

IHBC MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Issue 38: September 2020

Good news and sad: AGMs, APPGs, Articles, Presidential updates and more

Next steps in the IHBC

The IHBC's newly named '*Membership Matters*' circular updates members on recent meetings of – and reports to – IHBC trustees. It provides more member-focused context to developments announced, often with more detail, on our [NewsBlog](#) news service.

This issue covers the period of starting in June 2020, just before the [2020 Virtual School](#), an event recast out of the planned 2020 Brighton Annual School due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and continues to the start of October and our new financial year. Unusually – and again due to the need to plan responses to the pandemic – two board meetings have taken place, in July and September.

Central to assessing resource impacts arising from the pandemic, IHBC trustees implemented the resource review programme agreed in June, as reported in issue 37. Following recommendations by our Treasurer Jill Kerry, the first (virtual) sitting of a new 'Finance Working Group', responsible for monitoring our ongoing financial situation, took place the next month. That meeting led to an additional (July) board meeting that reviewed our situation and agreed just how the IHBC would secure the most sustainable future we could hope for in these turbulent times.

Having spent the summer reviewing the impacts of the pandemic on current and future finances, one essential interim mitigation has been the agreement by the IHBC's two full time staff – the Director and Operations Director – to each reduce their working week by one day. Consultants and others in our network are also prepared for pre-emptive belt-tightening. As these arrangements help bring our situation little more under control – and as awareness grows of the operational impacts of the pandemic – we are now better able to outline adjusted plans for member support, services and engagement.

To start, trustees have decided not to bow fully to the pandemic! While the date for our rescheduled AGM has been confirmed as 3 December, trustees also agreed that it should be offered exclusively as a virtual, on-line experience, and remain focussed on the AGM business as originally intended. The 2020 AGM will now see the promotion for adoption of both the IHBC's *Corporate Plan* for 2020-25, ('[CP25](#)'), the framework for our business planning for the period, and the new '[Articles of Association](#)', the foundation of our modernised governance.

Trustees considered the many challenges around bringing such substantial

content to a new-format AGM. They recognised first the extensive planning and consultations that already shaped these initiatives:

- CP25 is the logical extrapolation of more than 15 years of successfully delivered corporate plans
- The new 'Articles' – drawn up by our legal advisers and overseen by trustees and the National Office – are the conclusion to more than a decade of exploring our modernisation, including the '[IHBC+](#)' initiative of 'experimental evolution', culminating most recently with the '[Proposal for future Governance...](#)', approved at our [2019 AGM](#).

With those legacies of member engagement in mind, it was concluded that the IHBC could, with full confidence, take these proposals to members in December. Of course our NewsBlogs will continue to report on progress there in more detail.

Trustees also have monitored a slow but ultimately successful circumnavigation of the pandemic with the inauguration of a new MP's [All Party Parliamentary Group](#) (APPG) in the face of daunting constraints. Parliament's decision to re-cast its historic rules so that such Groups could be established online – not just in person in Westminster – finally permitted that inaugural meeting. Informed by the enthusiastic *pro-bono* support of advisers [Powerscourt](#), the inception of this APPG marks a whole new era in the IHBC's advocacy of 'Place' and conservation and its diverse benefits.

Appropriately the APPG is entitled '[Conservation, People and Places](#)', and its aim is...:

- *To support built and historic environment conservation as the means to deliver successful places, which are economically, environmentally and socially sustainable. This includes using heritage to help places adapt to the diverse needs of current and future communities, whilst supporting enterprise, transport connectivity, health, climate change efforts and quality of life.*

With the IHBC supporting the Secretariat, the APPG boasts [Layla Moran MP](#), foreign affairs spokesperson for the Liberal Democrats, as Chair, as originally anticipated. It also has an impressive early list of vice-chairs, including [Lord Kerlake](#) - better known to some members as the former head of England's Homes and Communities Agency, Bob Kerlake.

As well as the more recent progress above, trustees have also maintained their usual vigilance in the oversight of how more familiar activities have been adjusting to suit these pandemic-plagued times: the 2020 Virtual School of course, but also a spectacularly popular edition of [Context](#), examining aspects of the '*War on Damp*'; and our 2020 [Yearbook](#) – [released online](#) even before its hard-copy circulation to support CPD at the Virtual School – and with introductions from Layla Moran, as future APPG Chair, as well as Griff Rhys Jones no less!

Good news seldom stands alone however, and trustees also noted some of the more tragic news in recent years, the [untimely demise of David Lovie](#) – our Past President but also so much more. Inevitably this un-endingly busy conservation professional continued, right to the end, to advise and plan with the many communities he helped shape. So it was especially painful that he did not live to hear of his successful nomination for the [MARSH Award](#) for 'Community Contributions by a Retired Member of the IHBC'.

That said, more than any, he would appreciate how we will be celebrating his life through an obituary in the forthcoming Context. He would appreciate also the fact that our President Mike Brown continues his role for the second year of his term, a decision welcomed most warmly by our Trustees not least because of the substantial, pro-active roles he undertakes.

Trustees' general business

In addition to the above, trustees have continued to oversee many more familiar developments, many again often needing adjustment in light of the pandemic including:

- Settling in the new interim arrangements for the IHBC's Committee chairs in their now-virtual Committees, where needed:
 - Andrew Shepherd, previously Education Training and Standards Committee Chair, has now formally taken on responsibility for the Membership Committee and settled in. This means that David Kincaid could finally secure his long-planned retirement as Membership Committee Chair
 - Chris Wood, formerly of Historic England, has kindly taken on the Chair of the Education Training and Standards Committee in succession to Andrew, though he is conscious that he is still finding his feet in the IHBC's network.
- Trustees have also welcomed the formal launch of the new branding of the IHBC's '[CREATIVE Conservation Fund](#)'. Its inception offered early support for donations *via* our [expenses form](#), but since then it has increasingly benefitted from wider income streams, including the Virtual School booking arrangements that also offered an option to donate to the fund.
- In that context too, IHBC trustees have formally registered their warm thanks to the trustees of the Gus Astley Memorial Fund. They have transferred their remaining funds to the IHBC's '[CREATIVE Conservation Fund](#)' for disbursement as part of our Gus Astley Student Awards programme!
- Trustees also welcomed the formal signing of the new [Memorandum of Understanding](#) with the UK Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers ([ALGAO:UK](#)). This lays a firm foundation for more integrated advocacy on behalf of heritage infrastructure and values in local government across the UK and even beyond.
- The [Council+](#) meeting planned for December has had to be postponed again, sadly, as trustees agreed that under the reduced capacity of the National Office, running a new-format 'virtual' AGM alongside an experimental Council+ programme would raise too

many risks for our team and reputation. In fact that difficult decision helped reinforce the Board's commitment to the inclusive role that our Council+ forum – and its constitutional successor - will play in the Institute under its new governance. It was recognised that the extra time would ensure the creation of an experience that - though virtual –would be better tailored to its democratic principles.

- The annual suite of award celebrations planned for 2020 also have been delayed again, to 2021, but we hope to return to these then, when things may be more settled.
- Trustees also have been kept up to date on numerous smaller initiatives and activities that remain at the heart of our support for members, including digital developments that include a new and more accessible [Home Page](#) interface; the revived [Virtual MATE](#) programme led by consultant Ramona Usher; research into local authority capacity (funded by the IHBC) and list descriptions (funded by Historic England) as well as new [guidance](#) on the [ToolBox](#)
- The National Office also continued the Chair's call for thoughts and priorities for COVID-19 responses, following on from his NewsBlog call in [March](#), including informal discussions at a number of committee and panel meetings

New and newly accredited members

In line with constitutional procedures, and as recommended by our hard-working Membership Secretary Andrew Shepherd supported by his committee, the Board has agreed the following applications in line with their corresponding membership categories and Branches:

Full Members (Accredited in interdisciplinary conservation practice)

Joanne Curran (NI), Aimee Dobb (EM), Sophie Drew (LO), Angharad Hart (EA), Sam Jackson (LO), Fiona Russek (EA), Nicola Storey (LO)

Associate Members (Accredited in conservation practice)

Rupert Hilton (Management) (LO), Agustina Solassi (Intervention) (SC)

Affiliate membership (Non-accredited)

Rosie Adamson (LO), Dena Al-Nakeeb (LO), Kate Andrew (WM), Geoffrey Atkins (SW), Alessandro Bello (LO), George Bogojevic (YO), John Brown (OV), Christopher Brownhill (EA), Darron Carver (SE), Fiona Cobb (LO), Andrew Cooper (SC), Christopher Costelloe (SW), Peter Eccleston (NW), Kevin Fearnshaw (EM), Duncan Gregory (LO), Thomas W. Grillo (SO), Edmund Harris (SE), Jarrod Hill (SW), Duncan Hill (SW), Rupert Hilton (SW), Katherine Hilton (SW), Rick Hughes (EM), Tracy Jeffreys (WA), K Kiruthiga (Z), Sean Knight (EA), Gerard Livett (LO), Annabel Longfield-Reeve (YO), Glen McGowan (YO), Douglas McGlynn (SC), Eva Palacios (LO), Rachel Pickering (SC), Laura Polglase (LO), Adam Price (LO), Aidan Reynolds (NO), Simon Richard (SE), Paul Roddy (RI), Zoe Schofield (EA), Linda Simpson (SC), Morwenna Slade (SW), Matthew Smith (LO), Gary Spooner (SE), Dimitris Theodossopoulos (SC), Gareth Thomas (WA),

Matthew Thompson (YO), Jonathan Tudor (WA), Aimee Turner (SW), Ann Vanner (NW), John Willans (LO), Damian Williams (LO), Carys Aldous-Hughes (WA), Sophia Bix (EA), Luke Weston (SW), Lucy Ashcroft (NW), Stephen Athanasiou (SE), Graham Barulis (EA), Gary Beckwith (NO), Alfie Brooker (SW), Declan Cahill (NW), Robin Copeland (YO), Carol Cragoe (LO), Carol Desborough (EA), Robert George (SE), Nadine Graham (NI), Paul Gwilliam (YO), Judith Hamilton (NI), Alison Hollings (NW), Lucy Inskip (LO), Clare Jenkins (WA), Cornelius Kavanagh (SW), Jim Keegan (LO), Michael Lowndes (LO), George Nuth (EA), Andy Phelps (NW), Kirstie Robbins (LO), Jonathan Roberts (EM), Michael Royalton-Kisch (LO), Sean Taylor (LO), Iain Whittick (SW), Tristan Wilson (YO), Katie Fern Wylie (SW), Jonathan Čapek (EM), Susan Chan (YO), Iwona Dajnowicz (EA), Roland Martin (SE), Bhairavi Prasad Kaniyal (LO), Anna Shelley (SW), Jamie Wignall (EM), Niamh Carty (LO), Daniel Ratcliffe (SW), Felix Mayle (EM), Joanna Weaver (SO), Francesca Morri (SC), Piers Guynette (SE)

As usual, all have been welcomed and congratulated on their appointment to the corresponding membership categories and Branches noted above.

Branch updates, reports and our Branch Events NewsBlog

Trustee meetings necessarily focus on statutory, regulatory and related general duties, including corporate plan delivery and oversight of finance and risk.

Recognising these restrictions, our individual [Branch webpages](#) carry such updates as part of our national support for local member networks. Local Branch content should be sent to IHBC's IT consultant, Peter Badcock, at it@ihbc.org.uk.

Our website [NewsBlog](#) service also may carry relevant local Branch news *etc.*, with suggested content to be passed to our Professional Services Officer, Michael Netter, at service@ihbc.org.uk.

NB: All Branches are especially encouraged to announce their activities and publications on the [IHBC's LinkedIn Group](#), and take advantage of this open network to advertise their achievements across our digital networks.

Getting involved

Remember: The IHBC is always very keen to secure, support and of course benefit from new volunteers – Branch representatives and board members especially – and the best way to prepare your skills for these roles is to join your Branch or National Committees as a volunteer, as discussed below.

IHBC Volunteering & Governance: An update

A cover note from our Chair David McDonald:

The IHBC is a charitable trust with a Board of Trustees - called the Council - responsible for its management. It comprises the nationally elected officers, including officers that chair our national committees, and the members nominated by the Branches. Any full member wishing to become a trustee needs to be well acquainted with the Institute's policies and

ways of working. This can be achieved by any, or all, of the ways mentioned below, and by reference to our Yearbook and our website links from <https://www.ihbc.org.uk/>.

As we all know, the strength of the IHBC lies in the willingness of its members to contribute to its activities. The Institute is always pleased to hear from members willing to contribute their skills, time and experience, either at local or national level.

It is easy to become informed about the IHBC and involved in its processes through our NewsBlogs, Membership Eletter and our in-house publications, Context and our Yearbook all of which offer opportunities for comment and feedback.

A starting point for active involvement for IHBC members of all classes of membership may be at national and regional Branch levels, where we offer programmes of meetings and CPD that many will wish to attend, participate in and advise. There are opportunities, also, to contribute to the governance of our Branches. Details may be obtained from Branch contacts and secretaries listed at <https://www.ihbc.org.uk/branches/index.html>.

Our Annual School – when not postponed - gives members the opportunity to meet members from other regions as well as the Institute's national officers, who use this event to help keep in contact with the wider membership.

Those with particular expertise or interest in aspects of conservation or development of policy might like to consider joining one of the national panels or committees. Participation in a committee or panel can lead to further responsibility in that area or in the general governance of the Institute.

The IHBC has reviewed its corporate structure and introduced a mechanism to extend interest in and engagement with the governance of the Institute. Operating under the title 'IHBC+', this establishes a process of 'experimental evolution' in our governance, as our Past President Trefor Thorpe titled the process. It includes an expanded half-yearly meeting called 'Council+' which widens access and representation. Participation in Council+ is one way of tasting the responsibilities of the Institute's Body of Trustees, our constitutional Council.

In line with our current Corporate Plan our planned new constitution will embed the lessons learned from this and other aspects of the IHBC+ programme. That evolution will take its next substantial step at the [2020 AGM – scheduled as an online 'virtual' for 3 December](#) - when, following further extensive consultation, we hope to implement our new constitution.

Details of the legal duties and obligations of trustees and the various roles of the Institute's officers may be obtained from the IHBC Secretary, Jo Evans, at ihbcsecretary@ihbc.org.uk.