

ISSUE: 18**DATE: March 2021****Contact:** scotlandbranchnews@ihbc.org.uk or scotland@ihbc.org.uk

IHBC SCOTLAND EVENTS

Welcome to Issue 18 of the IHBC Scotland Branch Newsletter.

Tuesday 16 March 2pm MAGE (IHBC Member Application Guidance Event)

Our thanks to Dr Ramona Usher for presenting this, supported by two new Members, who have also joined the Scotland branch committee, Frances Swanston IHBC and Shona Simpson IHBC (Aberdeenshire and Glasgow City Councils). Book your place with professional@ihbc.org.uk. This follows the **MATE (IHBC Member Application Training Event)** held on 25 November, both tailored to affiliates and associates in Scotland Branch. See <https://www.ihbc.org.uk/mate/#resources>

Tuesday 13 April IHBC badged Architectural [Conservation Masterclass](#)

"Dilemmas of Translating Theories into Practice: An Indian Perspective" to be given by Aishwarya Tipnis. It is part of the [SCCS series](#) at ESALA (Edinburgh College of Art). Aishwarya Tipnis, Architect & Conservation Planner, founder of Aishwarya Tipnis Architects, is an alumna, 2007, of the Dundee University Urban Conservation Course. She is Chevalier Des Arts et Des Lettres, the highest French civilian honour in the culture sector, in 2018 for her outstanding commitment to preservation of French Heritage in India, and has a UNESCO Award for Heritage Conservation in the Asia-Pacific Region (Award of Merit, Mahidpur Fort, & Honourable Mention for Doon School, Dehradun) in 2016. A participant of the first edition of the Global Cultural Leadership Programme, she won a Commonwealth Professional Fellowship 2011 as well as a Scottish International Scholarship in 2006. She has served as a consultant to UNESCO, the Asian Development Bank, World Monuments Fund New York, Vieilles Maisons Françaises, Paris, the Embassies of Netherlands and France in India. She is also the author of "Vernacular Traditions: Contemporary Architecture" (2012) and [Engagements in the Courtyard Aiswarhya Tipnis.pdf \(ahk.nl\)](#) (2020). In 2019 she co-founded Jugaadopolis, a social innovation enterprise to work with youth in making the rich tangible and intangible heritage of India relevant in the contemporary context.

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Annual School 2022 in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. Given a first airing just before the UK-wide AGM, a video presented by Douglas Campbell (Aberdeen City Heritage Trust) promotes the North East. See his recorded introduction to the [Aberdeen School, 2022](#). We very much hope that there will be physical meeting in Aberdeen, 16-18 June 2022, with a Day School on Friday 17 June that will take full advantage of virtual possibilities now available to wider audiences.

The Brighton School, 17-18 June 2021 will be virtual, with a tour offered to participants in the autumn (TBC). Brighton promo: [Brighton School, 2021](#) For [IHBC](#)

[CPD](#) or related learning and practice needs, stallholders in the Heritage Market Place offer up to 4 sessions [IHBC's Heritage MarketPlace \(ihbconline.co.uk\)](#).
[IHBC Annual School](#)

Twitter: IHBC Scotland branch now has 2,122 followers. Follow [@ihbcscotland](#) for the latest news in building conservation.

IHBC Toolbox is a growing online [reference resource](#). And see '**Context**' journal for your CPD. The online back-catalogue of all issues [HERE](#)

'Conservation, People and Places': Tell your MP! An APPG in the Westminster parliament aims to support built / historic environment conservation as a means to deliver successful places which are economically, environmentally and socially sustainable. IHBC is lending administrative and professional support. [Conservation Places and People APPG – All Parties Parliamentary Group](#)

26 March **IHBC Governance and corporate planning**. Members can join and vote in the [General meeting](#), pressing on from the 2020 AGM on 3 December regarding:

- [ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION](#)
- ['CP 25'](#)

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

Conservation Officers Group

A couple of Local Authority Conservation Officers have initiated plans for a focussed Group to be formed to address queries, share best practice and consider new policy and guidance for the historic environment. The Conservation Officers Group (COG) is intended to be led by and be useful for Local Authority staff who undertake historic environment roles, primarily in Planning. It is intended to be all those working with a remit which would cover that area of work, regardless of specific job title or 'conservation' training and skills.

BEFS has secured funding to assist with the formation, set-up and management of this Group. BEFS offer is as that of secretariat and 'host', a neutral space for discussion – the group would be autonomous and any meeting topics and agenda would be self-led. The intent is for 2-3 (virtual) meetings a year.

After initial discussions BEFS' offer could include, depending on what the Group feel are their needs and priorities:

COMMUNICATION & SUPPORT

- online Forum where Group could share questions/knowledge exchange benefitting the day-to-day working of individuals
- signposting to recent, relevant consultations
- signposting to recent planning and conservation documents/advice notes/guidance and updates
- Enable group responses to relevant issues (primarily regional or national, where there are collective needs)

ADVOCACY

- Raise profile of role through collective understanding and collective responses to consultations
- Enable benefits of roles within Local Authorities to be better understood
- Case studies of good practice and success stories
- Enhance BEFS Members' understanding of the needs of LA officers and improved collective engagement with HES (as appropriate)
- Share greater understanding of both policy and conservation needs from the dual perspectives of policy makers and how the policy impacts on those working directly within Local Authorities.

The intent is to make communication between those doing similar roles easier (always important, but more acute in a time of home-based working), to enable knowledge-exchange, to raise the profile and understanding of the work being achieved, and to provide an online location (easily accessed, most likely through Teams) where recent and relevant documentation and policies can be signposted.

Meetings could be chaired externally (given conservation officer workload) – perhaps by a recently retired conservation officer. But this is for the group to decide. Meetings could also include a CPD element. Again, group-led and as necessary.

If you work in an LA and managing the historic environment falls within in your remit get in touch with Fionn McIntosh to let her know of your interest in the Group.
Fionn McIntosh: mcintoshf@stirling.gov.uk

Obituary: Marc Floyd Ellington, 16 December 1945, Boston, Massachusetts, USA. Died 17 February 2021, Towie Barclay Castle, Aberdeenshire. Scotland.



Marc Ellington (left) conducting a windows workshop at Balmoral Castle in 2017 (Pic Frances Swanston)

An album deal with Phillips enabled Marc and Karen Ellington to buy the long uninhabited Towie Barclay Castle, at Auchterless in Aberdeenshire in 1971. The castle had been shorn of its upper stories by the 19th century but its very remarkable vaulted great hall, one of the glories of Scottish architecture, survived. The young American folksinger and his wife were both in their twenties but with the encouragement of Nigel Tranter, author of the five volumes of *The Fortified House in Scotland*, they bought the castle and the little ground that was then available.

Embarking on its restoration, with John Meldrum of Banff as their architect, they lived on site in a caravan that was so cold that their boots froze to the floor, Marc sang in the pubs and clubs of Aberdeenshire to raise funds and bargained for split sacks of lime at builders' merchants, Karen and Marc's brother Eric, a gifted photographer, worked on the building. Money was very tight. When it was completed, Marc's and Karen's achievement was recognised by a Saltire Award in 1974.

In 1980 he was invited to join the Historic Buildings Council for Scotland (HBC) on which he served until 1988. This was a period when the HBC was a positive force for good in conservation and Marc made a major contribution, always brimming with intelligent, well-informed ideas and with evident passion. He was a non-executive Director of Historic Scotland from 2005-11 and a Trustee of the National Galleries of Scotland 2005-2011.

In 1982, Marc led the successful campaign to prevent the sale of Fyvie Castle and its contents and to ensure its acquisition by an initially very reluctant National Trust for Scotland. This was an extraordinary campaign, perhaps the last of its kind, from which began with discussions in the great hall at Towie Barclay and culminated in a memorable meeting at the NTS boardroom at 5 Charlotte Square, where the Chairman of the HBC, Lord Crawford, (Earl of Crawford and Balcarres), the Chairman of the National Trust, Lord Wemyss, (the Earl of Wemyss and March) and his brother, Sir Martin Charteris of Amisfield, Chairman of the National Heritage Memorial Fund, collectively lent on Sir Andrew Forbes-Leith asking him to call off the imminent sale of the contents, which had been catalogued and lotted up. Faced with this ermine-clad onslaught, Sir Andrew agreed. Marc represented the HBC on the working party that eventually secured the building for the trust and put together an endowment for its future. There can be no doubt that the victory was his.

But though Marc lived in a castle and was proud of the title of Baron of Towie Barclay that came with it, he was not a snob and was as passionate about the country's musical and literary heritage. He organised Bothy Ballad competitions, and he and Eric recorded both bothy ballads and Gaelic songs in the studio he had built on the top of the castle. He published reprints of Johnny Gibb of Gushet Neuk and Pratt's Buchan alongside facsimiles of James Gillespie's Details of Scottish Domestic Architecture and Billings' Baronial and Ecclesiastical Antiquities of Scotland. He was an organiser of and the memorable commentator at the annual Portsoy Boat Festival. I remember our embarrassment when from the converted double-decker bus commentary-booth on the quayside he announced "the Emersons have just arrived".

Marc knew the value of a gesture. In London in 1967, as a 21 year-old folk singer, he handed his draft papers calling him up to serve in the Vietnam War, to the 'Red Dean', John Collins of St Paul's Cathedral, one of the founders of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and a prominent pacifist. In doing so he faced a five-year prison sentence if he returned to the United States. Despite this he became Deputy Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire and mentored Prince Charles in Conservation.

His enthusiasm for the Built Heritage and for Conservation did not dim and while others enjoyed their retirement in the sun he set up the Scottish Traditional Skills Training Centre at Fyvie Castle in 2006, with which he was closely involved as Director until a few months before his death.

Whether he rescued buildings with his own hands like Towie Barclay, or through advocacy like Fyvie Castle, or by working tirelessly in committee on the HBC, or through providing training in disappearing skills, Marc leaves a tangible heritage but his greatest gift was for friendship. Just how wide his circle of friends was shown by one of his most idiosyncratic habits, his name-dropping, which became an incantation of all those whom he held dear and whose work he valued, recited more to reassure himself than to impress his friends and family.

(Richard Emerson)

His energy and passion for building conservation will certainly be missed in North East Scotland. (Douglas Campbell)

Your Career in Conservation, 22nd – 24th March, 10:30am – 4:00pm. Sessions will be recorded for ticket holders to access.

Interested in a career focused on the historic built environment? Or learning more about how to improve your knowledge and expertise about conserving our built heritage? Join Glasgow City Heritage Trust for a three-day online conference looking at careers in conservation and take part in workshops on how to become conservation accredited.

The conference is aimed at anyone working, or interested in working, within the building and heritage sectors, including architects, surveyors, conservators, engineers and consultants. IHBC is among the presenters. This was originally scheduled to be held in March 2020, and our MATE was to dovetail with it. If you booked a ticket for the original conference please check the email you used to book for updates

[Your Career in Conservation - Glasgow City Heritage Trust \(glasgowheritage.org.uk\)](https://glasgowheritage.org.uk)

Facing our Past: Phil Long, Chief Executive of National Trust for Scotland says: 'The Trust has for many years been uncovering the stories of people behind our properties, increasing knowledge of how they came into existence, their relationship with communities, with the land and with wider society. Such histories are as much a part of the heritage we are responsible for – and have a duty to explain – as our duty of care to the physical heritage we are entrusted with. It is an indisputable fact that many of the properties belonging to the Trust have an association with colonialism and slavery; researching into this is therefore important work for us to undertake, as part of the broader research we do in many fields, to look after, understand and explain the heritage in our care.' [Facing Our Past | National Trust for Scotland \(nts.org.uk\)](https://nts.org.uk)

New Publication from the Engine Shed: Energy Consumption and Behaviour Profiles, [Technical Paper 34](#) provides the gas and electricity consumption of eight traditional dwellings. This includes a comparison between these buildings in terms of size and occupation. The analysis includes user behaviour and comfort analysis.

Awards, Placements, Bursaries & Scholarships, and Calls for Papers (channelled through IHBC website)

Scottish Lime Centre Trust (SLCT) [Traditional Building Skills Bursary Scheme](#) reduces the cost of [Scottish Lime Centre Trust courses](#).

SUBLime – [Open PhD Positions in European Training Network](#)

Call for Papers – [Heritage Special Issue – Energy Efficiency in Historic Buildings](#) – closes 31 Mar 2021

Churches Conservation Trust Travel Award [Grant Scheme](#)

Journal of Urbanism: [‘The Design of the Public Realm: Emerging Theories and Practices’](#) – Due 26th March 2021

Marsh Awards (£500 cash prize!), deadline 31 March. [IHBC’s Marsh Awards](#) website has the online form, whether [RETIRED](#) or [LEARNING](#), covering the following points:

- a brief description of the activities contributed or the skills mastered (max 500 words),
- how the individual made a difference to the benefit of the historic environment and/ or community through these activities or skills.
- supporting information, such as a pictures, documents or website references relating to the nomination, which can be uploaded to the online form or included with the postal form.
- If you would like a push from Scotland branch, write scotland@ihbc.org.uk

All change: Barbara Cummins took the Convenorship of RTPI Scotland in 2021 shortly before her (imminent) retirement as Director of Heritage in Historic Environment Scotland. Her replacement will be announced shortly.

BEFS, ICON and SURF: Congratulations to SURF (Scottish Urban Regeneration Forum) on its appointment as Chief Executive of Euan Leitch from BEFS (Built Environment Forum), bringing still closer together the importance of understanding the existing built environment to achieving urban regeneration. This calls to mind our friends in ICON (the Institute of Conservation) and its annual **Harold Plenderleith Memorial Lecture**, given by Euan Leitch, on CoVid-19 impacts on 26 November. “2020 - A great disruption or 'plus ça change'?”. IHBC Scotland, SPAB in Scotland, and Museums and Galleries Scotland were invited to form a panel to discuss experiences of their members in these extraordinary times. The recordings are here: [23rd Annual Plenderleith Memorial Lecture - Euan Leitch \(Part One\) - YouTube](#) [23rd Annual Plenderleith Memorial Lecture - Euan Leitch \(Part Two\) - YouTube](#) Presentations at IHBC Scotland AGM were also recorded and will soon be available.

CHERF State of Heritage update report gives detailed updates from NLHF, NTS, MGS, HH and HES on issues linked to Covid-19 across the heritage sector.

<https://www.befs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/StateofHeritage-Report-2021.pdf>

BEFS Advocacy Toolkit has been updated in light of Scottish Elections on 6th May. <https://www.befs.org.uk/resources/advocacy-toolkit/>

Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust

- 28 April [Design and Retrofit](#) on Gannochy Estate
- 26 May [Historic Shopfronts](#)

Aberdeen Heritage Lectures: a series of free events run on Wednesday evenings (donations welcome):

- 17 March **Full Richness of Authenticity- Conservation Charters-** Prof. Ian M Davidson
- 24 March **Retrofit Project Review:** Dr Moses Jenkins
For details and booking via Eventbrite visit
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/aberdeen-city-heritage-trust-8457358983>

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