

## JUBILEE SUPPLEMENT

# NEW ELIZABETHAN ARCHITECTURE IN HEREFORD

As part of the Queen's Jubilee celebrations we invited nominations for Hereford's best buildings and projects created in Herefordshire in the past 60 years. These are places that have contributed to life in the county, its architecture and made it a better place to live.

Thanks are due to all those who contributed. While there were some firm favourites, the nominations covered a wide range from churches, public buildings, commercial, colleges and schools, health and leisure and housing.

Alan Brooks, the author of the newly published Herefordshire Pevsner, has kindly summarised his views and we also made extensive reference to this excellent reference book published by Yale University Press.

### The Favourites

#### The Left Bank, Bridge Street.

Jamieson Associates. 2001.



Sadly currently unoccupied, this development has presence and style, a complex that lifted the shopping and eating experience of the city to a new level of sophistication. Equally it embraced an imaginative restoration and use of historic buildings as well as new work in a contemporary idiom.

#### The Chained Library, Cathedral Close.

Whitfield Partners. 1996.



The Mappa Mundi and Chained Library was the Royal Fine Arts Commission Building of the Year 1997 and is also a United Nations Heritage Site. The stonefaced Chained Library Building fits beautifully alongside the Cathedral.

#### The Courtyard Centre, Edgar Street.

Howells Architects. 1998.



A landmark presence of scale, clarity and confidence. The Courtyard has a degree of glazing that allows openness about the content and function of the building that encourages people to enter. The triple height foyer and fine staircase all add to the lightness and feeling of harmonious modernity finely executed.

#### The Colleges Campus, Folly Lane.

Vincent Brown, Hewitt Studios. Stubbs Rich. 1967-2011.



Innovative design and appearance includes the discrete mural on the front of the HCT, and designed to an environmentally-friendly specification, complementing the appearance of the neighbourhood. The most recent addition is the fully glazed entrance 'hub' to the College of Arts showcasing student work.

#### Café at All Saints, High Street.

Rod Robinson. 1997.



The insertion of 'pods' at the west end of the nave forms a café with gallery, office and toilets that is a template for opening up other churches to wider public use. A beautiful re-ordering and restoration; one of the City's gems and has altered the pedestrian micro-geography of the city centre.

#### Cathedral Close.

Robert Kilgour Architects, Robert Myers Associates. 2009-11.



A £5m project that restored Cathedral Close as an important public space and dignified setting for the Cathedral. An improved green in the centre of the city and the renovation of the medieval Cathedral barn.

## Churches

### St. Peter's, Peterchurch.

Communion Design. 2009.



The nave and west end have been sensitively converted into a large community space with the pews removed and providing a library, lift, café and office on two floors using natural oak finishes.

### St. Francis of Assisi, Newton Farm.

Peter Bosenquet and Partners. 1967.



This is a combined church and community centre built to serve the Newton Farm housing development. With its steep roofs and bell tower it is one of the better examples of modern architecture in the city.

### Salvation Army, Canonmoor Street.

ATP Group Architects with Major Blackwell (Chief Architect, Salvation Army) 1986.



"Modern idiom, but reassuringly traditional. Intriguing buttressed silhouette, warm textured brickwork relieved by contrasting vertical yellow panels. A busy main road location, yet a restful and welcoming green leafy setting"

## Public Buildings

### Fire Station, St Owen Street.

Nicol, Nicol & Thomas. 1954.



"Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority's Fire Station is a fine example of 'well mannered' civic architecture, which should certainly be listed"

### Garrick House and Multi-storey Carpark.

Architect unknown. 1986.



This building with its semi-circular dormer windows, was built as Council offices and as a useful addition to Hereford's car parking. Possibly a good example of a multi-storey carpark? Garrick House will be knocked down. Does it really warrant demolition?

### Magistrates Court, Bath Street.

HBG Design Ltd. 2001.



With its brick cladding, extensive glazing and corner entrance this building is "one of Hereford's best modern buildings" with its excellent elevation to Bath Street. Clearly a civic building.

### Widemarsh Street Pedestrianisation.

Ben Hamilton Baillie. 2009.



Apart from the problems of tripping on the shallow curbs the removal of traffic for most of the day has greatly improved the shopping experience in the city. The paving treatment is of much better standard than that used in High Town and Eign Gate and now forms the basis for future similar schemes.

### Franklin House, Commercial Road.

Cecil Corey. 1965.



This corner block, built for Franklin Barnes, is one of Hereford's landmark buildings with a four storey high corner block and lower wings and is another building that should be listed.

### Greyfriars Bridge. A 49.

Architects McMorran and Whitby, Engineer Considered & Partners. 1966.



"The Greyfriars Bridge, starkly contrasts the beauty of the original stone Wye Bridge, has certainly proved to be an essential piece of infrastructure to allow the City to function, albeit now inadequate in terms of capacity".

### Probation Trust Building, Gaol Street.

Johnson Blight and Dees. 2003.



This stern looking brick block matches both its function and the old gaol next door. A feature is its *briès-soleils* – for shading, security or both?.

### WRVS Centre, Vicarage Road.

Jamieson Associates. 2004.



This block, which is an extension to the old vicarage which was the original centre, has extensive glazing and a projecting roof. It illustrates how well a modern design can be integrated onto an older building.

## Commercial

### Maylord Centre, Trinity Square.

Renton Howard Wood Levin. 1987.



This was Hereford's first shopping centre built over the original Maylord and Gomond Streets. It presents a solid brick face to Newmarket Street (waiting for the extension that never came?) and has the statutory atrium and glass roof of the genre.

### The Watershed, Wye Street.

RRA Associates. 2006.



This successful conversion of an old warehouse to form the architects' own office has glazed first floor offices over a stone walled ground floor exhibition and meeting area.

### Office at Upper Twyford.

Architype. 2006.



A good example of how an existing derelict building (in this case a barn) can be converted to a new use as offices for the architects' own use, and built to high environmental standards.

### TRP Offices, Rotherwas.

Jamieson Associates. 2010.



"A sublimely simple, elegant building with classic proportions and superbly detailed, includes double height entrance glazing giving a lightness that conceals the size of the structure".

*Alan Brooks author of the new Pevsner 'Architectural Guide to Herefordshire', Yale University Press, 2012*

The two or three decades following the Second World War were a notably lean period for architecture in Herefordshire. In Hereford itself the earliest building of any quality that comes to mind in the present Queen's reign is, unusually, a church (or should that be former church!), St Francis of Assisi at Newton Farm by Peter Bosanquet & Partners of Oxford, 1966-7. Built as a church-cum-community centre, this is still easily the best building in the ever-expanding SW quarter of the city. St Barnabas, Venns Lane, by Rod Robinson, 1982-3, is similarly dual-purpose. Robinson's best known church contribution however is of course the reordering of All Saints, to provide a cafe and other facilities, in 1992-7, and still seen as a model for the regeneration of town centre churches far beyond Herefordshire.

As for commercial buildings, one struggles to think of buildings that have really improved the streetscape. Franklin House (built for Franklin Barnes) by Cecil Corey, c. 1965, at least turns its prominent corner very well, and the Maylord Shopping Centre (Renton Howard Wood Levin, 1985-7) incorporates existing streets (though with weak Neo-Vernacular detailing). One hopes that whatever happens on the Cattle Market site can only improve on this. Left

Bank however (by Jamieson Associates, 2000-1) shows how a good modern building can enhance an important riverside site.

Overall public buildings probably fare best. *The Cathedral Library building* by Whitfield Partners, 1995-6, on perhaps an even more sensitive site, carries off its semi-traditional style with huge aplomb. The Courtyard Centre for the Arts (*Glenn Howells Architects*, 1996-8) shows that a sleek modern style can provide an equally acceptable format. It is a pleasant surprise that even the Magistrates' Court by Steve Lough (*HGB Design*, 2001) can display high-quality crispness. As for educational buildings, one might add Whitecross High School (*Haverstock Associates*, 2006) and perhaps the College of Technology (*Stubbs Rich etc.*, 2007-9), especially if the latter had come up with a better solution to its car parking.

So there is certainly some cause for satisfaction with the progress made in the last two or three decades. One only wishes this were also true of housing. The Riverview development (*Hook Mason*, c.2007-8) shows that good existing buildings of all periods can and should be successfully incorporated on a city centre site. But where can one point with any conviction to a well-designed housing development on a virgin site?

## Colleges And Schools

### Hereford Academy, Marlbrook Road.

*Aedas Architects Ltd. 2012.*



This colourful complex is the second of Hereford's secondary schools to be rebuilt recently. It is an excellent example of modern school architecture providing extensive facilities for the new Academy at a cost of £23m.

### Hereford College of Arts, Folly Lane.

*Hewitt Studios. 2011.*



The College of Arts has recently been extended with this new timber clad and glass framed entrance, exhibition area, café and external landscaping. "It is excellent in its way and has made a big difference".

### Royal National College, Point 4, Venns Lane.

*Willmore Isles Architects. 2009.*



The RNC having sold some land for housing built a new sports complex together with student residences. It has this fine glazed entrance which is further enhanced by Walenty Pytel's steel sculpture '4runner'.

### Hereford Cathedral School, Castle Street.

*Jamieson Associates. 1993.*



The Portman Building with its curved roof and entrance porch adds to the variety of Castle Street and is an adaptation of an existing building to form an addition to the school.

### Hereford Vith Form College, Business Block, Folly Lane.

*James Morris Associates 2011.*



The latest addition to the Vith Form College repeats the curved roof features of the original building but has resulted in a rather upmarket Dutch barn. A planning application has been submitted for an extension in the same style.

### Steiner Academy, Much Dewchurch.

*John Renshaw Architects. 2010.*



This building is part of the considerable extensions to this school in recent years. It has Douglas fir cladding and a slate roof and fits well on a sensitive site next to the churchyard. Much of the design and implementation follow Steiner principles.

### Hereford Cathedral Junior School, Castle Green.

*Jamieson Associates. 2003.*



'The Moat' is an addition to the Cathedral junior school. With its extensive glazing and turf roof it is unfortunately largely unseen behind its wall alongside Castle Green as it is an excellent example of how to fit a modern building into a sensitive site.

### Riverside Primary School, Belmont Avenue.

*Owen Williams. 2009.*



This is the replacement for, and improvement on, the old Hunderton school but is still not a very inspired building. It is on two storeys with the first floor timber clad over a brick clad ground floor.

### Whitecross High School, Three Elms Road.

*Haverstock Associates. 2006.*



The replacement for the old Whitecross School with its wide entrance block and blue glazing is a widespread complex arranged around courtyards. Like the Hereford Academy it is an interesting and striking addition to the city's school buildings.

## Health And Leisure

### County Hospital, Stonebow Road.

WS Atkins Healthcare. 2001.



This large and somewhat ugly complex was built under one of the first, and now controversial PFI schemes, but it does provide Hereford with a modern medical facility.

### Quay House Medical Centre, Westfaling Street.

Rod Robinson. 1996.



A neat and workmanlike medical centre and pharmacy with an interesting roof.

### Kingstone Surgery.

Richard Smith and Peter Roberts. 2002.



A light and airy community building in keeping with its rural agricultural setting with pleasant views across adjacent fields.

### St. Michaels' Hospice, Bartestree.

Johnson, Blight & Dees. 1984.



A concave range set into the hillside sited to enjoy the views to the east. "There is hardly a person in Hereford who hasn't either been touched by the work of the Hospice or knows someone who has been."

### Hereford Leisure Pool, St. Martin's Street.

David J Berry, Hereford City Council. 1976.



This popular facility is a large spread-out complex on the side of Bishop's Meadow. It was extended in 1991 and is partly clad in sandstone, and helpfully provides part of the flood defences.

### Waterworks Museum Extension, Broomy Hill.

RRA Architects. 2006.



A smart metal and glass clad modern extension to the original Victorian buildings providing administration and café facilities to this unique museum.

## Housing

### Barton West, Barton Road.

Angus Jamieson with Dean Benbow. 2004.



A handsome modern block of flats with a distinctive roof looking out over the river.

### Deen's Court, St. Nicholas Street.

Rod Robinson. 1980.



A "tall, chunky" block of flats on a busy corner site with a distinctive pitched roof and overlooking the A 49 and Greyfriars bridge.

### The Embankment, Bath Street.

JBD Architects. 2008.



A three storey Y shaped block of flats sited next to John Haider building with extensive glazing on the Bath Street frontage but very ordinary on the Gaol Street side.

### General Hospital Development.

John Laing plc. 2004.



When the original 18th century hospital was closed the building was converted to apartments together with a rather nondescript major development of town houses and flats in the grounds.

### The Point, Aylestone Hill.

Warren Benbow Architects. 2007.



A modern block sited in a large garden, "...the emphasis on horizontal and vertical elements, a delight from every viewpoint bringing the very best of modernism into a parkland setting".

### Riverview, Gwynne Street.

Hook Mason and Arrol & Snell. 2007-08.



Large five storey brick block of flats and penthouses which incorporated the old grain warehouse and Wesleyan Chapel.

### Victoria Eye Hospital Flats, Eign Street.

Unknown Architect. 2004-05.



After the Eye Hospital closed the original building was converted into flats and these additional apartments were built in the grounds, respecting their much older neighbour.

### PS.

Above is a little about some of the more interesting modern projects in Hereford. There remain the disasters that should never have been built at all. If you have a particular bête noir let us know and that could be a future feature.. Just for starters what about the awful Kentucky Fried Chicken building in Commercial Road?

### PPS.

This supplement has been compiled by John Faulkner from the nominations that were made together with additional information from a variety of sources. The views and opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the views of the committee or members of Hereford Civic Society.