Trysull and Seisdon Parish Council

Building Excellence Awards for The Old Smithy Trysull

The Local Authority Building Control Awards aim to promote building excellence and encompass all of England and Wales. The judging process is, initially, broken down into regions to arrive at regional winners who then proceed to the National Finals. When judging is very close, the regional runner up receives a Highly Commended Certificate of Building Excellence and this has been awarded to The Old Smithy. The West Midlands winner (to whom the Old Smithy was runner up) was a barn conversion in Solihull entered by Stretton Homes ACL, which went on to be announced as the National Champions in this category at the LABC Awards Final which took place in London on Friday 27th January earlier this year. To put this prestigious accolade into perspective more than 850 leading construction industry figures attended the event which was held at the Westminster Plaza Hotel in London to celebrate best practice, quality and exemplary standards in the construction industry.

So, our applause and congratulations must go to Pat and David Southall for this fine achievement completed after years of dedication, skill and attention to detail. Pat and David renovated and extended White Cottage where they lived for 23 years and converted and extended The Old Smithy into a single dwelling. They completed every aspect of the works themselves, from Design to Planning Applications, Building Regulations, Building Works, both exterior and interior and all other endeavours to final completion. No other trades or persons were involved hands on. Given the history and location of the two properties, which are in the heart of our Conservation Area and surrounded by other period properties, any works had to be sympathetic to the location and all works were strictly monitored by South Staffs Planning Department. Indeed, Pat and David were incredibly grateful for the input received from David Burton-Pye MBE, the then Tourism and Conservation Manager for South Staffs Council, for all his assistance during this considerable project.

David Burton-Pye also encouraged Pat and David to enter details of their renovation and extension works to White Cottage, together with Stage 1 of their conversion and extension of The Old Smithy into a further Conservation Competition organised by Southern Design Partnership for contributions towards Design, Architecture and Conservation in Staffordshire and surrounding areas. Their entry, again, became one of the three finalists along with the Garrick Theatre Lichfield and the eventual winners, Stourton Castle, no less. Another remarkable acknowledgement!

Pat and David should indeed be extremely proud of their magnificent achievements and the high honours of recognition their hard work has, so deservedly, attracted. The Parish Council too would very much like to express their gratitude, admiration, and respect to our Parish Champions! They have truly led by example and set a high

bar to building standards. In doing so Pat and David have preserved a beautiful, historic and iconic building for all in the Parish to appreciate and admire for many generations to come. I'm sure all will agree this 'gold standard' of developments is certainly a win for the whole Parish.

Again, our congratulations to Pat and David!

Parish Chair – Andrew

HIGHLY COMMENDED CERTIFICATE OF BUILDING EXCELLENCE AWARDED TO PAT & DAVID SOUTHALL FOR THE 'OLD SMITHY' TRYSULL HOLLOWAY

The Old Smithy was converted and extended solely by husband-and-wife team, David and Pat Southall. With the exception of the lower half of the gable ends (foundations strengthened) the majority of the original building was demolished with brick, tiles and timber reclaimed to use in the re-build and extension. The design was in the Arts and Crafts style to blend in and compliment the other original Arts and Craft style buildings in Trysull Holloway.