

## **Branch Representative's Report 2008/9**

### **Principal Duties**

The main duty is to attend meetings of IHBC Council representing the interest of Wales and to act as a Trustee and Company Director of the Institute. Most meetings are held in London at various venues, usually and thankfully at a suitable historic building. I provide a summary of the proceedings at the next branch meeting and increasingly the agenda and items are forwarded to members of the Branch Committee. However, as reports only arrive within a week of the Council meeting it is difficult to seek comments and is a matter I have raised at Council to be dealt with. Since last year's AGM, Council has met four times, one of these being in Cardiff which was preceded by an evening event at Cardiff Castle, which was a resounding success as was the following day's conference also organised by our Branch Chair and Vice Chair. A large amount of business is conducted at each Council, including reports from all the Institute's committees and branches. Arising from this, members should note the following:

### **Influence on Government and Professional Bodies**

The Institute has invested considerable time and effort in its critical role of influencing new legislation, government policy and guidance relating to the historic environment. Following on from the collaborative response to the draft *Heritage Protection Bill* last year, again the Institute responded forcibly to the draft PPS15 on the Historic Environment in England. This is an important step as it was clear the draft would have undermined current controls and possibly influenced planning policy making in Wales. As IHBC represents diverse professional practitioners that together shape, manage and enhance the historic environment, we can respond most effectively such consultations.

The Institute's Consultations Co-ordinator (James Caird) has proved highly effective in providing pertinent and timely responses (to which all members have had the opportunity to contribute) to a raft of formal governmental consultations, in recent months here in Wales. During the year, Gary Cooper and I working with James have ensured a response to a number of key WAG documents, including the draft TAN 22 on sustainable buildings, TAN6 on rural communities and most importantly Cadw's Conservation principles. It was also an important year for the launch of the Minister's Historic Environment Strategic Statement (HESS) in Wales, following our co-hosting 'Treftadaeth' events with Cadw last year in preparation.

In late March we held a joint conference in Llandudno with the Prince's Regeneration Trust on the subject of empowering local authorities and communities to tackle buildings at risk. This was a highly successful conference, which had as its key note speaker the Minister for Heritage, Alun Ffred Jones. This relationship continued at the Cardiff event held when the IHBC Council came to our capital in September, where the Minister attended both the evening celebrations and the conference the next day, illustrating the raising of our profile within political circles.

However, we have some way to go in inter-professional working and our aim should be to work more closely with the RTPI and other key professions in gaining a place at the Regeneration Skills Collective Wales.

## **Development of the Institute**

The year saw significant further progress in the transformation of the Institute to a business-like organisation with a professional administration.

One issue that came out of the blue during the year was a claim by Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC), following a change of interpretation of the exemption from VAT for educational events, for a back-claim of around £25,000 with a threat of a cumulative fine for non-payment! This assault on the Institute's finances has been headed-off due to the diligence of the Institute's professional staff, Fiona Newton in particular, and its VAT advisors.

The total number of IHBC members has at least exceeded 2000 at the Cardiff meeting of Council, which is a major landmark for the IHBC. If you have colleagues at work who are not members but have the appropriate qualifications and experience, or are in the process of obtaining the same, please encourage them to join. I am sure they will not regret it.

## **Member Services**

Members should have noticed the considerable improvements that have been made to the IHBC website, the most recent of which is an interactive home page. The latter provides a regular news update on key issues for the sector, together with a facility for anyone to contribute updates that might be of interest. The job advertisements section of the website has become the first port-of-call for many people looking for a job in the conservation field.

The Institute has been concerned at the impact of the recession on jobs in conservation and is closely monitoring the situation. A joint IHBC/EH/ALGAO survey on staffing in England has been published during the year. This is a useful tool, although it only reflects the situation up to October 2008 in England. The Institute's monitoring of advertised vacancies has shown a major reduction in the first half of 2009. A similar initiative mooted by the IHBC in Wales with Cadw was met with little enthusiasm, as apparently there were no reports of multiple job losses.

A further addition to the range of member services is the recently launched professional indemnity insurance scheme, which is operated by Locktons. Further details can be viewed on the Institute's front page.

The Institute's Annual School held in Buxton in June was another success, especially as the Branch supported the provision of a bursary place to support members on lower incomes. Next year, the Annual School will be held in London and will have a theme of delivering excellence in conservation or 'Going for Gold'. Arrangements for this are progressing well and have the full support of Council.

## **Activities in Wales**

We are now working towards the 2011 Annual Summer School for the UK to be held in Llandudno. This is a major opportunity for the Branch to promote the work of its members and also represent Wales at its best. In order to make this event the success it will undoubtedly be, volunteers will be needed to undertake the various tasks, small and large, to ensure the smooth running of the event but also the organisation leading up to Summer 2011. All contributions will be welcomed, so please don't hesitate to contact me by email at the usual location to get involved. The initial meeting of the Annual School Group will be held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

Many of our achievements have been referred to already. These have been important means to raise the profile of the Institute both at the Ministerial and prospective member level. This will hopefully lead to continuing dialogue with important stakeholders across the sector and enable IHBC to positively influence key documents as they emerge in Wales. Hopefully, this dialogue and the events will provide an important means to engage with those both inside and outside of the sector, ensuring we can influence policy and practice affecting our work.

Nathan Blanchard  
Wales Branch Representative on IHBC Council

November 2009

**INSTITUTE OF HISTORIC BUILDING CONSERVATION  
SEFYDLIAD CADWRAETH ADEILADAUN HANESYDDOL  
CANGEN CYMRU \* WALES BRANCH**

**IHBC WALES BRANCH SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR THE 13<sup>TH</sup> AGM,  
13<sup>TH</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Wales Branch of the Institute of Historic  
Building Conservation programmed to take place at 3.30pm on Monday the 7<sup>th</sup>  
December 2009 at the International Pavilion, Royal Welsh Show Ground,  
Llanelwedd, Powys.**

**Dear IHBC Wales Branch Members,**

**I am very pleased to report to you the  
IHBC Wales Branch held 5, meetings, 2, conferences, 4 CPD site visits, an IHBC  
Council Meeting in Cardiff and a Christmas lunch in Cardiff since the last AGM**

<b>IHBC WALES BRANCH MEETINGS</b>		
<b>DATES</b>	<b>VENUES</b>	<b>ATTENDANCE</b>
<b>02/02/09</b>	<b>ABERDARE HALL, UNIVERSITY OF CARDIFF, CARDIFF</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>25/03/09</b>	<b>St GEORGE'S HOTEL, LLANDUDNO</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>22/05/09</b>	<b>ROYAL WELSH SHOW GROUND, LLANELWEDD,POWYS</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>23/07/09</b>	<b>BANGOR AND CARDIFF</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>23/09/09</b>	<b>THE PARK HOTEL,CARDIFF</b>	<b>5</b>

**N.B. Copies of the minutes of these meetings can be seen on the IHBC Wales  
Branch Website thanks to Peter Babcock [it@ihbc.org.uk](mailto:it@ihbc.org.uk)**

**THE MAIN ACTIONS COMING OUT OF THE ABOVE MEETINGS WERE**

- The distribution of the 2008-2009 and the 2009-2010 Combined Calendar of Events to all IHBC Wales Branch Members.**
- The distribution of the IHBC Wales Branch Leaflets at conferences, seminars and conservation events.**
- The monitoring of the integration of North and South Wales Committee Members on the IHBC Wales Branch Cttee'.**
- Report sent to the IHBC Wales Branch membership stating who is represented on the Branch Committee and what those officer's posts are.**
- A review and completion of the Branch's own Business Plan ( thanks to the Cttee' and especially Nathan ).**

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- **The planning and organising of the first IHBC Wales Branch Meeting using Video Conferencing between North and South Wales ( thanks to Cartrefi Cymru, Richard and Nathan).**
- **The planning and organising of two very successful CPD visits to Skomer and Llanelli House during the Summer months (thanks to Lowri ) and the planning and organising of a CPD visit to the new Café (Hafod Eryri) on the summit of Snowdon (thanks to Lowri & Dewi Williams with the support of IHBC , RIBA, RSAW & RICS) and finally the planning and organising of a series of CPD tours around Cardiff Castle in September ( thanks to John Edwards).**
- **The membership drive with the support and encouragement of our President and Director to achieve a target of 100 branch members this year (thanks to the Cttee' & Trefor Thorpe).**
- **The request to the branch for contributions to consultations, Cadw : Policy Guidance and Principals, WAG TAN6 and others and your input (thanks to the branch Cttee' and Gary).**
- **The planning and organising and hosting of the IHBC Conferences and Council Meeting in Cardiff in September (special thanks to the branch Cttee' Richard and John ).**
- **The planning and organising and hosting of the IHBC Wales Branch /Civic Trust for Wales/ Princes Regeneration Trust Autumn Conference at St George's Hotel the Parade, Llandudno on the 26<sup>th</sup> March 2009 (special thanks to the branch Cttee' and to Nathan).**
- **IHBC Wales Branch I.T. information updates on the IHBC Wales Branch Website . (special thanks to Peter Badcock [it@ihbc.org.uk](mailto:it@ihbc.org.uk) )**
- **The planning and organising of the 2011 IHBC Annual Summer School to be held in Llandudno. (ongoing thanks to branch Cttee' and Nathan).**
- **The planning organising and managing of the IHBC Wales Branch Bank Accounts (special thanks to Ron Douglass).**
- **The availability of the IHBC Wales Branch Cttee' Officer's post (Education Officer).**
- **The planning and organising of the five IHBC Wales Branch Meetings in North , Mid and South Wales together with the drafting and the distribution of agenda's and minutes of meetings to the membership (special thanks to my Cttee' colleagues for assisting me in this task)**

**In summary, I have found this year much more challenging as Branch Secretary than previous years, mainly due to the split of the branch Cttee' between North, Mid and South Wales . However, while it has been challenging I believe it has also been very successful, which can only be attributed to the continued dedication and commitment of my fellow Cttee' colleagues who deserve yours and my thanks.**

**Dave Jump IHBC Wales Branch Secretary.**

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**CANGEN CYMRU \* WALES BRANCH**

Hi, Dave

Attached is our HQ return ready for signing. My report follows-

CPD activities produced a profit of £292.72, thanks to galant efforts of Lowri

and Christmas Dinner earned £22

Under Expenditure, Costs of the Conference were £398.35, & there was a bursary of £249.50 paid to one deserving member. Both sums were less than last year's £669 & £333.50 respectively.

Compared with 2007/8, this year had an overall profit of Approx £310 compared with £770 last year. This was because of the £1284 profit generated by the joint event organised with Civic Society

In conclusion, our funds show a healthy increase of £300 over the start of the year

Ron

Registered Office:3Stafford Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 4QZ

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**YEAR 1 OCTOBER 2007 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2009  
WALES BRANCH**

	£	£	
<b>Assets at 1 October 2008</b>			
Bank accounts.....		<b>2381.97</b>	(a)

<b>Income 1 October 2008 to 30 September 2009</b>			
Loans/Floats from IHBC central funds.....	<b>1000</b>		
Schools, conferences and other events..... CPD	<b>292.72</b>		
Newsletters and other publications.....			
Bank interest.....	<b>14.49</b>		
Other income (please specify)..... XMAS DINNER	<b>22</b>		
<b>Total income.....</b>		<b>1329.21</b>	(b)

<b>Expenditure 1 October 2008 to 30 September 2009</b>			
Transfers to IHBC central funds.....			
Schools, conferences and other events..... CONF 398.35	<b>647.85</b>	BURSARY 249.50	
Newsletters and other publications.....	<b>7.19</b>		
Bank charges.....			
Administrative expenses (including branch meeting costs).....	<b>362.95</b>		
Chairman's travel expenses.....			
Other expenses (please specify).....			
<b>Total expenditure.....</b>		<b>1017.99</b>	(c)

<b>Balance carried forward at 30 September 2009</b>			
Bank accounts.....		<b>2693.19</b>	(a+b-c)

<b>Bank details</b>			
Balance(s) at 30 September 2009 (should equal a+b-c).....		<b>2693.19</b>	

Bank name.....	NATWEST	34541969	<b>501.21</b>
Account number..... CURRENT	34515585	<b>1178.7</b> 34541977	<b>1013.28</b>
Sort code.....	54-30-07		
Signatory 1.....	R DOUGLASS		
Signatory 2.....	D JUMP		

<b>Liabilities</b>		
Debtors (money owed to branches at 30 September 2008).....		
Unpaid members' expenses.....		
Unpaid bills (please attach details).....		
Loans/Floats from IHBC central funds.....		

<b>Signed</b> .....	<b>Treasurer</b> .....	<b>Chairman</b> .....
<b>Date</b> .....	<b>Date</b> .....	

**Contact name and telephone number**  
RON DOUGLASS 01766 890391

This form to be completed by officers of all branches and account holding committees and returned to  
**Lydia Porter, IHBC Business Office, Jubilee House, High Street, Tisbury, Wilts SP3 6HA**  
**by 30 November 2009**

(Photocopies of bank statements for the year to be attached)

