

MALVERN CIVIC AWARD 2018

Louisa from RDA was asked again by Malvern Civic Society to be on the committee as a judge for this year's Civic Award. There were 6 candidates. 'Entries to Malvern's Civic Award recognises buildings - old or new -which add 'something special to the built environment of the area'.



John Dixon, who organises the Award for the Society explains:

"This is an opportunity to recognise the architects, builders, and craftsman whose work has gone into the design and build of a property, or to its conversion".

"The winner will receive a small plaque which has become highly regarded by Malvern's builders and developers. It may also present the opportunity for some publicity, if desired."

"The Civic Award has been running for over 20 years now. Last year's nominations included one newly built development, two renovations of large Victorian houses, and three quite radical renovations which completely changed the character of the original buildings".

Ref http://www.malverncivicsociety.org.uk/news_n.htm

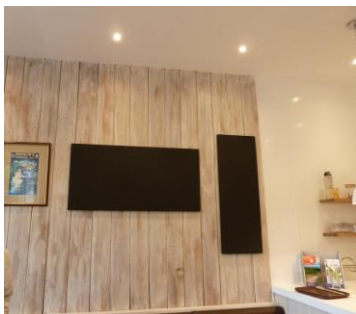
The candidates put forward by the public or by the entrants themselves for 2018 were:-11 Imperial Road, 45 Abbey Road, "South Lodge", "Littledale House," Walwyn Road, Upper Colwall, 8 Somers Road, St Ann's Well ,and 19 Victoria Road.

Louisa said

"As a planning and historic building consultant I naturally looked into the background and planning applications for all the entries to gain a better understanding and background to these buildings. I was a bit surprised to find out that X3 entries involved demolition or partial demolition of C19 houses in the CA and AONB and demolition of a 1950s house out of the CA.

One entry in particular I recall caused some murmurings in the town having last year been nominated by Building Design as one of 2017s Carbuncle of the Year; a Nationwide Award shortlisted with 6 others in the UK. I tried not to let all this influence the visits; infact I did a lot of my research on the planning applications after the visits.

It was fascinating to get a full tour of all these buildings and see them in their architectural context; something that is so often forgotten. How do they fit into the street scene or surroundings? To me it was important to look also at the materials used and the quality and craftsmanship involved in their use. All interiors were quite impressive and C21 century. Even St Anns Well has had to move into the C21, which perhaps has led to a loss of some of its charm? Glad to see the C19 wood clad walls were kept but I am still unconvinced that the wooden Servedy couldn't have been cleaned and reused. How long will the Formica type counter last I asked myself. A shame funding hasn't allowed for the Lady Foley marble fountain to have work on it by an appropriate conservator, the erosion of the pedestal basin looks as if will have to be replaced. It was good to get out of the office and be involved in this community award. I am unable to announce the winner; this will be divulged in Malvern Civic Week in June.



Selection of Photos