

# Press Release

Embargoed until Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2007

## THE MALTHOUSE PROJECT RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

The Malthouse Project in Bury St Edmunds has received a Craftmanship Award from the Suffolk Association of Architects in recognition for the restoration of the 17<sup>th</sup> century building.

The award was presented to; the architects, Milburn Leverington Thurlow (MLT), the contractors, Cocksedge and Northcroft and the property owners, St Matthew Housing (SMH) at the annual awards supper in Ipswich on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2007.

This unique restoration project, which took 18 months to complete and cost £2.1 million, was a former maltings. The Malthouse Project now provides a café, heritage and training centre, community rooms for hire, accommodation for local people and central offices for SMH.

"Restoration of the maltings involved an intricate combination of traditional and new materials to produce a building that was acceptable to architect, client and conservation officer. Craftmanship throughout is to a very high standard and the main contractor and his team are to be congratulated for delivering a quality building," said John Norman, Honorary Member of the Suffolk Association of Architects.

Kevin Marshall, Corporate Services and Development Director at SMH said, "We are thrilled to have received such an impressive acknowledgement for our flagship centre.

"The project would not have been accomplished without the funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, St Edmundsbury Borough Council, Bury St Edmunds Town Trust and other trusts and statutory sources, and the hard work and dedication from our contractors and architects who have all played an important part in creating a building to be proud of."

Malcolm Lowe, Project Designer at MLT said, "The complete transformation of a dangerous structure on the English Heritage 'buildings at risk register' to this flagship heritage centre, has only been made possible by the many thousands of hours of unstinting effort, creative thinking and first-rate craftsmanship demonstrated by the whole project team over the past year.

"The commitment and courage of St Matthew Housing in taking this project on, has been crucial to its successful outcome. We are all amply rewarded with justifiable satisfaction at the end result."

**ENDS**

PR07.02

4<sup>th</sup> May 2007

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

1. If you would like to come and take a photograph of the exterior of The Malthouse Project or you wish to receive an image by email, please contact Sarah Yarrow on 01284 732574.
2. **The Malthouse Project** in Elsey's Yard, just off Risbygate Street, is an important landmark for St Matthew Housing and the town, providing Bury St Edmunds with an important training and support facility for local people in need. St Matthew Housing residents, service users and volunteers will work and train in a café, which will be open to the public to enjoy in the summer. The project also includes a Heritage Centre which will become a valuable addition to the Town Heritage Trail.
3. **The history of The Malthouse Project** dates back to c1620 when a barn was first built here. The barn was built from reclaimed timbers that were sourced locally from the Bury Abbey. In c1700 the barn was converted into a maltings which operated through until 1917. The maltings was then purchased, along with several other malthouses, pubs and a brewery, by Greene King. Since 1980 the building has been left to the elements. It was taken under the wing of St Edmundsbury Borough Council in 1993 after the building was put on the 'at risk' register by English Heritage. Working in partnership with St Edmundsbury Borough Council, Bury St Edmunds Town Trust and the Heritage Lottery Fund, St Matthew Housing has renovated the building and built five new homes. Work on the refurbishment and adjacent new build accommodation started in March 2006 and the building was opened to visitors, staff and residents in April 2007.
4. **St Matthew Housing** (SMH) provides supported accommodation for single people who are either homeless or unsuitably housed across East Anglia and the East Midlands. SMH also provides resettlement support to enable clients to successfully move on to independent accommodation and outreach support to external clients who are at risk of losing their tenancies and becoming homeless. The charity works in a way that enables people to achieve their individual goals, at their own pace and in their own communities.
5. **Milburn Leverington Thurlow** (MLT) is an architectural business operating in Bury St Edmunds. MLT currently provide architectural, project management and planning supervisor services to a diverse range of companies, organisations, local authorities, housing associations and private individuals. The Practice dates back to 1929 with early work including alterations to stately homes, council housing and public houses for the local brewery. As a company MLT aspire to create distinctive, exciting and innovative architecture that fulfils our clients brief and aspirations, whilst also providing and creating spaces that enhance the experience for the final end users.
6. A number of contractors were involved with the restoration of The Malthouse Project. They were: Milburn Leverington Thurlow Architects, Cocksedge Building Contractors, Northcroft, The Morton Partnership, WSP and Sherriff Tiplady Associates.