined into one with no windows facing the office blocks. So the front provides an interesting and exciting set of components like a puzzle. It is very different to other houses in this mews lane but provides the necessary excitement to tempt someone to live in what is a difficult location.
Category Three: An Improvement to the Built or Landscaped Environment

Commendation  Railings at Evelyn Court, Malvern Road

These new railings, well proportioned and true to their heritage, open up with the reinstated lawn and show off this magnificent terrace. This is a marvellous example of residents working together to add value not only to their individual properties but also to the street scene by their combined efforts. Too many fronts of terraces in Cheltenham have been neglected and are now in a poor state and hopefully this fine but simple example will inspire others to follow in the footsteps of the owners of these properties in Evelyn Court.

Commendation  Springbank Community Garden

This is a beautiful oasis at the back of Springbank Resource Centre. It is the modern equivalent of the walled garden of the big house but this is one that everyone can enjoy, be it as a gardener where the variety of beds allows everyone whatever their physical ability to participates or simply a garden to sit in and soak up. Its very much what a garden should be and as a community effort and asset it has so much to commend it, with colour and interest even at the beginning of March, and real sustainable planting.

Commendation  Crimean War Memorial, Promenade

This is one of those architectural features that reminds us of our history, beautifully restored with its black and gold paint and with its lettering now easily visible. It is a prominent piece of public art at the head of the Promenade, suitably adopted by Cheltenham in Bloom. There was some discussion amongst the panel as to whether a replacement canon should have been added to the memorial to restore it to its original form, but that is probably a question that should be left unanswered and may the flowers continue.

Category Four: A New or Restored Shop Front

Award  Radley, 27 Promenade

The conversion of the old Nationwide office into this new shop with its restored front shows it off in its full glory, from the ironwork above to the carving in the woodwork of the front, and the lighting inside the shop with its open door when the shop is open for business. The panel noted the quality of the workmanship in restoring the front and felt that the whole brought value to the

For the conservation of the architectural and historical features of the town and its immediate surroundings and the promotion of high standards of design in new developments.
Registered Charity No 234749
experience of the Promenade. There have been a number of new commendable shop fronts completed within the last year but this was the one that sets the standards.

For further information, please contact

Stephen Clarke
chairman@cheltenhamcivicsoociety.org.uk
Tel: 01242 581340 Mob: 07798 837911