

NORTHWEST
Branch Newsletter
April 2013



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THE EDITOR SPEAKS.....

This issue of the newsletter records some great events from 2012 and also flags up what's going on this year. We are very fortunate to have such an experienced and enthusiastic Events team; our Branch has built a national reputation for the quality of our CPD events and our annual day conference attracts speakers and delegates from all over the country.

Branch events offer a chance to meet other heritage professionals and to find out more about what the IHBC is up to. If you think you'd like to get more involved, events are a good place to have an informal chat with someone in the Branch about what you could do. As public services are suffering on-going cuts more conservation officers are finding themselves on their own which can be isolating.

As well as the county-level COG events, IHBC offers a support and advice network, so use it !.

one thinks that anymore (although some of the comments around last year's LBC consultation were a bit worrying !). We think the North West branch operates with a well-integrated mix of members from different sectors..



Branch conferences..... Never knowingly undersold .

Recognising the increasing number of IHBC members that work as heritage consultants, the Branch is keen to develop some training and events tailored for them. Making the jump from the public or voluntary sector into the private sector can be a bit of a culture shock and without the structured environment provided by local authorities or national organisations, consultants have to develop their own approaches to professional ethics, business and conservation standards.

The Events Sub-Committee plans to run an evening event later this year aimed at exploring some of this, along with the new IHBC Code of Conduct.

If, like me, you spend too much time writing reports in your home office, an IHBC event may be just what you need. If you've not been getting out enough, come along to one of our events this spring or summer. After the 'improving' bit we usually go off for refreshments....

Marion Barter



Branch conferences tend to be just before Christmas.

The number of sole practitioners in the private heritage sector is rising. Last year, 43% of IHBC members were in local or central government and 38% of IHBC worked in the private sector, and this year the balance may shift more towards the private sector.

In the old days, IHBC operated largely as a support group for conservation officers and there was a bit of an 'us and them' split between public and private sector heritage advisers. I hope no-

AGM 2012— CHESTER LORRA FUN.

Those members partial to a pre-prandial ramble, assembled on the afternoon of the AGM and Christmas Dinner to stroll around the City Walls to view the works which have benefited from EU funding through the **PORTICO Project**. This a collaborative initiative between the cities of: Chester, Gent, Koln and Utrecht and the *Initiatief Domplein Foundation* in Utrecht. It aims to develop new methods, techniques and ways of conserving and interpreting the historic environment above and below ground.



King Charles Tower first stop on the tour.

In Chester the PORTICO project has concentrated on the towers to the City Wall, closed to the public in recent years because of structural issues. It provided 1,040,000 Euros for physical works, interpretation, public art and community engagement, with the Council allocating a further £500,000 per annum for four years for capital and revenue works. The scheme commenced in 2009 and will complete in spring 2013.

The scheme was delivered by the Council's regeneration arm (*Chester Renaissance*), and its Historic Environment Team, with: **Donald Insall Associates** (project architects), **Ramboll** (structural engineers), **Imagemakers** (interpretation consultants), and **Grosvenor Construction** as principal contractors.

The Council's Bridges & Structures Team have also developed a prioritised 'Asset Management Plan'. *The plan is designed to progress the future maintenance of the walls, in accord with a recent*

management agreement with English Heritage.

The tour was led by **Jane Hebblewhite** and **John Healey**, respectively Senior Archaeologist and Principal Conservation and Design Officer at CWaC. **King Charles Tower** was first to be scrutinised. Located at the NE corner of the walled City, overlooking the Cathedral Precinct.

The recently completed works have included specialist engineering techniques to stabilise the tower, addressing serious structural faults to the vault of the lower octagonal chamber. An elegant, lightweight, stainless steel constraining-frame has been anchored to the external walls to prevent further outward movement, fabricated by artist/craftsman Chris Brammall of Ulverston.

Additional works have included: repointing (removing extremely hard cement mortar), stone repair, and refurbishment of the leaded lights to the upper chamber.



Ambiance being enjoyed in the Water Tower.

The group was able to enjoy the overall ambiance to the lower chamber which has been greatly improved by new lighting and seating, whilst enjoying a new audio presentation. The walkway's pinch-point is now relieved by a cantilevered steel platform, which allows visitors to ponder the open vistas to the Cathedral provided by the Deanery Field, undeveloped since the departure of the Romans.

AGM 2012— CONT.D CHESTER FUN.



As seen on TV - Climate saving devices.

Pausing briefly to review the stabilisation works to the steps beside the Northgate, and solar panels recently installed on an adjoining listed building (as seen on T.V), Morgan's Mount provided the next port of call. This is a four square Civil War observation tower on the site of a Roman/medieval tower, which has been subject to an extensive programme of stabilisation and repair, together with the refurbishment of the chamber. The arrival of a replica 17th century cannon will complete the work to be placed on the ground beside the tower, reflecting the historic deployment of gunnery.

The party paused at Pemberton's Parlour (the Goblin Tower) to discuss methods of consolidation to the 18th century inscribed stone tablet that celebrates the restoration of the Walls by the Georgians.

The party explored the vistas of the city provided by the refurbished Victorian camera obscura in Bonewaldesthorpe's Tower, before traversing the spur wall to the authentically medieval Water Tower. The new lighting system enhances its architectural features assisted by the newly lime washed surfaces. It is hoped that both upper and lower chambers will become popular and characterful meeting rooms.

The party arrived at the Roodee viewing platform, although too soon to comment on the impact of the cantilevered deck and minimalist shelter that were scheduled to be installed later that week.

Roman port, the medieval waterway and the first horse race run in 1539 at the behest of Mayor Gee. During race meetings the shelter will be transformed into a turnstile for those making a flutter on the "gee-gees."

Next to **Newgate** a bold, inter-war intervention in a medieval style, to the design of Sir Walter Tapper. The project has provided a sheltered seating and audio interpretation area, where the visitor will hear from a Roman legionary, or an Alderman's daughter as she is about to elope through the adjoining **Wolfgate**. An architectural lighting scheme to the soffit and turrets now provides a notable entry to the City.

Passing **Thimbleby's Tower**- the party arrived at the site of the 2008 collapse the event which prompted the Council's participation in the PORTICO Project. Now fully reinstated, the works revealed the remains of a previously unknown Roman interval tower and provided a further insight into the relative alignment of Roman and medieval walls and their relationship to the Roman ditch.



Executive members getting prandial in Francs

The party retreated to the warmth of the Jacobean interior of **Bishop Lloyd's Palace** for the business of the Branch AGM, before repairing to Francs' Restaurant. Here, some of the party flicked through their 'Explore the Walls' guidebook, or took an opportunity to download the free interactive 'Explore the Walls' app (*which provides a multi-media tour of the wall*) to remind them of their visit.

John R Healey.

Principal Conservation and Design Officer, Cheshire West & Chester Council

IHBC COUNCIL NEWS.

I first attended Council in December 2012 with Kate Borland, our previous National Rep, to ease the transition; last year's AGM recorded thanks to Kate for her sterling service. I formally took my place on the Council as a Trustee at the March 2012 Council meeting.



The Council hard at work (definitely not practicing for the Thriller video).

The Council has been working hard to exert the Institute's influence on various government proposals, including:

The NPPF. English Heritage acknowledged the Institute's assistance in campaigning for amendments to the draft.

Listed Building Consent regime. The sector appears to have supported our cause, with the DCMS response largely reflecting the sector's consultation responses. The IHBC with the RTPI and RIBA will seek to build effective shared lobbying with the new Heritage Minister.

VAT on new work to Listed Buildings. Unfortunately, it was not possible to reverse the policy. However it was a significant achievement to secure an extension of time for implementation.

Green Deal. Examples of harmful 'green' alterations were provided in our response to the consultation.

Research on reductions in LA conservation jobs.

Branch support. President Trefor Thorpe visited Northern Ireland to help revive the regional branch which has very been badly hit by a economic slowdown and cut-backs.

Volunteer support. Seán O'Reilly has undertaken to assist volunteers across the country to promote the benefits of their extra-curricular activities, as some are

feeling reduced support from their employers.

The Institute submitted a bid in January 2013 for a heritage skills project aimed at providing graduates and others with professional and volunteer training on a structured basis. Dave Chetwyn is heavily involved and cross-working on community planning will be strongly featured. A similar successful current scheme is led by our own Branch Chair and helped to inform the bid.

Financially the Institute is coping well in tough times. Subscriptions income and advertising in Context are down, but a successful national school brought a surplus. Membership remains well over 2,000, but with continual turnover. Since December 2012 there have been 132 resignations, but 13 upgrades (2 from NW) and 107 new members, mostly affiliates (9 from the NW).

The branch membership secretaries are now to monitor Member's date of joining to assist the branch in welcoming new members, and targeting assistance in upgrading. The Institute's survey of ex-members indicates that they are mainly people leaving the sector, or prioritising their spending. Financial help has been given to several members this year in the form of reduced fees.

Internally changes are also being brought forward, including:

- Widening the make-up of committees to include non-Trustees.
- Dividing the Conservation Directory gazetteer into full members and others.
- Circulation of Templates for branches to use in modern media for mobile devices.

Finally, the review of the Institute's governance is continuing. Detail of suggested courses of action will be circulated to the whole membership next year for further comment, outlining options and 'pros' and 'cons', to allow members to engage more fully in the process.

Crispin Edwards

IHBC-NW National Council Representative

Replacement windows. *What is appropriate ?*. asks David Hayes,

There has long been an confusing issue regarding the replacement of windows in listed buildings. In a recent appeal case (**APP/M0655/E/12/2172224**) a decision by Warrington Borough Council (*which does not employ a conservation officer*) was overturned by an Inspector.

The appeal property was half of an early C17th grade-II listed, semi-detached, former farmhouse. The Appellant had acquired the property in a semi derelict state and sought consent for restoration works in a number of separate applications, which were approved.

However the proposal to replace the existing windows was refused and became the subject of the appeal.

Despite the fact that the windows referred to in the 1983 description were 3-light metal casements in wooden frames, at the time of the appeal the property exhibited EJMA storm overlap casements, including combinations of top-hung lights over side-hung casements on the gable elevation. There was no record of consent for any of these changes but the LPA insisted that they were '*not inappropriate*' and should be retained.

However the Inspector accepted that the existing windows did not constitute historic fabric and described them as '*a modern run-of-the-mill installation*'.

The Inspector considered that the Appellant's design criteria 'demonstrates a careful and informed analysis'. He accepted that the proposal to provide traditional flush fitting timber framed windows to the same pattern as those shown on a photograph taken at the time of listing would benefit the overall appearance of the listed building.

The replacement windows were also to be glazed with slim-profile double glazed units.

The LPA argued that these would result in multiple reflections and promoted the use of secondary

glazing as an alternative.

However, the Inspector accepted the Appellant's research which showed that such an approach actually exaggerated the problem as opposite to the proposal.

The Inspector concluded that because of 'the particular and unusual circumstances', the proposal, 'would not be harmful to the character of the listed building' and, 'the benefits of double glazing would outweigh any visual impact which might arise from its use'.



Some of the windows which the LPA considered as being '*not inappropriate*' and sought to retain.

David Hayes

Conservation Consultant

THEY DON'T PANDA TO HEALTH & SAFETY OUT EAST SAYS OUR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT. DAVID HAYES, INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CONSULTANT

Our roving ace reporter, looks at the crazy world of bolting tubes together in order to undertake major building work at height. Sadly our plucky British chaps are outdone by those fiendishly reckless types in the far east.



Proper British disregard for common sense, seen near Ludlow (November 2012)



Hong Kong Phooey? Or just good old sustainability....it really is all bamboo.



Hong Kong again , 2013 – and it is all bamboo behind the net screening – just how high can it be taken?



Hong Kong street advert (and man!). The sign is understood to read, "All visitors to site, must report to reception. No PPI, No Job!"

MID-SUMMER MADNESS?

The IHBC North West Branch Committee, in a fit of generosity, is pleased to again announce it will again be offering bursaries for the IHBC Annual Day School, to up to four lucky NW branch members. Clearly a win, win, win, win situation.

This year the Annual School will be held in **Carlisle 20-22 June 2013** and the theme is '*The Exploration and Promotion of Heritage Skills – Past, Present and Future*'. Further details will be made available at : <http://www.ihbc.org.uk/news/schools/index.html>

The bursary will cover the cost of the delegate fee for the Day School only (Friday 21 June). Please note the cost of travel is not normally included. In order to apply for the bursary simply tell us why would you benefit from attending the Day School? (max. one side of A4). All successful applicants have to do is to write an article for this newsletter, on a relevant subject of their choice. The topic is up to you and could be about a building or conservation project you are currently working on, or about a heritage topic you are researching for a qualification. Or even my day out at the conference. Could it be any easier? Articles should be no more than 300 words and include photographs.

Please send entries to Kirsten Ryan at kirstenryan@hotmail.co.uk In the event of high demand....priority will be given to students, affiliates and retired full members.

Deadline for entries is Friday 12th April 2013. Successful applicants will be notified after Friday 19th April 2013 at the latest. The Committee's decision is final.



**Carlisle Castle will feature in the day
and the compact city is easily accessible
to NW members.**

Actually this is what it's about....the 2013 Business Plan

Ever wondered what it's all for ? Why am I here? Is there any meaning to life in the IHBC-NW? Or some form of grand annual plan?... Of course you have.. We all have. And here are the answers...

KEY ACTIONS	TARGETS	LEAD ACTION
Support members		
Organise Branch Conference in autumn 2013	Prepare information for conference by summer 2013	Events Sub Committee
Organise CPD Events - up to 4 per year associated with COG groups for Lancs, Cheshire, Gr Manchester and Merseyside	Liaise with COG groups regarding suitable subjects and avoid overlaps, monitor attendance and receive feedback	Branch Committee
Organise workshop for Isle of Man to assist in promoting conservation issues and practice on the island with its different legal framework	Set up workshop for the IOM and organise speakers location and travel costs	Events Sub - Committee and A Pettit
Organise Summer Social to enable NW members and partners to experience active conservation projects and strengthen ties in a relaxed atmosphere	Organise in the Spring for a suitable project in a new location in the NW	Branch Committee and Events Sub -Committee
Produce 3 newsletters per year on matters pertaining to the NW Branch and ensure continuity	Provide range of articles and meet deadlines	Newsletter Editor and all members
Publicise national consultation responses	National consultation updates & responses to be included in the newsletter	Consultation Co-ordinator
Survey of Local Government Conservation Officers in NW	Use national survey as a basis to update to current situation and determine trends in employment, needs for support and increase in IHBC membership	Branch Committee
Enhance members attendance at Events including joint ones with RTPI and SPAB	Seek feed back re relevance of events to members	Events Sub-Committee
Increase membership numbers	Target conservation courses in NW eg UCL, COGs, other public/private professionals	Branch Committee and COG representatives
Support attendance at the national Annual School.	Ensure NW representation at the Annual School 2013 by consideration of assisted places/ reduced fees for IHBC members in exchange for essays or conference reports.	Branch Cttee

North West Branch of the Institute of Historic Building Conservation

...and there is more...Comments from members always welcome to help shape the plan.

KEY ACTIONS	TARGETS	LEAD ACTION
Raise awareness		
Consider lobbying campaign re Conservation issues in the NW	Involve Civic Societies, Heritage Champions, and other professionals	Branch Executive
Sponsor conservation award in partnership with RTPI North West Awards	Liaison with RTPI-NW judging panel and associated promotion of winning project	Branch Executive
With IHBC nationally explore ways of promoting IHBC amongst conservation professionals to attract new members	Pilot events for assisting affiliates to full membership and promoting new codes of professional conduct	Branch Events Sub-Committee
Operate Branch		
Quarterly Branch Exec meetings held within region	Organise 4 NW Cttee meetings (including 1 in IOM every 4 years)	Branch Executive
Ensure continuity with Barclays Bank	Liaison with bank and revision to mandate.	Branch Treasurer
Organise AGM and meal in December	Appoint officers and national reps	Branch Executive
Hold 4 Events Sub Cttes for Branch Conference and other events		Events Sub committee
Ensure attendance at Council	Branch Rep or deputy to attend but note deputy has no voting rights	National Rep / Branch Executive
Council Voting rights – only appointed Branch Rep has vote on critical issues at National Council	Ensure National Branch Rep is appointed at AGM (with effect from following national AGM) - new Rep to attend Council after appointment with outgoing Rep for smooth changeover	Branch Executive
Branch Agendas and Minutes on website.		Branch Executive
Prepare Business Plan for 2013/14		Branch Executive
Build Partnerships		
Appoint representative to North West Historic Environment Forum	Attendance at meetings approx 4 times and report back via Exec/newsletter	NWHEF Representative
Develop relationships with other environmental bodies	Joint events with RIBA, RICS, ICE, ICOB, RTPI, etc as appropriate	Branch Executive
Consider joint IHBC/RTPI ½ day event on heritage issues	Contact RTPI NW	Events Committee
Develop links with Conservation Courses in NW	Target Courses and Directors	Branch Executive

The Home of the Conservation professional.

LE CONSERVATION IN ACTION, DANS LA BELLE FRANCE.

Kate Borland was until recently National rep and events co-ordinator for the NW branch. She worked in local government conservation posts for nearly ten years and has recently (03/13) joined English Heritage as a Buildings at Risk Adviser.

In May 2011 Kate moved to live in France and began blogging on a hands-on venture, restoring a farmhouse owned by her parents. In a previous issue we reported on preparations, obtaining permissions, stripping plaster and render and repointing. Now we can bring you her report on how it went and the phase of the work...

November 2011. We've made lots of visible progress which has allowed our minds to catch up with how our bodies certainly feel.

The electrician and plumbers have made a good start and are progressing well. We now have a rewired house, just awaiting 'les interrupteurs' (light switches) and other such electrical paraphernalia. It has been an interesting process not least having to translate for the electrician and Steve respectively. Steve's been doing a sterling job of installing the plaster-board and rooms now look like proper rooms which also have doors too but no handles as yet. However taping and filling the joints is a long and laborious task, although making the filler is like making icing with the drill and super size whisk. It comes together with the consistency of cream cheese. I've also likened mortar mixing to a cake mix, you don't want to over water it or it becomes a sloppy mess which is very difficult to work with. Of course I've continued with all the 'conservation' type works, so have been exposing stonework and am now onto repointing it all which feels like a never ending task. Great idea but the reality of doing it is quite different to recommending it.....

Kate comments, "I don't know a great deal about traditional methods here but have applied my own knowledge of traditional methods for the internal repointing, rake out by hand, repoint in lime etc. We have been given advice by our joiner as to how to install the internal doors and do the dry lining. We are sourcing materials from the local



And one for going nowhere just for show...

builder's yard which is 20mins away. They have a great range of lime. It's not seen as a strange or specialist material like in the UK."

We've been assisted by friends and family which has been much appreciated. Steve's parents were over at the end of October to deliver some purchases we made in the UK in September.

When they arrived, in a people-carrier and twin axle trailer packed to the gills, it was like receiving a huge Christmas present! Mind you it's a present which requires hard work, not least unpacking it all, especially hundreds and hundreds of tiles. The most exciting progress is the installation of the new windows. We felt all 'Grand Designs' this week when our very jolly French joiners installed them.

Kate comments, "We're using a chap who's done work on the gites previously and also replaced the front door to the house some years ago. I feel it is important to use local French artisans and we have a French plumber and electrician too."

We've also had success with a foray into the French planning system and have permission for new windows at the rear of the building. They're quite small but will provide some much needed light and will also transform the rear elevation of the house and give it some character.....



Feb 12 onward

We've made it through what seemed like arctic conditions of the last few weeks and have thawed out after the temperatures dropped to about -11 here and colder a bit further east where some friends live. I have say grouting in sub-zero temperatures is a experience I don't want to repeat. When I was cleaning the tile joints with the sponge the water that dropped on the tile floors began to freeze!

Work on the inside included painting the roof trusses. I would like to have stripped them back to natural wood; however they've been ravaged by some wood munching insect so it would have been an impossible task to make them smooth.

More satisfying has been to continue the fire place restoration. The 'insert', the wood burner itself, has been cleaned and given a fresh coat of heat proof paint. The concrete surround has been painted a more subtle colour that fits in with the house's now warm muted tones and the natural stone mosaic tiles are a modern design addition.



Before and after restoration.

Steve's also made a start on the outside in between the April showers to remove the render. This is phase II of the project and we feel like we're past the midway point especially as this won't take as long as the internal works, or least we hope not..... The rear wall has now been exposed and uncovered some beautiful stone which is consist-



Location of the newly restored windows.

Kate comments, "The reason for the new openings is to provide light. The two openings to the right are for newly created bathrooms. We felt that they needed natural light and ventilation. The left hand two are to the ground floor where there is a newly sited kitchen and the landing upstairs.

The main kitchen/dining/living area has been re-configured. We lost a small window to the front of the house, to recreate the original front elevation's symmetry and needed to provide light so it was decided to create a new opening to the rear.

The rationale was one of practicality but we were mindful to not greatly alter the rear elevation as previously it was a blank canvas. We made the openings symmetrical and on a small scale so as not to detract from the simple character of the elevation."

Steve's also made a start on the outside in between the April showers to remove the render. This is phase II of the project and we feel like we're past the midway point especially as this won't take as long as the internal works, or least we hope not.....

The rear wall has now been exposed and uncovered some beautiful stone which is consistently coursed. It has helped make the decision about how to treat it as there was an ongoing debate about whether to re-render or expose and re-point.

We'd hoped for good stone so we could re-point rather than render and are pleased it is especially as we were uncertain about how to deal with the new openings as they only have lintels and sills with no vertical jambs or quoins like the existing front openings. It would have been difficult for us (as amateurs) to render up to the new openings.



Former Branch Secretary, Louis Wallace helped out by getting plastered.

The repointing is a departure from the original rendered finish however with the new windows we feel it is sympathetic and honest change. We have done a lot of work in the house but feel that this in particular is our more permanent stamp on the building.

Steve's been keeping himself busy as ever, his last big job has been lime washing all the quoins. They look brilliant, quite literally. They've had two coats of wash and seem to be holding strong especially after the storm. The limewash really does add to the overall finish of what is now the new old house - La Nouvelle "Vieille Gorce"!

January 2013

After completing the works and revitalising the house we returned from France at the end of the summer. We've slotted back into life en Angleterre almost as if our French adventure was a dream..... My husband (we got married in early September) is back to the world of architecture and I've started an MSc in surveying, making me expand my brain after a year of being hands on. It's a challenge of a very different nature.

It has been quite the experience with its ups and downs, fortunately the former outweighed the latter. It was very rewarding on many levels both professionally and personally. I'd say to anyone take the chance to do something different if the opportunity presents itself not least having a go at actually doing conservation. It makes you realise all the more why you believe in it.

Thank you to everyone who came and helped us with the project.



During



After ... C'est fini.

DIARY DATES : JOINT IHBC-NW & SPAB EVENTS

A wizard day visit to Rochdale Town Hall.....Muggles welcome!

The Events team have conjured up a tour of the amazing Rochdale Town Hall to be held in the town on **Saturday 13th April 2013**. Members should arrive in Rochdale at 1.45pm for a 2pm start. The town hall is easily accessible by tram, train, car or broom. The event will be run jointly with SPAB and offers the chance to enjoy the surprisingly elaborate interiors of this outstanding, grade-I listed building.

The Council has recently moved out of the High Victorian Town Hall and the visit will afford an opportunity to examine W H Crossland's Gothic 1871 masterpiece, before the proposed refurbishment and alteration works commence.



This way for the sorting hat....

This event is free but a donation towards refreshments would be appreciated. To book please send an owl (Enough already!. Ed) or email Events lead, Katie Wray stating IHBC at : klu.wray@hotmail.co.uk



MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Affiliates Event Spring, 2013 An evening CPD event providing advice to affiliates on becoming full members of the IHBC. We will have a speaker from head office, as well as recent members talking about the application process. There will also be an opportunity to ask any questions and obtain guidance on your application. Details will be finalised shortly. However, if you are interested in this event please contact: Katie Wray— klu.wray@hotmail.co.uk

NW Branch Annual Conference SAVE THE DATE: Wednesday 16th October!! More details to be released soon. Professional Ethics for the Consultant Winter, 2013 Following the release of the IHBC's new Code of Conduct this CPD evening event will provide an update on the new Code as well as exploring some common issues and situations using case studies. An essential event for all heritage consultants! Details will be finalised later in the year however if you are interested in this event please contact : Katie Wray - klu.wray@hotmail.co.uk

NW Branch Annual General Meeting SAVE THE DATE: 4th December 2013. In tradition with moving around the region, this year's AGM will be held in Lancaster. There will be a walking tour beforehand (details to be confirmed) and a meal will follow the AGM. If anyone has any questions please email: Kirsten Ryan— kirstenryan@hotmail.co.uk

DIARY DATE : BAGULEY HALL & WATLING GATE

29 June 2013 1.45pm for 2.00pm : Baguley Hall and Watling Gate.

A joint SPAB / IHBC North West Event.

To start the afternoon we shall visit Baguley Hall (Grade 1 & Scheduled Ancient Monument) located in Wythenshawe in the south of the City of Manchester.



Baguley Hall, Wythenshawe... No, really!

It is a rare surviving example of a timber-framed medieval manor of the 14th century. The site includes a very unusual open hall with ornate decoration and sphere truss, constructed from massive planks of oak. It also contains evidence of 15th and 16th century adaptation and extension, with further enlargements in the early 18th century.

The Hall was purchased in 1926 by Manchester Corporation for the new Wythenshawe Housing Estate planned as a garden city to rival Letchworth and Welwyn. It was threatened with demolition in the 1960s. There are records in the SPAB archive in London of the campaign to save it, resulting in the Hall being given in 1969 to the Ministry of Works (now English Heritage). It remains on English Heritage's Building at Risk Register, rated "fair". Recently English Heritage has agreed terms to hand the building over to the Greater Manchester Building Preservation Trust, a subsidiary of Heritage Trust for the North West, who intend to restore it as a cultural and community facility for Wythenshawe.

After we have examined the Hall we shall drive a short distance (3 to 4 miles) into the neighbouring Borough of Trafford to inspect an Arts and Crafts House (Grade II), in the local vernacular, by local architects Bailey and Newton for Col. Newton. This interesting house (reminiscent of Blackwell, in the Lake District) contains a central hall open to the roof displaying queen post trusses and related beams.

On either side of the structure there are two-storey cross-wings and a single storey wing at the rear. The house and estate were donated to Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council who still own it and have created a small municipal park from the surrounding land. It was used as an art gallery and museum and latterly as a children's nursery but this closed some years ago. It is now at risk, suffering from theft, vandalism and water ingress. The Greater Manchester BPT has taken on a 5 year Licence for Access to explore future uses and undertake some urgent repairs funded by Trafford MBC.

We shall meet in the car park behind Baguley Hall, Ordnance Survey grid reference SJ81628874.

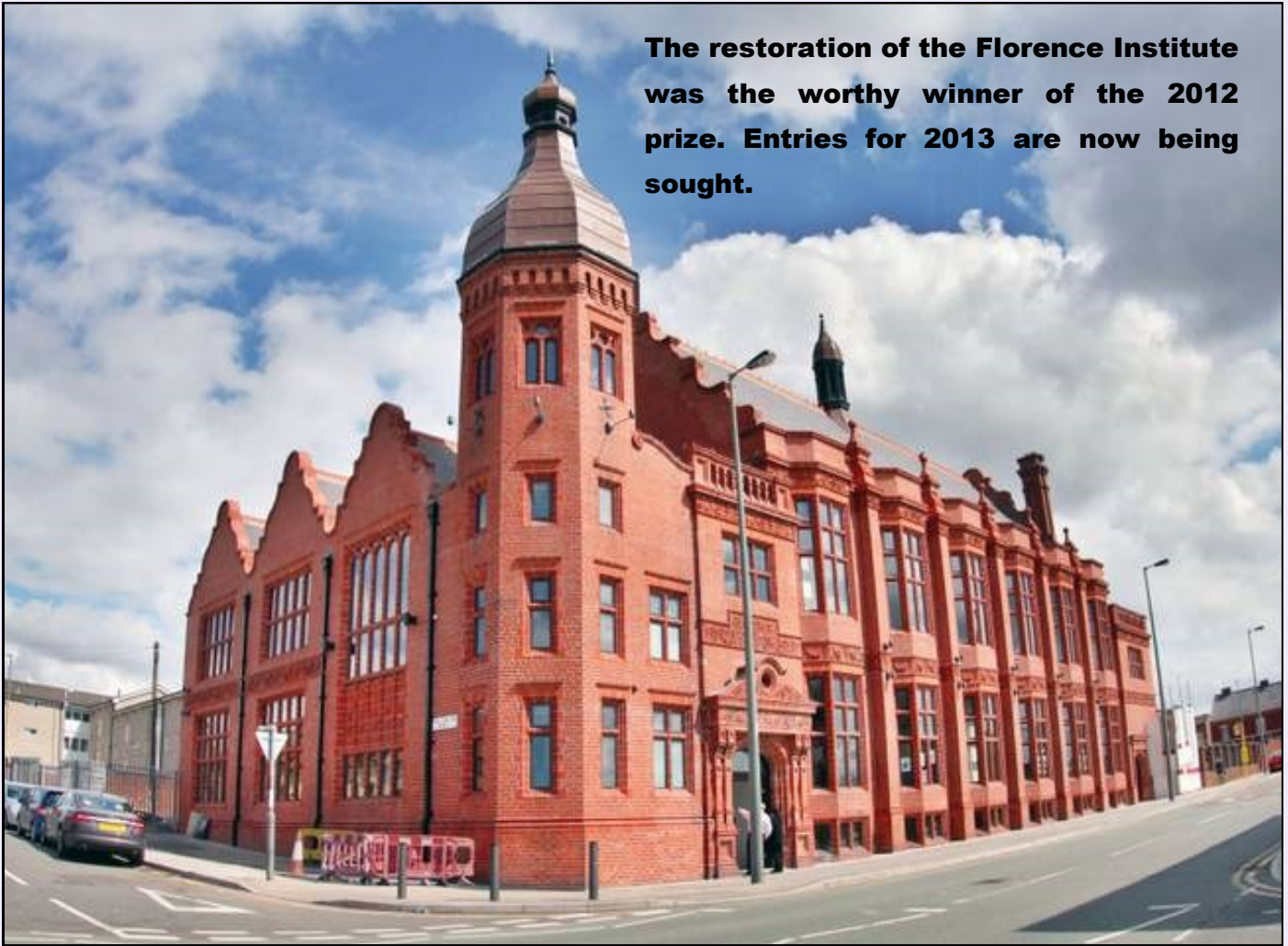
Leave the M56 at Junction 3 and take the A560 towards Altrincham. At the first set of lights, turn left onto Hall Lane and drive southwards for about 600 yards. The hall is on the left. Sat Nav users should enter M23 1WD house 85. Park on the road or in the car park behind the hall.

We expect the visit to finish by 5pm.

This event is free but please register with Mark Watson 07831267642 or sawpit1849@me.com or 18 Thomas Telford Basin, Manchester, M1 2NH stating SPAB.

Unfortunately it is not possible to provide refreshments at either location.

COMPETITION TIME



The restoration of the Florence Institute was the worthy winner of the 2012 prize. Entries for 2013 are now being sought.

The call for entries into the (now annual) Joint IHBC/RTPI North West Conservation Award 2013 has been made. These awards, are jointly sponsored by the IHBC-NW branch and the regional RTPI and recognise achievement in building conservation in the region.

Last year's entirely deserved winner was the restoration of the Florence Institute in Liverpool (pictured), which was visited in May 2012 by the branch in a joint event with SPAB.

Suggestions and entries are being sought for the 2013 award which is aimed at: *"Improving environmental quality through conservation or enhancement of the historic built environment."*

The Submission deadline is Friday 24th May 2013, so entries are urgently

Chester Society of Architects

CSA Lecture Series 2013 - The New Historic city



Branch members will no doubt be interested in the theme for this year's lecture series by the Chester Society of Architects; *'good design in historic cities'*, with obvious reference to the host city of Chester.

Cheshire West and Chester Council have recently published, Chester's 'One City Plan' and a 'Manifesto for Contemporary Design' so there is a clear opportunity to do something memorable in Chester and other historic places for future generations to admire and cherish.

The Chester Society of Architects has consequently invited an impressive list of architects of national repute to speak about their work in other historic cities and places, in the expectation that they can contribute to the debate about how Chester and other historic places should be developed for the better. The events listed below will include networking and discussion opportunities and will be open to all. We anticipate a varied audience including councillors, officers, developers, local businesses, special interest groups, as well as design professionals.

The lecture and debate will commence at 7.00pm with drinks reception and networking from 6.00pm. Please note that while place reservation is free via eventbrite, there will be a £5 admission charge on the night to help cover costs. If, having registered, you are unable to attend, please let us know we would be grateful if you could let us know.

- 18 April 2013 - Martin Stockley. Stockley and Neil Swanson - LANDSCAPE PROJECTS
- 30 May 2013 - Joanna van Heyningen - van HEYNINGEN AND HAWARD
- 20 June 2013 - Glen Howells - GLEN HOWELLS ARCHITECTS
- September 2013 - Rab Bennetts - BENNETTS ASSOCIATES
- October 2013 - Alex Lifschutz - LIFTSCHUTZ DAVIDSON ARCHITECTS

IHBC PROFESSIONALS

The Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC) is the key professional body for built and historic environment conservation specialists. The IHBC represents, regulates and supports professionals contributing to the conservation of valued buildings and places.

What does the IHBC do?

The IHBC encourages its members to develop their specialist skills in conservation. Joining the IHBC will help you recognise and expand your skills and understanding.

The IHBC:

- provides advice to members, stakeholders and government
- promotes standards and skills in historic environment & building conservation and heritage regeneration
- encourages the special care of the historic environment as a sustainable and unique resource that benefits everyone
- supports professional recognition of all the skills needed to secure sustainable conservation

IHBC MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Professional status and career recognition
- News updates, guidance and resources
- *Context*, IHBC's journal, 5 issues annually (retail £50.00)
- *IHBC Yearbook*, the Institute and the sector's annual review (retail £14.95)
- *Building Conservation Directory* (retail £16.95)
- Events: reduced rates & priority access (as applicable)
- Job notices & training opportunities
- Technical support, guidance and specifications
- National, regional & web-based advice and panels
- Tax relief on subscriptions (see IHBC website)
- Access to business support & listings including IHBC's Historic Environment Service Providers Recognition (HESPR)
- Guidance on project development
- Career advice, guidance & support
- Training and CPD events, eg IHBC Annual School
- Networking opportunities, local, national & international
- Participation & CPD opportunities in electronic panels
- Access to advocacy & lobbying
- Support IHBC's wider public services (see IHBC website):
 - Web-based search, training & advisory resources
 - Sector consultations service
 - Volunteering opportunities
 - Awards (IHBC Gus Astley Student Award)
 - Partnerships across built sector interests
 - Help IHBC's CapacityBuild programme invest in the sector

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Affiliates:

- specialise or train in disciplines relating to built and historic environment conservation, and intend to seek full membership

Associates:

- have a special interest in historic places and seek to support and benefit from the IHBC, but are unlikely to seek full membership

Full Members:

- have demonstrated professional skills in line with the IHBC's membership standards (see www.ihbc.org.uk)
- must undertake continuing professional development (CPD)
- may use 'IHBC' after their name

Concessionary rates (renewable each year) are available if you are on a low income (currently under £13,500).

For more information see www.ihbc.org.uk.



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