



# NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2025

## Contents

### Future events

**Next IHBC SE Branch Meeting, online** – 10<sup>th</sup> September 2025

**CPD Event: Fire Protection in the Historic Environment, Tunbridge Wells** – 19<sup>th</sup> September 2025, 9:30-15:30

**CPD Event: Enforcement, Maidstone Museum** – November 2025 (exact date tbc)

**2026 AGM, Challenges in Conserving and Repairing Maritime Heritage, De La Warr Pavilion** – 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026

### Recent events

**SE Branch Annual School and 2025 AGM, Reigate** – 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025

**IHBC Sponsored ICOMOS Conference, University of Liverpool** – 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025

**Traditional Stone's Production Facility Tour, Guilford** – 16<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**Most recent IHBC SE Branch Meeting, online** – 4<sup>th</sup> June 2025

**IHBC Annual School, Shrewsbury** – 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> June 2025

**Pevensey Castle Visit** – 25<sup>th</sup> July 2025

## Word from our chair



It's quite incredible to realise that another six months have flown by, and here we are, on the cusp of autumn once again. I hope all of our South East Branch members are keeping well.

Working with listed buildings is certainly a challenging business. Personally, I often find it difficult to balance the environmental considerations of our work with the more conservative nature of heritage practice, especially when navigating client specifications. That said, the traditional methods and materials we use are time-tested for a reason, and as we all know, it's vital to choose those that work in harmony with the unique needs of heritage buildings.

I see conservation and environmental responsibility as two sides of the same coin. In fact, we've recently started specifying lime mortar across all our projects, both historic and new builds. Not only does it compliment older structures, but it also allows for easier recycling and reuse in the future, a step we're proud to take towards more sustainable building practices.

As a committee, we've hosted some excellent events recently – read on for highlights, photos, and some beautiful sketch paintings from Sarah, which have now become a much-loved regular feature in our newsletter.

We always welcome contributions from members, so if you have something you'd like to share with the Branch, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Hope to see you at one of our upcoming events soon!

## IHBC SE Branch Day School and AGM – Let's get Stoned, Materials and Conservation Techniques

Our most recent branch day school and AGM took place in Reigate, and offered a look into materials and conservation techniques, covering topics such as sand mining and materials selection.

Talks throughout the morning included discussion of the restoration work of iron and concrete at Madeira Terrace in Brighton, and the engineering challenges presented by this. Also considered was stone mining in Reigate and beyond. These discussions were presented by knowledgeable speakers including architects, heritage consultants and stonework restorers.



In the afternoon, there was the opportunity to explore the Reigate Tunnels and the Barons' Cave on a 2 hour walking tour underneath Reigate Castle, a unique insight into the mining that took place in the area.

*Illustrations by Sarah Sullivan*

As always, chances for networking between members were provided throughout the day, with complementary beer provided courtesy of the event sponsors, WS Heritage, at Surrey's oldest working brewery – the Pilgrim Brewery.





## IHBC Sponsored ICOMOS Conference

In April, IHBC SE Branch Chair Jo Saady, along with fellow trustee Andrew Shephard, was invited to speak at the IHBC sponsored ICOMOS conference event, 'Balancing Tradition and Innovation: Symposium on Sustainable Heritage Retrofitting', held at the University of Liverpool.

The day focused on the balance of preserving heritage assets whilst also implementing strategies for carbon neutral retrofitting, in order to achieve climate change targets whilst conserving heritage.

A diversity of professionals, academics and others were brought together to consider a wide range of views on the subject, providing a unique interpretation of the relationship between modern energy efficiency demands and the preservation of heritage. This was considered through a range of discussions, panels and networking opportunities.



## Traditional Stone's Production Facility Tour

Traditional Stone in West Sussex opened the doors to their production facilities in May to give us an insight into their production process and techniques through their guided tours.



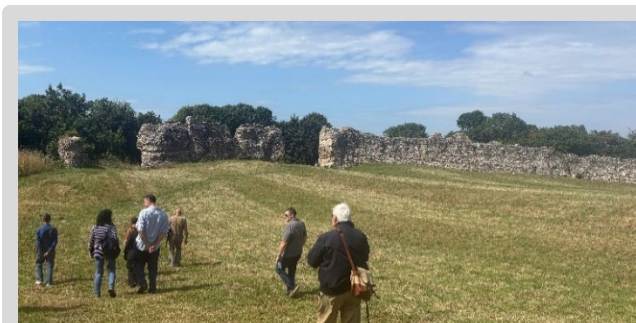
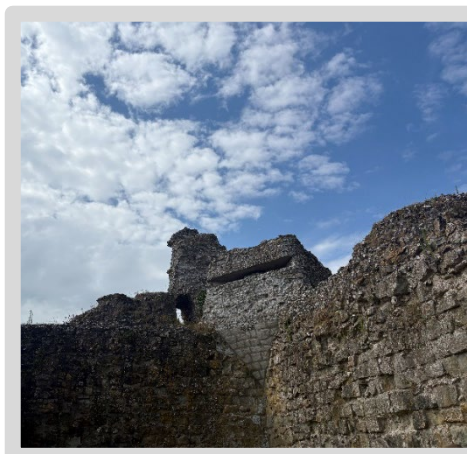
Although now utilising modern tools and practices, the skill and attention to detail required for their work, as well as their depth of knowledge, is incredibly impressive.

It was fascinating to see how stone masonry has progressed alongside modern technology. Whilst now utilising heavy machinery, it manages to retain its craftsmanship and artistry.

## Pevensey Castle Social Event

On July 25<sup>th</sup>, the SE IHBC Branch held its summer social event in Pevensey, East Sussex. The day consisted of tours of both Pevensey Castle, and the adjacent Mint House, providing interesting insights into the past of these buildings and their historical context, as well as the opportunity for networking amongst members.

In the morning, English Heritage provided a guided tour of Pevensey Castle and its grounds. This included information about its various stages of construction (from its Roman origins through to additions during the Second World War), as well as its contextual significance as a 'nodule point' during various conflicts. Recent restoration efforts have been made to conserve the structure and its layered history.



There were then a few hours' opportunity for networking between members over a picnic lunch in the grounds of the castle.

The Mint House offered a similarly interesting story in the afternoon, its function having changed numerous times throughout its lifespan. Features such as uncovered wall painting and a fireplace of contested origins provided tangible links to the past of this Grade II\* listed building. The significance of Pevensey Castle to the surrounding area can be seen even in this neighboring building, which likely reuses timbers from the castle's structure in its own construction.

### Save the Date – Fire Protection in the Historic Environment CPD

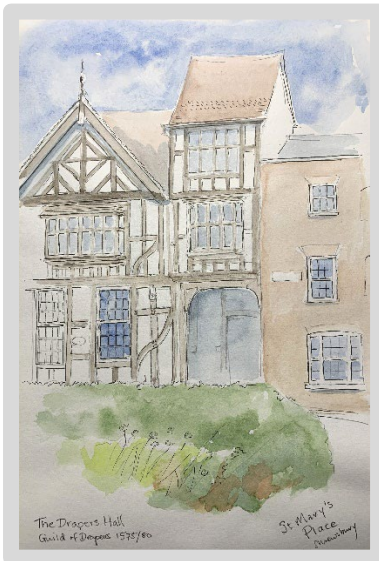
On the 19th of September 2025, the IHBC SE branch will hold their next CPD event at One Warwick Park Hotel, Tunbridge Wells, taking place 9:30am-3:30pm.

There will be a focus on fire safety in heritage buildings, with a guided tour of the Church of King Charles the Martyr following the main events of the day.

Booking information and further details available via [Ticketsource](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk).



## IHBC Annual School Shrewsbury 2025



Illustrations by Sarah Sullivan

A very successful IHBC annual school was held this year in Shrewsbury. Surrounded by its vibrant history and rich built heritage, the annual school activities took place in several of its remarkable buildings, including the grade I Church of St Mary the Virgin, the grade II\* Prince Rupert Hotel, and Shrewsbury Theatre Severn.

The scheme of this year's day school was "Heritage in Context; Value, Plan, Change". First session, focussing on understanding and valuing context, started with an international perspective by Aishwarya Tipnis who gave an insight

into the Indian cultural heritage

and its characteristic environmental, cultural, social, and economic contexts. Then, Alan Powers proposed a philosophical question "is context a killer of good architecture?" exploring how a building can be perceived within its context and how the relationship between them can be shaped. Afterwards, Melissa Murphy KC gave a talk on how context is defined in legal perspective.



The second session, concerned with responding to context, started with the talk of Nicola Snashall about change and transformation in the Stonehenge landscape, emphasising on how development and change over time have affected the historic site and its context, and highlighting the efforts to protect it. Following, Claire Hines spoke about how tall buildings can affect the context of historic areas. Afterwards, Simon Malam showed some of their projects concerning design within historic buildings' context.

The final session was about changing contexts; it started with the impressive presentation of Imogen Wood about context and sustainability. Following, Stephen Levrant talked about how heritage assets can be taken out of their context, he highlighted some interesting examples of moved buildings and how they are perceived within their original and new contexts. Then Nick Blenkarn gave an overview about 3D



visualisation of heritage context. Finally Vicky Hunns spoke about Rowley's house and mansion.

The school also included many tours to iconic historic sites in Shrewsbury, including the newly renovated Flaxmill Maltings, Shrewsbury Abbey and churches, secular wall paintings from the 16th century, and finally the magnificent Ironbridge Gorge world heritage site.

*Article written by Ahmed Khalil*

