



NEWSLETTER Autumn 2025

Welcome message

Hello everyone, and a very warm welcome to the Autumn 2025 edition of the Yorkshire Branch newsletter. As the new newsletter editor, I'm pleased to bring you this round-up of another vibrant year across the branch. Whether you've attended a site visit, hosted an event, contributed to a project, followed along via our social media or generally supported us – thank you for being part of what makes our branch tick.

The AGM details are in this newsletter (coming up soon on 27th September, in Bradford) but I just wanted to give you a review of some of the activities this year. We've been up scaffolding at Cannon Hall, viewed the challenges at Hull's National Picture Theatre, and welcomed expert Charles Mynors to speak on historic building legislation.

As always, the branch thrives on the enthusiasm and input of its members. We're currently looking for nominations for a new Chair and Events Officers – please do get in touch if you're interested, or if you'd like to dip a toe in by joining in a non-portfolio role. Attending the AGM day, which includes CPD opportunities, would be a great way to meet the committee.

Liz Laycock

Editor, IHBC Yorkshire Branch Newsletter

Correspondence via yorkshireSecretary@ihbc.org.uk



On a more personal note, our Secretary, Emma would like to take this opportunity to thank Maria for her wonderful contributions to the committee and to wish her all the best on her maternity leave. We're thrilled to include a photo of little Eva in her official IHBC Babygro from a few months ago – proof that it's never too early to get involved in conservation!

IHBC CPD LISTINGS AND NOTIFICATIONS

If members opt in, you will be sent notifications by central IHBC on events – Listings for CPD and events can be found on the IHBC website: [Upcoming Events \(ihbc.org.uk\)](http://ihbc.org.uk)

Therefore, please do notify IHBC central office of any changes to your email address so that all notifications are received.

Up-coming branch events

Scaffolding Tour at Kiplin Hall Library - Wednesday 17th September

Scaffolding Tour with Holly Spilsbury a conservation accredited architect at Donald Insall Associates, the architects and Historic Property Restoration, the contractors for this MEND funded project. Kiplin Hall is a Grade I listed Jacobean house built in 1620s. The Drawing Room extension was built in 1820s and later altered into the Library we see today in 1880s.

The Westmorland slate roofing will be in progress during the visit, so this is a good opportunity to discuss with the roofers and see the interventions on the project as a whole.

Please bring site boots or sturdy footwear. PPE will be provided by the contractor. The visit will include going up the scaffolding which has a staircase (rather than ladders) but the scaffolding walkways have diagonal bracing across them so these structures will require climbing around to move along the level walkways.

All the fees will go to Kiplin Hall as a contribution.

£11.55 for IHBC members

£22.38 for non-members.

Book via this link: [Kiplin Hall Library Re-roofing - Scaffolding Tour Tickets, Wed, Sep 17, 2025 at 11:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)

IHBC Yorkshire Branch AGM and training day – Saturday 27th September, Bradford

For this year's Annual General Meeting we are visiting Bradford, the 2025 City of Culture. The Branch are pleased to be able to offer some great training opportunities on the day:

Place Making and Design Talk by Dave Chetwyn

Dave is the Managing Director of Urban Vision Enterprise and IHBC Secretary and Communications Chair. The talk will cover design and placemaking in historic areas, including design policy & codes, legislation, policy and guidance, understanding context, housing growth and high streets.

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Walking tour of Little Germany by Nigel Grizzard

Nigel is the Heritage Guide for Little Germany and Bradford Centre. Originally from London he moved North to work for the Chief Executive of Bradford Council and now enjoys taking visitors around Bradford. The walk will cover the listed buildings of Bradford's Merchant's Quarter and the links to the City Centre of the great Victorian City that was the Wool Capital of the World.

Tickets - The day is free for IHBC members and £25 for non-members.

Please book via Eventbrite: [IHBC Yorkshire AGM Tickets, Sat, Sep 27, 2025 at 9:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)

(lunch included - please advise of any dietary requirements when you book).

Recent branch events

VISIT: National Picture Theatre Construction Site, Hull – 30th November 2024

Organised by Hilary Byers of the National Civilian WW2 Memorial Trust (NCWW2MT), this event offered a unique opportunity to explore the ongoing conservation and restoration of the National Picture Theatre, a Grade II listed ruin on Beverley Road, Hull (HU3 1UX).

The day began with an introduction by Hilary Byers, who provided an overview of the site's history and the project's aims. Attendees were then divided into two groups. One group was guided around the existing foyer and up the scaffolding by the contractor, Hobson & Porter, and Stephen Walker of Hull City Council. The second group discussed the project's broader context and challenges with Hilary Byers at the rear of the site. The groups later swapped to ensure everyone had a comprehensive experience.

The History of the National Picture Theatre

The National Picture Theatre was built in 1914 as a purpose-built cinema, opening its doors on 23rd December of that year. Designed by architects Runton and Barry for the De-Luxe Theatre Company, it was an early example of a steel-reinforced concrete structure with an ornate red-brick and stone façade in the Baroque Revival style. The cinema could seat just over 1,000 people across stalls and a balcony.

On the night of 18th March 1941, during a Luftwaffe bombing raid, the cinema was hit while screening Charlie Chaplin's *The Great Dictator*. Miraculously, all 150 people inside at the time escaped unharmed. The auditorium was completely destroyed, but the façade and parts of the foyer survived, making it one of the last remaining civilian bomb sites in the UK. It was granted Grade II listed status in 2007 in recognition of its historical significance as a rare survivor of the Blitz and a symbol of Hull's wartime suffering.

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The Conservation Project

After decades of dereliction and campaign efforts by the National Civilian WW2 Memorial Trust, conservation work began in 2024, supported by funding from Hull City Council and the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF). The project aims to stabilise the structure, restore the façade, and create a flexible space for education and community events.

Key conservation works include several critical restorations to preserve the National Picture Theatre. The red-brick façade is undergoing structural stabilisation to prevent further deterioration, with careful brickwork repairs using period bricks reclaimed from other Hull buildings. A new roof structure comprising four tonnes of poured concrete is supported by a new steel beam.

The two iconic steel-reinforced concrete beams, which played a crucial role in saving lives during the bombing, are being carefully restored by specialists. Period-style windows are being replaced, and damaged brickwork is being repaired to maintain the building's historic character. New lighting and interpretive displays will ensure that the site's history is effectively communicated.

The Future of the Site

The National Picture Theatre will serve as a lasting memorial to the civilians who endured the Blitz, providing a dedicated space for education and remembrance. The open area where the auditorium once stood will be transformed into a flexible venue for exhibitions, talks, and community activities, ensuring the site remains a living part of Hull's heritage.

Once completed, the restored site will offer visitors a deeper understanding of wartime civilian life and the impact of the Blitz on Hull, the second most bombed city in the UK. It will also highlight the resilience of communities in preserving their history for future generations.

VISIT: Cannon Hall (Cannon Hall Museum, Park and Gardens, Cawthorne 20th February 2025)

This visit was organised by Daniel Elkington of Donald Insall Associates (Conservation Architects, York Office) and involved a site visit and scaffolding tour of the re-roofing project at Cannon Hall. This site is owned and operated by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council with work undertaken by Restoration Projects (Contractor).

The Conservation Project

Cannon Hall is a Grade II*-listed Georgian Country House and Museum in Barnsley. The Hall is home to collections of ceramics, furniture, paintings and drawings including the De Morgan collection.

The asphalt roof over the main block of the Hall was found to be failing, posing a risk to the collections. The current repair work was funded by a MEND (Museum Estate and Development Fund) grant of £898,405 for urgent roof repairs. Work began on Monday, 19 August 2024 and is scheduled for completion in early 2025.

The project involved re-roofing and repairing stonework at roof level. This required the removal of the previous asphalt roof covering, except where it remained on the parapets to avoid causing damage. New leadwork was installed along with Douglas fir sarking boards and sheep wool insulation. The roof lights were redesigned and refitted to prevent water ingress. New octagonal Standard Patent Glazing roof lights with lead glazing bars were also installed.

Stonework repairs and replacements were carried out on the chimneys, parapets, and cornices of the Hall. Petrographic analysis was used to source suitable local replacement stone from Stoke Hall although as much of the original stone material as possible was retained. Existing cement repairs were left in place to prevent further damage to the historic stone.

The chimneys were re-flaunched using NHL5 lime mortar and mesh, providing a robust and durable solution while avoiding re-use of previous cement-based materials. Roof gullies were widened and deepened, and enhanced ventilation details in lead were provided around the parapets. Additional ventilation was installed at each chimney junction. Access for future maintenance was also improved.

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Successes:

The project was successful in accommodating an expanded scope of stonework repairs within the original programme while maintaining uninterrupted operation of the museum throughout the construction period. Budget savings in certain areas were strategically redeployed to upgrade the lead specification from the originally specified Code 7 to Code 8, enhancing durability and long-term performance. These savings also enabled the addition of further works to the contract, including the re-roofing of several other lower flat lead roofs with rooflights, using the same high specification. The use of fully enclosed scaffolding and a temporary roof proved highly effective, resulting in just one day lost due to weather.



Future work

At the time of the visit, a small amount of work remained, including completion of the second roof light leading, minor tidying of lead joints, and the installation of a lead-covered door at the roof access point.

Unfortunately, a grant application to fund work on the two wings of the Hall was unsuccessful.

Review of Historic Building Legislation Lecture by Dr Charles Mynors, 28th February 2025



The Branch were very pleased to be able to welcome Dr Charles Mynors, renowned barrister and expert in historic environment planning law, for a well-attended lecture in York back in the winter.

Charles talked us through three topics - The extent of listing (including the always complex matter of curtilage); New legislation affecting the historic environment in England (largely the changes coming into force through the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023); Matters to be considered in planning applications and appeals.

It was a delight to host Charles for the afternoon, and the talk was very well received.

The talk was possible because of IHBC central office's scheme of central lectures.

Other news

Two sites are included in Historic England's 'Heritage Investment Prospectus' which showcases historic sites and buildings across England where owners are actively seeking investment partners or buyers right now:

- Lister Mills, Bradford - Late 19th century centre of production and also a symbol of industrial prowess: it was once the world's largest silk mill.
- Dalton Mills, Keighley - was designed by W. Sugden for J & J Craven as a mill for the manufacture of worsted cloth. It is thought to have been the largest textile mill in Yorkshire in its prime, with over 2,000 employees.

More information in this document: [Heritage Investment Prospectus 2025](#)

IHBC PETITION FOR CHARTER

Following the resounding support at the last AGM to advance the exploration of the Charter through the submission of a 'Memorandum' outlining the case, National Office networks have been busy advancing this, including also elected officers and

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linked Petition for Charter Working Group. More information on the petition can be found here: [IHBC Petition for Charter](#)

Apart from gathering the data and aligning the case with official guidance, central office has been busy gathering sector-wide notes of support and more from key players, led especially by IHBC Chair David McDonald. They have been responding to, addressing and planning solutions to queries and more raised as part of the consultation process. Regardless of success in any formal application (should it happen), the critical issue recently has been the extent of formal support within our own heritage sector. Happily, it has been substantial and, to date, universal.

A broad suite of commendations has been received from a wide range of chartered – and so far mostly un-chartered – bodies. That reflects in no small way the success that so many of our Branches, volunteers and linked networks have had in carrying the IHBC's message and practice standards across the UK.

Request for Reports

**IHBC Summer School - Shrewsbury on 11th-14th June
'Heritage in Context.'**

[IHBC Annual School - Shrewsbury 2025 |](#)

IHBC North Branch: CPD Event

Practical Archaeology and the Planning Process at the *Uncovering Roman Carlisle* Summer Dig 2025

27th June 2025

Rescuing Roman Remains

Barley Studio

Friday, August 8

If any members attend these or any other IHBC events, a brief write up for the newsletter would be appreciated!

IHBC Summer School 2026

IHBC ANNUAL SCHOOL - NEWCASTLE 2026

ADAPTIVE REUSE

#IHBCNEWCASTLE2026

<https://www.ihbc.org.uk/learning/page38/index.html>

Membership and committee matters

Yorkshire branch needs your support - We need nominations for the following roles:

- Chair
- Events officer (two roles)

Please contact the secretary

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We would like to welcome the following new branch members since our last newsletter:

Drashti Nakrani, Katy Murray, Tristan Kennedy, Megan O'Mara, Angie Creswick, Stuart Burrows, Martin Hall, Tatum Goins, Michael Clay, Robert Walker, Evelyn Grzedzicki, Rob Hill, Philip Hodgson, Anna Parkin, Richard Savage, Georgie Wardall.

SUMMARY OF CURRENT ELECTED MEMBERS

Chair	Post vacant
Secretary	Emma Gibbens IHBC Heritage Consultant, Wolds Heritage Consultancy / Principal Conservation Officer, North Yorkshire Council
Treasurer	Eric Carter IHBC Chartered Building Surveyor at NPS Leeds
Branch Representative	David Houlby Associate Director, CBP Architects
Membership Secretary	Naiomi Kempton IHBC Planning Inspector ,The Planning Inspectorate
North Yorkshire Representative	Stephen Gandolfi Senior Estate Manger North, English Heritage Trust
East Yorkshire Representative	Stephen Walker Principal Conservation Officer, Hull City Council
South Yorkshire Representative	Ruth Masood Principal Development Officer, City Regeneration and Major Projects, Sheffield City Council
West Yorkshire Representative	Victoria Flintoff Building Conservation Officer, English Heritage Trust
Events Secretaries	Tom Bromet Accredited Conservation Architect, Donald Insall Associates 2 x posts vacant
Newsletter Editor	Liz Laycock Professor of Stone Conservation, Sheffield Hallam University
Branch Media Officers	Illan Santos Senior Designer and Conservationist, Heritage & Conservation Architecture, Arup
Non-portfolio	Clare Chapman Case Officer - North East Region, Church Commissioners for England Alison Montgomery Heritage Consultant, Donald Insall Associates

For a summary of the roles and responsibilities of the committee members, or if you are interested in joining the branch committee, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact the branch secretary yorkshireSecretary@ihbc.org.uk

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IHBC Yorkshire Branch

All Yorkshire Counties, North Lincolnshire, North-east Lincolnshire

<https://bauhaus.ihbc.org.uk/branches/yorks/>

Keep up to date with branch news and events on Twitter:

IHBC Yorkshire (@IHBC_Yorkshire) (https://x.com/ihbc_yorkshire)

And via our blog on WordPress: <https://ihbcyorkshire.wordpress.com/>

IHBC Yorkshire

Branch News and Events

Future Newsletters

Can you help? We are looking for articles and discussions for the next edition of the newsletter. If you have any ideas for future articles or discussion topics you would like to share with members in future newsletters, please get in touch via

yorkshireSecretary@ihbc.org.uk