



NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2023

Contents

Future events

Coastal Defence and Protection at Romney Marsh
Sunday 17th September 2023,
9.30am - 4.30pm

St John's Seminary, Womersley
3rd Nov 11am – 1pm or 10th
Nov 2023 2pm – 4pm

East Sussex College Training Hub, Eastbourne, Retrofit – Fitting of heat pumps and solar panels – TBC

Christmas event - TBC

Recent events

IHBC Day School and AGM Weald and Downland School
Friday 24th March 2023

Behind the Scenes IHBC Parliamentary Archive Tour
9th June 2023

IHBC Annual School - Swansea 2023 Climate Change and the Historic Environment Resilience and Performance
21st-24th June 2023

APPG Conservation Places & People: 'Regenerating Historic High Streets: Lesson Learned' Parliamentary review, 12th July 2023

IHBC Chartership - Have Your Say Thu, 27th Jul 2023 in Horsham

Word from our chair



Weald and Downland School AGM 24th March

This year's AGM was held at the renowned Weald and Downland Museum on the subject of versatility and resilience; evolution and adaptation of the vernacular of the South East. We were blessed with an amazing pedigree of speakers, they were Kevin Stubbs, Martin Higgins, Jeremy Clarke, David and Barbara Martin, Stephen Grey and a carpenter in residence Joe Thompson, who gave us a demonstration of oak framing in the famous grid shell.

The day was fully sold out, unfortunately, the room only held 40 people and one could say that it was slightly self-indulgent, as the subject was so dear to all our heritage geek hearts. The day kicked off with Kevin giving a general introduction, followed by Martin presenting findings on the dating of Surrey timbered buildings and the results of the Surrey Dendrochronology Project. This was a completely fascinating insight into the clusters of building types and technologies as they moved across the country. Jeremy Clark presented on Cottages built across the Commons and the wastes of the manor house from the 16th century onwards. Finally, David gave a talk about how mediaeval buildings have evolved with adaptations for their survival.

Following the opportunity to catch up and discuss the lectures in the afternoon we had two tours, one by Kevin Stubbs and the other by Stephen Grey on the subject: "From BayLeaf to Whittakers", looking at the Evolution of plan form in vernacular dwellings from medieval to early modern. It is

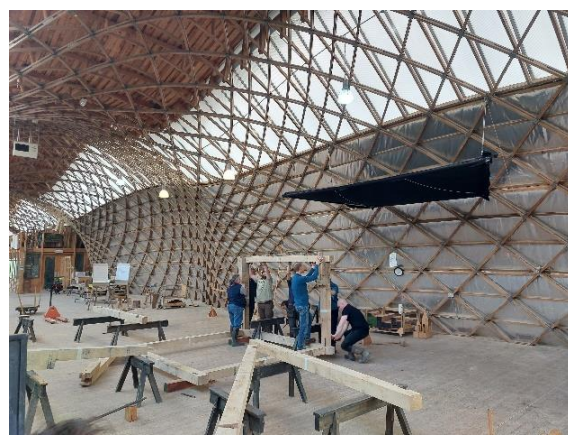


Annual School Weald and Downland photo Chris Reynolds

of deep interest to us as heritage geeks, the big question on all our lips at the moment is how do we deal with the dramatic changes in our climate? The old buildings that evolved and adapted over many centuries, now, however, have to deal with huge downpours and drought. It is interesting in the context of these old buildings as they have already withstood this for many years. Is it simply a case of much larger gutters, retaining the vernacular roof forms that have worked so well and abandoning the contemporary modern that clearly do not?



Weald and Downland School photo Heather Hall

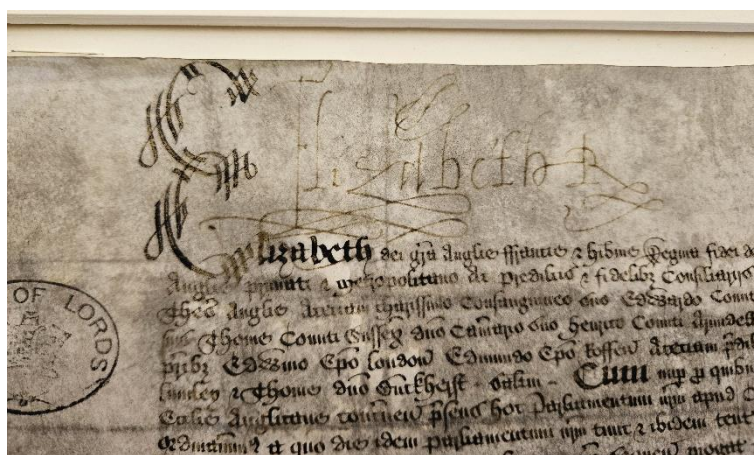
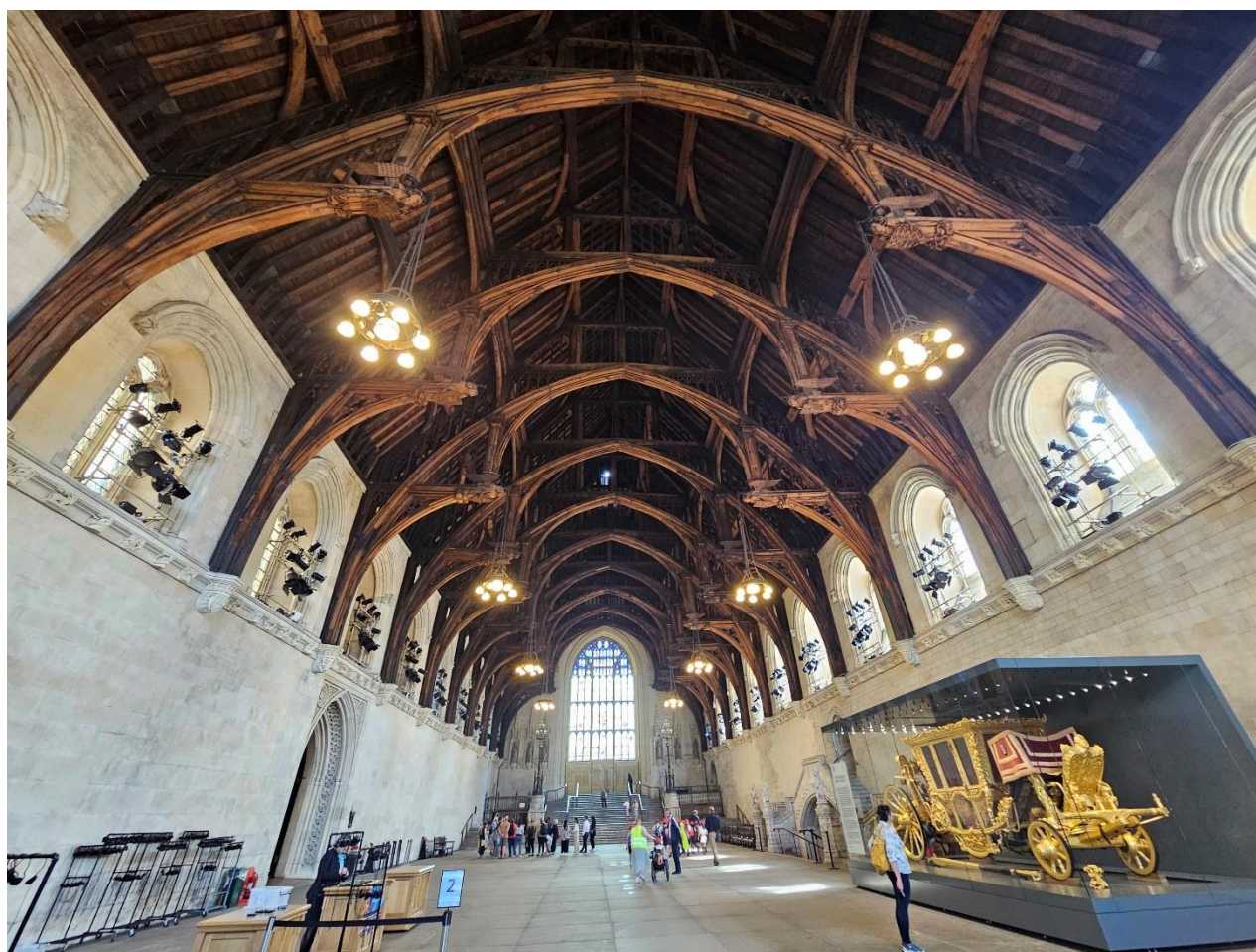


Joe Thompson practical demonstration photo Chris Reynolds



Behind the Scenes IHBC Parliamentary Archive Tour 9th June

We were very blessed with our very own Chris Reynolds providing the contacts to enable the visit to the parliamentary archives in the Victoria Tower on a sunny day in June. There were two tours available, a morning and afternoon session and in fine IHBC style, we also visited a local hostelry for refreshments. It was quite interesting going through security, which was very vigorous, entering via Westminster Hall with its amazing hammer-beam roof and then being taken to Victoria Tower, which was purpose built to house the archives in the Victorian era.



Highlights of the tour included viewing the open circular roof above the hall where the king passes underneath, and standing in front of a 1499 copy of an Act of Parliament, with Elizabeth 1st's signature and seal, posters from the suffragette movement and notes sent by Winston Churchill during parliament on the subject of whether to start war or not, were among the gems that we saw on this tour.

The 2023 Annual School Swansea (22nd-24th June) was launched on Wednesday 21st with *IHBC MarketPlace:LIVE*, offering free online sessions covering a range of topics about building, planning, complying with standards, coping with climate change challenges including protected buildings and the climate emergency, retrofit, heritage and conservation.

On this year's IHBC Annual School, here is a contribution from Alice Latham, MSc student on Sustainable Heritage at UCL and Assistant Heritage Project Manager at Chana Projects Ltd:

"The IHBC Annual School was held in Swansea on what we were told was an uncharacteristically sunny weekend in June. This was my first time attending the Annual school as a new affiliate member of the IHBC through the generosity of the IHBC SE branch bursary.

The theme of the school was *Climate Change and the Historic Environment Resilience and Performance*. The topic felt particularly relevant to me as I start out my career in conservation, as it demands to be at the forefront of current thinking due to the urgency of the current climate crisis. It is an inescapable reality that we collectively need to be approaching as a united sector, which is why discussion forums like the Annual school are so vital.

The school started off on Thursday Afternoon with tours around a variety of sites within Swansea. My tour group was fortunate to gain access to the Swansea College of Art to see how craft skills such as stained-glass design is being taught to the next generation, within a historic building recently adapted for its new use. As we heard later in the Annual School, the skills shortage is a key challenge for the industry and one that needs to be addressed with some urgency if the UK is to meet its retrofit and carbon reduction targets. The Swansea College of Art, is a living example of how historic buildings can be brought into new use with a positive impact on future generations.

On Friday, there was an intense line up of conservation experts who each passionately spoke about factors relating to the core theme. One of the main takeaways from all of the experts presenting was how the repair, maintenance, and the use of traditional materials needs to be the first step in any retrofit measure if we want to see sizable change across our existing building stock. This subject area was of increased interest to me as it aligns with my current Masters research into Adaptive Re-use of vacant historic buildings.

A talk by Prof. John Edwards on complying with the standards was particularly eye opening for me as he demonstrated how sometimes even the recommended best practice can be harmful to historic buildings due the difference in construction techniques and materiality when compared to modern methods. During the day several talks referenced how inappropriate materials or methods used have had a detrimental impact on historic and/or traditional buildings in the past despite being considered best practice at the time. The use of case studies and in-depth discussions like these feel invaluable to anyone working within the conservation sector as they ensure that as a profession we are constantly learning. The panel discussion at the end of the school was a useful forum in demonstrating how there isn't a one size fits all approach when it comes to historic and traditional buildings whilst also providing an open forum for all delegates to get involved in.

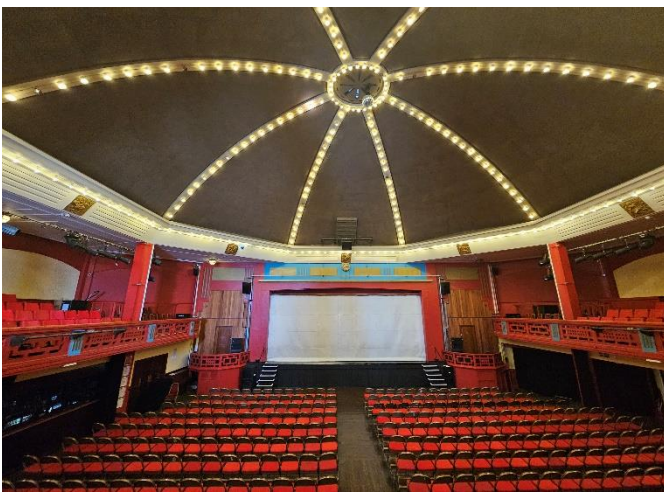
During the Annual School there were several opportunities to mingle with other professionals from across the UK and one thing that struck me was the willingness of individuals to share their experiences, skills and knowledge with others. I came away from the weekend feeling more confident in myself and with a renewed sense of purpose that work within the historic environment can have a positive impact on the resiliency of our urban fabric. If we work as a collective.

I would like to thank all members of the SE branch who made the weekend such a welcoming and enjoyable experience. I look forward to seeing you all at a future event."



Photos from the Annual School in Swansea

Moir Lucas guiding us on the Maesteg tour



The Grand Pavilion - Porthcalw's Grade 11 seafront theatre



Georgian Terrace from the holiday resort period on the maritime tour



Helen Parvin and Jo Saady



Sean O'Reilly grabbing a cheeky ice cream Director of IHBC



Contractor showing us timbers with dry rot

APPG Conservation**Places & People: 'Regenerating Historic High Streets: Lesson Learned'****Parliamentary review 12th July**

Visiting the House of Lords was, so far, one of the highlights of my year and felt very powerful being so close to the seat of so many decisions. It certainly complimented our earlier visit to the archives. The APPG event on conservation places and people was chaired by James Grundy MP with Dave Chetwyn presenting his report on behalf of the IHBC, the subject was regenerating historic high streets, the lessons learned. Interestingly, the report concluded that our high streets are not necessarily in trouble. It is our large retail units that are in trouble and that in fact during COVID small independent units have increased trade and shopping online has actually now decreased.

In the summary of recommendations, trends that will change the future of the high street were discussed, where the march of the independents returning to the High Street (post COVID) with multi-channel retailing, touching, feeling and looking, authenticity, uniqueness and experiences are valued rather than stuff. Under eight ways to revive and not to revive the high street, emphasis was on the development in the town centre first, positive planning, encouraging diversity, tackling vacancy, reforming business rates, reforming the development model, unifying ownership and improving the environment.

**IHBC Chartership - Have Your Say Thu, 27 Jul 2023 16:30 - 18:30 in Horsham Park Barn**

After the welcome and refreshments, South East members were given a presentation by Jo Saady about "Real life cases of retrofit in heritage buildings". This was followed by an introduction to IHBC's proposals to petition for a Royal Charter, IHBC President, Mike Brown, shared the Institute's ongoing Chartership consultation with IHBC and then the members broke out into focus group discussions on the Charter proposals. The session concluded with a general Q&A Session. Feedback

since the session has been very positive, hoping such an initiative will provide members with improved status to create an equal footing with other professional institutes, while being mindful of the challenges such as maintaining accessibility to CPD training in the absence of LA training budgets.

To contribute to this ongoing consultation please follow the link to the new Petition for Charter Web Hub, there is a FAQ and survey for anyone who would like to contribute:

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



IHBC Chartership Consultation Horsham - Lone LeVay presenting