



· INSTITUTE · OF · HISTORIC ·  
BUILDING · CONSERVATION

EAST MIDLANDS BRANCH

# **INSTITUTE OF HISTORIC BUILDING CONSERVATION**

## **EAST MIDLANDS BRANCH**

### **Annual General Meeting**



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At the Heritage Skills Centre at Lincoln Castle  
on Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2013

## **Programme of Events**

- 2.00 pm Meet at the Heritage Skills Centre
- 2.10 pm Branch AGM
- 3.00 pm Talks by Rob Green of Arrol and Snell, architects, Dr Jonathan Clark of FAS Heritage and Mary Powell of Lincoln Castle Revealed will tell us more about the Centre and the challenges of building in such a sensitive location
- 4.30 pm Tour of the Site
- 5.30 pm Buffet Tea
- 6.30 pm Close

**The Branch AGM and the visit are open to all Members, without any charge.** An early response would be appreciated so that we can gauge the level of interest to book the buffet. So 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.**

## **Heritage Skills Centre, Lincoln**

As we all know the conservation of our architectural heritage relies on skilled craftsman and this year's AGM will be held at the Heritage Skills Centre. The Centre is situated within the grounds of Lincoln Castle and this visit provides us with an opportunity to see first hand the first new building within the Castle grounds for over 100 years. As well as being an interesting place to visit, Rob Green will give an overview of the architectural works to the Wall Walks, the Prison and the Heritage Skills Centre; Mary Powell will talk about the Lincoln Castle Revealed project and the HLF bid; and, Jonathan Clark will discuss standing fabric as well as the below ground archaeology uncovered during the project. Their talks will be followed by a tour of the site.

More information on the venue can be found at: [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/visiting/historic-buildings/lincoln-castle/heritage-skills-centre/](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/visiting/historic-buildings/lincoln-castle/heritage-skills-centre/)

## **Directions to the Venue**

Lincoln is easily accessible by train (although there is a steep walk up the hill to the Castle). For those travelling by car, there are no on-site car parking facilities, but public parking is available in the uphill area of Lincoln. For those with Sat-Nav, try: LN1 3AA.

# AGM Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the 2012 Annual General Meeting
3. Officers' and Other Reports and Financial Statement
4. Election of Officers
  - Chair*
  - Vice Chair*
  - Secretary*
  - Treasurer*
  - Branch Representative to Council*
  - Communications Officer*
  - Membership Secretary*
  - Education Representative*
5. Election of Branch Committee Members & County Reps
6. 2013-14 Business Plan - see separate document
7. IHBC Annual School Bursary Award
8. Any Other Agreed Business
  - Liz Blood: Annual School Report

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on  
Friday, 7 September 2012  
at British Geological Society, Keyworth, Notts**

1. **Attendance:** The attendance list was signed by 18 Members:  
Fiona Newton, Jayne Roylance, Roy Lewis, Chris McKinney, Chris Collison, Rachel Booth, Rob Walker, Chloe Oswald, Liz Blood, Sara Crofts, Elizabeth Mayle, Kerry Walmsley, Liz Mayle, Neil Robertson, Rachel Booth, Rosalind Willatts, Jason Mordan, Philip Grover & Stephen Bradwell
2. **Apologies:** There were 16 apologies from:  
Sean O'Reilly (IHBC – Director), Trefor Thorpe (IHBC President), Mark Strawbridge, Simon Scott, Jim Crane, Ramona Usher, Kate Dickson, David Littlewood, Simon Revill, David Trubshaw, Sue Dobby, Allan Morrison, John Sharpe, Simon Johnson, Martin Tincknell & Arthur Ward
3. **Minutes of 2011 AGM:** Accepted as a true record of the meeting.  
Proposed by Rob Walker and seconded by Philip Grover.
4. **Officers Report:** Jane noted that one of the principal objectives of this past year had been to attract more members through better communications and by holding an additional Branch event attached to a Branch Committee meeting.

Fiona corrected a comment in Jane's report and confirmed that Buxton still held the top position for attendance at an Annual School despite the good attendance at Winchester.

Roy added to his Branch Reps report by noting that the consultation processes through the Branch e-mail network was generally successful and whilst most consultations passed without great debate, the amendments to listed building procedures had attracted a very strong response, particularly the suggestion for accredited agents, with open extreme and conflicting views being expressed. However, James Caird had submitted a fair assessment of the representations on behalf of the IHBC and these, like all consultations, could be viewed on the IHBC website along with the responses from other professional groups.

Roy also pointed out that in terms of membership, members employed in the private sector now outnumbered those in the public sector, but on the whole the IHBC represented a broad church.

Rob commented on Jane's report by noting that whilst the visit to Stanford Hall had attracted a good turnout from Branch members, only the Committee members stayed on for the Branch meeting when the intention had been to have a wider participation in the Branch meeting. Rob wondered whether people had realised that they were welcome to stay for the Branch meeting and if repeated it should be stressed that all members were welcome to stay for the Branch meeting.

Chris Collison added that it was useful for members to attend such meetings so that they could see what the Branch Committee did on their behalf.

Fiona also added that it was useful to have new people come along to such meetings so that there were new things to talk about, such as Liz Blood's recent presentation on war memorials.

Chris wondered whether the order of the day could be rejigged, perhaps putting the Branch meeting first and Ruth wondered whether Friday was the best day to hold such an event as people often wanted to get home for the weekend.

Rose noted that whilst the Branch accounts had been included in the AGM papers these needed to be finalised after the AGM.

5. **Treasurers Report:** Rose noted that the final accounts still had to be finalised to take into account of the costs of the AGM.

6. **County Representatives Reports:**

*Derbyshire Representative:* Rob wondered whether, as Neil had referred to work at St Helen's House in Derby in his report, there was an opportunity for a CPD visit by Branch members to see the works in progress.

Jason noted that the next ALGAO meeting was in Northampton but he was having difficulty in attending that meeting, in view of its venue Rachel agreed to attend on behalf of the IHBC.

Jane noted that there was no longer an IHBC representative on the Derby CAAC. Chloe thought it useful if someone could attend and had suggested an approach to John Sharpe however Chris Collinson offered to attend on behalf of the Branch if that was acceptable.

7. **Communications Officer:** Jane noted that communication was an increasingly important part of the Branch activities and Chris McKinney explained the work he had been doing to improve the Branch page on the IHBC website which was an easy and cheap means of communicating information to the Branch members. Jane noted that the Branch Committee had considered that there was a need for a Communications Officer and whilst the idea needed defining there was a need for a person to manage the Branch web page and promote communication within the Branch.

Rob thought that Chris had done an excellent job and was very impressed with the revamped web-page. He agreed that there was a need to formalise this post.

Chris Collison was also impressed with the ease of use and presentation of the web page and it would be useful if Chris McKinney was given a formal remit to do this work for the Branch. Chris thought that if we didn't say that this was a valuable area of expertise then no one else would.

Liz thought this was particularly useful for new members, helping them to understand what the Branch is doing and helping to promote their professional development.

Roy did caution that any job description had to define the role as promoting general conservation initiatives but should avoid commenting on specific cases where it might be seen that the Branch was taking sides or where IHBC members might be representing different interests on either side of an individual case.

Chris thought that the post would be useful in promoting the work of the Branch and its Members to others and could draw attention to specific campaigns, such as conservation staffing in Local Government. Equally the work would be directed by the Branch Committee.

Fiona thought it important that in any communications, we would need to consider the target audience and whether we only concentrate on members, bringing them into the work of the Branch, or go outside of the Branch to promote conservation to a wider audience.

Chris agreed and thought it right that the Branch should decide how we communicate and to whom.

It was therefore agreed to create the post of Communications Officer, proposed by Robert Walker and seconded by Roy Lewis and supported by the AGM.

8. **Election of Officers:** Stephen read out the nominations for Branch Officers, these were proposed by Sara Crofts and seconded by Elizabeth Bryan:

Chair - Jane Roylance  
Vice Chair - Robert Walker  
Secretary - Stephen Bradwell  
Branch Representative - Roy Lewis  
Treasurer - Rose Thompson  
Membership Secretary - Mark Strawbridge  
Education Representative - Philip Grover  
Communications Officer - Chris McKinney

Stephen then read out nominations for General Committee Members, these were proposed by Liz Mayle and seconded by Rob Walker:

Fiona Newton  
Sara Crofts  
Liz Blood  
Kerry Walmsley

Stephen then read out the list of County Reps, these were proposed by Rob Walker and seconded by Chris Collison:

Lincolnshire: Liz Mayle  
Leicestershire: Vacant  
Nottinghamshire: Jason Mordan  
Derbyshire: Neil Robertson  
Northamptonshire: Rachel Booth

9. **Business Plan:** Rose distributed a revised statement of accounts and in reply to Rob confirmed that the Annual School Bursary was included in the 'Buxton 2009' line of the accounts.

There was some debate about the venue of the Branch meetings and whilst the Fox and Crown had not been particularly suitable it was felt that The Moorings was also not a conducive environment for the Branch meeting. Rose was asked to look for other alternative venues in Newark including the Fox and Crown.

It was agreed that the Business Plan should include an April event and meeting, venue to be arranged.

Chris Collison noted that if it was acceptable he would be prepared to attend the Derby CAAC on behalf of the IHBC.

10. **Bursary:** It was agreed that the Annual School Bursary had been successful and should be continued next year for the 2013 Annual School in Carlisle. Roy noted that it

promotes interest in the Branch and professional development and Fiona commented that it was surprising that we did not get more people applying.

11. **Branch Connection Day:** Fiona noted that the next Branch Connection Day was to look at codes of conduct and would be useful for Branch chairs and secretary and Jane offered to attend on behalf of the Branch.
  12. **AOB**  
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 7.00pm.
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# **IHBC East Midlands Branch Committee 2012 - 13**

## **Chair**

Jane Roylance

## **Vice Chair**

Robert Walker

## **Secretary**

Stephen Bradwell

## **Branch Representative to IHBC Council**

Roy Lewis

## **Treasurer**

Rose Thompson

## **Membership Secretary**

Mark Strawbridge

## **Communications Officer**

Chris McKinney

## **Education Rep**

Philip Grover

## **County Reps**

**Derbyshire** Neil Robertson

**Leicestershire** Liz Blood (after the AGM)

**Lincolnshire** Liz Mayle

**Northamptonshire** Rachel Booth

**Nottinghamshire** Jason Mordan

## **General Committee Members**

Fiona Newton

Liz Blood

Kerry Walmsley

Sara Crofts



## **Officers' Reports 2012 - 13**

### **Chair's Report**

The core strands of the East Midlands Branch Business Plan 2012- 2013 are:

- Supporting members
- Building Partnerships
- Maintaining an active Branch
- Funding a bursary place to the Annual School.

As a branch we have endeavoured to achieve these objectives throughout the last year and continue to make progress, thanks to the commitment of my fellow committee members.

Chris McKinney, our Communications Officer elected to this new post at last year's AGM, has continued to develop the East Midlands web page on the IHBC website, and this is now the first 'port of call' to find what is happening to the Branch. For further information on the developments over the last year you can refer to Chris's report.

This year's peripatetic branch meeting was held at St Martins House in Leicester in April. Attending members were invited to a buffet lunch and then sat in on the Branch committee meeting. It was followed by a talk from Dr Richard Buckley who engaged us with the background, context and findings of the archaeological dig, which culminated in the discovery of Richard III's skeleton in the remains of Greyfriars Priory beneath a Leicester car park. This was followed by a talk from Jenny Timothy, the City's conservation officer, who described the City's current initiatives to re-connect the historic core of Leicester, as well as plans for the Richard III visitor centre and memorial in the cathedral. Members were then able to visit the visitor centre at the Guildhall. The event attracted higher numbers than usual and received very positive feedback. The branch would like to continue with this event, as it allows members unable to attend the regular committee meetings to meet the committee and network with others, as well as work up valuable CPD.

This year's bursary recipient was Liz Blood, who became a member of the East Midlands Branch Committee last year, and for much of the last year has been the acting representative for Leicestershire. She attended the Annual School held in Carlisle hosted by the North West Branch. Its theme was 'Skills', and as ever was thought-provoking, thoroughly enjoyable and quite the best place for the conservation professional to network. Liz has chosen to make a film to illustrate how she benefitted from the bursary, and this will be shown at the AGM.

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

The peripatetic meeting and the bursary are initiatives the Committee feel are beneficial to the support of our membership, but these come at an additional cost. At present we are able to fund these from the Buxton surplus and some additional funding from the

central office. However, in future the bulk of this funding will disappear. The Branch members need to consider whether these two initiatives should continue, and how they will be funded. Certainly, we will have to consider ways of fund-raising and we would be grateful for your thoughts at the AGM.

Following on from the last year, I can report that in 2012 conservation staffing in the East Midlands increased by 2.3 full time equivalent posts. The East Midlands was one of three regions to see an increase, but the increase doesn't even make up the previous year's losses. Over the whole country staffing has fallen by 33% since 2006 and sadly continues on a downward path. The Fifth Report on Local Authority Staff Resources was published July. For those interested the report can be viewed on the IHBC website:

<http://www.ihbc.org.uk/skills/resources/5th-rep-LAStaff.pdf>

... And finally, this year will be the fourth I have served as Chair of the East Midlands Branch, a post that traditionally has a two-year term. I feel the Branch would benefit from a change of personality and some fresh ideas, so I will be standing down this year. I am hoping to serve on the Committee in some lesser capacity and am also hoping that having more free time will enable me to increase my involvement with the IHBC Technical Panel, which I currently serve on as a corresponding member.

I would like to thank the serving members of the Committee and their predecessors for all their support over the last four years. The Branch wouldn't function without them and I have really enjoyed working with them. Thanks Guys...

**JANE ROYLANCE**

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

Another interesting year for the Branch. Once again the Branch AGM was held under blue skies and sunshine, this time visiting the British Geological Survey in Keyworth. The fine weather meant we were all able to appreciate the 'stone walk', a geological timeline laid out as a pavement in the centre of the site, and the extensive stone collections. Of particular interest to the Branch members was the talk by Graham Lott, who described the variety of building stones that are present throughout the East Midlands and which make an important contribution to the local vernacular. Graham also introduced the *Building Stones* service that the BGS operate. This provides specialist information and advice on building stones, quarries and building conservation to clients throughout the country, and also has resources that are freely available on-line, at:

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/mineralsuk/buildingStones/home.html>

Then in spring of this year the Branch organised an away-day to Leicester. A well attended and very interesting event that demonstrated how heritage in all its guises - from the bones of Richard III to the rather disaggregated historic core of Leicester City - plays an essential role in urban regeneration and redevelopment. Hopefully more visits will follow in the forthcoming year and in the past we have tried to link these to the various Conservation Officer group meetings, although for various reasons this initiative has not been fully developed.

Branch meetings have moved back to earthy charms of The Fox & Crown in Newark and recent meetings have been well attended by the Committee members but there is always room for more, Branch members are very welcome to come along.

Following last year's AGM, Chris McKinney has taken on the role of Communications Officer and he has set to work developing the East Midlands web page on the IHBC website. Although this is in its early stages it provides a considerable amount of information about Branch activities and the range of conservation work that is happening under the guidance of local authority conservation officers - conservation may have been hit hard recently, but things are still happening (as the County reports illustrate), we just need to share it and publicise it more often.

The Branch relies on its members to operate and so, as Jane announces that she is stepping down as Chair after 4 years and Mark Strawbridge also steps down as Membership Secretary, important positions within the Branch are being vacated. We therefore need people to come along and get more involved in the running of the Branch. Over the past 2 or 3 years we have managed to recruit a number of new (and younger) faces onto the Branch Committee and new ideas have emerged about how the Branch should operate, but as always a successful and vibrant Branch needs the active support of its membership so if you are able to commit some time to the Branch Committee then please come along to the AGM and step forward.

**STEPHEN BRADWELL**

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

There have been four meetings of Council over the course of the year; one in Godalming, Surrey and the other three in London. I have attended two of them. Fiona Newton covered the December 2012 meeting and Rose Thompson substituted for me at the March 2013 meeting - both were in London. The forthcoming September 2013 peripatetic meeting of Council will be held in Bristol and I am planning to attend. A conference on *Characterisation* the following day, organised by the South-West Branch, will reinforce the Institute's presence in the city.

It has been another challenging year for IHBC, with conservation of the built environment under threat from a variety of directions. However, the Institute continues to fly the flag for conservation with enthusiasm. The organisation's finances remain sound, notwithstanding quite a large number of retirements. These are being balanced by a steady flow of new members, although the Institute has too many affiliate members. There are initiatives to encourage affiliates to upgrade to full membership. This is a tricky business, as the objective is to make the process easier without reducing standards. A new full-membership application form has been introduced, so if you are an affiliate member, why not apply for full-membership and enjoy the status that such membership confers.

The ongoing impact of the Coalition Government's policy of reducing public sector spending and the resultant job losses in local authorities has continued to be at the forefront of the Institute's concerns. As a result of a comprehensive national survey of conservation staffing provision, the Institute has detailed knowledge of the situation. This has helped raise the profile of the issue with concern being raised at national level

by such bodies as the Heritage Lottery Fund, the RIBA, and the Country Landowners Association.

The Institute continues to lobby Government and others on conservation issues. In 2012, a great deal of lobbying resulted in amendments to the Government's Green Deal initiative, which was clearly a serious threat to the historic environment in its original incarnation. James Caird continues to make well-considered responses to a large number of consultations. One that generated a particularly vocal member response was the proposed revision of BS7913, notwithstanding limited circulation due to a confidentiality requirement.

Another successful and well-attended Annual School was held, this time in Carlisle. The branch provided a delegate place under the annual school bursary scheme. The 2014 School will be held in Edinburgh, with a theme of *The Art of Conservation*.

There have been a number of changes at the top. Mike Brown is now Chair of IHBC and Emila Hands is Vice-Chair. They replace Jo Evans and Sheila Stones. This year, the nominations process was shown to have flaws and this will have to be addressed. This is not a reflection on the candidates who were elected but an unfortunate procedural problem that has not surfaced in previous years. Posts are voted for by a show of hands at the AGM and the issue relates to endorsement of candidates by Council. On behalf of Council, the IHBC President, Trefor Thorpe is conducting a review of governance arrangements with a view to recommending improvements to them and this will include our election procedures.

An annual Branch Connection Day is now a regular part of the IHBC calendar. It 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 2012. This year's event will also be held in Birmingham, on the 19 November 2013, with a theme of *Discipline*, which follows on from last year's theme of the *Code of Conduct*.

**ROY LEWIS**

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

*Report awaited, however as Mark is now based in London he has to tender his resignation as Membership Secretary as he will not be able to fulfill any of the meeting commitments for the year upcoming.*

**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 2012- 30th September 2013), 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 2013/2014.

At the beginning of this financial year (1st October 2012), the bank balance of the East Midlands Branch stood at £342.00 (current account: £152.09 & reserve account: £189.91). At the time of preparing this report (end August 2013), the Branch's bank

balance stood at £902.56 (current account: £712.59 & reserve account: £189.97). The cost of refreshments for the Branch meetings came to £360.00.

Following the success of the Buxton Annual School the Branch received 40% of the surplus made, this amounted to £4869.17 and is held in an account at Head Office for us to claim in instalments. We currently have £2219.17 left in the account having drawn down £2650.00 in total. This year we claimed £650.00.

No claim has been made to date for computer sundries or printing. A sum in the region of £450 will be spent on this year's AGM at the Lincoln Castle 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.

I will present a summary of all the Branch accounts at the AGM showing all the Branch transactions. I will also present a budget for 2013-2014 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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### **Branch Communications Report**

It's been another busy year in some ways in relation to Branch communications.

Following the review at last year's AGM of the first year's progress on developing our website, this year's efforts have focussed on adding information to support the Branch's Annual School bursary and to develop the links from the Branch to the five county groups.

This has seen testimonies from past winners of the bursary to help explain the benefits of both attending the Annual School and the Branch's bursary which funds a place for the winner and their transport costs to get to the school. Hopefully, this information will help newer IHBC members in the region get an understanding of what the Branch can do for them and show that the Annual School is well worth attending, both for the CPD but also for getting to know colleagues within our region and in the wider membership.

Alongside this, I've worked with the County representatives to help develop the County links page so that if members, both new and less new, are curious to see what is going on in their county or over the county border the website can give a snapshot of what the county groups are discussing and what projects are taking place. One of the joys of this role is getting to find out what is going on before most people and I would definitely suggest you look at the War Memorials Project that is taking place in Leicestershire and Rutland and the Craft Register of Traditional Trades and Material Sources on the Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust website. You never know, this page could spark an idea for a project in your area.

So, what's next? Well that's up to you as a Branch to decide really and the AGM is the venue to discuss it. The website is pretty full and up-to-date but there is always room to squeeze a little bit more on. And, do you want to keep our Communications role to using the website to be an information source and gateway for members or do you want to be more proactive and campaign on things?

I'm willing to give it a go if as a Branch you want to, although I will come looking for contributors so you have been warned!

**CHRIS MCKINNEY**

## **County Representatives' Reports**

### **Derbyshire**

The Conservation Officers in Derbyshire (CODS) continued to hold quarterly meetings in the Gothic Warehouse at Cromford. This comprised of discussions concerning issues affecting conservation officers within the county and a number of presentations. In December 2012 we received a CPD presentation from Dreadnought Tiles concerning their products.

In March we met Nicola Manning who replaced Gill Stroud following her retirement as the HER officer for the county. At the end of March we had an additional on site tour around St Helen's House in Derby whose restoration had been completed after being at risk for many years. In June we had a presentation from Jeremy Fenn from the HLF about the new strategic framework and in particular discussed the schemes which were most relevant to the local authority conservation officers namely Start Up Grants, Our Heritage, Townscape Heritage and Heritage Enterprise. In addition we also had a presentation from Georgina Cass the Environmental Studies Service Manager on services that the County can offer to promote education and awareness. In particular this looked at school children taking an active role in THI Schemes.

The last 12 months have been busy throughout the county and a great deal of positive conservation work and projects have been achieved despite the poor economic situation and the detrimental impact that this has had on the various local authorities.

High Peak Borough Council and in the adjacent West Midlands Staffordshire Moorlands District Council have been taking part in a pilot project for English Heritage – Counting Our Heritage. This looked at assessing the condition of grade II buildings and was one of 18 successful pilot projects throughout England. Using a network of volunteers drawn from a variety of different bodies out of 1273 entries 829 have been successfully surveyed so far following a training session and project management by Urban Vision North Staffordshire.

With regards to funding an 80% grant has been given by English Heritage to the Banqueting House at Barlborough Hall School for repairs. Funding also continued for the Derwent Valley PSiCA and the Derby City PSiCA continued for another year. The Derby City has been particularly successful and featured in Heritage Works and Constructive Conservation. With regards to Lottery Funding a TH scheme has been submitted by Erewash Borough Council for round one funding. Derby City has submitted round 2 funding for Green Lane and St Peters Scheme.

With regards to completed restorations the Friends of Friendless Churches have completed restoration works to the grade II\* listed St John the Baptist Chapel at Matlock Bath which had been in their care since 2002. As mentioned above St Helen's House Derby grade I listed has finally been restored and removed from the At Risk list.

**NEIL ROBERTSON**

## **Leicestershire**

*Conservation Officers:* A COF was held at Melton Mowbray in September 2012 but no forum has been held since. All members were contacted ahead of IHBC branch meetings but to date no response has been received from any conservation officer. The rep enquired about wider county mailing lists in order to request news from all members (including non-COs).

*IHBC Representative:* Ramona Usher stepped down and Elizabeth Blood has acted as IHBC County Rep since.

*Speakers:* At the September 2012 COF in Melton, Jane Roylance presented a powerpoint presentation on the IHBC, how the organisation is run, membership numbers and the benefits of being a member.

*Communications:* Elizabeth has since worked with Chris McKinney, Communications Officer, to trial new material for the county web pages, which have successfully gone live. Although it has proven difficult getting material/updates from the district conservation officers.

### *Events/News:*

- *Branch meeting* April 2013, Leicester, with Richard Buckley of ULAS and Jenny Timothy of Leicester City Council. Leicester City Council has activated 'Connecting Leicester' project, a THI project, and have had a new post created within the team.
- The Heritage Crime Prevention group met in December 2012 at Glenfield.
- Liz Blood received the annual school bursary and produced a photo journal film.
- PSiCA scheme continued in Melton 2013/14 (English Heritage, Melton Borough Council, Leicestershire County Council).
- War memorials conservation grants scheme at Leicestershire County Council will run over coming centenary years.
- National Trust acquired first Leicestershire property (Stoneywell), in Charnwood. Intended opening pushed back to summer 2014.

**LIZ BLOOD**

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## **Lincolnshire**

The Lincolnshire Conservation Officers Group (LCOG) met four times in the last year. Rose Thompson hosted the September meeting at Sleaford with an afternoon CPD visit to the grade I listed Heckington Mill.

Laura Hodson hosted a meeting in Boston in December which included a visit to look at improvements to public realm and 'before' of buildings eligible for PSiCA. In March, English Heritage hosted a meeting at the HQ of IMO3, who in association with English Heritage have been developing a new patented lead marking system with critical friend input from LCOG members. Eddie Rychlak hosted the June meeting in Scunthorpe in the 1960's grade II listed Council Chamber designed on the theme of a blast furnace. Liz Bates gave an afternoon session looking at the individual findings of the HAR Survey.

Changes of Staff in the County include the appointment of Liz Bates as Chief Executive for Heritage Lincolnshire who will take this highly respected and hardworking organisation into the future. Laura Hodson successfully completed fixed term cover for the Boston PSICA. Boston is still without a dedicated conservation officer. Rose Thompson has left North Kesteven District Council for pastures new as a Heritage at Risk Officer for English Heritage. The post has been advertised twice since and a new CO is expected soon. Arthur Ward of City of Lincoln Council has announced his imminent retirement in October. Arthur is a long standing member of the IHBC and has been with the City Council for 39 years.

North and North East Lincolnshire Council have seen a change in boundaries with regard to English Heritage and instead of the York regional office we are now within the East Midlands office and look forward to developing good working relations.

LCOG meetings have noted the very limited resource that conservation is, with most operating with one member of specialist staff fire-fighting rather than undertaking pro-active work. Main projects around the County for heritage led regeneration funding include a Stage 1 Bid for THI for Grantham. NELC have just committed to a stage 1 Bid for Cleethorpes. South Holland have completed an additional two years of PSICA successfully. Boston PSICA is progressing steadily.

A disproportionate amount of time is spent dealing wind turbine applications affecting heritage assets, usually adversely, particularly Rob Walker at East Lindsey but also South Holland.

Arthur Ward applied successfully for WREN funding to have the Newport Arch in Lincoln repaired and also has responsibility for many City Council owned heritage assets. Beryl Lott oversees one of the largest HLF projects now well underway at Lincoln Castle (AGM visit highly recommended!). North East Lincolnshire Council has a serious heritage at risk contingent but steady progress has been made.

Two successful prosecutions were secured against the owners of listed buildings in Grimsby which have been publicised. Eddie Rychlak has commenced a programme of Article 4 Directions for North Lincs underway. 116 High Street Boston has been completed after years of dereliction under the guidance of Mary Anderson and Heritage Lincolnshire BPT. The Heritage at Risk Project (Heritage Lincolnshire) is almost complete with 99% of surveys completed by trained volunteers. A Heritage at Risk Conference was held as part of this project and attracted delegates nationally, many from specialist backgrounds, to cascade the success of this project.

**ELIZABETH MAYLE**

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## **Northamptonshire**

Northamptonshire Conservation Officers' Forum meetings this year have included talks by thatching consultant Keith Quantrill (historic thatch materials and methods and fire prevention measures) and Iain Soden, of Iain Soden Heritage Services Ltd. (investigating and recording historic buildings).

In March, Mark Bradshaw of the National Trust hosted a visit to the grade I listed Lyvedon Manor House (sometimes known as 'Lyvedon Old Bield'), in East Northants. It is



thought that Sir Thomas Tresham planned the Manor House to be the starting place for Elizabethan visitors to experience the pleasure grounds of his garden lodge, 'Lyvedon New Bield'. The National Trust recently acquired the Manor House and 27 acres of ground including the lower terraces to Tresham's garden. The Trust's aim is to restore the historic grounds and offer visitors the opportunity to experience the garden as Tresham once envisaged.

Mark also reported on the successful High Court challenge by English Heritage, the National Trust and East Northamptonshire Council against planning permission for a wind farm granted on appeal by the Planning Inspectorate. The four 126.5 metre high turbines would have been built within the setting of the Lyveden New Bield site, comprising a grade I listed building and registered park and garden. The joint challenge was brought against the Planning Inspector's decision because it was considered that it did not strike a proper balance between the conservation of outstandingly important historic sites and the need for renewable energy from wind. The Inspector was judged to have failed to give proper effect to the statutory duty in section 66(1) of the Planning (LB & CA) Act 1990 to have special regard for the setting of listed buildings.

In June, we visited Barton Hall, in Kettering Borough. The site comprises a grade II\* listed Georgian house (with earlier elements) and a beautiful late 18<sup>th</sup> Century orangery. The buildings, formerly NHS offices, have stood vacant and neglected for several years. The site was recently acquired by a new owner and is now nearing completion of a major programme of repair and renovation to restaurant, conference and hotel facilities. The owner was on hand to share his experience of the heritage issues associated with a project of this nature, including recognising and retaining authentic architectural treatments, restoring lost features, making sensitive changes and compliance with building regulations.

Last year we reported on the Chester Farm Heritage Lottery Fund bid. The County Council has now succeeded in securing £3.97m funding towards a five year project for this important site in Wellingborough. The plans as submitted to the HLF include the establishment of a countywide Archaeological Resource Centre. This is a positive step forward for the future of the county's archaeological resources.

English Heritage recently reported on progress by David Ellis, a master Collyweston stone slater, on securing new sources of roofing slate in the county. Good quality new slate log has been brought out and frosted this year. Collyweston slaters have shown interest in making and using new slate.

**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 2012 we met at Mansfield. In January the forum met at Rufford Abbey and discussed the EH H@R pilot project that Notts CC have been awarded. In June NCOF met at the Old Magnus School building in Newark and heard about the N&S DC HLF Civil War centre project. The next NCOF is planned for October in Tuxford.

## *Staffing Levels*

Over the past 12 months staffing levels within the LPA conservation services have remained largely unchanged. At the time of writing the CO post at Rushcliffe Borough is being advertised.

#### *Funding Schemes*

In Bassetlaw the PsiCA at Tuxford nears its end with the Newcastle Arms (grade II B@R) re-opened and the unusual Jubilee Lantern/finger post recently restored. HLF funding round 2 submission for Beeston Lock Cottages 'Canal-side Heritage Centre' (Li); and passes for Highfields Park in Nottingham (RPG grade II); Bishops Palace Southwell (SAM, grade I). The Forest gate lodge, Nottingham (grade II) restoration is now complete as part of the recreation ground improvements. Bingham Manor House (grade II, B@R) HLF stage 1 submission was made in August.

Notts County Council and English Heritage have combined funds to assist on H@R projects: Flintham mud dovecote (SAM); South Wheatley Church Tower (SAM, grade I). Bassetlaw DC funding for H@R projects includes: Drakehole Lodges, Wiseton (grade II).

#### *Heritage At Risk*

Notts County Council are delivering one of the regions H@R Grade II pilot projects for English Heritage, looking at Nottingham City. New data for B@R across the county is posted on the Nottinghamshire County Council website. At the time of writing the rates of B@R have not been re-calculated for the whole county. In addition to the Nottingham City re-survey, which is nearing completion, the Newark and Sherwood re-survey has been launched utilising volunteers from the Lincs Heritage Trust H@R project and assistance from their project team.

**JASON MORDAN**

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#### **Other Reports**

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

Following my appointment as branch representative on the Derby City Council Conservation Area Advisory Committee I met with the City Council Solicitor and signed up to the Members Code of Conduct, the entry in respect of which is available for public inspection on the Council's website.

Since my appointment there have been six meetings of the Conservation Area Advisory Committee and I have been able to attend all of these. At these meetings a total of 85 applications for development have been considered and recommendations made for consideration by the determining Planning Committee. Other matters considered have included public realm improvements, building energy improvements, and a Townscape Heritage Initiative bid.

I consider the Conservation Area Advisory Committee is performing a valuable role as evidenced by the decisions of the Planning Committee. Conflict of interest has not been an issue and I consider it is appropriate that the IHBC Branch should continue to be represented on the Conservation Area Advisory Committee. I would be delighted to continue in that capacity.

**CHRIS COLLISON**

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

Meetings of Leicester City Council's Conservation Advisory Panel are attended on a regular basis. Interesting proposals considered over the past year have centred on the historic core of the City around the Cathedral, given added prominence by the discovery of the remains of Richard III. The interest and enthusiasm of the elected City Mayor in the historic environment is apparent in proposals and initiatives that have come forward, and his attendance at meetings of the Panel has given welcome gravitas to the discussions.

**DAVE TRUBSHAW**

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## **ALGAO Representative: EMALGAO – Meeting on 13 Sept 2012 at NCC County Hall**

Presentation by Neil Holbrook about Rural Settlement Project - categorising regional variation in Romano-Britain.

This is a research collaboration with Cotswold Archaeology, several university teams and English Heritage funding, based on a search of grey literature in HERs across the regions (excavation reports rather than spot finds or other investigations).

The initial stage of research has revealed that the arrival of PPG16 and PPG15/PPS5 lead to big improvements in finds and understanding. New research is to be focused on rural settlement and land use, materiality, burials, small towns and economy, rather than the traditional villa sites.

It is proposed to produce a gazetteer of Roman rural plans across England and also a critique of past sampling strategies and regional approaches to evaluation for development control work.

The project will create a GIS-based interactive website on ADS (2015) - The Rural Settlement of Roman Britain with a regional meeting proposed for Leicester in December 2012.

Assistance is to be request from HERS for access to grey literature. In return, there is opportunities for creation of pdfs, data cleaning, update research agenda and advice about methodological strategies. The project has been generally well received by county archaeologists and HER staff.

ALGAO agreement with English Heritage. A funding package agreed to facilitate implementation of the National Heritage Protection Plan (to cover ALGAO attendance at meetings, contribute to project design, etc.).

Staffing - a mixed picture across the county. Several SLA reviews, some reluctance on the part of LPAs to justify further expenditure (e.g. Derbyshire), but Northamptonshire reported that all LPAs had happily signed up to the SLA. All counties aware of further cuts on the horizon, but not certain of implications for heritage staffing.

**RACHEL BOOTH**

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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 12<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  
30 August 2013

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