



· INSTITUTE · OF · HISTORIC ·
BUILDING · CONSERVATION

EAST MIDLANDS BRANCH

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Annual General Meeting



**Friday, 4th September 2009
at Harlaxton Manor, near Grantham**

Programme of Events

2.00 pm	Arrival & refreshments
2.30 pm	Tour of the gardens, described as a mid-19 th century prospective park and gardens with contemporary Jacobean/ Baroque garden buildings, walled kitchen garden and house. Many of these are listed buildings that are at risk and under repair.
4.30 pm	Buffet tea in the Gold Room and Conservatory followed by
5.30 pm	Branch AGM - all are welcome to attend
6.30 pm	Close

Unlike in previous years **we are having to charge £5** for the afternoon visit to the gardens and this will include refreshments and buffet. There is also **a restriction on numbers** attending the afternoon visit, so if you do want to come along please fill in and return the booking form sent to you in the post, also available on the Branch page of the IHBC web-site, or use it to send your apologies.

More information on the gardens and its many structures can be found on pages 10 & 11 and 46 - 50 of the Heritage at Risk Register 2009 and also at: www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.21007.

The Branch AGM is open to all, without any charge, but refreshments will not be provided.

The Gregory Arms in Harlaxton Village is open at lunch time between 12.00 and 2.30 and after 5.30 for bar snacks and meals (www.thegregory.co.uk).

Directions to the Venue

Harlaxton College is situated on the west side of the A1 about 2 miles south-east of Grantham on the A607 Grantham to Melton Mowbray road.

The main gates, directly opposite the Gregory Arms public house, are normally closed so access to the College is gained via Harlaxton Village and Manor Drive.

For those with Sat-Nav, try: NG32 1AG, and for those without, a map showing the directions and the location of Harlaxton Hall can be seen on their website (www.ueharlax.ac.uk/about_us/MapsandDirections.cfm).

AGM Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the 2008 Annual General Meeting
3. Officers' and Other Reports and Financial Statement
4. Election of Officers

Chair

Vice Chair

Secretary

Treasurer

Branch Representative to Council

Membership Officer

Education Representative

5. Election of Branch Committee
6. 2009-10 Business Plan - see separate document
7. Any Other Agreed Business

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting at
Stoke Rochford Hall, Stoke Rochford
Friday, 5th September 2008**

Present:

Robert Walker, (chair), Stephen Bradwell, Jane Roylance, Fiona Newton, Rose Thompson, Roy Lewis, Arthur Ward, Jill Vernon, Liz Mayle, James White, Sara Crofts, Mary Anderson, Martin Jones, Paul Clarke, Vincent Shacklock, Chloe Oswald, Peter Chowns, Rosalind Willatts, David Boyson, Liz Bates, Beryl Lott, Rob Lawton, Jenny Timothy, Rachel Booth, Bob Stewart, Karen Tomlinson, Karen Jensch, Richard Spooner, Elizabeth Bryan, Richard Smith, David Ashton-Hill & Mark Parsons.

Apologies:

David Chetwyn, David Lovie, Sean O'Reilly, Devon DeCelles, Jim Crane, Barry Joyce, Simon Butler, Ramona Usher, Allan Morrison, Diana Evans, Ruth Connolly, Elizabeth Campbell, Debbie Maltby, Chris McKinney, Michael Taylor, Jason Mordan, Martin Tincknell, Philip Grover, James Edgar, Alan Harvey, David Trubshaw & David Bullen

Minutes of the 2007 AGM

The Minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting, proposed by David Boyson and seconded by Elizabeth Mayle and carried unanimously.

Officers and County Reps Reports

Robert Walker had nothing further to add to his report other than to note the sad death of Ray Ayres shortly after the Branch's visit to Taylor's Bell Foundry in Loughborough, that had been so well organised by Anthony Gimpel from Charnwood Borough Council.

Robert also thanked Rachel Booth for travelling to the Branch meetings at Newark to represent the Northamptonshire members and also to Derbyshire Branch members who were giving a considerable amount of their time to organise the Buxton Annual School.

In addition to his report, Roy Lewis commented on the growing profile of the IHBC at national level ('punching above its weight') and also the quality of IHBC responses to various Government consultations, largely due the work of James Caird. Roy noted that the final responses were available on the IHBC web-site and were a useful source of information for members.

David Boyson added to his report by saying that he was always interested to hear of potential members.

James White as County Rep for Leicestershire noted the positive progress that was being made towards re-opening a Swithland slate quarry.

To add to Liz Mayle's report from Lincolnshire, Arthur Ward from Lincoln City explained the progress being made on an extensive THI in the City, the first phase of which included extensive public realm works, and the forthcoming publication of the

Townscape Character Assessment project which in due course would be made available for use by development control officers, developers and the public.

Stephen Bradwell presented late reports from Jason Mordan, Nottinghamshire County rep and local IHBC representative on ALGAO, and David Trubshaw, IHBC representative on the Leicester City Council Conservation Advisory Panel (attached to the Minutes).

Treasurer's Report

Rose Thompson presented her first report as Branch Treasurer.

Rose summarised the current Branch accounts, noting the opening balance of £691.21 at 1st October 2007; expenditure over the year was £675.04 compared to an income of £510.11. This left a closing balance of £526.28, although this may be subject to some minor alterations as a result of late changes to the AGM expenditure.

Business Plan

Rose Thompson then moved to the Business Plan, noting, in particular, minor changes to expenditure items and referring to the proposal to hold only one 'cheap and cheerful' event in the forthcoming year due the Branch's commitment to the Annual School.

Robert Walker explained that the format of the business plan followed the model recommended by IHBC Council.

James White noted that Leicester City was about to publish its Buildings at Risk Strategy and as the problem of BaR had been raised at previous Branch meetings by Liz Mayle, perhaps this was a suitable topic for a future event. It was agreed to discuss the idea in more detail at the future Branch meetings.

Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement and the Business Plan was proposed by Elizabeth Bryan and seconded by Bob Stewart and carried unanimously.

Election of Officers

Stephen Bradwell read out the nominations received for the Officer posts, these were:

- Chair - Robert Walker (nominated: Richard Tuffrey/seconded: Chloe Oswald);
- Vice Chair - Jane Roylance (Mary Anderson/David Bullen);
- Treasurer: Rose Thompson (David Bullen/Chloe Oswald);
- Secretary: Steve Bradwell (Elizabeth Bryan/Rachel Booth);
- Branch Representative: Roy Lewis (Philip Grover/David Bullen);
- Membership Secretary: David Boyson (Chloe Oswald/Richard Tuffrey); and
- Education Representative: post vacant.

Robert Walker invited nominations for the post of Education representative. The post provides a point of contact between the IHBC Education Committee and the Branch and with local groups to promote training skills, the post holder may also need to attend any relevant local meetings.

There was some debate regarding the need for an Education representative. In response Roy Lewis thought it a very important role not only to provide the link between the national and local levels but also to promote the profession in the region, noting that there was no longer any relevant courses in the region following the closure of the Derby University course.

Vincent Shacklock raised the prospect of running a Masters course at Lincoln University but as there was unlikely to be a budget it would need to rely on support from any local professionals prepared to offer their time to lecture prospective students. This proposal was well received by the meeting, with David Ashton-Hill noting that he was prepared to consider offering his services as a lecturer.

Robert Walker thought this a welcome initiative that needed further consideration at future Branch meetings.

The Election of the Officers was approved by the Meeting, nominated by Elizabeth Bryan and seconded by Rob Lawton.

Election of Committee

Stephen Bradwell then read out the nominations for the following:

General Committee Members:

- Jenny Timothy (Rachel Booth/Peter Chowns);
- Chloe Oswald (Debbie Maltby/Rose Thompson);
- Fiona Newton (Alan Morrison/David Boyson);

County Representatives:

- Lincolnshire County rep: Elizabeth Mayle (Robert Walker/Stephen Bradwell);
- Nottinghamshire County rep: Jason Mordan (Stephen Bradwell/Bob Stewart);
- Derbyshire County rep: Chris McKinney (Alan Morrison/Chloe Oswald);
- Northamptonshire County rep: Rachel Booth (Jane Jennings/Rosalind Willatts);
- Leicestershire County rep: James White (David Boyson/Richard Spooner).

The Election of the Branch representatives and Committee Members was approved by the Meeting, nominated by David Boyson and seconded by Arthur Ward.

Buxton Annual School

Before running the promotional video, Robert Walker outlined the work that had taken place so far in organising the Annual School, and stressed the importance of making sure that this was a successful and cutting-edge event.

He went on to say that a keynote speaker, Sir Martin Doughty of Natural England, had been engaged and that David Boyson was working on an extensive programme of potential speakers and topics but was open to further suggestions.

Mark Parsons noted the work of BREAM, which was building up a portfolio of work on the re-use of old buildings, and suggested that a representative from BREAM would be a useful speaker for the Annual School.

Robert Walker also noted the importance of holding a profitable event and he thanked

Chloe Oswald for her work, in particular in securing CgMs as main sponsor and Purcell Miller Tritton as drinks sponsor.

Any Other Business

Fiona Newton introduced the IHBC's HESPR (Historic Environment Service Providers Recognition) which was designed to recognise and promote companies operating in any area of historic environment conservation. The service would act as a first 'port of call' for potential customers seeking specialist conservation services and it would also help to regulate and maintain standards of service.

In closing the AGM Robert Walker offered his thanks to Bob Stewart for arranging the event at Stoke Rochford and for his informative talk on the restoration works and also to all those attending the day's event and the AGM.

Robert also spoke about the Annual School, inviting any IHBC members interested in advertising or sponsoring events at the Annual School to make themselves known and likewise anyone else interested in helping with the School, otherwise people were urged to book early for Buxton.

Finally Robert offered an open invitation to members to attend future Branch meetings at Newark.

In the absence of any further business the meeting was closed at 6.55pm.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORTS

Nottinghamshire County Report

The Conservation Officers Forum meets quarterly. It is chaired by the County Council Senior CO and well attended by district COs and British Waterways however attendance by others including English Heritage, the Diocese Advisory Committee Secretary and National Trust has been more sporadic. There have been three meetings since last September hosted by Mansfield DC, Notss CC (at Rufford Abbey), Newark and Sherwood (at Epperstone). The meetings followed a standard agenda and were followed by visits to appropriate developments and conservation projects including, Mansfield Townscape Heritage Initiative area, Rufford Abbey Buildings At Risk repairs (Mill, Western Gates and Urns), Epperstone Manor development.

Staffing levels have remained relatively constant within the local authorities with the exception of Newark and Sherwood District (Amy Scoffield - maternity leave; Leigh Weston – move to York City – replaced by Claire Edson). Richard Scoffield joined Bassetlaw District Council to head up the Planning Policy and Conservation Section and has begun developing a dedicated conservation budget. At the time of writing the conservation officer post at Rushcliffe Borough Council has been advertised in advance of the retirement of Rick Simpkin.

Mansfield DC Historic Areas Grant schemes which include funding from English Heritage and Notts. County Council, continue (2007 – 2010). Newark and Sherwood continue to offer a historic buildings small grant to home owners (up to £2,500). Notts. County Council's Building Better Communities initiative focussed on environmental improvements across the county has funded the restoration of several listed war memorials and the initiative has been extended for three years. Projects that have received HLF funding include the county council's Bestwood Winding Engine project (£1.2 million from HLF, £2.8 mil overall); City Council's restoration of Wollaton Hall and the improvements to Grade II* listed Retford Museum (Bassetlaw DC). Other funding has been sourced for projects including the restoration of the Mill, Gates and urns at Rufford Abbey (ERDF).

The recent opening of a local branch of CgMS consultants based in Newark and headed up by Philip Grover (previously at Oxford Brookes) is welcomed and worthy of note.

Buildings At Risk levels have remained relatively constant over the past 12 months, some new entries have come on to the EH register and there has been one 'loss' (Bath Mill, Mansfield – recently demolished). There is plenty to be optimistic about with a number of schemes under development with real prospects of solving some long term problems such as: Home Farm, Nuthall (very visible nr J26 M1); North Wing of Saracen's Head, Southwell, Drakeholes Lodges, Everton; Epperstone pinfold. The conversion of the Northgate Brewery, Newark is approaching completion, and several BARs in Mansfield have recently been sold and subsequently repaired, and a scheme is developing for 41 Pilcher Gate, Nottingham, previously under threat of demolition.

JASON MORDAN

EM ALGAO

Since last September there have been three meetings of the Association of Archaeological Officers hosted by Heritage Lincs; Northants CC; Leicestershire CC. The morning meeting has a standard agenda with presentations and discussions on various subjects in the afternoon. The proposals in the Heritage Protection reforms regarding the Historic Environment Records have been the subject of some presentations and discussions. The development of a Heritage At Risk project by Heritage Lincs was also of particular interest to conservation officers.

JASON MORDAN

Leicester City Council's Conservation Advisory Panel

Meetings of Leicester City Council's Conservation Advisory Panel continue to be held on a monthly basis and, since commencing as IHBC representative last October, I have attended approximately two-thirds of the meetings; as a previous conservation officer at Leicester, it has certainly been interesting sitting on the other side of the table!

Over the past year, a range of issues have been considered, ranging from householder proposals to major redevelopment schemes, but trying to ensure that the heritage "voice" is heard can be a struggle, particularly in respect of the larger regeneration schemes - a case in point being the proposed demolition of the former Thomas Cook hotel in the heart of a recently declared conservation area.

DAVID TRUBSHAW

IHBC East Midlands Branch Committee 2008 - 09

Chair

Robert Walker

Vice Chair

Jane Roylance

Secretary

Stephen Bradwell

Branch Representative to IHBC Council

Roy Lewis

Treasurer

Rose Thompson

Membership Secretary

David Boyson

County Reps

Derbyshire Chris McKinney

Leicestershire James White

Lincolnshire Liz Mayle

Northamptonshire Rachel Booth

Nottinghamshire Jason Mordan

Education Rep

Philip Grover (co-opted to Committee)

General Committee Member

Fiona Newton

Jenny Timothy

Chloe Oswald

Officers' Reports 2008 - 09

Chair's Report

As my two year's as Chair draws to a close I can hardly believe how quickly the time has passed and that, in particular, during this time the IHBC Annual School at Buxton has been organised, held and is now history!

And what a piece of history! Great venue, great speakers, great weather and, if the responses received so far are indicative, then not only did we break all records with bookings but the organisation was considered by the majority of respondents to be excellent. The many hours put in freely by the Organising Committee will hopefully have produced a healthy balance sheet!

I think it's important to acknowledge just how much work the Organising Committee put in. I'm indebted to Chris McKinney for reminding me that the Organising Committee first met on the 13th July **2007** in Matlock and that there were a total of 20 meetings mainly held in Buxton, Derby or Bolsover, culminating with the final meeting to review how it all went on the 2nd July 2009.

Given that usually at least 8 of the Committee could attend an Organising Committee meeting and each meeting lasted on average 3 hours then even using this conservative estimate it represents nearly 500 hours spent organising the Annual School. Two years of hard work by a great bunch of people who really got on well together!

And then there are the additional hours put in by an equally hard working happy band of volunteers! Many of the volunteers initially acted as 'chasers' to chivvy along the speakers, to ensure that the Organising Committee had everything it needed. Then they were joined by others to help set up and take things down in and around the venues in Buxton and to direct, control and cajole delegates at the Annual School to ensure it all ran smoothly and to time. Helping in meaningfully named teams like 'Roadies', 'Sheepdogs', 'Hi-De-Hi Campers', 'Water Babes', 'Crowd Control' and 'Flying Squad' this bright lot could be seen sporting the specially commissioned IHBC hi-vis vests. More about the vests later!

The Branch Business Plan aimed to provide a well organised, relevant, stimulating and profitable Annual School. I think we can say we achieved all of these aims. The success of the Buxton Annual School reflects well on the Branch and has been acknowledged by Seán O'Reilly, Director of the IHBC, in an email thanking all the organisers.

I too would like to thank the hard work of the Buxton Annual School 2009 Organising Committee and the many Branch volunteers who stepped forward to help with a variety of tasks. I'm not going to single out anybody as all have worked so hard and all deserve praise. Watch the video on YouTube if you want to experience a little of the flavour of Buxton and find out who helped organise the event! Follow either of these links:

<http://school09.ihbc.org.uk/page5/page5.html>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nvaScXZNfTI>

And of course my thanks also has to go to the speakers and class tutors for their contribution to making the event a success and the sponsors, exhibitors, advertisers and delegates who had enough confidence in the Annual School to fill all the seats, exhibition areas and space in the new IHBC 'zero-carbon' delegate bags! And this at such difficult times for us all whether in the public, private, educational or charitable sector.

Not surprisingly although the Branch Committee has continued with its regular meetings, events have been limited to the Branch AGM and visit to Harlaxton. This was the modest target we set in our Business Plan so as not to distract from the main event – Buxton. I want to thank Liz Mayle for this and hope the event is interesting and well attended.

As in previous years I have been very pleased to see a number of non-committee members coming along to our Branch Committee meetings at The Fox & Crown in Newark. Hopefully they too have been impressed by the quality and variety of subjects discussed and to see how many Committee Members regularly give up a Tuesday night to attend the meetings.

Apart from regular updates on the Annual School, the Branch Committee has discussed organising events on Historic Environment Records and Buildings at Risk. Also discussed has been Accreditation for Architects, revisions to the Building Regulations, a consultation from national office on the roles & duties of IHBC Branch Officers and how to improve links and raise interest in the work of the IHBC at a national level.

This latter topic involved James White attending a Branches 'Connections Day' meeting in Birmingham with other representatives of Branches and senior officers from the national office. It also acted as a stimulus to the Branch to nominate officers to liaise with the Chair of each of the national committees and feedback to the Branch what is going on at national level.

The following Branch Committee members volunteered for this role and you should contact them if you want to find out more about what these committees do and are doing and who sits on them. Much information about the committees is now on the IHBC web site thanks to the efforts of the Branch and agendas and minutes are sent to out to the nominated liaison officer below.

Jenny Timothy – Policy Committee

James White – Communications & Outreach Committee

Rose Thompson – Finance & Resources Committee

Philip Grover – Education, Training & Standards Committee

Dave Boyson – Membership & Ethics Committee

As well as these liaison officers the Branch is fortunate in having Jane Roylance sitting on the Technical Panel and Fiona Newton Chairing the Editorial Board. Fiona is involved in many national office matters in her day job as IHBC Projects Officer but remains a dedicated Branch Member while our main link with the Council is

Roy Lewis who works tirelessly and fights our corner as Branch Rep at Council meetings.

Finally a special mention to Stephen Bradwell our trusty Secretary. He has done a brilliant job as ever whilst also giving up a lot of his time to help with the organisation of the Annual School. In between all that though he has revamped the Branch web pages on the IHBC web site and archived information about previous AGMs and Branch meetings while ensuring all this year's meetings and agendas are there to be viewed by you, the Branch Members.

So that's my look back at 2008/09. I am very pleased with how it has gone and privileged to have worked with such a reliable, unselfish, humorous and hardworking group of people on both the East Midlands Branch Committee and Buxton Annual School Organising Committee.

Oh Yes! The IHBC hi-vis vests! If any are still remaining by the date of the AGM I shall bring them along to sell at the amazingly cheap price of £3.50.

ROBERT WALKER

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Branch Secretary's Report

The past year has proven to be a very successful and eventful one for the Branch.

The annual round of Branch meetings at The Fox & Crown in Newark continue to be both interesting and thought provoking, with a large number of topics debated from different perspectives and hopefully this comes across in the Minutes taken from the notes that I scribble down throughout the meetings. They are also well attended both by Committee members and non-committee members, who are always very welcome to come along.

I have also tried hard to ensure that the agenda and minutes for the Branch meetings appear promptly on the Branch page of the IHBC web-site, and any comments on the matters raised at the meetings are again most welcome.

As well as the Branch papers appearing on the IHBC web-site, we have also seen more details about the various IHBC Committees and their Minutes appearing on the IHBC web-site. This has happened largely as a result of initiatives from this Branch to raise awareness of the work of the IHBC and to set up better links between the branches and the IHBC national office.

We have also made great efforts to ensure that all our Branch members are kept informed by e-mail of new developments and consultation papers. I would like to think that our efforts in contacting members have been more successful this year than in previous years. Having abandoned our Tiscali site after it shut down about this time last year we have moved to a more manual system that hopefully reaches the majority of our Branch members. It is not perfect and because of time and commitment to other projects it is not as up-to-date as I would like but I am looking to do this over the next couple of months. This system also relies on us having up-to-date addresses and it would be very useful if you could keep the Branch Secretary

updated of any changes of e-mail address.

The past year has been a busy time for the Branch, the modest goals for our own activities as set out in the Business Plan have been achieved, and the big event of the year, the Annual School in Buxton, perhaps exceeded all expectations. This was my first Annual School and not only was it a fantastic experience but from the Branch's point of view it was a very successful and profitable event and also the best attended Annual School so far! Next year's School in London will need to go a long way to beat our efforts in Buxton.

The Annual School happened because a lot of people worked hard particularly those who sat on the Organising Committee, the IHBC members (and non-members) from Derbyshire, and the many volunteers who came forward to help with the smooth running of the event. And perhaps just to show that it was a team effort the main sources of sponsorship also originated from local Branch members.

It was a real team effort, and to have an active and vibrant Branch ultimately requires people getting involved in its activities and giving up some of their own time. Sometimes that's a hassle but it's also very worthwhile and meeting and working with lots of people from across the Branch network is an added bonus.

STEVE BRADWELL

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Branch Representative's Report

This is my third year as the East Midlands Branch Representative. The main duty is to attend meetings of IHBC Council, to act as a trustee and director of the Institute, and to provide a link between the centre and the Branch.

Most meetings are held in London. I provide a summary of the proceedings at the next branch meeting and the notes are appended to the Branch minutes. These are now available on the IHBC website branch pages. Since last year's AGM, Council has met three times. The next meeting will be in Cardiff on 23 September 09. A large amount of business is conducted at each Council, including reports from all the Institute's committees and branches.

As my notes of the Council meetings are on the website, it is not necessary for me to repeat the information here. I would like to concentrate on the fact that the institute continues to grow and continues to exert an influence way beyond the size of its membership compared to many other professional organisations. This is reflected in the respect shown to IHBC by government. For example, in June the Director was invited to speak at a parliamentary briefing on heritage entitled *Maximising the Value of British Heritage: Preserving and Promoting Our Historic Environment* and in Cardiff in September, IHBC will formally meet with a government minister, as happened in Belfast last year.

I am convinced that one of the reasons IHBC is held in high esteem is the quality and professionalism of the Institute's responses to the multitude of government consultations, which are co-ordinated by James Caird. The Branch sends notifications of consultations out by e-mail to offer all East Midlands members the opportunity to

respond. Timescales are often ridiculously short and the documents can be daunting. Invariably, James has read them on arrival and gives an initial steer. We do not send out the final responses as they are available on the Institute's website. Please try and find the time to respond to James if you can make a constructive input.

Bob Kindred continues to be highly active in his government liaison role.

This year saw the Annual School in the East Midlands for the second time. Unfortunately, I was unable to be at Buxton but the event was clearly a great success, due in no small part to the enthusiasm and commitment of the organising group. A small number of people did a very large amount of work and deserve all out thanks.

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 Institute is 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 has been published during the year. This is a useful tool, although it only reflects the situation up to October 2008. The Institute's monitoring of advertised vacancies has shown a major reduction in the first half of 2009. A copy of the survey has been sent out to all members by e-mail and could prove useful to anyone involved in negotiations on the future maintenance of conservation services.

A further addition to the range of member services is the recently launched professional indemnity insurance scheme, which is operated by Locktons.

The Institute's website continues to improve, in part in response to an initiative by the East Midlands branch to include more information about the workings of the institute, such as committee memberships and minutes. The 'jobs' page remains the most visited on the website and has become the first port of call for many people looking for a new position.

The total number of IHBC members continues to creep towards 2000, which will be a major landmark when we get there. 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.

ROY LEWIS

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Membership Secretary's Report

This is my second annual report as membership secretary so we can now start to make comparisons and perhaps discern some early trends. The data used was supplied by the national office at the end of June.

We are the fourth largest branch behind the south-west (269 members), London (222), and East Anglia (185).

The headline figure is that we have a net gain of 18 members since this time last year, an increase of 12%.

The new members seem to come from both public and private sectors and from across the region.

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	% change over previous year
Total membership	145	163		+12.4
Work Sector:-				
Private	45	51		+13
Public/ Voluntary	80	89		+11
Retired	5	9		+80
Not specified	15	14		-6
Membership Type:-				
Full	112	118		+5.4
Associate	3	5		+66
Affiliate	30	40		+33
Work Address:-				
Derbyshire	31	32		+3
Leicestershire	20	20		0
Lincolnshire	23	26		+13
Northamptonshire	16	19		+18
Nottinghamshire	18	28		+50
Rutland	3	2		-33
Other	34	36		+5

DAVID BOYSON

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County Representatives' Reports

Derbyshire

The Conservation Officers in Derbyshire Group (CODS) has met three times this year with continued stewardship from Allan Morrison and Jo Brooks. Meetings have taken in exemplar projects, such as the Derby Roundhouse – which featured in English Heritage's *Constructive Conservation in Practice*, as well as presentations from leading

lights such as James Brennan, from James Brennan Associates, who gave a very detailed and interesting presentation on the latest developments in building surveying and recording techniques.

Alongside this programme, it has been a busy year for the Derbyshire fold as a committed band of volunteers worked together with the IHBC Branch and National Office to organise and deliver the IHBC Annual School in Buxton. Initial feedback from this sell out event is that the Buxton School was an overwhelming success, was well organised, had an interesting subject matter and didn't financially cripple the Institute!

In addition to thanking my fellow Branch members, particular thanks go to the Derbyshire stars of the organising committee – Allan Morrison, Richard Tuffrey, Jo Brooks, Helen Bower, John Sewell, Chloe Oswald and Becky Waddington – for all their hard work and to Barry Joyce for his skilful Chairmanship. Further thanks go to the Derbyshire 'sheepdogs' who helped herd the delegates from the Palace Hotel to the Royal Devonshire Hospital Dome and back again and not losing them in the pub for too long.

Here's looking forward to a sleepy 2009/10.

CHRIS MCKINNEY

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Leicestershire

The Leicestershire Conservation Officers Group has continued to meet on a quarterly basis throughout 2008-09, at the following venues:

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| September 2008 | City Rooms, Hotel Street, Leicester
<i>1792 by John Johnson of Leicester.</i> |
| December 2008 | Hinckley & District Museum, Lower Bond Street, Hinckley
<i>Seventeenth century, timber-framed.</i> |
| March 2009 | Sir John Moore's School, Appleby Magna
<i>1697 by Sir William Wilson.</i> |
| June 2009 | County Hall, Leicester Road, Glenfield
<i>1958-65 by Thomas Locke; reliefs by Anthony Holloway.</i> |

September's meeting included a tour of the City Rooms (refurbished for use as a hotel in 2007) and the recent public realm works in Leicester city centre . The meeting in Hinckley included a demonstration of an early framework knitting machine. March's meeting included a tour of the Grade I listed, Sir John Moore's School, Appleby Magna (refurbished in 2004 by Sir John Moore's Foundation). The meeting at County Hall included a presentation on the County HER and a discussion of how it could better serve conservation officers.

David Boyson has continued to chair the group, James White has served again as County Representative and Elaine Caswell continues to provide administrative support to the group.

The Conservation Officers Group has felt the effects of the recession, with posts deleted at Blaby and Harborough District Councils following the retirement of Sue Dobby and Rosalind Willatts.

JAMES WHITE

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Lincolnshire

We will start with the departures and arrivals in the relatively small conservation world of Lincolnshire.

We said goodbye to:

Bob Stewart (South Kesteven DC) who has decided to retire after long service. Bob has arranged some of the very best Lincolnshire Conservation Officers Group (LCOG) and IHBC visits, most notably at Stoke Rochford Hall after a very serious fire. We have enjoyed both your company and your visits Bob – take care and enjoy your well-earned retirement.

James Edgar (English Heritage) is leaving English Heritage after 23 years to become Head of Planning and Conservation at Rodney Melville Associates. So it seems the EH brain drain has now hit our region – that will be a hard pair of shoes to fill in terms of knowledge and experience. Rodney Melville's gain – English Heritage's loss. We thanked James for his support. We wish you well James.

We welcomed:

Kerry Babbington who has joined English Heritage at the start of this year along with David Walsh (who leaves behind a completed Townscape Assessment at the City of Lincoln where he has been working with Arthur Ward).

Elsewhere, there have been few changes. Boston and North Kesteven have no conservation officers and in other districts a number of conservation officers, (Stephen Peel at North East Lincs, Eddie Rychalk at North Lincs, Robert Walker at East Lindsey DC and myself at South Holland DC), are still working single handed. Elsewhere Arthur Ward still has his heritage team at Lincoln and Robert Lawton and Sarah Harrison at West Lindsey DC are still a small team with help from Veronica Proud, but the workload has increased with countryside and growth point work. Beryl Lott also has a team at the County Council providing back up, archaeology, guidance and partnership funding.

Both Robert Walker and I have Heritage Champions in Tony Bridges and Christine Lawton who are both very supportive. But looming on the horizon is a sort of County split with East Lindsey, Boston and South Holland looking seriously at 'merged' services. This will certainly include conservation services, so Robert and I are going to buy a cape and some underpants to wear outside our trousers so we can be superhuman and cover all three Districts! Rumours of West Lindsey, the City of Lincoln and North Kesteven are also rife. Watch this space – I feel certain there will be some changes to report next year.

Elsewhere Liz Bates at Heritage Trust for Lincs is developing a local Heritage at Risk Strategy for Lincolnshire. The pilot project is already proving a great success, it was

featured as an exemplar at the EH East Midlands Launch of the Heritage at Risk Register 2009 at The Roundhouse Campus, Derby College and a multimillion pound bid is making its way to the Heritage Lottery Fund. If successful, this will give a county-wide baseline of the condition of our heritage assets and their condition in the hope of attracting funding.

The Every Street Matters project is now adopted guidance with thanks to Sarah Grundy at LCC.

The County also boasts a number of heritage led regeneration schemes at various stages. Caistor THI is coming to a close with a number of notable achievements to this lovely little town. Lincoln THI is also seeing projects coming to fruition including a nice new shop front to Ruddock's in the High Street. East Lindsey's Historic Centres HER, covering Burgh Le Marsh, Tattershall, Woodhall Spa and Wragby, has now been completed and Robert Walker was featured in English Heritage's recent *Heritage at Risk – Conservation Areas* campaign video in Tattershall arguing the success of partnership funding which sadly many authorities are having to cut back on in these cash strapped times. South Holland's PSiCA is now steaming ahead in year two after a very slow start in year one with a number of projects large and small.

Finally LCOG have held a number of meetings over the past year with a visit in May hosted by the County Council to look at the HER, December's meeting was hosted by West Lindsey with a visit to the Britannia Works; South Holland hosted the March meeting looking at grant aided building projects and last but not least to East Lindsey in June to visit a landscape restoration project at Hemingby Lane, Horncastle.

ELIZABETH MAYLE

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Northamptonshire

There have been 3 meetings of the Northamptonshire Conservation Officers Forum since the last report. In December 2008 we visited Boughton House in Kettering and were given a tour by the house manager to look at the fire prevention system and other general building conservation matters. Two members of the new English Heritage historic building team, which now comprises a senior buildings inspector and two assistant officers, attended the June 2009 meeting held at Wellingborough BC. We were given the opportunity to discuss heritage matters affecting Northamptonshire and, in particular, the issues and opportunities arising from the recent publication of the Heritage at Risk Register 2009, which includes Conservation Areas for the first time. This development has certainly given us food for thought in these challenging economic times!

We reported last year on the problems associated with the lack of archaeological advice for planning applications in Northamptonshire. The County Council currently has one archaeological officer providing advice on strategic planning matters only. Following the historic environment summit for Northamptonshire held at the Guildhall in Northampton in October 2008, a Heritage Protection Working Group, headed by the County Council and English Heritage with representatives from the districts, was set up. The main focus involves negotiations between district and county to identify, resource and implement effective means of providing archaeological planning advice.

Chief Planning Officers have generally been supportive of the recommendations of this group and it is hoped that participating authorities will adopt agreed new arrangements later in 2009/2010.

At district and borough level, Wellingborough BC has just confirmed a new enlarged conservation area for central Wellingborough incorporating the whole of the historic medieval centre. This is particularly important, as it should ensure that the town centre improvements proposed in response to the MKSM growth agenda are implemented to conservation standards. The grade II listed Priory Store in Church Street, the former Edwardian fire station, is being converted to a cafeteria, with high-quality modern cladding materials being used in an extension. Code level 3 of CSH will be achieved through use of a heat pump and solar panels. It is an extremely prominent site opposite the technical college and signals the Council's interest in quality modern architecture interfacing with conventional historic conservation.

Earlier this year Daventry DC tackled three, co-joined public inquiries relating to proposals for major urban extensions on sites around the town. The conservation officer represented the Council on archaeology and cultural heritage issues for two of the appeals, which impact upon the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Borough Hill and the Daventry Reservoir Country Park. The conservation team has also been engaged with a number of wind farm applications and scoping exercises for sites across the district, which have complex and wide-ranging historic landscape issues.

British Waterways has reported on several repair and improvement schemes to historic fabric and listed structures within the canal conservation areas, and on-site training of its construction team (with traditional building conservation and repair specialist Dave Sleight) in masonry repairs and the use of lime mortars. BW also ran a 'hands on' traditional skills exhibition at the Crick Boat Show to demonstrate this commitment to traditional skills training and to educate the general public in the need to use appropriate materials in historic buildings. With a new regional heritage advisor having recently joined the Heritage and Environment Manager, it is hoped that BW will continue to improve working relationships with local authority conservation teams in the county.

RACHEL BOOTH

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Nottinghamshire

The Conservation Officers Forum meetings continue to occur on a quarterly basis. In September 2008 we met at Retford (hosted by Bassetlaw District Council), in January at Wollaton Hall, (hosted by Nottingham City Council), in April we met at Bestwood Winding Engine (hosted by Notts County Council) and in July at Worksop Town Hall (hosted by Bassetlaw District Council).

The forum meetings have been generally well attended although representatives from the DAC, EH, NT, and BPT, have mostly sent apologies. The meetings usually include a site visit and occasionally a presentation. In September the forum was attended by James Brennan who gave a presentation on recording methods, and, following lunch, members visited North Leverton Windmill at the invitation of the newly formed Trust. In January we met at Wollaton Hall and had a tour of the recently completed HLF

works in the afternoon. In April the forum was held on site at Bestwood Winding Engine and we were joined by architects working on Pleasey Colliery for the tour. Recently we met again in Bassetlaw District and visited Mr Straw's House (NT) and the surrounding area in the afternoon.

Staff levels at the districts have remained quite constant; three districts continue to have no permanent in-house CO provision. Tony Player (IHBC) provides conservation planning advice alongside urban design input to Gedling and Ashfield Districts and urban design advice to Broxtowe Borough. The county council historic buildings section provides conservation advice to Broxtowe Borough. The deadline for applications for Conservation and Design Manager at Rushcliffe Borough Council had just closed at the time of writing.

Mansfield DC has been running an area funding scheme with English Heritage and the county council but there continues to be a very low level of take up. Bassetlaw DC has been offered EH funding for a scheme in Tuxford. HLF funded projects running in the area at present include Bestwood Winding Engine (SAM) where the construction phase is due to complete in November.

The number of buildings at risk in the county has remained relatively constant (at just over 7%). There have been some successes but also some new buildings have come on the register and one building has been lost (Bath Mill, Mansfield). Several districts offer funding towards BAR projects. The County online database of BARs was updated in June 2009, go to:

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/buildingsatrisk.htm

In June the County Council ran its third annual small training event for listed building owners at Rufford Abbey. This year was targeted at Bassetlaw district. The response to the event was good and a further event is being considered for next year to cover owners in the south of the county.

Conservation area appraisals are continuing apace, although none of the authorities have completed their list. Nottinghamshire County Council is undertaking conservation area appraisals for Gedling and Broxtowe and assisting Ashfield with their appraisals.

There were no new conservation areas designated since the last report. Mansfield DC adopted a list of local interest buildings during the past 12 months.

JASON MORDAN

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Other Reports

ALGAO

Nothing to report.

Derby City Conservation Area Advisory Committee

Over the last year, the Advisory Committee has considered over 120 applications. Despite the current recession, many of these have been applications for major developments.

As well as Planning and Listed Building Consent Applications, the Committee has reviewed a number of area based initiatives including a street lighting strategy, a regeneration plan for Darley Mills, (part of Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site) and a masterplan for the railway station. The Committee also commented on an application to demolish the Hippodrome, a listed Deco period theatre. This case is testing the legislation designed to protect the built heritage to the limits.

July saw the inspiring transformation of the Roundhouse, amongst the world’s earliest railway turntables, into the hub of the new Derby College campus and ready to greet the first students this September.

Charles Glenn

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Leicester City Conservation Area Advisory Panel

Meetings of Leicester City Council's Conservation Advisory Panel continue to be attended on a monthly basis. The meetings are usually entertaining due to the lively style of the chairman and the interesting comments from a wide background of members, although the retirement from the Panel of some key contributors over the past year is regrettable. As a former conservation officer at the City, it is always interesting to be sitting on the other side of the table, whilst sympathising with the difficulty faced by the Council's officers in explaining certain decisions.

With the downturn in the economy, the number of applications, and certainly the scale of the proposals, that have been considered over the past year has inevitably declined from the peak of regeneration frenzy in Leicester a few years ago. While this may not necessarily be a bad thing in terms of safeguarding the historic environment from the worst excesses, the challenge now is to secure new uses for a number of vacant historic buildings and sites, particularly in the more commercially peripheral parts of the city - including some with hard-fought planning and listed building consents - which appear to have been virtually abandoned by developers.

Dave Trubshaw

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Treasurer's Report 2008-9

Following the AGM, details of the Branch's income & expenditure over the IHBC's financial year (1st October 2008- 30th September 2009), will be submitted to Council. We will also submit our Business Plan for approval, this will include an estimate of the Branches income & expenditure for 2009/2010.

At the beginning of this financial year (1st October 2008), the bank balance of the East Midlands Branch of the IHBC stood at £530. 64 (current account: £142.59 & reserve account: £388.05). At the time of preparing this report (end July 2009), the Branch's bank balance stood at £651.01 (current account: £261.38 & reserve account: £389.63).

The cost of refreshments for the Branch meetings came to £180.00. The other expenditure has related to the organising of the Buxton Annual School 2009. The expenditure for this financial year totalled £201.21. Last year we spent £97.80, so the total amount we have spent overall out of Branch funds on the Annual School is £299.01. The rest of the costs relating to the Annual School have been paid directly from the IHBC Head Office account.

The printing and postage costs have been much reduced following the use of emails. No claim has been made to date for computer sundries or printing. A sum in the region of £360 (plus postage and printing costs) will be spent on this year's AGM at Harlaxton, the costs of which will be paid out of this year's budget. I will hopefully have the final costs for this by the time of the AGM.

I will present an up to date balance at the AGM showing all the Branch transactions. I will also present a budget for 2009-2010 based on a draft Business Plan which the Branch can consider and amend if desired prior to its submission to Council.

ROSE THOMPSON

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NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION TO EAST MIDLANDS BRANCH COMMITTEE

I would like to nominate the following person for the post of

Name:.....

Post:.....

(Chair, Vice Chair, Branch Representative to Council, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, County Representative, Education Representative, or General Committee post)

Name of Nominee:.....

Address of Nominee:.....

.....

.....

Nominated by:.....

Seconded by:.....

I have approached the person nominated above who is prepared to stand for election.

Signature of Proposer:

Please send completed nomination form by 1st September 2009 to:

Stephen Bradwell,
IHBC East Midlands Branch Secretary,
29 Kingfisher Way, Loughborough,
Leics. LE11 3NF

Papers prepared by
Stephen Bradwell,
IHBC East Midlands Branch Secretary
16 August 2009

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