

ISSUE: 27**DATE: April 2024****Contact:** scotland@ihbc.org.uk

IHBC SCOTLAND EVENTS

Welcome to Issue 27 of the IHBC Scotland Branch Newsletter.

22 May 10.00-16.30. IHBC Scotland Branch CPD: **Engineering in the context of traditional buildings and designated heritage assets**, in person with Ian Hume.

Looking at conservation philosophy from a structural engineering viewpoint, how structures work, considering ways of avoiding structural interventions, problems to look for, when to worry /not to worry and some ways of dealing with structural problems. Participants will better understand problems faced by structural engineers but also be able to spot when heavy handed solutions are being proposed.

Ian Hume is a conservation-accredited structural engineer. Ian worked for English Heritage for 22 years, 10 of them as Head of the Conservation Engineering Branch. Following this Ian was a sole practitioner consultant for over 10 years. See events and meetings tab here <https://ihbc.org.uk/branches/scotland/index.html>

This is approved provision supported by IHBC, and is available in person only at Bellfield Church, 16B Bellfield Street, Portobello, Edinburgh, EH15 2BP www.bellfield.scot - the first community asset transfer of this type. There is a frequent bus service, number 26 from Waterloo Place, near Waverley Station. Allow 30 minutes.

Free to supporters/affiliates/members/associates/ retired members. Or £20 to those who are not. To book please contact Scotland@ihbc.org.uk

The event will not be recorded or live-streamed because tutors need to protect their livelihoods. This applied also to last year's CPD in Glasgow on retrofit.

Membership Application Guidance Events (MAGE) and Membership Application Training Events (MATE). Notice went out 8 days before a planned online event so it is perhaps no surprise that take up was poor. The online training for Scotland branch to take place on 1 May has therefore been cancelled. Please advise Sarah Kettles, our membership secretary if you want to make progress towards Membership/ Associateship, and whether an in person or online session for Scotland Branch would best be tailored to your needs. Look out also for those that are not tied to branches. <https://ihbc.org.uk/join/catagories/index.html>

Date for diaries:

4 October at **Birnam Arts**, near Dunkeld, Perthshire. IHBC Scotland Branch and the Scottish Young Planners Network: looking at designed landscape and conservation area management, and the threading of new and old infrastructure through them. 10.20-17.30 to fit Perth-bound train timetables.

We still hope to identify a suitable date before then for site visits in Glasgow.

IHBC SCOTLAND NEWS

Publication in preparation by Scotland Branch will mark [#IHBC25](#) -25 years of IHBC.

IHBC converted from the then ACO (Association of Conservation Officers) in 1998. IHBC Scotland Branch Committee agreed at its 2022 AGM to celebrate work by members over 25 years from then by publication of a booklet which illustrates achievements year-by-year: a short book in which to record successes and perhaps to give learning lessons. Mark Douglas is grateful for the contributions he has received from members and has passed the final editing to Mark Watson. Any further recollections, achievements before and after photos should please go to scotland@ihbc.org.uk. We aim to complete this publication for the winter 2024 AGM.



Left
IHBC Scotland branch members on the steps of St Paul's Cathedral at Dundee before the branch AGM on 1 March 2024 (photo Mark Watson)

AGM, 1 March 2024 summarised

This was the AGM for 2023, carried forward from last year. In order to get back into sync there will be an AGM this winter to review 2024 and look ahead to 2025. Thank you to Alison Tanner, who stepped down after several years' service on Scotland Branch Committee, proving that it is possible to do this from Inverness, and to Scott McGibbon and Adam Swan who have joined (in Adam's case rejoined) the Scotland Branch Committee. Thank you also to Charles Strang who continues on the committee but steps down from handling consultations, of which there are many specific to Scotland.

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS, IHBC and external

A Royal Charter for IHBC? See practical implications, and respond at <https://petitionforcharter.ihbc.org.uk/>

IHBC AGM 30 April: see

<https://www.ihbc.org.uk/aboutmain/governance/index.html> and email sent directly to members/ supporters etc

12-15 June IHBC Annual School, Reading online and in-person. *Place and Building Care: Finance, policy & people in conservation practice*

<https://reading2024.ihbc.org.uk/>

IHBC Scotland Branch offered early career bursaries for attendance at the 2022 Summer School, and travel grants to Aberdeen. There were no takers, in part because some of those who expressed interest were successful with other IHBC bursaries. The 5 bursaries offered to members by IHBC this year had a closing date of 31 March. This branch committee supported the presence of a Marsh Award Winner (prize: a free place, but not travel costs) at the 2023 School at Swansea but does not propose to repeat these bursaries for attendance at Reading.

EXTERNAL NEWS & EVENTS

Recorded lectures at Aberdeen City Heritage Trust may be found here:

<https://www.aberdeenheritage.org.uk/training-resources/lectures/>

New publication commissioned by Historic Environment Scotland: *Connections between Properties in Care and the British Empire, c.1600–1997*

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=e192ea9f-0d7e-4745-b499-b0fb010a167a>

And a pilot **historic place lens** designed to be used with the Place Standard Tool to explore connections between people place and our historic environment.

There is the opportunity to try out the tool and then to fill out a series of [questions](#) in a survey by Historic Environment Scotland before 5 October:

https://haveyoursay.historicenvironment.scot/heritage/your-historic-place-lens-for-the-place-standard-to/supporting_documents/Your%20Historic%20Place%20lens%20for%20the%20PST%20%20Pilot%20Version%20%20FINAL.pdf

The revised **Skills Investment Plan** has been launched in Stirling and on the [HES website](#). The refreshed plan and relevant supporting documents including sector skills profiles can be found [online](#). Our thanks to Sepideh Hajisoltani for representing IHBC in the work stream “Architecture, Engineering, Planning and Surveying”.

Scottish Lime Centre Trust

Full range of courses here <https://www.scotlime.org/skills-training/calendar/>

Twitter: IHBC Scotland branch now has 2,289 followers – an increase on 2,262 followers in 2023 and 2,195 in 2022 despite the reduced reach and greater toxicity of X. Follow @Ihbcscotland for the latest news in building conservation in Scotland.

IHBC MEMBERS COMMUNICATIONS:

To notify us of any changes in your contact details please use [our online form](#)

Editor: Mark Watson with Kevin Toner. Contact scotland@ihbc.org.uk with any news or articles you would like to put out here.

Finally, a manifesto by WASPS sent to IHBC Scotland Branch for circulation and comment:

A not for profit charity, Wasps is the UK's largest artist studio provider.

Home to 1000 artists and makers in 21 communities, we support Scotland's £4.4billion cultural sector by providing inspirational spaces where artists, creators, creative industries, social enterprises and charities can flourish.

By breathing new life into redundant heritage buildings, we help regenerate communities, creating a healthier, wealthier, greener nation.



But spiralling costs and defunding mean Scotland's cultural sector faces recession:

So this **Scotland's Culture Matters** manifesto asks governments to:

- Support our artists by abolishing the punitive 20% tax on maintaining our nation's historic and cultural buildings.
- Fund Net Zero initiatives to reduce energy costs and tenants' rents.

Solution 1. Scrap the culture tax

- In 2012, the UK Government levied a 20 percent VAT rate on repairs and maintenance of historic and cultural buildings, introducing a further financial disincentive to preserve our heritage.
- While VAT raises £600million a year, a reduction from 20% to 5% on heritage repairs and maintenance will result in a £15billion boost to the economy, the creation of 95,000 new jobs and a carbon reduction of 240,000 tonnes of CO2.
- **Against a backdrop of challenging Net Zero targets, it makes little sense for VAT to be zero-rated on new buildings, yet set at 20% on restoring and reusing existing buildings. The greenest buildings are the ones that already exist.**
- Abolishing or cutting the VAT rate would directly reduce energy and maintenance costs and, in turn, have a positive impact on artists' livelihoods.
- For Wasps, this would see a £100k reduction in the annual cost of running our heritage buildings, money that would be re-invested in keeping rents affordable.

Solution 2. Support for Net Zero

- The Scottish Government put arts and creativity at the heart of their mission to inspire and empower the need to transform to Net Zero by 2045. Culture is the golden thread that runs through climate, inequality and innovation.
- But while we can create a climate change vision for two decades ahead, uncertainty means many artists do not know where they will be in two months' time.
- **Like many charities we are 'running on empty'. Subsidising rents to protect our artists means cutting costs to the bone. From our conversations with cultural partners, we know money allocated to green projects is being diverted to keeping the lights on.**

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- Agile funding to improve the energy efficiency of the nation's studios, galleries, theatres and spaces not only reduces carbon footprint but reduces costs for organisations and artists alike.

The last word...

- Wasps supports The Scottish Government's strategy which places culture as a central consideration across all policy areas, including health and wellbeing, economy, education, reducing inequality and realising a greener and more innovative future.
- Our work is founded on transforming historic buildings into sustainable and vibrant creative spaces, providing affordable space for creativity and opening up the potential of culture as a transformative opportunity across society. We have always worked from a sound financial foundation but today these foundations are at risk of crumbling.
- **We call on the Scottish and UK Governments to act now to support our artists and makers - before the good work, in Wasps case of five decades of building our national cultural strength, is undone.**

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Scotland's provider of creative spaces, est. 1977