

SW Bulletin No. 31 - June 2016

**Gloucester Heritage Projects:
HLF Funding Bids Successful!**

Bulletin 29 included a summary of Project Pilgrim, a unique £6 million project which aims to restore and improve specific parts of grade I listed Gloucester Cathedral. The ambitious plans include the creation of a new Cathedral Green to provide a public space in the historic heart of the city, conservation of the 15th century Lady Chapel, an 'invisible' solar PV array on the nave roof, improved access facilities and wider interpretation across the site.

In April 2016 the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) awarded a grant of £4.16 million to the project. Works are due to commence later this year and will run in parallel with a three year programme of cultural activities to enable more people to connect with this iconic building's heritage. For further information go to:

<http://www.gloucestercathedral.org.uk/project-pilgrim/>

In another excellent piece of news for the city, the HLF announced a grant of £3.19 million for the Llanthony Secunda Re-formation Project. This former Augustinian priory to the west of Gloucester Docks (as featured in *Bulletin 30*) will now benefit from sufficient funding to see its surviving major buildings - the Medieval Range, Victorian Farmhouse and Brick Range - all restored and brought back into use for both the Llanthony Secunda Priory Trust and Gloucestershire College. The grounds will also see the first phase of the Trust's landscape master-plan implemented, with broad opportunities for community/ student involvement.

Charlotte Bowles-Lewis Gloucester City Council

Editorial

Last year saw the number of overseas tourists visiting Britain exceed 36 million for the first time since records began in 1961. Official figures from the Office for National Statistics confirmed a 5.1% increase on 2014 visitors, with a corresponding tourism-generated revenue of £22.1 bn. The trend appears to have continued thus far into 2016, with a 6% rise in visits by overseas tourists for the three months to end-March. Government was quick to take the credit for the "booming" tourist industry, with Tourism minister David Evennett stating that "Our world-class attractions, heritage and culture make Britain the first-choice destination for many, with visit numbers at an all-time high". Whilst we should all be rightly proud of our worldwide standing as a tourist destination, it is important to quantify the contribution that our cultural heritage makes to these revenue figures. Heritage is clearly a draw for overseas visitors and is a welcome boost for the economy but it typically figures low down on the Government's list of priorities at other times. Raising the profile of our heritage to attract proportionate funding for all of our assets still remains an elusive goal. Almost 20 years since its sad demise, is it now time to resurrect the Department of Heritage?

Publication of *Bulletin 31* has been delayed for a number of reasons, including a spell in hospital and resultant work backlog. After four years and 11 *Bulletins*, it is now time for me to step down as editor and hand over the reins to someone new. Enquiries welcome and some training on Serif PagePlus available.

Malcolm James



Project Pilgrim showing an artist's impression of part of the new public space and grounds in the south precinct (top) and a high-level view taken inside the Lady Chapel © Gloucester Cathedral



Aerial view of Llanthony Secunda Priory looking west with the new Gloucestershire College campus at right (top) and the tithe barn entrance through to the College

Heritage Crime Doesn't Pay: Theft of Robert De Waking's Head

The village of Newland in the Forest of Dean Gloucestershire suffered two serious heritage losses during the week of 16th April 2012. First, a medieval stone head from a carved effigy (believed to be that of Robert De Waking, the founder of All Saints church, Newland and dated to circa 1215) was stolen. Then the adjacent 17th century mansion of Newland House was gutted by a major fire during the course of restoration works.



Carved stone effigy of Robert De Waking (1215 - 1237) who first established All Saints, Newland (Image reproduced from Antiques Trade Gazette 29 May 2012 Copyright © Metropress Ltd, (t/a ATG Media) 2016)

The effigy had been broken into three pieces for as long as anyone could remember and the head was a heavy, albeit portable piece of stone. The Police were informed of the theft and the local community resigned themselves to the loss of the carving and the commissioning of a replica.

As time passed it became apparent that All Saints Newland was not the only church in the region that had suffered recent losses of historic items. Artefacts had also been removed from churches at Ashton Keynes, Wiltshire, Castle Frome, Holme Lacy and Much Dewhurst in Herefordshire, Torbryan, Devon and Moreton Morrell, Warwickshire.

Fast forward to 2016 and Robert De Waking's head (no worse for his extensive travels) has been securely reunited with his body thanks to apprentice stonemasons from Gloucester Cathedral. This happy outcome has been due to the hard work of the West Mercia Police (with the help of many other forces) and their

diligent investigation known as 'Operation Icarus' which targeted organised theft and black market trade of heritage artefacts stolen from churches across England and Wales. A statement from West Mercia Police reads as follows:

'Items stolen were subsequently sold to two collectors in England. One a collector of Bibles the other a collector of all things of a religious artefact nature. Both collectors were duped by the thief, with false provenance made up for each stolen item; and as a result purchased items over a number of years, believing them to be legitimate antiquities open to sale. In fact the items were stolen, and in some cases out-and-out fakes; produced by the offender and purported to be expensive artefacts, some dating back to the age of the Vikings.'

West Mercia became aware of this offending following a referral from the Metropolitan Police Antiquities department; who had received Due Diligence reports from one of the collectors. This led to the identification of a number of items stolen from several Herefordshire churches. Little did we know at this point the extent of the actual offending, nor the geographical area offended upon. A suspect was identified as Mr Christopher Cooper.

He was arrested in Jan 2015 and his home searched. Following this West Mercia officers assisted by Metropolitan Police seized around 60 items from one collector's house, more followed. The vast majority of items have now been identified and many have been returned.

Christopher Thomas COOPER appeared at Worcester Crown Court on 8 February 2016 and pleaded guilty to the following:

7x theft offences - across England & Wales

1x offence of dealing in tainted antiquities

4x fraud offences - passing stolen items as his and selling out and out fakes - also taking cash with no intention of supplying items.

He also accepted 30 x TIC's for theft offences. These are offences 'taken into consideration' - accepts responsibility - so still count as such.

No other persons have been charged with any offences. Cooper is remorseful for his actions, and we have to accept that he assisted greatly in identifying churches he attacked. Sadly he has no assets to seize, and the money he gained has been spent over the past few years of his offending. Both collectors have been left heavily out of pocket, and it is unlikely they will ever see their money coming back'.

DC3715 Tony Lewis West Mercia Police

Cooper was charged under the Dealing in Cultural Objects (Offences) Act 2003 and the Theft Act 1968. In May 2016 he was sentenced to 3 years in prison on seven charges of theft and three years for dealing in tainted cultural objects, those sentences to run concurrently. He was also sentenced to eight months on two counts of fraud; the sentencing grand total being three years and eight months.



The gutted shell of Newland House following the disastrous fire of 16-17 April 2012; the surviving fabric was fully recorded by BaRAS (Bristol and Region Archaeological Services) prior to demolition (image ©BaRAS)

Sadly the historic Newland House was too badly damaged to be rebuilt and permission was granted for a replacement dwelling in February 2013. A brand new Palladian style mansion now stands on Savage Hill overlooking All Saints church. All that remains of the old house is across the Atlantic in the form of a panelled room which was removed in the 1930s and sold to the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

Laura Stevens
Trustee of the All Saints Friends, Newland

Prosecution and subsequent (retrospective) applications for development: Talewater Farm, Talewater, Talaton, Ottery St Mary, Devon (East Devon DC 16/0888/FUL & 16/0889/LBC)

In October 2015 East Devon builder Barry Anthony Wright pleaded guilty at Exeter Magistrates Court to a total of seven criminal charges brought against him by East Devon District Council. Mr Wright was ordered to pay £20,120 in fines and costs for committing six listed building offences and one offence of failing to comply with an enforcement notice.

The charges brought against Mr Wright related to unauthorised works carried out by him at the 16th century grade II listed property known as Talewater Farmhouse. Specifically, there was a substantial loss of historic fabric including the removal and destruction of two 17th century oak framed triple light windows with chamfered mullions, removal of an oak bressummer beam above a fireplace and various non-compliances with conditions (including repairs to a plank and muntin screen) attached to a conditional LBC granted to Mr Wright in 2010. Despite the property having been in the Wright family ownership 'for many generations' and in full knowledge that it was listed, works were carried out contrary to the plans as approved by the local authority. The full extent of the unauthorised works and destruction of the rare mullioned windows only became apparent during a site visit in 2014 after Mr Wright had made an application to discharge all of the LBC conditions.



Talewater Farmhouse; principal elevation as viewed from the access track (the property also includes a collection of agricultural barns and a barn approved for conversion to residential use/holiday accommodation in 2006)

Subsequent to the prosecution, applications have been received for remedial works to essentially propose the changes already made. These include replacing the modern casements illegally substituted for the 17th century mullioned windows with authentic oak facsimiles, together with retention of the new bressummer beam, external re-rendering, replacement staircases, floors and chimney stack alterations.

Following a further site visit (May 2016) the proposed works were deemed not to cause significant harm to the listed building and a recommendation for approval made, subject to six specific conditions.

Stephen Guy East Devon District Council

Planning Appeal: Land to Bank Farm, Dumbleton, Gloucestershire (APP/G1630/W/15/3129433)

Planning consent was sought for a new residential development of 15 houses on agricultural land just to the north of the small village of Dumbleton. The application (14/01122/FUL) was refused by notice in February 2015 on the grounds that it would connect the hitherto isolated Bank Farm to the main body of the settlement, thereby compromising the adjoining Dumbleton Conservation Area and a Special Landscape Area designated in the local plan as a buffer to the Cotswold AONB.

In assessing the possible impacts of the proposed development, the Inspector acknowledged that a revised scheme had since been received which reduced the number of dwellings from 15 to 10 but was duty bound to make a decision based on the original submission. The key issues in his determination were *the effect on the character and appearance of the area, and whether the proposal would contribute towards a sustainable pattern of development in the borough, having regard to access to employment, shopping, community, leisure and other facilities?*

The inspector concluded that *"the erection of 15 dwellings on the appeal site would represent a significant expansion of the settlement into its rural fringe"*, appearing *"as an essentially self-*

contained collection of modern houses divorced from the village"; regardless of the incorporation of local materials and traditional architectural features. Also, the scale, form, height and *"contemporary design"* was judged to be *"out of keeping with the low key collection of buildings at Bank Farm"*.

In summary, the inspector concluded that significant harm would be caused to *"to the character and appearance of the area by reason of its detrimental impact on Dumbleton Conservation Area, the rural setting of the village, the setting of listed buildings and other buildings of historic character, and the intrinsic beauty of this part of the countryside"*. In addition, *"the proposal would not contribute towards a sustainable pattern of development in the borough and would be contrary to the objectives of national policy, local plan policy TPT1 and draft core strategy policy SP2 ..."*. The appeal was therefore dismissed.

Chris Partick Tewkesbury Borough Council

Planning Appeal: Whittakers Farm, Hoopers Pool, Southwick, Trowbridge, Wiltshire (APP/Y3940/W/15/3038497)

An appeal was made against Wiltshire Council's refusal of December 2014 to grant planning permission for the conversion of an existing barn (within the curtilage of the grade II listed 17th century farmhouse) into a house (14/09737/FUL. The key issue at stake here was whether the proposed conversion would preserve the *"curtilage listed building"* (given the stated use of inappropriate materials including uPVC windows and concrete roof tiles). Also, whether the proposed dwelling would be in an accessible location and whether sufficient attempts had been made to market the barn for other uses (as stipulated by development plan policy)?

The inspector determined that the barn was a listed building and that the proposed development would fail to preserve it (its character and appearance). Also, the site's isolated location necessitated the use of private transport; contrary to the Wiltshire Core Strategy on sustainability grounds.

Malcolm James

The role of a conservation officer is probably, in some ways, much like that of many others: there are low lights, medium lights and high lights. The low lights might include determining the most discreet location for a boiler flue on a listed building, whilst medium lights could span to deciding on the appropriate size and design of a modest extension. Then there are the high lights, which make the role of a heritage professional so worthwhile and exciting. Such an example landed in my in-tray: Cleveland Pools.

Cleveland Pools are superb early 19th century Grade II* listed public swimming baths situated just to the north east of Bath city centre adjacent to the River Avon (from which the original water supply was derived). Dating from 1815, Cleveland Pools is in fact the country's earliest surviving example of a Georgian public outdoor swimming pool or 'lido'.



Cleveland Pools today (image Copyright © Tony McNichol courtesy of Cleveland Pools Trust)

It would appear that what prompted the need for the public pools was the passing of the Bathwick Water Act in 1801. Perhaps now seen as more a symptom of 19th century prudishness, this Act prohibited nude bathing in the River Avon. However, the taste for what in modern parlance is termed as 'wild swimming' remained and the idea for what was to become Cleveland Pools was conceived in 1809 in response to this need.

The pool complex should be seen in the context of the new development to the east of the city known as the Bathwick Estate owned by the Pulteney family who gave their name to the celebrated architectural set piece, Great Pulteney Street. Robert Adam's Pulteney Bridge provided access over the river from the city and the Bathwick Estate was

developed as an early suburb. Cleveland Pools formed part of this suburban expansion and reflected the new awareness regarding public health and the concept of exercise and fresh air as a tonic to the unhealthy and unsavoury atmosphere of urban life. In fact, health and public sanitation improvements such as these became key themes throughout the 19th century as towns and cities across the country rapidly expanded to support the accelerating growth of Britain's industrial revolution.

An advertisement was placed in the Bath Chronicle on 20 September 1815 requesting subscriptions to fund the construction of the swimming pool: '*...to provide a place in connection with the River, where those who swim and those who do not will be likewise accommodated.*' The campaign to raise funding was a great success and Cleveland Pools opened in the same year. They enjoyed great success and popularity throughout the 19th century and for most of the 20th century.

By the 1970s, however, interest in open air public swimming had declined markedly and it was a sad loss when Cleveland Pools closed in 1978. Subsequent attempts were made to reopen the pools but without success and despite some occasional use they completely ceased being used for public bathing in 1984. From this period the pools were used as a fish farm and as part of a private residence until again falling out of use in 2003. Bath & North East Somerset Council (B&NES) intervened to put the site on the market and the local community responded by forming the Cleveland Pools Trust (CPT); the primary aim being to save and restore the pools for public use again.

Whilst the pools as they exist today retain their essential, original form there is one considerable difference. As originally conceived the pools took their water directly from the river by way of a 'cut' that allowed the water to flow in and out of the site. The direct connection was severed sometime in the mid-20th century to render the pool isolated from the river supply; this still being the case today. However, the crescent of buildings that followed the curve of the cut's original

alignment and formed the natural swimming pool survives as a memory of this feature.

The crescent includes a central, two-storey cottage that housed the caretaker, unfortunately much altered internally although there are some surviving architectural features. The cottage is flanked either side by changing cubicles. To the west of the crescent was where the 'Ladies' Pool' was located. Whilst the building still survives it is in a much altered state and the pool itself was filled with concrete at some point in the latter part of the 20th century. To the east a separate pool was built in the mid-19th century.



Children's Pool in 1960 (image Copyright © Wessex Water courtesy of Cleveland Pools Trust)

The site was placed on the 'At Risk' register of both B&NES and Historic England and both organisations have been assisting the Trust in its endeavours to restore the site and bring it back into use as a public swimming pool. Following a successful HLF bid last year plans are developing fast in collaboration with various contributors including B&NES, Donald Insall Architects and The Princes' Regeneration Trust. Whilst ostensibly a small project, the logistics and environmental issues are quite complex including water quality control and consistency (chlorine-free and temperature controlled), flooding, access and ecology.

Overall though the future looks extremely positive with an active and enthusiastic CPT which enlists considerable support from many quarters and who are working towards reopening sometime in the next two years. If you would like to visit the pools please contact the Cleveland Pools Trust at:

<http://www.clevelandpools.org.uk>

Adrian Neilson
Bath & North East Somerset Council

Historic England and English Heritage would like to sincerely thank John Lowe for his long and distinguished career in the public service on behalf of the historic environment. Like Dorset County Council, we owe him a huge debt of gratitude.

John has always championed heritage and has done so in a meticulous, capable, creative but impeccably academic manner. His motto is, 'Places are like people: They have their destiny'. We are lucky to have had him deal so persistently with his heavy and demanding caseload. Certain and diverse causes he espoused with memorable gusto; thatching, windows, bridges. His work there and in related historic building fields will be a lasting tribute to his energy and commitment. We were delighted that he fought off his debilitating illness and was able to complete a final *magnum opus* on the Dorset Bridges Heritage Partnership Agreement (HPA). This has been adopted in principle by Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole, as well as by Historic England

It is important to acknowledge formally and record John's lasting contribution to Dorset's heritage. His retirement leaves a gap at the County, but promises to be busy and fruitful as he has set himself the task of a rigorous analysis of Dorset's historic houses to complement Nick Hill's two recent volumes. We trust that this will be reflected in the forthcoming updating of the *Buildings of England* (Pevsner) volume on Dorset.

John Lowe has been a member of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) since 1974. This is complemented by his life membership of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) and his membership of the Vernacular Architecture Group, and of the Institute of Historic Building Conservation since 1985. No-one would be surprised to learn that with such interests he is also a member of the National Trust and a Friend of the Royal Academy. Slightly unexpected is his membership of the Society of Authors; has he perhaps written heritage crime thrillers under a pseudonym?!

Seriously though, John has had a long and distinguished professional career spanning over 45 years as a trained architect, 37 years in public service as a Conservation and Design Officer, first at

Burnley, then at Dorset CC. His achievements over almost five decades are manifold, encompassing the complete spectrum of built environment heritage.

Educated at Stand Grammar School in Whitefield, Lancashire, John then spent five years at the Birmingham School of Architecture where he graduated with a BSc (Hons) and DipArch. Returning to his native north-west, his early career provided useful experience with a number of architectural practices in Bolton and Manchester. After a five year period at Mather & Nutter (during which time he was admitted to RIBA), John moved to Burnley Borough Council in 1977 as Design and Conservation team leader.

John's appreciation of Lancashire's industrial heritage and its powerful setting within the moorland landscapes really emerged during this period. Acutely aware of the development pressures faced by the numerous redundant and undervalued former mills in and around Burnley, he formulated the Mill Chimneys Strategy to help protect the best surviving mill chimneys in the borough, as well as being instrumental in saving the country's last steam powered cotton weaving mill at Queen Street, Harlesyke (now a working textile museum used for heritage filming). Other notable achievements included conservation work to save former agricultural buildings and supporting Sarah Pearson in research for the RCHM publication *Rural Houses of the Lancashire Pennines 1560-1760*. John even managed to find the time to produce a book of his own; *Burnley* published by Philimore (1985) is credited with helping to change attitudes to the town's built heritage.

John has undoubtedly been the unsung hero of Dorset's built heritage and rightly deserves full credit for his many and varied achievements in 25 years service at Dorset CC from 1989 through 2015. The contributions he will be most remembered for will be his work on thatching best practice, his historic windows policy guidance and the Dorset Bridges HPA. He was the lynch-pin in obtaining and managing budgets for grants for the repair of heritage assets, using the identification of buildings at risk as a strategic tool to assess the condition of over 75% of the county's listed buildings. He also founded Dorset



John Lowe photographed in 1985

Heritage Week, managed it and then oversaw its successful transfer to a charity. All of this in addition to a new interpretation of Dorchester's Roman Town House, support for many county-wide conservation initiatives (i.e. Dorset Best Kept Village Awards, Dorset Pride of Place Awards and the Dorset Building Preservation Trust Award) and providing heritage advice to the Salisbury Diocesan Advisory Committee for 7+ years!

Quiet, artistic, deeply cultivated, unassuming but steely and resourceful, he never gives up and his achievements speak for themselves. In addition to his public persona, his fine singing voice can still be heard in a number of choirs, and, despite recent debilitation, he maintains his pride in producing much of the food for his table and, as those of us who attended his farewell can witness, is an enterprising and discriminating gastronome. Definitely a man with many strings to his bow and arguably the undisputed master of time management.

John Lowe deserves our thanks and we at Historic England give them unstintingly.

Francis Kelly *Historic England*

I worked with John for many years and always found him to be a dedicated, committed professional who is a credit to his profession. I would like to add my appreciation for his hard work in championing heritage buildings and Dorset Architectural Heritage week.

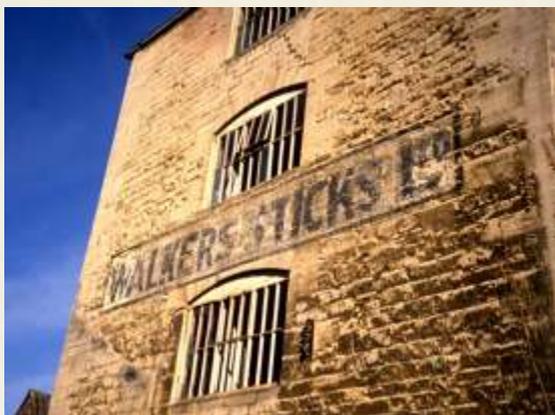
Maureen Pearce *Chair for IHBC SW region*

**Walker's Sticks Limited,
Woodchester, Gloucestershire**

Avid readers may recall *Bulletin 24* (June 2013) and the selection of contributions provided by Alan Strickland and the Gloucestershire Society of Industrial Archaeology (GSIA). These included several images of 'ghost signs' on former industrial and commercial premises in Gloucester and across the county, most of which have now been photographed and catalogued by the History of Advertising Trust.

The vast majority of the Gloucester signage is documented and reproduced in Chris West's excellent book *'Fading Ads of Gloucester'* (published by The History Press, 2014). A further book on the subject titled *'Advertising and the Public Memory: Social, Cultural and Historical Perspectives on Ghost Signs'* edited by Stefan Schutt et al promises a wider subject coverage and is due for publication by Routledge next month.

In the meantime Dr Ray Wilson (GSIA Secretary) has forwarded a well-preserved example of a 19th century ghost sign at the former Walker's Sticks factory in Woodchester near Stroud.



Ghost sign at the former Walker's Sticks Limited factory in Woodchester as it appears today (top) and (below) a reproduction of the company's letterhead from the early 20th century (images Copyright © Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology/ Dr Ray Wilson)

Malcolm James

Tucker's Maltings, Newton Abbot, Devon

Designed by the eminent Victorian brewery architect. William Bradford, for John Parnell Tucker, these maltings on Teign Road adjacent the Great Western Railway represented a state-of-the-art industrial development on their completion in November 1900. The original malthouse comprising two germinating floors and twin drying kilns had a production capacity of 60 quarters and boasted Dennett patent concrete floors, Buxton & Thornley anthracite furnaces and a Nalder & Nalder malt screen. An additional Bradford-designed 50 quarters malthouse was completed in 1903. Much of the historical plant and ancillary equipment survives and I am currently liaising with Historic England to revise the building's Grade II listing up to Grade II*.

Malcolm James

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