

Studley Priory
Horton-Cum-Studley
Oxford OX33 1AY

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

29 November 2011

Re Savvy Maintenance and Renovations Ltd

Studley Priory is a Grade II* Listed Building. It is a medium sized building, the main part of which incorporates 65 - 70 rooms. While it is essentially a mediaeval building, parts of which date from the 12th century, it has been extended and altered over the centuries, most notably the 16th, 17th and early 19th. We acquired it in the summer of 2004 as a family home after it had been in use as a hotel for more than 50 years. As it had been run as a business with a view to profit, the previous owners had not felt able to spend the money on it, or give it the time and attention to it, which it by then so sadly needed.

Over the past seven years, we have extensively renovated the property. Restoring its historic features, while introducing modern conveniences, has been a task requiring the utmost sensitivity. It also required a whole range of skills from creating a new kitchen complex in a mediaeval space, to restoration of historic panelling and wooden floors. The addition or replacement of central heating was particularly challenging. Parts of the house now have underfloor heating and other parts have heating vents in the floor, while in yet other parts Victorian radiators were replaced with more efficient modern ones. The Regency drawing room, one of the larger rooms in the house, was almost entirely reconstructed from the floor upwards. The Great Hall, with its neo-Gothic panelling, was completely renovated. The top floor, which had been scarcely fit for human habitation, was turned into four luxurious guest suites.

Steve Dunn proved himself to be up to this difficult task, job while being realistic on pricing.

Given that we were living in various parts of the Priory while other parts were being renovated, it was very important that the builders were sensitive that this was not just a building site but a home in which they were working. We were particularly appreciative that Steve ensured that our privacy was properly respected.

Although I have no first-hand knowledge, I understand that other owners of historic homes in the area are equally delighted with him.

He was always helpful to deal with. I have no doubt that in due course we shall use his services again, through Savvy Construction.



Robert Venables Q.C.