

**East Anglia Branch**

**East Anglia Branch Committee**

**Minutes of a meeting held on 4 December 2024**

**At the Broads Authority offices, Yare House, 62-64 Thorpe Road, Norwich and on Teams**

**Present:** Emma Woodley (Chair), Kate Knights, Amanda Rix, Katie McAndrew, Stephen Boniface, Eilise McGuane, Maria Kits

1. **Apologies**: Lucy Gray, David Edleston, Boyd Nicholas, Thomas Pierce, Jo Burton
2. **Minutes of the last meeting**: Held on 4 September 2024 were approved with no amendments.
3. **Matters arising:**

Archiving: KK to check with Head Office to see if non-confidential minutes and our up-to-date business plan could be put on our website.

**KK**

Dropbox: EW stated she had set up a Dropbox for us all to use. KK / EW to check and send details.

**KK / EW**

Heritage Skills: KK and EM had attended the Heritage Skills event at Castle Acre. It was a useful day and everybody recognises the issues and was very keen to see progress. EM reported that Clare Fraser-Lim (the new Hetty) had considered the day very positively and had made lots of good new connections. It is understood that Nicola Duncan-Finn and Phil Pollard are progressing the project. EM will ask colleagues for an update.

**EM**

SB also noted that the Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust are keen on pursuing heritage skills training for young people.

There was some discussion about whether there is a list of heritage skills training providers in the East of England. It was suggested that this is something that LG could put together as Education Officer. It may well be that Nicola Duncan-Finn or others at HE already have it so LG to check.

**LG**

1. **Branch Officer Posts**

It was confirmed that committee members would hold the following posts:

Chair: Emma Woodley

Vice-Chair: Jo Burton

Secretary: Kate Knights

Branch Rep: Katie McAndrew

Treasurer: Amanda Rix

Events: David Edleston

Membership: Stephen Boniface to cover for Jo until her return

Education: Lucy Gray

Newsletter: Maria Kitts

Social Media: Stephen Boniface and Katie McAndrew

KK to confirm the posts to Head Office.

**KK**

Dates for 2025 meetings were all discussed and those suggested by KK were accepted. EW offered Cressing Temple as a venue for the June meeting (in person).

1. **Reports of representatives:**
2. **Council:** EW and KM attended Council. Charles Mynors was talking about the changes to legislation in Wales, which combines the Ancient Monuments Act and Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act. This is being seen as a blueprint for what may happen in England. It also involves some changes to terminology and areas such as curtilage listing etc.

The IHBC are also still working their way through the Petition for Charter. It was supported at the AGM and a Memorandum outlining their case is being prepared. There is still a lot to do prior to submitting but there is a lot of support.

**HEF:** No update. It is not a priority for Claire Fraser-Lim at HE

1. **Education:** no update but as in item 3 it was suggested LG could establish what heritage training is available in the region.
2. **Branch Activities 2024 / 2025:**

**i) AGM event: 24th October 2024, Norwich**

AR confirmed that 42 people had attended the event and we made a profit of £643. She has sent out CPD certificates when requested and has had received very good feedback.

1. **AGM event 2025**

KK confirmed that DE has been speaking to Head Office who have said they will be delivering three new training sessions: Enforcement; Fire protection and Regulations and Place making and Design Codes. There was some discussion but it was concluded that Fire Protection by Steve Emery from the NT would be the best option to pursue.

It was suggested that it could be held in Bury St Edmunds and BT should be asked for potential venues. The Guildhall and Athenaeum were suggested as possibilities.

EW also mentioned that the Sun Inn in Saffron Walden had a very good Fire Strategy submitted with its LBC application that we may wish to look at.

**DE / BT**

1. **Wisbeach event**

Rather than her original idea KM suggested that she could speak to Wrest Park who do tours of the EH Stores which are on the site. It could be a summer event. KM to explore.

**KM**

1. **Possible event with RICS**

At the AGM John Allison a conservation surveyor had asked KK whether we might be interested in exploring a joint event with the Conservation Group of the local RICS branch. KK to pass his details to DE.

**KK / DE**

1. **Treasurer’s Report and Business Plan**:   
   Current balance is: £3,299.87.

There was some discussion about us offering free places to students at our AGM and also at the Annual School. KM suggested we could advertise it more widely on social media and this was agreed. We decided that we need criteria to assess applicants against. SB to forward the criteria that RICS use for free places on their summer school. Criteria to be discussed at next meeting.

**SM / KM / ALL**

1. **Newsletter:**

MK intends to get the newsletter out shortly. She has KM’s Meet the Member piece, as well as the Mike Knights article and others. EM suggested the Suffolk Gardens Trust may like to do a piece on their volunteer project surveying designed landscapes in Suffolk, which resulted in a number being designated.

It was suggested that the next newsletter may cover Heritage Skills. SB said that Martin Brown, of Best of Lime is developing a new training centre at Haverhill and may like to provide an article.

**MK**

1. **Social Media:**It was agreed that in the Newsletter MK would invite Members to submit good news stories that could be posted on Instagram.

KM / SB to meet in February to run through progress with social media.

**SB / KM**

1. **Information exchange/AOB**:

EW will share the IHBC Branch Committee bulletin. There is also a network of consultants intended to provide support to branches.

**ES**

The next Annual School is in Shrewsbury, with a theme of ‘Heritage in Context’. It looks like they intend to retain the hybrid model and Velux will be the main sponsor.

There are some MATE accreditation sessions coming up. These have been split into different groups.

There will be a Branch Committee Connections session coming up in the coming months.

Tim Holt-Wilson had approached EW and asked if we would be interested in an event with him, looking at the geology of historic sites etc. ES to circulate his email.

**ES**

1. **Future meetings for 2025**: Wednesdays at 3.30 pm: 5th March / 4th June / 3rd September / 3 December.