



# **INSTITUTE OF HISTORIC BUILDING CONSERVATION**

## **EAST MIDLANDS BRANCH**

### **Annual General Meeting**



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At the British Geological Survey  
Keyworth, Nottinghamshire  
on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> September 2012

## **Programme of Events**

2.00 pm	Meet at British Geological Survey
2.20 pm	Talk by Graham Lott: 'The Building Stones of the East Midlands' discussing with examples the wide variety of local stones used throughout the East Midlands Branch area
3.30 pm	Tour of the BGS Stone Walk
5.00 pm	Buffet Tea at the BGS
6.00 pm	Branch AGM
7.00 pm	Close

**The Branch AGM and events beforehand are open to all Members, without charge.**

If you are interested in attending please let us know and...  
**please turn up if you book!**

**If you book and do not attend without good reason the Branch will have to invoice you for £8.50 to cover the costs.**

## **British Geological Survey**

As we all know much of our architectural heritage owes its great variety to the different types of stones used in historic buildings and reflects local geology and imparts a local distinctiveness. This year's AGM will be held at the British Geological Survey in Keyworth and it provides us with an opportunity to gain first hand knowledge of the different types and importance of local stones in historic buildings. As well as being an interesting place to visit, Graham Lott will talk about the variety of building stones used throughout the East Midlands and this will be followed by a tour of the BGS stone walk and stone collections. More information on the venue can be found at: [www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk)

**Directions to the Venue:** the BGS is located in the village of Keyworth to the south of Nottingham which is signed from the A60 (Nottingham to Loughborough road) and the A606 (Nottingham to Loughborough Road). For those with Sat-Nav, try: NG12 5GG, and for those without, directions for travel can be found on the BGS website.

# AGM Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the 2011 Annual General Meeting
3. Officers' and Other Reports and Financial Statement
4. Election of Officers
  - Chair*
  - Vice Chair*
  - Secretary*
  - Treasurer*
  - Branch Representative to Council*
  - Membership Officer*
  - Education Representative*
5. Election of Branch Committee Members & County Reps
6. Communications Officer
7. 2012-13 Business Plan - see separate document
8. IHBC Annual School Bursary Award
9. Branch Connection Day 2012 - Birmingham 14 November 2012: Theme '*The IHBC's Code of Conduct: standards & discipline*'
10. Any Other Agreed Business

# **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2011 at Creswell Crags Visitor Centre, near Bolsover**

## **The attendance list was signed by the following Members:**

Jane Roylance, Fiona Newton, Chris McKinney, Rose Thompson, Allan Morrison, Barry Joyce, Dorothy Wade, Mark Strawbridge, Karen Tate, John-Paul Walker, Rosalind Willatts, Anthony Gimpel, Lisa Walton, Rachel Booth, Sara Crofts, Roy Lewis, Robert Walker & Stephen Bradwell.

## **Apologies:**

Sean O'Reilly, Chloe Oswald, Neil Robertson, Philip Grover, Kim Wyatt, Mark Fennel, Martin Tincknell, Liz Mayle, Chris Edwards, James Kaye, Sue Dobby, Alice Kershaw, Julie-Anne Middleditch, Simon Scott, Alf Sharman, Elizabeth Bryan, Jim Crane, Jenny Timothy, Jason Mordan, Ramona Usher & Richard Spooner



## **Minutes of the 2010 AGM**

The Minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting, proposed by Mark Strawbridge and seconded by Robert Walker and carried unanimously.

## **Officers and County Reps Reports**

Jane Roylance welcomed the Branch Members to the AGM and thanked Chris McKinney for his efforts in arranging the venue and visits to Creswell Model Village and Creswell Crags.

Roy Lewis added to his report by expressing concern about the dire situation in conservation following the latest spending review. The IHBC's own review had revealed substantial job losses, and the IHBC was now looking to support the conservation service by, for example, preparing the information and resource pack to show the importance of conservation staff in Local Government.

Fiona Newton did point out that an e-mail had also been sent to Local Government Chief Officers but had not attracted much publicity. Fiona also added that the IHBC resource pack had been designed to be a relatively flexible source of information and could be easily added to and adapted to different situations.

Anthony Gimpel pointed out that English Heritage had written to his Chief Executive to draw attention to the situation at the highest level but this letter had been passed straight down the line for the attention of the Conservation Officer.

Fiona also noted that the IHBC had been asking the appropriate Government departments to write to Council's in support of the role of Local Government conservation officers.

Moving on to discuss Branch funding Roy noted that the £500 from the IHBC to the Branch was just about the minimum necessary to operate the Branch, but that the Branch had also benefited from the funds generated by the Buxton Annual School.

Although Robert noted that if the Branch wanted more than the basic £500 it would need to make a business case for an increase, but he also noted that without the Buxton money the Branch could potentially be running at a loss of between £200-£300 per year.



Creswell Crags Visitor Centre

Mark noted that as the recently installed Membership Secretary, he had only received one membership application to date.

### **Election of Officers & Committee Members**

Stephen Bradwell read out the nominations received for the Officer posts, these were:

Chair: Jane Roylance;  
Vice Chair: Robert Walker;  
Treasurer: Rose Thompson;  
Secretary: Stephen Bradwell;  
Branch Representative: Roy Lewis;  
Membership Secretary: Mark Strawbridge.

Stephen then read out the nominations for the following posts:

General Committee Members:

Fiona Newton & Chris McKinney.

County Representatives:

Lincolnshire County rep: Elizabeth Mayle;  
Nottinghamshire County rep: Jason Mordan;



Derbyshire County rep: Neil Robertson;  
Northamptonshire County rep: Rachel Booth;  
Leicestershire County rep: Jenny Timothy.

*The Election of Officers, Committee Members and County representatives was approved by the Meeting, nominated by Allan Morrison and seconded by Anthony Gimpel.*

### **Treasurers Report & Business Plan:**

The Branch's financial statement had been circulated to members and Rose Thompson noted that there was £882.29 in the current account although there was £475 in costs for the AGM still to be paid. Also there was still £472 remaining from the £1,000 that had been drawn down from the Buxton funds and a full place had been paid for at the Llandudno Annual School. The remaining amount could help with the day-to-day expenses.



Returning to the grant given by the IHBC Roy noted that there was no set amount due to the Branch but Fiona noted those Branches generating their own funds might question increasing financial support to those Branches that did not generate any income.

Robert however noted that the Buxton Annual School had made a reasonable surplus, much of which was generated by the time given freely by the Branch members. But he questioned whether that surplus should be frittered away for the general running expenses. The Branch should ask the IHBC to meet its basic costs as per the Business Plan while the Buxton money could be used to directly benefit Branch members by providing the Annual School Bursary, which feeds back into the IHBC, and the Branch had also donated money to the Gus Astley fund, feeding more money back into the IHBC.

Rose estimated that the Branch needed about £650 to cover its costs and a Bursary could be maintained for the 2012 Annual School.

*Robert moved approval of the accounts and this was seconded by Allan Morrison.*

In commenting on the Business Plan, Roy noted that a report had been submitted by Charles Glenn regarding his attendance at the Derby City Conservation Area Advisory Panel but he thought it important that an IHBC member should attend on a regular

basis if Charles was unable to continue his attendance because of his work commitments.

Chris McKinney asked whether the Branch should hold a Committee meeting away from Newark to try to attract more people to attend. Rosalind noted that in the past she had found it difficult to travel to Newark in the winter and wondered whether there were too many Branch meetings.

Roy suggested that consideration could be given to the number of meetings and their timing and Jane suggested that the March/April Branch meeting could be moved if it was tied into a Conservation Officer's Group meeting or a 'cheap and cheerful' event.

Fiona did point out that alternatives had been tried in the past but it was generally found that Newark was the most centrally accessible location for all the Committee members. Any changes to the Branch meeting schedules would need careful consideration before trying something that had perhaps failed in the past.

Fiona did however note that not all the Branches operate in the same manner. For example the West Midlands Branch

meeting moved around its area and was open to all members and usually incorporated a visit to a site or building of interest – a larger version of the County Conservation Officer Group meetings but other Branches operated differently still.

Mark suggested that having 4 meetings plus 2 events would give us the same number of meetings and might cut down the travelling for some and Chris suggested a larger April event and meeting to replace the proposed Branch Committee meeting.

Allan noted that for the ordinary Branch members, attendance at meetings can be a bit daunting and distance is a deterrent. Robert thought that our attendance figures were generally quite positive and Fiona noted that volunteering within the IHBC was able to count towards CPD.

Jane suggested that the Branch Committee could look at re-jigging the calendar of meetings.

Robert then asked about the outcome of the IHBC Communication Day that Chris had attended. Chris said that the meeting had looked at ways of getting people more involved, particularly using social media such as Twitter and Facebook as a means of



circulating information. Mark thought that the Branch needed to be sure that these would work for the group before rushing into it. Stephen noted that to be a useful means of communication most of the Branch members would need to sign up to a Twitter or Facebook account whereas very few Branch members seemed to be active on these social media platforms. Also using Twitter could open the Branch activities to anybody whereas the present e-mail circulation, whilst a bit clumsy meant that we could directly contact all Branch members and keep the information in-house.

John-Paul Walker thought that the use of social media could be useful, allowing Branch members to look-in on the group's activities and to provide information about forthcoming events and meetings. However Robert thought that there was a need for something a bit more dynamic as the uploading of Minutes onto the website was a bit dry.

Sara Crofts thought that the use of social media was a useful opportunity to advertise more widely or to discuss a particular topic, so that people can feel some benefit in attending the meeting and thought that she might be able to help with communications as she used social media to promote SPAB.

### **Any Other Business**

Jane closed the meeting by thanking all those attending the day's event and the AGM and in the absence of any further business the meeting was closed at 7.30pm.

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# **IHBC East Midlands Branch Committee 2011 - 12**

## **Chair**

Jane Roylance

## **Vice Chair**

Robert Walker

## **Secretary**

Stephen Bradwell

## **Branch Representative to IHBC Council**

Roy Lewis

## **Treasurer**

Rose Thompson

## **Membership Secretary**

Mark Strawbridge

## **County Reps**

**Derbyshire** Neil Robertson

**Leicestershire** Jenny Timothy - Ramona Usher

**Lincolnshire** Liz Mayle

**Northamptonshire** Rachel Booth

**Nottinghamshire** Jason Mordan

## **Education Rep**

Philip Grover

## **General Committee Members**

Fiona Newton

Chris McKinney

## **Officers' Reports 2011 - 12**

### **Chair's Report**

Branch members attending last year's AGM (at Creswell Crags Visitor Centre) will recall the lively discussion regarding engaging with our Branch members, particularly relating to communicating the work of the Branch, support for our membership and encouraging attendance at meetings, not least, to take advantage of the networking opportunities. It was felt that the Branch should look into the following:

- improving ease of communication with our members by developing the Branch webpage,
- holding one of the Branch meetings elsewhere in the region, in conjunction with a visit, to enable more local members to attend the meeting more easily,
- communicating opportunities for low cost CPD events and visits to the membership.

I am pleased to be able to report that we achieved all of these aims this last year.

Our county reps have been letting us know if there were visits following the COFs meetings, which were suitable for the general membership to attend. This gives members access to more local events. I would like to thank all our reps for taking this on board – please keep it up and give us as much notice as you can, so that we can give anyone interested as much notice as possible. And if anyone is aware of local events which are low cost and have CPD value, please email me with the details.

Our 'extra-mural' Branch meeting was held at Stanford Hall, Leicestershire in April. Anthony Hughes-Onslow, manager of the Hall, gave a talk on its history and Dave Pritchard of Natural England spoke on funding historic building restoration through Natural England's Higher Level Stewardship Scheme. This was followed by a tour of the grounds to look at Natural England funded projects, and made all the more enjoyable by good weather. A buffet tea was provided back at the stable block and was followed by the Branch meeting, although it was disappointing that having attracted good attendance to the visit and buffet at Stanford Hall none of the members stopped for the Branch meeting afterwards.

Key to improving communication with our members has been the development and regular updating of the Branch webpage. Chris McKinney has undertaken this, and I would like to thank him for all his sterling work over the last 12 months. (Chris has provided an independent report on this.) We recognise the importance of having an easily accessible means of communication for our membership and would therefore like you to consider creating the role of 'Communications Officer' at the AGM. And if any of you have suggestions for expanding or improving the webpage, please get in touch.

At the last count the East Midlands Branch had 111 full Members and 51 affiliate members. Over the next 12 months the Branch is hoping to contact all our affiliate members to encourage and support them to make applications for full membership. The forms have been made much more user friendly, and there is extensive

guidance to assist applicants. So if you know of any affiliates you consider to be eligible for full membership – please encourage them to apply!

On a slightly different tack, I note that the majority of Branch Committee posts can be held by affiliates, so if anyone out there who is not yet a full member, but would like to get involved in the work of the Branch, please get in touch. And as always, we extend an open invitation and a warm welcome to all our members who wish to attend the Branch Committee meetings.

Following on from last year, I have to report that between 2011 and early 2012 conservation capacity in East Midlands Local Authorities fell by a further 7%, which is slightly above the national average of 6%. Based on the data supplied last year, this is the equivalent of approximately five full time posts. Whilst this is not good news, it does at least suggest the rate of loss is slowing. This trend is also reflected in private practice; vacancies are far and few between and work is scarce with fees being kept keen by competition.

On a brighter note, this year's Annual School was held in Winchester and hosted by the South Branch. Its theme was '*Significance: who decides?*' The speakers were engaging and in some cases controversial, and sparked some lively debate. The Day School attracted the largest number of delegates to date. I think this is a sure sign that the Institute has 'come of age' and is recognised as being at the forefront of building conservation.

It was a pleasure to meet Lisa Walton, this year's bursary recipient, at Winchester. We were impressed by her desire to share the knowledge gleaned from the Annual School with her colleagues at NE Derbyshire as well as her conservation colleagues in the Derbyshire Conservation Officers group. We are hoping she will be able to make the same presentation at one of the Branch meetings.

We still have sufficient funds from the surplus from the Buxton School to offer another Annual School bursary place. Next year, the Annual School will be hosted by the North Branch in Carlisle with the theme of heritage skills. Again, because of the distances involved it seems likely that we will need to offer a single bursary for the full school. We will be asking the members to review this at the AGM.

And finally... I would like to thank all the members of the committee for their continuing commitment to the Branch and for their support over the past year.

**JANE ROYLANCE**

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### **Branch Secretary's Report**

The past year has been a relatively interesting one for the Branch. Once again the Branch AGM was held under blue skies and sunshine, although these weren't particularly noticeable as we explored the caves at Creswell Crags deciphering early cave paintings. The AGM itself was held within the new visitor centre which is an excellent example a modern building in an historic context.

Then in spring this year the Branch organised an away-day to Stanford Hall in the

depths of south Leicestershire. A well attended and very interesting event enjoyed the sunshine as we walked around the parkland looking at the various restoration projects grant funded by Natural England, which seems to have a considerable budget for the restoration of historic buildings and landscapes. Hopefully more visits will follow in the forthcoming year particularly if we can link these to the various Conservation Officer group meetings.

In addition the venue for the Branch meetings has changed. After many years at The Fox & Crown in Newark recent meetings have been held in slightly more plush circumstances at The Moorings also in Newark. These have been well attended but there is always room for more, and as Jane notes Branch members are very welcome to come along to the Branch Committee meetings.

On a different note as Jane mentions cuts in conservation services have sadly continued over the past year and the delivery of conservation services has suffered accordingly. Hopefully we are now at the end of this 'slimming down process' but it seems to me that most conservation services only have the resources to react to and deal with development proposals, there seems very little scope to bring forward more pro-active projects that really demonstrated the important role that heritage assets can play in regeneration projects and place making.

Finally I would like to re-iterate the comments I made last year. The involvement of the Branch membership in the running of the Branch is vitally important if we are to maintain an active Branch. I think we accept that not everyone wants to or is able to commit time to the Branch Committee but helping to organise a one-off event or visit, maybe in conjunction with a County Conservation group meeting, all helps to promote the Branch's activities and helps to share knowledge and experiences.

**STEPHEN BRADWELL**

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### **Branch Representative's Report**

I have attended four meetings of Council over the course of the year; one in Manchester and the other three in London. Summaries of each have been given at the following Branch meetings. These are available on the IHBC website branch pages. The forthcoming September 2012 peripatetic meeting of Council will be held in Godalming, Surrey.

The ongoing impact of the Coalition Government's policy of reducing public sector spending and the resultant job losses in local authorities, together with various changes to legislation and Government policy relating to heritage issues, have made it a challenging year for the IHBC.

The Institute continues to lobby Government on conservation issues. A strong response made jointly with other organisations failed to stop the removal of the VAT exemption for approved works to listed buildings. However the submissions made with regard to the replacement of PPGs and PPSs with the National Planning Policy Framework resulted in an outcome that most thought to be an improvement on the previous situation. It is not yet clear how successful the submissions have been with regard to the Government's impending Green Deal, which is seen as 'a *one size*



*fits all approach'* that could be extremely damaging to the historic environment. The Government's proposed alterations to listed building legislation, arising as a consequence of the Penfold Review, proved difficult for the Institute as members raised conflicting opinions. The final response aimed to strike a balanced view on what was, in my opinion, an ill-considered and rushed consultation. The Institute has made representations on the Government's failure to adhere to its own good practice arrangements for consultation.

Over the year, the Institute has been carrying out a Governance Review. Whilst this was a sensible thing to do after more than ten years since the formation of the IHBC, the outcome has been a general consensus in favour of a continuation of the status quo, with some fine-tuning.

The year has seen a larger than normal level of resignations from the Institute but this has been balanced by a healthy flow of new members. The Institute's finances remain sound. There have been a number of changes at the top. Trefor Thorpe of Wales Branch has taken over as President. Eddie Booth now acts as IHBC Secretary and Richard Morrice has taken on the role of IHBC Treasurer. David McDonald has taken over from John Preston as Education Secretary and Paul Butler is now Membership Secretary. One of Paul Butler's first acts has been to simplify the application form.

The Annual School in Winchester was very well attended and was a great success, although I was unable to be there. The 2013 School will be held in Carlisle. The Branch continued the Annual School bursary scheme in 2012 and hopes to in the forthcoming year.

An annual Branch Connection Day is held to reinforce links between the centre and the Branches and to encourage more members to be active in IHBC affairs. This took place in Birmingham in November 2011. The 2012 event will also be held in Birmingham, on the 14 November 2012, with a theme of *The IHBC's Code of Conduct: standards & discipline*.

Bob Kindred is now maintaining a list of ombudsman cases where inappropriate or inadequate conservation advice is mentioned. Please advise Bob if you are aware of any such cases, which are likely to arise where non-qualified staff act as conservation officers or councils fail to seek specialist advice.

**ROY LEWIS**

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### **Membership Secretary's Report**

The East Midlands Branch has been happy to welcome 3 new full members since September last year. At the last count the overall number of Members, Affiliates and Associates in the East Midlands stands at 167, slightly down on 173 in September last year.

Roy Lewis, Branch Rep on Council, has reported on membership issues discussed at Council throughout the year. Overall, membership in terms of numbers has been broadly stable, although nationally we are losing slightly more people than are being

recruited at Member level. This may be due to retirement either through age, or from the industry itself – it is no surprise that people are leaving the profession as there are 5% fewer Conservation Officer posts across the country than a year ago and the East Midlands region has been particularly badly hit.

The Branch Committee is sad to report, concurrent with his retirement from Derbyshire County Council in the Spring, the resignation from the IHBC of Barry Joyce – a founder member of the ACO and a career-long supporter of improving standards; the professionalisation of the conservation 'industry', his particular blend of enthusiasm, ability and knowledge will be sorely missed.

**MARK STRAWBRIDGE**

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### **Treasurer's Report 2011-12**

Following the AGM, details of the Branch's income & expenditure over the IHBC's financial year (1st October 2011- 30th September 2012), will be submitted to Council. We will also submit our Business Plan for approval, this will include an estimate of the Branches income & expenditure for 2012/2013.

At the beginning of this financial year (1<sup>st</sup> October 2011), the bank balance of the East Midlands Branch stood at £596.77 (current account: £406.94 & reserve account: £189.83). At the time of preparing this report (end August 2012), the Branch's bank balance stood at £547.13 (current account: £357.24 & reserve account: £189.89). The cost of refreshments for the Branch meetings came to £336.20.

Following the success of the Buxton Annual School the Branch received 40% the surplus made, this amounted to £4869.17 and is held in an account at Head Office for us to claim in installments. We currently have £2869.17 left in the account having drawn down £2000.00 in total. This year we claimed £200.00

No claim has been made to date for computer sundries or printing. A sum in the region of £400 will be spent on this year's AGM at the British Geological Survey the costs of which will be paid out of this year's budget. I will hopefully have the final costs for this by the time of the AGM.

A summary of the Branch accounts are attached but I will present an up to date balance at the AGM showing all the Branch transactions. I will also present a budget for 2012-2013 based on a draft Business Plan which the Branch can consider and amend if desired prior to its submission to Council.

**ROSE THOMPSON**

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### **County Representatives' Reports**

#### **Derbyshire**

CODS has had four meetings in the last 12 months, two at County Hall in Matlock and two at the Gothic Warehouse in Cromford. A number of CPD events have been held at these meetings including a presentation from Ventrola, items about metal

## SUMMARY OF IHBC EAST MIDLANDS BRANCH ACCOUNTS

### IHBC EAST MIDLANDS BRANCH - ACCOUNTS 1/10/11- 30/9/12

IHBC EM Bank Accounts	Src	Date	Payee	Deposit	Withdrawal	Balance
Opening balance						£596.77
	CD	1/10/11	Branch Refreshments		£16.20	£580.57
	CR	31/12/11	Interest	£0.02		£580.59
	CD	7/2/12	Branch Refreshments		£30.00	£550.59
	CD	16/3/12	Branch Refreshments		£30.00	£520.59
	CR	30/3/12	IHBC Central Funds	£650.00		£1,170.59
	CR	31/3/12	Interest	£0.02		£1,170.61
	CR	19/4/12	IHBC Buxton Fund	£200.00		£1,370.61
	CD	30/4/12	Stanford Hall Refreshments		£200.00	£1,170.61
	CD	19/5/12	Bursary Payment		£444.00	£726.61
	CD	19/5/12	Travel Expenses		£119.50	£607.11
	CD	29/5/12	Refreshments		£30.00	£577.11
	CR	30/6/12	Interest	£0.02		£577.13
	CD	10/7/12	Branch Refreshments		£30.00	£547.13
	CD		AGM-Printing etc		£100.00	£447.13
	CD		AGM-		£300.00	£147.13
	CR	30/9/10	Interest	£0.02		£147.15

### IHBC EAST MIDLANDS BRANCH - ANNUAL SCHOOL ACCOUNTS 1/10/11- 30/9/12

IHBC EM Bank Accounts	Src	Date	Payee	Deposit	Withdrawal	Balance
Opening balance						£472.50
	CD	19/4/12	Transfer Current A/c	£200.00		<b>£672.50</b>
			Breakdown of transactions			
Opening balance						£672.50
	CD	19/5/12	Travel expenses		£119.50	£553.00
	CD	30/4/12	Annual School Fee		£444.00	£109.00

theft and churches at risk and presentations on the Strategic Stone Study. Most recently we had a presentation from Lucie Thacker of the AHF on cold spot funding opportunities available within Derbyshire. These have been useful and allowed members to gain insight into these specialist areas.

In general these meetings have been well attended but a particularly busy meeting took place on the 14<sup>th</sup> March when 26 members attended as Barry Joyce and Allan Morrison, who have been members for many years, retired from Derbyshire County Council. Their knowledge and enthusiasm will be greatly missed.

With regards to specific projects of note in Derbyshire:

Cromford Mill Building 17 is now ready to be decontaminated and this will be followed by its conversion to a ground floor visitor centre with four floors of business space above. This should be completed by summer 2014 and it is most welcome that this important part of the World Heritage site is being brought back into use.

Buxton Crescent and Thermal Spa project, which members may remember from the IHBC Annual School, is now underway. This £35 million project will result in the refurbishment of the Grade I listed Crescent buildings and Grade II listed Natural Baths and Pump Room to create a 79 bedroom, 5 star spa hotel, a thermal mineral water spa, a visitor centre and retail and café/restaurant space. An initial enabling contract is now underway and the project is due to be completed in 2014.

A final project which has got underway after many years on the English Heritage at risk list is the restoration and refurbishment of Grade I listed St Helens House in Derby for use as offices. This part of the project is due to be completed by early 2013 as part of a wider scheme of redevelopment.

With regards to grant funding Derby City Council was successful in its first round bid for a THI grant for the Green Lane Conservation Area and will spend the next year building up to the Stage 2 bid.

**NEIL ROBERTSON**

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**Leicestershire**

*Retirements:*

- Anthony Gimpel & Martin Tincknell– Charnwood District Council;
- Carolyn Cartwright, Rutland County Council.

*New recruits:*

- Liz Blood, War Memorials Officer, Leicestershire.
- Ramona Usher, Conservation Officer (PT), Northwest Leicestershire District Council

*IHBC representative*

Jenny Timothy has temporarily rescinded her membership and in her absence Ramona Usher has agreed to act as the County representative until Jenny re-joins the IHBC.



## *GUEST SPEAKERS*

### *Richard Jordan, Jordan Heritage Roofing*

Richard Jordan gave an interesting talk on alternatives to Swithland slate and traditional methods of stone slating. He is trialling the use of ends from production runs of Penrhyn slate. This is cut thicker than the usual machined Welsh slate and is hand dressed to resemble the rougher texture and random appearance of Swithland slate; the slate is laid in the traditional manner in diminishing courses and without felt. Following an inspection of samples and photographs of examples, it was agreed that the slate appears to be an improvement on the "Burlington Blue" slate previously suggested as a substitute for Swithland.

A possible East Midlands Branch visit to his yard at Alfreton, where a training rig is available, was suggested.

### *Lucie Thacker, Architectural Heritage Fund*

Lucie gave a presentation regarding her proactive role in setting up and supporting Building Preservation Trusts and their work saving buildings on the B@R register. The East Midlands has few Building Preservation Trusts, although the Lincolnshire Heritage Trust has done some good work. Funding is available to get groups going in the East Midlands with a particular focus on industrial heritage at risk.

## *LCOF*

Jenny circulated a letter to the County group explaining the purpose of the forum and with it a request for comments. Suggested distribution to chief planning officers across the County to invite conservation officers or conservation minded planners.

### *Heritage Crime Prevention*

Graham Walley presented details of an EH initiative to record and deal with heritage crime. It was suggested that the County group should monitor reports of heritage crime and work with the police to be better organised on this problem. Work is also being undertaken by Loughborough University and Liz Blood informed the group of a talk by Mark Harrison on heritage crime in April.

**RAMONA USHER**

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## **Lincolnshire**

The Lincolnshire Conservation Officers Group has met four times since the last AGM, despite increasing difficulty for some in finding a suitable room for a venue (some having to pay out of their own pockets for room hire!!). In September 2011 Rob Walker hosted a meeting in Louth involving a Hornby Heritage Quiz (Louth has a number of buildings and structures which are immortalised as Hornby railway miniatures!). This was followed by a CPD event looking at how little the town of Louth has changed from the unique view of the very fine church spire compared against Brown's Panorama (view from the same church circa 1865) with a visit to a Grade II\* listed terrace of four town houses before major repairs.

Arthur Ward hosted the December meeting in Lincoln which the Archdeacon of Lincoln attended to update the group on the problem of lead theft and what is being done jointly with English Heritage in the EMIDS to combat this problem. Paul

Jackson hosted a meeting in Spalding at the superb Ayscoughfee Hall (successfully upgraded from Grade II\* to Grade I earlier this year following an application by the Council). In the afternoon a follow up visit took place to look at 'after' work on grant aided PSiCA projects in Spalding ('before' visits having taken place in 2009). Ian Wright hosted the June meeting in Grantham where Dr. Dale Dishon gave an update on the NPPF from an English Heritage perspective.

There are some changes of staff. First the bad news, Arthur Ward has lost one post (City Archaeologist) at the City of Lincoln Council. North East Lincolnshire (in association with Balfour Beatty Living Places) has reduced a full time HER Officer/ Archaeologist post by 20%. On the positive side we welcome Rose Thompson who is now Conservation Officer at North Kesteven District Council (formerly Newark & Sherwood DC) and Ian Wright has a new Conservation Assistant in post. Liz Bates of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire has passed on the reins temporarily to Laura Hodson.

Major projects around the County include a £12.5M project at Lincoln Castle headed up by Dr. Beryl Lott and her team to repair the wall, create an accessible wall walk, repair and interpret the prison building and a new structure to house the Magna Carta. The project is underway and a completion date of 2015 will be in time for the anniversary of the Magna Carta. Arthur Ward and his team have a major archiving project and the production of Conservation Area Appraisals underway. South Holland is continuing with the final extension year of PSiCA in partnership with EH, THI applications for Grantham have been put forward and Boston has commenced a PSiCA centred around the Market Place in partnership with EH and the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire. The same organisation is coming close to completion of three years of very solid and successful work with Heritage at Risk Project.

Rob Walker with Dr. Matthew Godfrey and the support of the IHBC and EH held a highly successful Louth Conservation Day. Over 300 visitors attended to view an exhibition of Buildings at Risk by the Victorian Society and representatives from the SPAB and many skilled conservation craftspeople.

**ELIZABETH MAYLE**

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## **Northamptonshire**

There have been four meetings of the Northamptonshire Conservation Officers' Forum since September 2011. Our discussions have focused on the following key issues: implications of the Penfold Review; implementation of the NPPF for heritage protection and planning; lead theft and associated vulnerability of heritage assets; archaeological archives; and, of course, the ever present proposals for large-scale renewable energy projects.

The Northamptonshire Heritage Framework was due to be released in March 2012, but we are still awaiting final publication.

The third 'Heritage Summit' for Northamptonshire was held at Northampton Guildhall on 28 March 2012. The summit, entitled '*Playing to our Strengths*', sought to:

- celebrate the contribution which the local heritage can make to the County's prosperity, in 2012 and beyond;
- address emerging challenges to protection and conservation of our heritage;
- promote participation and learning;
- equip the people who care for it, with information, insight, contacts and upcoming opportunities to help them fulfil their aims.

The summit was well attended by local authority heritage champions and conservation staff, as well as local interest groups and volunteers.

Chester Farm, a range of II\* listed farm buildings on a scheduled site, situated just outside Wellingborough, remains top of the list of options being considered by Northamptonshire County Council for a new archaeological archives and interpretation resource for the County. The main farmhouse had been severely damaged by fire, but has been stabilised and made watertight, and a new roof is currently under construction. NCC has submitted an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for Stage 1 development funding for the project to create an Archaeological Archives Resource Centre. The first stage of the project will include interpretative and activity plan, development of proposals for 3D visualisation and detailed design brief. The bid is a key element of the overall project of opening up the site to public access with an especial focus on archaeology and heritage learning, education and enjoyment. The outcome is expected in early October.

The Archaeological Archives Working Group has continued to look at ways to ensure that new material will be archived properly, and are seeking to establish a standard for archaeological archives across the county. Draft standards have been prepared for archiving digital information and images.

**RACHEL BOOTH**

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## **Nottinghamshire**

The Nottinghamshire Conservation Officer's Forum is attended by LPA COs from around the County and the Minutes are circulated more widely. The forum meets quarterly, in autumn 2011 we met at Clumber Park as guests of the National Trust who attended the meeting and treated us to lunch at the splendid, newly opened Barker's restaurant and conducted a tour of recent conservation projects in the afternoon. In January the forum met at Westfield House in Mansfield, and learnt about the £5m 'My Place' project that refurbished the County Council run Youth Centre facilities within a new extension to the grade II listed building owned by Mansfield District Council. In April NCOF were the guests of Rob Mayo at Welbeck Abbey who sat in on the meeting and made us very welcome, providing a comprehensive tour of the impressive estate, its recent development and discussed future aspirations. Most recently we met at Norwell village (north of Newark) where we learnt about the HLF local dendrochronology and history project instigated by Michael Jones (retired Professor of Medieval History). The next NCOF is planned for 11<sup>th</sup> October at Mansfield.

## ***Staffing Levels***

Considerable changes have taken place over the past few months in

Nottinghamshire conservation provision within LPAs. Broxtowe Borough has set up an arrangement to share conservation services with Erewash (one-day every fortnight) and Ashfield DC uses Bassetlaw DC conservation expertise one-day-a-week. Gedling BC continues to get their advice from an external consultant. Both conservation officers at Rushcliffe Borough Council recently left, Tom Street has now joined Nottingham City Council filling the role of Peter Smith who retired in spring after long and dedicated service there. Staffing levels at Newark and Sherwood DC continue to change, most recently Rose Thompson left her part time post for Lincolnshire. At the County Council the HER support officer role has been cut back further.

#### *Non-Ecclesiastic Funding Schemes*

In Bassetlaw the PSiCA at Tuxford continues. English Heritage funding for H@R in the past year includes: Drakehole Lodges; St Mary's redundant church tower South Wheatley; Flintham mud dovecote. HLF funding (stage 1) offers include: Beeston Lock Cottages 'Canal-side Heritage Centre'; the Majestic Theatre in Retford (subsequently turned down by the theatre); SPAB Maintenance Co-operative Movement; Malt Cross, Nottingham and Mansfield Museum. HLF Stage 2 has been awarded for the Magnus Civil War Centre in Newark, a N&SDC project housed in a listed building. For information on HLF/EH funded church repairs and projects it is best to visit their websites.

#### *Buildings At Risk*

New data for B@R across the County is posted on the new Nottinghamshire County Council website. At the time of writing the rates of B@R have not been calculated for 2012 in view of data pending from various LPAs.

**JASON MORDAN**

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### **Other Reports**

#### **Branch Communications Report**

Following feedback at last year's AGM, the Branch Committee decided to try to improve its communication with Branch members and I can report now on the actions taken this year.

Firstly, it was thought that the Branch's website - [http://www.ihbc.org.uk/about/branches/east\\_mids/east\\_mids.html](http://www.ihbc.org.uk/about/branches/east_mids/east_mids.html) - was a great place to make a start, given that some members may already be visiting it for information on what the Branch is doing on their behalf.

Therefore, following the AGM our website was given a 'make-over' and now features:

- a Branch News section;
- information on both forthcoming CPD events;
- member reviews of completed CPD events;
- contacts for County representatives and other Committee posts; plus
- a useful archive of Branch information.

Following this 'make-over' and a bit of promotion, the national office has reported that the East Midlands Branch has been one of the most visited IHBC webpages – so thank you for taking a look and if you would like to see other information on the webpage,



please let me know.

In addition to this, as mentioned elsewhere the Branch also held one of its Committee meetings at the April CPD event in order to try to meet more members and so that they could see the workings of the Branch in more detail. From a branch communications point of view, this worked quite well but I think more can be done to make this more successful.

Finally, I attended on behalf of the East Midlands Branch the nationally organised Branch Connections Day in November 2011, given this year's focus on Communications. At this, Charles Strang (Chair of Communications & Outreach) and Sean O'Reilly (IHBC Director) gave an overview of the IHBC's communications strategy.

Central to this strategy was to establish a series of topic areas that the IHBC would seek to communicate about, through press releases, media events, campaigns, etc. Alongside this, the Institute would seek to improve its contacts with influential journalists, commentators, etc. to ensure its voice was heard.

In relation to the East Midlands Branch, this could mean that we seek to reflect this national work with local level efforts, such as issuing press releases on the same topic but using a local building or area and aiming at local press and media. Happily, one of the key tools for engaging in this was stated to be having an up-to-date website as the main portal for information, so we at the East Midlands Branch are again ahead of the game!

If you want to raise issues that you think the Branch should communicate about, please let me know.

**CHRIS McKINNEY**

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#### **ALGAO**

The Association of Local Authority Archaeological Officers meets quarterly around the region. The next meeting is in Northants on 13<sup>th</sup> September. If any member is interested in attending on behalf of the IHBC, please contact Beryl Lott at Lincolnshire County Council.

**JASON MORDAN**

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#### **Derby City Conservation Area Advisory Committee**

Due to a change in jobs Charles Glenn advises that he has had to resign as East Midlands Branch rep from the Derby City Conservation Area Advisory Committee.

The Branch would like to thank Charles for giving his time to attend the CAAC on behalf of the IHBC, which he has done since 2003.

**CHARLES GLENN**

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#### **Leicester City Conservation Area Advisory Panel**

Meetings of the Leicester City Council Conservation Advisory Panel are attended, but the frequency of meetings is less than previously, reflecting a reduced number of

applications affecting historic buildings than at the height of the regeneration boom in the early 2000's.

Some conversion schemes granted consent several years ago are now coming to fruition while others have stalled, although there remain several proposals for conversions for student housing, often involving re-working of previously approved residential schemes.

However a major change this year has been the attendance at the meetings by the elected City Mayor, giving a welcome enhanced significance to the views of the Panel.

**DAVE TRUBSHAW**

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## **NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION TO EAST MIDLANDS BRANCH COMMITTEE**

I would like to nominate the following person for the post of

Nominee Name:.....

For the Post of:.....

(Chair, Vice Chair, Branch Representative to Council, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, County Representative, Education Representative, or General Committee post)

Address of Nominee:.....

.....

.....

I have approached the person nominated above who is prepared to stand for election.

Proposed by: (Print Name).....

Signature of Proposer: .....

Seconded by:.....

Please send or e-mail completed nomination form by 6<sup>th</sup> September 2012 to:

Stephen Bradwell,  
IHBC East Midlands Branch Secretary,  
6 Guildford Way, Loughborough,  
Leics. LE11 3SE

stephenbradwell@virginmedia.com

Papers prepared by  
Stephen Bradwell,  
IHBC East Midlands Branch Secretary  
31 August 2012

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