



NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2026

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Future events

Placemaking & Design: Planning for Historic Areas – Wednesday 23rd September 2026, 09:30-16:30

Enforcement in the Historic Environment – Tuesday 27th October 2026, Alan Baxter Gallery, London, 11:00-16:30

IHBC Annual School 2027, Climate Change and Significance – 10th-12th June 2027, Bristol and Bath

Recent events

Christmas Get Together – 9th & 10th January 2026, Tunbridge Wells

2026 SE Branch AGM, Concrete and Candyfloss: Seaside Structures of the 20th Century – 13th March 2026, De La Warr Pavilion

IHBC Annual School 2026, Adaptive Reuse – 18th-20th June 2026, Newcastle-upon-Tyne

Dealing with Rubbers – 16th July 2026, Farnham Museum

Amberley Museum Site Visit and Summer Picnic – 4th September 2026

Most Recent Committee Meeting – 9th September 2026, online

Word from our chair

It has certainly been an eventful year since our last newsletter, and I am delighted to have the opportunity to look back over some of the activities and events that have kept us busy.



Amberley proved to be a particularly memorable venue, with plenty to interest our members and, for those with an eye for film history, a rather spectacular James Bond connection. A plaque at the museum commemorates the filming of *Tomorrow Never Dies*, including the famous sequence featuring Grace Jones emerging from the cliff on a train cart loaded with explosives. Not something you encounter on every museum visit!

These events are about much more than simply getting out and seeing interesting buildings, collections and places. They are fantastic opportunities to network with colleagues, exchange ideas and build the connections that make our profession and our local network so valuable. They also provide an important opportunity to keep our professional knowledge up to date and gain those invaluable CPD points across the key learning areas. This year also brings a change to our committee. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to **Heather Hall**, who has stepped down as our Secretary. Heather has made a hugely valued contribution to the group, and we are very grateful for all the time, energy and expertise she has given us. We wish her all the very best.

At the same time, I am delighted to welcome **Jeremy Fazzaloro** as our new Secretary. Jeremy, a Historic Buildings Officer, joins us at an exciting time, and I am very pleased to have him on board. I look forward to working with him and the rest of the committee in the year ahead.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to **Darron Carver**, our new LinkedIn liaison, who will be helping us strengthen our presence on LinkedIn and share more of what we are doing with the wider heritage community.

Finally, as always, I want to say a huge thank you to all of our committee members and, indeed, to our wider membership. So much of what we achieve relies on people giving their time, sharing their knowledge and doing those many extra jobs behind the scenes. It is very much appreciated.

And, if you have ever thought about getting involved with the committee, I would wholeheartedly recommend it. It is a great way to expand your professional network, meet like-minded people and gain support from fellow professionals who are all passionate about the same things — **musty old buildings and the stories of the past that they have to tell!**

Here's to another year of interesting places, lively discussions, useful CPD, good networking — and, hopefully, a few more surprises along the way.

I look forward to seeing you at our forthcoming events.

Save the Date – Placemaking & Design: Planning for Historic Areas CPD Event, 23rd September 2026

Later in the month, on the 23rd September 2026, our next CPD event will provide the opportunity to learn more about placemaking and design for historic areas. We will cover a range of different aspects, including understanding context, relevant legislation and useful planning tools, led by Dave Chetwyn IHBC. The day will be hosted at [Friends' Meeting House Brighton](#), with a walking tour of the surrounding area, covering Madeira Terrace and ending at Brighton Pier, in the afternoon.

We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible! For further details and to book your place, please visit our [TicketSource](#) link.

Concrete and Candyfloss: Seaside Structures of the 20th Century

The IHBC South East Branch Day School and AGM for 2026 was held back in March at the De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill-on-Sea. We were pleased to see a great turnout and enjoyed a morning of varied talks followed by a guided tour of the Pavilion in the afternoon.

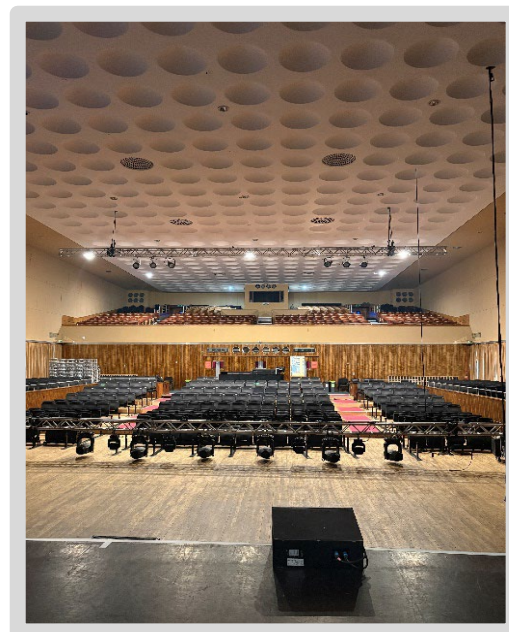
The day provided insights into the unique challenges of conserving our historic coastal environments, covering topics from concrete repair to preservation of iconic structures such as Saltdean Lido and the De La Warr Pavilion itself. We were fortunate to hear from a range of speakers over the course of the morning, including architects, engineers, heritage consultants and concrete restorers, all of whom provided varied insights into their work.

In the afternoon, we enjoyed guided tours of the De La Warr Pavilion, viewing areas such as the auditorium, which are to undergo further



De La Warr Pavilion

works as part of the pavilion's restoration. Our guest speakers from Haworth Tompkins, who are leading the project, provided valuable insights as we made our way around the building. Following this interesting day, there was also the chance for optional networking with fellow IHBC members.



De La Warr Pavilion Auditorium

Dealing with Rubbers CPD

Extensive brickwork repairs are currently ongoing at Farnham Museum, and back in July, we were lucky enough to spend the morning viewing these sensitive conservation works up close.

Wilmer House – a Grade I Listed building dating to 1718 – is currently undergoing rebuilding of its entire parapet and cornice, which is constructed in rubber brick. The frontage of the building was described by architectural historian Nathaniel Lloyd as ‘perhaps the most beautiful example extant of the Doric order interpreted in brick’, hence serving as an important example of such a work.



During our visit, members were able to not only explore the museum and Garden Gallery, which contains project plans, but also to tour the site of the restoration work itself. Members of the project team provided a warm welcome and introduction to the works on site, from which we gained a deeper understanding of the project. The day highlighted the incredible craftsmanship which is making the repairs possible, including those of specialist joinery repairs and gauged brickwork. The importance of traditional crafts and the preservation of the skills that make these possible was clear throughout.

IHBC Annual School 2026: Adaptive Reuse

Newcastle-upon-Tyne was the location of the IHBC Annual School this year, which focused on the increasingly relevant topic of adaptive reuse. The three-day conference offered a range of experiences, including CPD study tours of significant buildings in the area, as well as social events such as the annual dinner and awards.

The conference began with a welcome reception at the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, which, given its conversion from a repurposed flour mill, provided the perfect venue. The first day of the event also presented the opportunity to take part in a number of CPD study tours around buildings such as Byker Wall and Live Theatre & Trinity House. These tours offered insights into varying ways of approaching adaptive reuse, including the conversion of the Grade II flax mill at Ouseburn into the Cluny music venue and bar.

The Annual Day School itself took place on the 19th June, at The Common Room. Now a charity, archive and heritage venue, the Grade II* Listed structure was built between 1869-72 for the North England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers. During the day school, this year's theme of adaptive reuse

was explored, with the opportunity also to visit the exhibitors' hub, where time for networking and additional CPD was provided. Sessions included talks covering topics such as the opportunities and challenges of adaptive reuse, relevant legislation and regulations, as well as a look at several case studies. We were fortunate to hear from a wide range of speakers across the course of the event. Later the same day was the annual dinner and awards, with presentations including this year's Gus Astley Student Award and Marsh Award winners.

Further CPD study tours were offered over the course of the weekend, with the opportunity to explore buildings such as Cooper's Studios and Seaton Delaval Hall, all of which provided further insight into the opportunities presented by adaptive reuse. Seaton Delaval Hall, a country house now managed by the National Trust, provided a particularly grand example, as seen in the photograph to the left.



St Mary's Lighthouse



Seaton Delaval Staircase

We are looking forward to next year's Annual School, taking place in Bristol and Bath, with a focus on 'Climate Change & Significance'. See more details below.

Save the Date – IHBC 2027 Annual School: Climate Change & Significance

Next year (10th-12th June 2027), the IHBC will host its Annual School in Bristol and Bath, where the topic of 'Climate Change and Significance' will be explored. As with this year's Annual School, the conference will offer a range of events, from CPD study tours to our annual dinner and awards.

The weekend promises to present a number of interesting opportunities with a focus on an increasingly critical topic. We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible! [Register here](#) for the latest updates on the Annual School and similar events.



Byker Wall

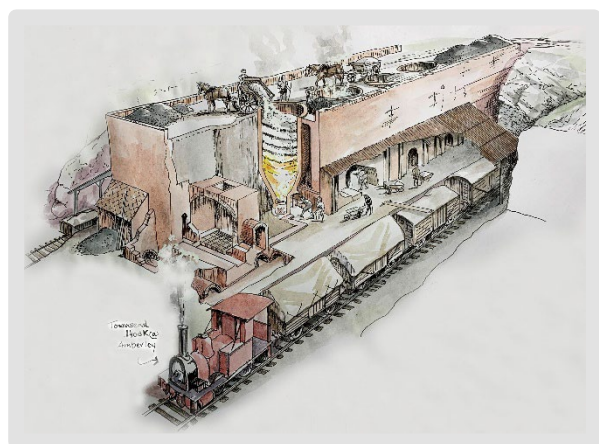
Amberley Museum Site Visit & Summer Picnic

Our most recent IHBC South East Branch event, on 4th September 2026, offered the opportunity to explore both Amberley Museum and Amberley Castle.

In the morning, we undertook an informative tour of Amberley Museum, led by one of their curators, beginning in the recently restored loading shed. We explored the process of lime production on the site, from the prehistoric sea conditions which formed the chalk at Amberley, through to the use of coal-powered kilns to produce the lime. The design of the lime kilns themselves was also discussed, including attempted innovations made at the De Witt Kilns, which flipped the inverted bottle shape usually utilised by these types of kilns.



De Witt Kilns, Amberley Museum



Sketch of De Witt Kilns by Sarah Sullivan



Although our tour focused on the production of lime at Amberley chalk pits, the site of Amberley Museum also offered insights into a wide range of histories, including locomotives, electricity and print-making. The latter part of the morning offered members the opportunity to explore the numerous exhibits offered by the museum.

Following lunch at the museum, we continued into Amberley village, to view and hear about the ongoing works to Amberley Castle. Kevin Symonds of Traditional Stone spoke to us about the history of this Scheduled Monument, the challenges it faces, and the works being undertaken to preserve the structure. The day concluded with the opportunity to network with fellow IHBC members.



Works to Amberley Castle

