



IHBC Membership eletter: Issue 23 June 2015

Recent achievements

- IHBC's 2015 Annual School successfully hosted by our East Anglia Branch (<http://ihbconline.co.uk/newsarchive/?p=10542>)
- IHBC's Corporate Plan for 2015-20 – 'CP20' – adopted at 2015 AGM (<http://ihbconline.co.uk/newsarchive/?p=10464>)
- Officer appointments as per AGM papers, with Kathy Davies as new IHBC Vice chair
- 'Annual Report' and accounts for 2013-14 approved (<http://ihbconline.co.uk/newsarchive/?p=10542>)
- 'Council+' has its first meeting on the Sunday after the Annual School (<http://ihbconline.co.uk/newsarchive/?p=10166>)
- IHBC's 'Toolbox' launched as Beta site with further developments under progress, including launches of Research Notes and Guidance Notes (<http://ihbconline.co.uk/toolbox>)
- HESPR branding and profile updated, including new leaflet and website, now with 26 practices and cited in government guidance (<http://www.ihbc.org.uk/hespr>)
- Associate application forms launched, with 'Full and Associate' form updated (<http://ihbconline.co.uk/newsarchive/?p=10536>)
- IHBC's first two Marsh Awards launched for 2016: 'Retired IHBC members' and 'Successful learners' (<http://ihbconline.co.uk/newsarchive/?p=10499>)

From IHBC+ to F&R+ to Council+: Headline updates

The IHBC's third meeting of our 'Finance and Resources +' committee took place by tele-conference on 3 June. F&R+ (pronounced 'F and R plus') is the meeting of the IHBC's Board of Trustees, our constitutional Council, and so focussed on preparations for the AGM and the School, as well as the linked 'Council+' meeting following the School.

The meeting of Council+ (pronounced 'Council plus'), in contrast to the F&R+, was the wider engagement forum recently instituted

under our IHBC+ programme. Trustees were delighted to welcome a wide range of IHBC members at all levels of membership, notably Affiliates as well as some Full Members less fully involved in the UK-wide operations of the institute.

The Council+ programme progressed in three stages that were devised to generate comment and initiatives from delegates informed by the structures and operations of the institute as follows:

- Platform, where the President and trustees offered updates on their roles and current activities
- Forum, where national secretaries – the Chairs of national committees, took key issues to the Council+ table for debate, discussion and feedback, and
- Prospects, where Council+ members looked ahead to the arrangements for building on the momentum of the first meeting.

Council+ was a hugely successful event and one that officers are keen to build on. Managing expectations, of course, was also a priority, as IHBC+ seeks to enhance voluntary input and capacity in the context of delivering the Corporate Plan, discussed further, below.

Members lists for Council+ are still in fluctuation as some Branches are in the process of looking at how best to engage with the new element in our governance. However trustees were especially delighted to welcome for the day, in addition to the Branch nominations, those nominated by trustees, including: Tom Hunter (SC Branch) Orkney Islands Council, Historic Environment Officer; Alice Yates (LO Branch), BPT officer (Heritage of London Trust Operations) and freelance journalist, including with the Financial Times; and Kathryn Banfield (EM Branch), Manager of the Heritage Skills Centre in Lincoln.

Further updates on Council+ will be announced as the programme develops, but if anyone is interested in developing skills with the IHBC do contact your Branch or, for national matters on membership, policy, education, or communication, the relevant IHBC officer or staff member. Details are to be found on our website and in the IHBC's Yearbook.

Branch Affiliate support, IHBC profile & 'LETS' Officer update

The IHBC's Learning Education Training and Standards ('LETS') Liaison Support Officer Kate Kendall presented reports to both F&R+ and Council+ meetings. To date the local Branch Affiliates support seminars, developed with the IHBC's Branch network to help those

applying for IHBC accreditation, has reached some 172 prospective applicants at events from Stirling and Belfast to Cardiff, Birmingham, London, York and Horsham. These have been a resounding success with feedback comments that include:

- 'It was a really useful morning and made the application process a lot clearer. It has given me the encouragement to apply' and
- 'Very informative and useful session. Kate and her colleagues have inspired me to get on with completing the 'full membership' application file which has been on my desk for too long now!'

Kate has also reported to trustees and Council+ on the extensive outreach and profile-raising programme that has been a complementary part of her role as support for national and Branch-led activities and partnerships. The programme has included various presentations, stands and attendances at critical events such as the CIfA's annual conference, in Cardiff; the Listed Property Owners Club Exhibition in Harrogate, with c.1000+ in attendance; the National Heritage Training Group conference, in Lincoln as well as PLACE Alliance's Big Meet in London in February, with Ed Vaizey speaking and c.250 in attendance, and, where she was joined by staff and Branch volunteers, at Regen 2015 in Liverpool for two days 24-25 March, with c.1500 delegates, as well as the 2015 Natural Stone Show Stone, Excel, London, with c.2,000 attendees.

Clearly Kate's presence has made a huge difference to the capacity and profile of the IHBC across the wide spectrum of constituencies that, previously, the institute could only engage with at the most informal of levels. All or most of these events can be tracked through reports on our NewsBlogs and/or twitter feeds.

AGM and new officer update: Vice chair and President

The AGM approved the Annual Report and Accounts for 2013-14, and appointed all officers in line with the nominations advertised in the AGM papers. New officers included Kathy Davies who has now been formally elected as the institute's new vice chair following the retirement of Emilia MacDonald. Trefor welcomed the officers appointed at the AGM, and thanked all outgoing officers for their hard work, not least Emilia.

On her appointment, Kathy Davies said: 'Hello from me, the new vice-chair. I'm very pleased to be able to undertake this role and I really hope I can have a positive impact.'

'I'm particularly concerned about the lack of resources available to local authorities and the increasing demands being made on conservation professionals. I think we have to accept that the climate has changed and we need to change with it but we need to have a voice in this change.'

'I had the opportunity to talk to quite a few people at Annual School to try and establish what your concerns are. And I would like to hear from more of you about your ideas for what you would like me to prioritise. So please do contact me by email, at vicechair@ihbc.org.uk, or through the IHBC's National Office.'

Trefor also announced that following extensive discussions about his successor over the past couple of years, he would nominate David McDonald to take the role of the institute's President. This was part of a process that would be decided on by trustees at their next meeting in September.

CP20: Adoption

The final draft of 'CP20' – the IHBC's Corporate Plan for 2015-20 – was well received by members at its presentation to the AGM, and formally adopted there. The next stage will be the specification of details targets, schedule and resource allocations at the trustees meeting of F&R+ in September.

New professional indemnity service in place: MFL Affinity

Our new provider of customised Professional Indemnity (PI) services to members is McParland Finn Ltd (MFL Affinity Insurance Brokers) which launched its service by hosting a stand at the School. Representatives reported very positive feedback and enquiries from members, while that feedback will help tailor the details of their arrangements, soon to be advertised on our website, and which include:

- Civil Liability policy wording offering wide cover
- Brief and easy to understand proposal forms
- Competitive premiums with optional finance facilities
- Risk management and claims advice
- Free legal helpline, provided by independent solicitors
- Free in house contract and collateral warranty vetting
- Full quotation, mid-term adjustment and renewal service

Annual School 2015: Norwich – Feedback and updates

The 'Cultural connections: conserving the diversity of place', so kindly and professionally hosted by our East Anglia Branch, was

another resounding success, not least in its digital reach.

(<http://ihbconline.co.uk/newsarchive/?p=10538>)

Throughout the programme there were heartfelt public and private thanks to organisers, volunteers and staff, as well as to the speakers, sponsors and exhibitors, not least Historic England for its guidance and support on CPD priorities. Nearly 200 people enjoyed the benefits of the programme in person, with many more contributing and learning online as part of the 'digital' School. For more details see our NewsBlogs

(<http://ihbconline.co.uk/newsarchive/>), which report on our digital Storify resources, and other communications such as

<https://twitter.com/hashtag/ihbcnorwich>

New members

A new round of members came to the virtual-table for the online meeting of F&R+, and were all approved by trustees on the recommendation of our Membership Secretary. A particular welcome was offered to our first Associate member, Aimee Felton, past winner of our Gus Astley Student Award and senior conservation architect at Donald Insall Associates.

All others were also welcomed and congratulated on their appointment to the corresponding membership categories and Branches below:

Full members

Neil Moore (NI), Emma Fairhurst (NW), Kristian Kaminski (LO)

Associate

Aimee Felton (LO)

Affiliates

Rosie Adamson (LO), Daniel Ayre (SW), Deborah Baker (NW), Michael Beare (LO), Heather Berry (LO), Bernadette Bone (NW), Andy Carpenter (SW), Jen Coates (LO), Claire Crofts (SE), Ashley Davies (WA), Zinnie Denby-Mann (SC), Steve Dore (SE), James Drew (WA), Dave Eade (YO), Oliver Empson-Ridler (LO), Monica Filby (LO), Peter Grills (SW), Spencer Hall (LO), Mike Hazeldine (EM), Corey Lane (WM), Robert Loader (LO), Katharine Marchant (LO), Olivia Mayell (SE), Jody O'Reilly (SO), Gianluca Pesce (SW), Georgie Pickett (EA), Emilie Ravenscroft (EM), Thomas Rumley (EM), Hugh Taylor (LO), Jonathan Todd (NI), Hannah Walker (LO), Daniel Waugh (NW), Simon Willcox (EA), Daniel Windwood (EM), Glenn Young (YO), Kate Bellwood (NW), Steve Berry (WA), Angela Creswick (YO), Keri Dearmer (SE), Eleanor Grace (LO), Philip Harris

(SO), Alison Hinckley (EM), Andrew Lloyd (WM), Lazron Matia (WA), Elaine Walters (SO), Alice Yates (LO)

Marsh Awards: Launch for 2016 Awards with £500+ for winners

The Norwich School also saw the launch of the two IHBC Marsh Awards following agreement by trustees:

- The IHBC's Marsh Award for Community Contribution (Retired Member) celebrates the contribution of a retired IHBC member to the community (for example through involvement in building preservation trusts, neighbourhood planning, civic and local trusts with heritage interests).
- The IHBC's Marsh Award for Successful Learning in Heritage Skills recognises the contribution of an individual for their significant learning in traditional building activities and craft skills.

As IHBC President Trefor Thorpe noted at their announcement in Norwich's Great Hospital on 18 June, with the IHBC's development of the awards programme – which will culminate in presentations at the Annual School in Worcester in June, 2016 – the institute will engage with prospective key partners to help raise the profile both of our members and of conservation as whole.

Current details of the Awards are carried in our dedicated website at <http://ihbc.org.uk/marshawards>

Retired members

Trustees at F&R+ also agreed a new formal, non-constitutional, membership category in the IHBC to clarify the position of retired members inside the institute's membership structures. New arrangements have been brought in to reflect the fact that retired members of the IHBC are not subject to the IHBC's CPD and other regulatory controls as they are no longer in practice. Consequently they automatically receive a 50% reduced rate in their membership fees.

As the institute did not previously register this category in its public structures, new arrangements to register the professional status of retired members have been adopted. Over the summer retired members benefiting from the reduced subscription rate will be advised personally of the new arrangements including, where appropriate, the requirement to register their retired status with the IHBC's mandatory new post-nominals 'RetiredIHBC'.

Joint 'Practice Principles' with Historic Towns Forum

Trustees have also approved progress on a proposed programme to develop joint 'Practice Principles' with the IHBC's sector partners, the Historic Towns Forum. This will help build up the institute's suite of resource information and guidance notes, which today includes the work that Bob Kindred is already doing as the institute's Research Consultant. These are linked under the new practitioners 'Toolbox' (<http://ihbconline.co.uk/toolbox>), launched during the School and now operating as a fully-operational Beta website.

Branch updates and reports at F&R+

F&R+ meetings focus on statutory duties as well as corporate and regulatory oversight, including finance and risk. Branch updates are noted as papers circulated under AOB where appropriate, as current details should be posted on the relevant Branch pages on the IHBC's website.

Branches, or their representative trustees, may pass reports and updates to the IHBC's IT consultant, Peter Badcock, at it@ihbc.org.uk for posting on the Branch pages of the IHBC's websites

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.

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. The outcome for this has been our 'IHBC+' programme of 'experimental evolution'. This programme has been designed to operate within our current constitution, so no significant changes are needed there until the lessons from IHBC+ can be fully understood.

So 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 Branches.

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 develop skills, knowledge and experience relevant to the post in question.

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://www.ihbc.org.uk/page63/page67/index.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.*
- *For information on particular posts please contact the IHBC's National Office, IHBC Secretary Jo Evans - at ihbcsecretary@ihbc.org.uk - or the incumbent or retiring officers and ask for the job description for any relevant post.*