



IHBC e-letter: Issue 15

July 2013

New Council: 2013-14

This e-letter is being circulated following the Institute's 2013 AGM. It comes after a short break between e-letters during which time we have had two council meetings close together, on 21 March and 6 June, quickly followed by the IHBC's AGM on 21 June. Consequently updates from all are reported in this consolidated e-letter.

Annual General Meeting 2013

At the AGM the officers listed in the AGM papers were elected to the IHBC's Board, our Council, with the addition of David Kincaid as Policy Secretary. We are delighted to welcome all as elected trustees of the IHBC for 2013-14.

Thanks to Jo Evans and Sheila Stones

The AGM, and preceding council meetings, also paid tribute to the work and achievements of past Chair Jo Evans and past Vice Chair, Sheila Stones, both of whom have worked tirelessly for the institute since their election to those posts.

Jo, while also leading a busy life as a conservation officer, private consultant and mother of two, has not only helped the institute progress towards the more secure operating base we see in our accounts today, but has captured the human side of the IHBC's operations to remarkable effect in her chair's reports for *Context*. There she has a fan club there that many will envy!

Sheila, whose time as Vice Chair has been marked by a very active role in the London Branch – not least in helping on the Branch's excellent Annual School – as well as by important strategic contributions to our membership assessment processes, has also made huge contributions to the evolution of the organisation. Indeed this very e-letter came from a suggestion by Sheila!

At the AGM the IHBC's President, Trefor Thorpe, paid substantial and well-deserved compliments to both as they left behind their formal posts while still offering continued time and support for our work. Trefor presented each with small gifts as tokens of the IHBC's goodwill for their diligent efforts and goodwill throughout their terms, while the IHBC's appreciation and regard was confirmed through a resounding round of applause!

AGM motion to support IHBC's Affiliates

As well as populating the institute's senior tiers with some relatively new faces, the 2013 AGM also delivered a step-change in focus with a motion from Jo Evans calling on the IHBC to 'provide integrated and structured support for IHBC Affiliates to progress to full professional membership... to help address the reduced capacity and skills in local authorities to support training, education and career progress for future conservation professionals.'

The motion was passed unanimously and received with considerable satisfaction by individuals in the meeting.

In related discussions particular reference was made to the IHBC's ongoing Branch events that encourage Affiliates to apply, guiding them through the process. Details of these events, with supporting resources, will be posted on the IHBC's website (<http://ihbc.org.uk/events/>) as part of the executive's initial response to the motion.

Corporate Plans: 2010 and after

In both March and June the IHBC's National Office provided updates IHBC's Corporate Plan 2010-15, or 'CP10'. Substantial progress continued across a number of new areas – the matter of vocational qualifications is explored further below, for example – while the organisation also maintained its mainstay activities and member benefits, ranging from NewsBlogs, *Context* and Yearbook publications and, most immediately, the Annual School.

At both Council meetings Charles Strang, IHBC's Communications and Outreach Secretary, also highlighted the need for the Council as a whole, and IHBC members in general, to begin to engage with the early stages of the development of the institute's new Corporate Plan, just being considered, as required by the existing Plan.

A number of 'scatter-gun'-style headline issues had already been highlighted, and are listed at the end of this e-letter. Anyone with suggestions or observations for the next stage of our evolution should communicate them to Charles – at commuications@ihbc.org.uk - the IHBC's Director Sean O'Reilly, at

director@ihbc.org.uk, or with officers in their local Branch.

Schools: 2013 (Carlisle) and 2014: Edinburgh

Council meetings also received regular updates on the progress of the IHBC's central learning event for the year, its Annual School, both for the recently concluded School in Carlisle, on skills, and for the forthcoming one in Edinburgh, on 'The art of conservation', on 5-7 June 2014.

The soundness of the planning for the Carlisle School by the North (NO) Branch, in partnership with the National Office, was well proven across all the diverse parts of the School itself. The entire institute owes a huge debt of gratitude both to the Branch and especially to the organising committee of volunteers who put so much effort into the event. In particular, due to geographical peculiarities in the Branch, an especially large responsibility fell on the shoulders of IHBC member Richard Majewicz, so we may fairly single out his contribution above all those thanks across the event itself.

The Day School speakers, chairs and tour leads, as well as John Grundy as the speaker for the evening reception at Tullie House, also were thanked across the programme, but again deserve fulsome praise for their contributions. Once again the IHBC's Annual and Day Schools have demonstrated how they serve not only as a centre of learning, but also as critical networking for the sector as a whole.

The Saturday Skills Fair, presented in partnership with the National Heritage Training Group (NHTG), and opened also to early career interests outside the IHBC, also provided a very different pitch on skills from that usually explored by the IHBC. With the North of England Civic Trust managing the day, all seemed to enjoy the slightly different, and much more public, pitch of the day.

September 2013: Peripatetic council meets sedentary circus!

Our annual travelling council across the UK will in September set down in Bristol, as part of a programme hosted by the South West Branch, with the lead conference on 20th, on 'Characterisation', just launched on our NewsBlog

(<http://ihbconline.co.uk/newsarchive/?p=6063>) and with details and booking on our dedicated website at <http://swcc2013.ihbc.org.uk/>.

Apart from the learning and networking that are central to all IHBC's events the (other) real attraction for the conference is the venue, a listed church, St Paul's by James Allen, 1789-94, (<http://www.about-bristol.co.uk/chu-15.asp>) which we hope to also

see in use by its resident circus school, Circomedia (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Circomedia>).

This all promises to be a real experience in lots of ways, and at £38 for IHBC members, just another demonstration of how the IHBC invests in and benefits from its membership and volunteers.

Constitutional update

Following extensive discussions in and alongside Council, there has been a firm commitment by the IHBC's Council to progress the revision of the institute's constitution as a part of the governance review. This was under consideration in 2012, and has now been passed to our President Trefor Thorpe to provide advice to Council.

The immediate outcome of this will be a draft to be considered by Council in September. At this stage the draft is envisaged as an 'operational' revision, one following our current governance structures but varied to reflect legal, operational and structural changes that have taken place since the constitution was drafted more than a decade ago.

Vocational Qualifications

In June Council also received a report on the successful launch of the NVQ for conservation being offered through the accrediting agency ABBE, the Accrediting body for the Built Environment (<http://www.abbeqa.co.uk/>), and its agents. These were noted at the School as well, while further details are provided on our NewsBlog archive.

Bids for skills support: the HLF

Unfortunately, as Council in June heard, the IHBC's bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund's 'Skills for the Future' programme for a pilot project in Scotland did not succeed.

Sadly, like other bids we know of, targeted at specialist and non-craft built environment skills, the Fund's trustees were unable to register these as areas in special need of support, and this despite the critical condition of the training infrastructure for the sector. It was never a duty of local authorities to train future conservation professionals, but it is to their credit that one of their most important legacies lies in their contribution to the establishment of the skills and standards that gave rise to the IHBC.

Now that savage cutbacks mean that there is no credible or viable infrastructure in many local authorities to provide support, development and continuity for such public-minded and inter-

disciplinary skills, the sector is in dire need of real and dedicated support from the same heritage interests that rely on their standards to make their investments sustainable. Sadly, we still have a long way to go to make that case.

Council noted that the IHBC will be pursuing these matters in more detail in the near future, not least in terms of the support that the institute offers to skills development through our charitable activities not least, as referred to above for Affiliates, and as explored below, for students and those facing hardship.

Gus Astley Student Awards and School Bursaries

The charitable operations of the IHBC have been progressing rapidly over the period, as both Council meetings heard, and as the Carlisle School demonstrated. These include both membership support for those in need – especially low-waged and students volunteering their skills for learning opportunities – as well as prizes for successful Gus Astley Award students alongside bursary holders at the School. Altogether these generate huge dividends both for those in receipt of support as well as for the IHBC itself.

Many will have picked up on the more youthful demographic at the 2013 School, and not least at the AGM itself. The student award and bursaries – offered both nationally, under the oversight of IHBC member Bob Kindred, as well as through many Branches – are particularly important to encourage early career entrants to the sector.

Not only do these allocations represent critical investment and support in a sector all but ignored by most training, funding and heritage agencies, but they demonstrate the IHBC's commitment to the establishment of a sustainable future within our membership.

Consultations: 20+ since December

At the very core of the IHBC's priorities sits our work with policy and, specifically, consultations. More than 20 consultations have been logged formally between December and May, most benefiting from the enlightened and sharply honed hand of our consultations consultant James Caird.

These represent only a part of our advisory work supporting the sector. Through Branches, Committees, Officers and staff we also play an ongoing role in spurring, shaping and, on those occasions where some might cause damage, objecting to policies that impact on our cause.

Please remember too that we are always in need of further capacity and support – we have recently recruited Fiona Deaton as a

volunteer to help provide additional experience in legal aspects of our policy work for example. If you would like to offer your skills please contact your Branch Officers, who can often offer guidance on where experience may be gained locally, or our new policy Chair, David Kincaid, who may be contacted at policy@ihbc.org.uk.

Research and projects: from LAs to HESPR

The IHBC's research and project activities, mostly coordinated through the national office, have also been progressing well. These are especially important as they generate funding for the IHBC and our wider activities. This is a matter of direct concern to all members. Success in projects has helped keep our membership fees down so that today they remain, in real terms, about what they were in 2005, despite substantial expansion in benefits, services, public standing and charitable support for the most needy.

Recent projects include the Annual School as well as some Branch events where Branches seek that more substantial organisational support, alongside research work into English and, more recently Scottish, local authority conservation services. For the latter, in a report just concluding, we have benefited especially from Historic Scotland's enthusiasm for generating thoughts, discussions and opinions. We look forward to bringing that to a UK, and wider, audience on completion.

Council also has received reports on the more recent expansion of project-based services to members of HESPR, our recognition service for businesses, as these now receive digital updates on job and work opportunities as part of their membership benefits (see website for details). That is on top of the recent agreement to offer 1 courtesy digital job circulation per year, worth up to £400!

We have also been carrying out a skills-based survey into local authorities for English Heritage, noted on our website, while a number of other areas are under discussion for project work and development.

New members

At the meetings in March and June the following members were elected for the corresponding membership categories and branches. They are noted here with attendant congratulations to all, and welcomes to new members:

Full members

Ben Eley (LO); Lance Penman (SE); Katie Kershaw (WM); Roderick McDonald (SO); James Brotherhood (WA), Fiona Fisher (SC); Laurie Handcock (LO); Anthony Hoyte (SW); Joanna Sanderson (LO);

Diana Coulter (SO)

Affiliates

Adrian Attwood (LO); Dayle Bayliss (EA); Ranald Dods (SC); Michael Faulkner (EM); Rebecca Ferguson (WM); Andrew Graham (YO); Roger Gransmore (SW); Kate Hannelly (EM); Steve Harding (SO); Tim Jordan (SE); Amy McAuley (OV); Steve Newman (SO); Emma Ousbey (EA); Terry Pearce (SW); Brian Quinn (NI); Nick Shepherd (SE); Andrew Stevens (SC); Elisabetta Tonazzi (SE); Scott Waldon (LO); Mike Williams (WA); Rachel Williams (SW) Gill Allmond (NI); Jamie Barnes (SW); John Hugh Beattie (NI); Kathryn Jukes (YO); Jen Marriott (NO); Thomas Marston (EA); Tarnia McAlester (WM); Frank Muir (LO); Emma Nock (WM); Helene Petersen (RI); Samuel Thornton (SO); Angela Weate (NW); Rob Anderson (NW); Joe Croser (EM); Sara Davidson (SO); Richard Ellis (EA); Richard Fereday (EA); Amy Harkness (NO); Catherine Jeater (SE); Christina Kefala (OV); Stephen Palmer (YO); Dan Roberts (WM); Alex Robinson (SW); Alan Tierney (SE); Andrew Wallace (SE); Penny Ward (EM); Nadia Watson (YO) Eryl Williams (WA); Martyn Wilshaw (NW); Samantha Allen (SO); Michael Davis (SC); Eisa Esfanjary (SC); Louise Priestman (SE); Jaanika Reinald (YO); Susan Samuel (NW); Hannah Stevens (SW); Shelley Verdon (LO); Kate Walker (NW); Marta Zurakowska (SC)

Associates

Alison Bishop (WM); Margaret Bennett (EM)

IHBC'S NEXT CORPORATE PLAN: Interim headline issues

By March discussions on the future Corporate plan had touched on the following matters, and any further points should be communicated to Charles Strang, at communications@ihbc.org.uk; Sean O'Reilly, at director@ihbc.org.uk, or with officers in your local IHBC Branch.

- Honorary members
- Members outside the UK– (World members)
- Climate change
- CSR strategy
- Sustainability
- Members in need of better and more structured support for careers and professional development
- Local authorities seeking guidance on membership/skills
- How we signify/publicise competence, and what it means
- Social media & softening of professional boundaries

- Governance, especially around member and volunteer contributions and trustee skills development
- Partnering strategies
- Educational priorities and training priorities (inc project bidding & vocational development)
- Raise construction and partnering strategies
- Developing HESPR
- Capacity in IHBC, and how to improve it

IHBC Volunteering & Governance: A reminder

A cover note from our Chair Mike Brown:

The strength of the IHBC lies in the willingness of its members to step forward and volunteer. The trustees are always pleased to hear from members willing to contribute their skills, time and experience, either at local or national level. Council has asked our President, Trefor Thorpe to conduct a review of our governance arrangements and recommend improvements to them and our election procedures. In the meantime here is a reminder of the current arrangements:

The Institute of Historic Building Conservation is a registered charity and limited company operating under the oversight of our Council, a Board of Trustees who are also the directors of the company. The IHBC's Council is supported by an executive body, the National Office, and advised by council members and volunteers operating through our Committee and Branch structures. See our website and 'Yearbook' for details.

Each year the IHBC's Council members are elected at our Annual General Meeting. Council Members are the trustees of the Institute and include elected Officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary), Branch Representatives and Committee Chairs. Only Full Members of the IHBC enjoy voting rights on the Council.

All IHBC members and supporters are encouraged to contribute to the operations of the institute, locally and nationally. Such contributions serve as suitable preparation for trusteeship.

All posts are open for election each year. Anyone interested in developing skills for a post as a trustee should review the relevant job descriptions and specifications, and also consult with a relevant post-holder, Branch or Council member, or the National Office, on how to best to progress skills.

Anyone interested in trusteeship should:

- *Get involved with IHBC Branches and/or relevant national Committees*
- *Develop a strong understanding of the IHBC's national operations by monitoring regularly our membership and news information services, including the NewsBlogs, Membership eletter and our in-house publications, Context and our Yearbook*
- *Familiarise themselves with the duties of trustees in general, and of the corporate operations of the Institute (see http://ihbc.org.uk/about/corp_papers/corp_papers.html)*
- *Familiarise themselves with the duties of any particular post they are interested in, in line with the guidance provided on the website (including business plans and, where available, job descriptions)*
- *Be prepared to offer a minimum of 8 days per year in the service of the institute, typically working days*
- *Recognise that, by law, trustees are not allowed personal gain from their role, and are obliged to represent the national interests of the IHBC.*