

# Quality that shows pride in our place

Gareth Burton

THE repair of a former Georgian ice house in Great Braxted and the construction of an ultra-sustainable building in Bradwell are among the winners of this year's Maldon District Conservation and Design Awards.

Maldon district councillor David Horner (Con, Althorne), who is chairman of the judging panel, praised the standard of the seven projects acknowledged.

He said: "This award scheme has been going for 28 years and is one of the longest-running awards of its kind."

"The quality of this year's winners is a reflection of the pride residents share for the environment of the Maldon district."

A rear extension to a mid-19th century grade II-listed building in Market Hill, Maldon, won the design category.

The judges praised the way the contemporary style of the 1½-storey extension was planned and executed to compliment the neighbouring historic buildings.

The extension and recladding of old garage buildings at Springfield Tyre and Autocare, in Springfield Road, Burnham, was highly commended for its own design, and a



**Recognised:** An extension at the Church of St Peter, Goldhanger, highly commended in the building conservation category.

£27,000 project to transform the area between Burnham's Drill Hall and clock tower into Burnham Memorial Garden, which was unveiled in June, was highly commended in a special landscape design category.

The winner of the sustainability award was the new Solar Building, in East End Road, Bradwell, constructed almost entirely using natural materials from the local area.

The walls are a combination of straw bales supplied by a neighbouring farm and rammed earth, fully-glazed south-facing walls provide passive solar gain and there is a turf roof and composting toilets. The floors are covered with marble reclaimed from Green Park tube station, internal fixtures are all recycled and heating is supplemented by solar panels on the roof.

Much of the work on the building, which was built for the Othona Christian Community, was carried out by a team of more than 50 volunteers.

Judges, who described the concept as "brilliant", said they hoped the project would inspire similar sustainable construction and technology in the future.

An extension to the cookery school at Braxted Park, in Great Braxted was highly commended.

In the final category, for building conservation, the structural repair of an unusual grade II-listed Georgian building at Braxted Park, which was in danger of collapse, was named winner.

The repair work to Braxted Park Folly included replacement of some of the existing brickwork and renewal of the iron reinforcement of the structure.

Judges particularly admired the research and archaeological investigation carried out before the project.

An extension on the north side of the Church of St Peter in Goldhanger was highly commended.

The awards will be formally presented next Tuesday at Friends Meeting House, in Butt Lane, Maldon.

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**Winners:** Year 7 pupils from St Peter's High School, Burnham, open the town's memorial garden, which was highly commended in the special landscape category. Right, the Solar Building in Bradwell, which won the sustainability award. Below right, the extension of garages behind Springfield Tyre and Autocare, which was highly commended for its design. Left, chefs at the extended cookery school at Braxted Park, Great Braxted, which was highly commended in the sustainability category.

