



IHBC e-letter: Issue 17

December 2013

The image is a promotional poster for the IHBC Annual School 2014. On the left is a photograph of a stone monument on a hill overlooking a city. On the right is a white box containing the IHBC logo and text: 'IHBC Annual School 2014', 'Edinburgh', '5-7 June 2014', and 'The Art of Conservation'. Below this, it states: 'The School reasserts the notion of conservation as a cohesive 'art' based on sound principles.' and provides the location: 'John McIntyre Conference Centre, Pollock Halls, University of Edinburgh' and the website 'www.ihbc.org.uk/edinburgh2014'.

Pre-register your interest attending the IHBC's Annual School by emailing Joanna at contact@ihbc.org.uk

Council business

Each December in the IHBC marks a curious balance of review and forward planning, as we consider the achievements and challenges of the previous financial year – from October to September – in terms of our Corporate Plan targets, and the ambitions and aspirations for the forthcoming year. This takes the form of annual Business Plans for the IHBC's five committees as well those from any Branches that work to this cycle.

This December the council meeting proved no different in structure, but it laid the ground for some important new developments.

Officers' reports

The IHBC's lead officers submitted reports on their activities, with IHBC President Trefor Thorpe feeding back on his attendance at Edinburgh Group meeting - where conservation accreditation interests come together – noting also that the linked website - <http://www.understandingconservation.org/> - has been updated. Trefor also reported on his informal dialogue with the IfA regarding its charter application.

IHBC's Chair Mike Brown reported to Council on his own recent activities, including the fact that he now represents IHBC on the

National Heritage Protection Plan (NHPP) Advisory Board, serving as vice-chair. The Treasurer's report was also received as the report from the national office discussed below.

National office report

The national office report offered the annual review of progress on the IHBC's Corporate Plan for 2010-15, our 'CP10', which now covers the third year of the plan. The report highlighted a number of achievements for the year, many already or soon to be reported in the IHBC's NewsBlogs, including:

- 60 out of 75 (80%) Year 3 targets achieved
- Annual School for 2013, completed, including skills partnership event with the National Heritage Training Group
- A record number of page views on our suite of web sites, at 306,231, one half up from the same time last year
- National Occupational Standards (NOS) for conservation in operation and underpinning the Level 6 NVQ now on offer
- A substantial body of research in local authority activities across England and Scotland, including a skills survey for the former and an holistic 'scoping' review with base-line statistics for Scotland
- The IHBC's Gus Astley Student Award for 2012 completed with awards presented at the 2013 School; the 2013 Award concluded with 43 entries received (with the judge announced more recently as the architectural historian and journalist, Jeremy Musson), and the 2014 Award launched (with a revised award more recently raised to £500 from the original £300)!
- 27 consultation responses submitted, alongside a range of other partnered representations
- The members' suite of publications all issued as planned: Yearbook; Context; E-letter; NewsBlogs
- IHBC's social digital networks at 6838, up from 4456
- The 2012 Branch Connection Day held on the Code of Conduct
- 2 new recognised Conservation Courses, now totalling 19
- Expanded suite of online publications (Databases; Student award list; Prosecutions etc.)
- 2 New members under HESPR, the IHBC's corporate listing scheme for Historic Environment Service Providers Recognition
- IHBC'S 'Research Notes' Programme initiated, with plans for developing resources in guidance

- Initiation of a pilot team-training programme in partnership with Aberdeen City Council: 'TeamStarter'
- Our 'Global NewsBlog tab' now operating on the home page

Annual Business Plans

The institute has five committees that serve Council in advisory roles: Finance and Resources (F&R); Membership and Ethics (M&E); Education, Training and Standards (ETS); Policy, and Communications and Outreach (C&O). The committees operate to agreed remits, and review their activities annually each December with the Council's adoption of their Business Plan.

Each plan is reviewed by Council, so all are aware of the past and planned activities. As those plans represent the primary strategy for the delivery of the corporate plan, Council clearly has a substantial interest in evaluating their success. Council also reviews Branch Business Plans with a similar level of oversight in mind.

Current plans for all of the five national committees and for three Branches – EM, EA & YO – were all approved by Council, releasing access to the agreed annual budget allocations.

Forward planning review & governance

Council also advanced what is, hopefully, the concluding phases of the governance and constitutional review with a scene-setting review by our Vice Chair Emilia Hands. Copies of this will be circulated to all Branches, so please ask your local Branch officers for a copy if you are interested in looking at these issues in more detail. The review was a personal assessment of recent discussions and developments, but included outputs from both the Council members review in September at the peripatetic council in Bristol, and a meeting of Committee Chairs and Officers in July. As such the issues and trajectories reported by Emilia reflected the wide-ranging discussions around the institute in recent years.

The landscape review by Emilia set the scene for updates by the President on his work on the review of the IHBC's governance and our constitution – the IHBC's Memorandum and Articles. Council both agreed a strategy to target funding support for the work, and to progress the resolution of the historic limitations in our electoral procedures, limitations that militate against more effective democratic processes.

Forward Planning

Council also heard updates on developments initiated at the

previous meeting: to extend operations to help deliver on the AGM's commitment to support those progressing from Affiliate to Full membership; to build our specialist credentials in research and guidance by mining our rich resources of data and advice and making ready for publication as IHBC papers; to develop advocacy in the sector, and to extend the capacity of the national office to underpin all this by outsourcing the collation and writing of some of the IHBC's NewsBlogs.

The Research and NewsBlog opportunities had been advertised, Council heard, with responses and resolution expected in the coming weeks. The proposed support strategy for those seeking full membership also had been reviewed by M&E Chair, Paul Butler, with Emilia Hands. Paul reported that two major steps had been agreed: a resource tool for Branches in the form of a model presentation prepared by Emilia and informed by input from Branches already working in this area, and a planned day to explore model Branch events supporting membership applications. This last event is planned as part of the IHBC's 2014 Peripatetic Council, which will take place in September in Derby, hosted by the EM Branch and, as ever, supported by the national organisation.

IfA Charter

Trefor also reported that the IfA's submission for chartership had been made to the Privy Council and, he understood, advertised, with the text as agreed at their AGM.

'Stepping Stones' support for IHBC's Affiliate members

Council also considered a report circulated on supporting progression of affiliates to full membership. In an integrated initiative to support membership application processes and to relieve the impact of the 'single leap' into becoming a Full Member of the IHBC, Council reviewed a strategy that would allow for 'stepped' progress to IHBC accreditation. This would encourage members to secure first the demonstration competence in their main area of specialist activities, as a prelude to the more substantial demonstration of the IHBC's interdisciplinary skills sets that is required for IHBC full membership.

To manage this support, affiliates could tackle smaller parts or sections of the application process, allowing them to focus on the areas they are most comfortable with first, and then to build the demonstration of competence on a stepped or staged basis. While it was agreed that some details would need to evolve alongside the development of the application, Council agreed the

plan and warmly welcomed the speedy progress in providing support for applicants.

Annual School 2014: Edinburgh & the art of conservation

NB: ANY NOTES OF INTEREST IN OR SUGGESTIONS FOR SPONSORSHIP OF THE EDINBURGH 2014 ANNUAL SCHOOL, ON 'THE ART OF CONSERVATION', ON 5-7 JUNE, SHOULD BE PASSED TO FIONA NEWTON, IHBC PROJECTS OFFICER: projects@ihbc.org.uk

Progress was reported on the 2014 Annual School, with a special welcome to the news that Jukka Jokilehto would speak, as well as IHBC past chair Malcolm Airs, and that an invitation to Scotland's Culture Secretary Fiona Hyslop was already on her table.

Other Branches already committed to hosting future Annual Schools include East Anglia for 2015 in Norwich and the West Midlands in 2016. Council is now seeking Branches wishing to take part in Schools after 2016.

New members

The following members were elected for the corresponding membership categories and branches. They are noted here with attendant congratulations to all, and welcomes to new members:

Full members

Matthew Bentley (YO); Tom Gilbert-Woodbridge (EA), Trisha Jean-Marie (LO), Lisa McFarlane (NW), Peter Robinson (NI), Johanna Roethe (SO), James Yeandle (WA)

Affiliates

Naomi Atherton (NO), David Black (SC), Tim Britter (EA), Declan Carroll (EM), Eleanor Cooper (SE), Stephen Copp (SC), Rosanne Eardley (WM), James Evans (LO), Jeremy Good (NO), Douglas Jack (SC), Roland Locke (SO), Mehdi Naeimi (LO), Richard Noonan (SE), Glenn Ombler (NW), Hannah Parham (LO), Richard Quigley (NO), Geoff Rand (EA), Cat Rees (WA), Allan Robertson (SC), Ian Rothwell (NW), Hannah Spotwood (NW), Ian Storey (WM), Alex Wheldon (NW), Julie Wilde (LO), Tom Wilson (LO); Richard Bland (SW), Helen Bradbury (EA), Louis Curtis (SE), Nicholas Ellis (SW), Erin Lewis (SW), Sophie Wood (SW)

Branch updates and reports

Each Council meeting receives updates on circulated Branch reports, details of which may be found on the Branch pages on the IHBC's website. All Branches are especially encouraged to announce their publications on the IHBC's LinkedIn Group, as the open-access platform for advertising the IHBC's achievements across our digital networks.

IHBC Volunteering & Governance: A reminder

A cover note from our Chair Mike Brown:

The strength of the IHBC lies in the willingness of its members to step forward and volunteer. The trustees are always pleased to hear from members willing to contribute their skills, time and experience, either at local or national level. Council has asked our President, Trefor Thorpe to conduct a review of our governance arrangements and recommend improvements to them and our election procedures. In the meantime here is a reminder of the current arrangements:

The Institute of Historic Building Conservation is a registered charity and limited company operating under the oversight of our Council, a Board of Trustees who are also the directors of the company. The IHBC's Council is supported by an executive body, the National Office, and advised by council members and volunteers operating through our Committee and Branch structures. See our website and 'Yearbook' for details.

Each year the IHBC's Council members are elected at our Annual General Meeting. Council Members are the trustees of the Institute and include elected Officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary), Branch Representatives and Committee Chairs. Only Full Members of the IHBC enjoy voting rights on the Council.

All IHBC members and supporters are encouraged to contribute to the operations of the institute, locally and nationally. Such contributions serve as suitable preparation for trusteeship.

All posts are open for election each year. Anyone interested in developing skills for a post as a trustee should review the relevant job descriptions and specifications, and also consult with a relevant post-holder, Branch or Council member, or the National Office, on how to best to progress skills.

Anyone interested in trusteeship should:

- Get involved with IHBC Branches and/or relevant national Committees*

- Develop a strong understanding of the IHBC's national*

operations by monitoring regularly our membership and news information services, including the NewsBlogs, Membership eletter and our in-house publications, Context and our Yearbook

- Familiarise themselves with the duties of trustees in general, and of the corporate operations of the Institute (see http://ihbc.org.uk/about/corp_papers/corp_papers.html)

- Familiarise themselves with the duties of any particular post they are interested in, in line with the guidance provided on the website (including business plans and, where available, job descriptions)

- Be prepared to offer a minimum of 8 days per year in the service of the institute, typically working days

- Recognise that, by law, trustees are not allowed personal gain from their role, and are obliged to represent the national interests of the IHBC.