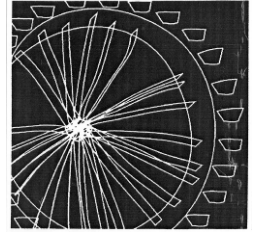


LONDON BRANCH

Newsletter



Autumn

PPS15 - The Future of Heritage Protection?

As you will all be aware the Government recently published the draft version of PPS15 for consultation, which incidentally closes at the end of October.

This document sets out the Government's new approach to heritage protection and envisages a holistic approach to the conservation of the historic environment combining the existing PPG15 & PPG16, which deal with historic buildings and areas and archaeology respectively, into a single policy document.

The most obvious difference between the draft PPS and the existing PPG's is the relative slimness of the new PPS. As a 'policy statement' the previous guidance relating to the application of policy has been omitted. Instead this document sets out at high level the Government's aspirations for the protection of the historic environment through the planning system.

The more detailed guidance is set out within a "living draft" prepared by English Heritage entitled "PPS Planning for the Historic Environment: Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide".

The new guidance places a greater degree of emphasis on establishing the significance of a heritage asset in order to inform a proposal and determine its effects (an approach not dissimilar to that which should be undertaken now), the importance of pre-application discussions and community involvement as well as a shift towards heritage assets of local significance.

The new draft guidance has raised questions in some quarters as to whether it goes too far in pre-empting the provisions of the stalled Heritage Protection Bill despite English Heritage's and DCMS's determination that a large proportion of the Bill's provisions can be enacted without requiring primary legislation.

Regardless of which sector of the heritage industry you are involved, this document, when adopted will profoundly affect the way in which you work. It is therefore important to provide feedback to ensure that the guidance is as robust, rational and reasonable as possible.

You can find out more on the draft PPS by visiting the DCLG website:
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/consultationhistoricpps>.

Marc Timlin



CHAIRMAN'S NOTE

Like me, you are probably fed up with our frustratingly wet summer. If you decided to take your holidays in this country, you have my commiserations. My hopes were high for a good summer in June, not just because of the weather forecasters' rather rash predictions, but rather due to the fine days which we had in Buxton for the IHBC Annual School. Almost everyone we met remarked on how lucky we were to have such good weather. Apparently Buxton does have a reputation for rain.

This is all a rather long-winded way of introducing the theme of the Annual School which was sustainability and the historic environment. A wide range of speakers dealt with climate change and what we might do to mitigate its effects. A full account of the Friday Day School will appear in the next edition of Context. I will not attempt to give my own account of the day, but remark on two of the speakers who impressed me. Hugh Ellis from Friends of the Earth our keynote speaker was, as you might imagine, a passionate speaker on the threats of climate change, but less predictably very supportive of the contribution that conserving the historic environment can make. He also spoke with humility and humour, which won over the audience. On a more prosaic level, the practical advice on energy saving in historic buildings from Chris Wood of English Heritage (and IHBC London Member) was exemplary.

Those of us from London Branch who were fortunate enough to attend the annual school, were keeping a close eye on not only the quality of the presentations, but also the organisation of the event and the overall quality of the experience. There was an attendance of almost 300 for the Day School which sets a high standard for London to achieve in 2010. Despite the recession, I am confident that we will be able to put on a memorable event. You will see elsewhere in this newsletter, the latest on London 2010. It would be great to get as many members of the branch as possible to help us make it an event to be proud of.

As you will no doubt be aware the consultation draft of PPS15 has been published. IHBC will be responding nationally, but it is also important that as many of us practitioners respond as possible, either as individuals or representing the organisations we work for. As I mentioned in last newsletter, this will fundamentally affect the way we work.

David McDonald
Branch Chairman

Branch Visit to Hampstead Garden Suburb – May 2009

Our thanks go to David Davidson for suggesting and organising this trip for the Branch. Probably most of the 19 members and friends who came were unaware of the extent and history of the Suburb. And what a fascinating place it turned out to be – every type of house for every grade of society, open spaces, wild woods, distant views, sympathetic street landscapes, intimate squares and greens, the Great Wall and of course, Lutyen's Squares.

South, North and Central Square– the latter containing not only Lutyen's buildings for Henrietta Barnett School, now being extended by Hopkins Architects, but also the extraordinary St Jude's Church which is gothic and vaguely Germanic on the outside and classical – sort of – on the inside, with a wonderful display of wall paintings of biblical scenes and worthy Christian women by Walter Starmer (1877-1961). Basil Bourchier, the first vicar of St Jude's, commissioned Starmer having met him at Arras in 1918 when Bourchier was an army chaplain and Starmer was a war artist! Starmer is little known mainly because he spent most of his working life on this one set of murals! We ended our tour here and were kindly greeted by the vicar, Rev. Alan Walker, who explained the church, often used for films, concerts, recordings etc.

David, who is architectural advisor to the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust, gave us an inspired talk and tour, at the gallop, around as much as he could in 2 hours!! It was all so gripping and exciting that we hardly noticed until we were able to sit down in the church!

The Suburb was looking charming, on a sunny May evening and we were able to appreciate those idealsof Henrietta Barnett who founded the Suburb in 1907 – one of which was that there should be no walls but plenty of hedges, trees and open spaces. We even walked through a wood! And, of course, the brilliant designs of Raymond Unwin and his partner, Barry Parker, the former being appointed as the Architect for the project in 1906. Interesting to note, in this egalitarian age, that Eton College who owned the land sell to Henrietta Barnett as she was a woman so she had to enlist her men friends to negotiate on her behalf!!!

If anyone is interested to read further, '*Hampstead Garden Suburb – Arts and Crafts Utopia*' by Mervyn Miller, brought out to coincide with Hampstead Garden Suburb's centenary, is recommended. The Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust web site - www.hgs.org.uk also provides a wealth of in-depth history and information. Thanks again to David Davidson and Rev. Alan Walker for such an interesting trip.

Kate Ainslie Williams



An Update From the

Kensal Green Cemetery

HCT's two London chapels continue to flourish. The Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery, whose headquarters is in the Dissenters' Chapel, Kensal Green Cemetery, have recently repaired and rededicated the magnificent monument to Alexis and Emma Soyer which stands close to the upper gates on Harrow Road. Soyer (1810-1858) is remembered for his work as a Social Reformer, as inventor of the Army Soyer Stove, as an influential cookery writer and chef to the Reform Club. His wife was a noteworthy painter.

The monument was designed by Soyer himself and originally included Emma's own palette and brushes – sadly long since stolen - and was eerily illuminated by a perpetual flame of gaslight. It is constructed of Portland stone with a white marble medallion depicting Emma and Beer stone sculpture. Holden Conservation was appointed to carry out the work, with the replacement sculpture carried out by Simon Smith. There was such agonising over the maquette for the replacement of Faith's missing arm whose colossal figure, 12ft in height, surmounts the monument. Funding was obtained from English Heritage, the Heritage London Trust and other donors.

A detailed repair specification has been prepared for the grade I disused Anglican chapel and applications are being made for the expected £3m+ bill. Major repair and restoration of the roof of the north terrace Colonnade has been completed. Funds are being sought to replace missing ele-



Historic Chapels Trust

St George's German Lutheran Church

Attention to the finer points of conservation and appropriate appearance is gradually raising the standard of presentation and maintenance, now that the heavy repair and upgrading works are five years into the past.

The introduction of pew cushions has proved successful in reducing the number of sore bottoms and has put paid to arguments in favour of pew removal. HCT has also sourced some traditional chenille table covers for its meeting room. Now on the agenda is the conservation of its crumbly 19th century horsehair stuffed seat cushions.

Carpenter Steven Bull is tackling the problem of pew doors opening and reopening unannounced, seemingly without the assistance of occupants of the burial crypt below, now attributed to a lack of ventilation at floor level and residual wet rot, causing the pews to move.

Recent events have included a well attended talk by Tony Tucker in March on the City Churches, a delightful recorder recital by Peter Bowman and Kathryn Bennetts in April and a performance by musicians from Ukraine in May. Among other planned activities the London Gallery Choir will be returning on 6th December for a Christmas concert.

————— and www.kensalgreen.co.uk

Jenny Freeman

With acknowledgment to Barry Smith & Henry Vivian-Neal of Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery.



The Crown public house, Twickenham— Time Called for Unauthorised Windows

Twickenham is fortunate in having a number of historic pubs, dating back to the seventeenth century. The Crown is located on a major thoroughfare linking Richmond to Twickenham, thus the front elevation's windows are very visible. The main part of the building dates from the late eighteenth century, with a later, single storey side wing that is almost certainly Victorian.

This wing's street façade includes two original windows of good quality painted glass— each of the four upper lights has a roundel containing the motif of a bird on a branch with foliage in the outer panes. The two panes below contain yellow coloured foliage, set within a complex leaded design.

In the spring of 2007, the four lower panes of glass in the Victorian wing were removed, without permission. In their place, clear glass was inserted. The upper four panes of stained and painted glass that remained in each window provided evidence of the original decorative scheme.

In August 2007, the Council served an Unauthorised Building Works notice on the owner. In response, an application for retrospective Listed Building Consent was submitted but this was refused. I provided conservation advice and gave detailed recommendations, the first being to reinstate the original windows (despite the claim that they had been disposed of) or to replace them with similar ones, subject to Council

approval.

The applicant argued that the works were carried out in ignorance of the building's listed status, and that the listing description made no specific mention of the windows in question, only noting eighteenth century glazing on the top floor of the original building, so these windows were thus of little importance. The rationale for replacing the glass was to create transparency, allowing views into and out of the building. This was apparently to make the public space more attractive to customers, so that women in particular would patronise the Licensed Victuallers' Association. However, apart from being a rather curious argument, the original windows did have a degree of transparency.

The applicant then appealed against the refusal to grant Listed Building Consent. I wrote the appendix to the Council's evidence, giving the historic context and stressing the importance of the original glazing to the appearance and character of the listed building. I argued that the removal of the decorative glass in the lower lights meant that the original unified, coherent, decorative scheme has been severely compromised. I also noted that the introduction of clear glass was a design anomaly, contributing to a significant loss of character to the pub's exterior and interior, that clear glass was incompatible with the character of the public house and did not respect its period character. My professional opinion given was that the glass should be reinstated, to preserve the special architectural interest of the building, in accordance with national and local conservation planning policy. I noted that all the decorative glazing, now documented, should remain unaltered.





There is also other decorative glass in the eighteenth century building, which helped the Council's case in arguing the importance of decorative glass to the character of the listed building. This includes a window to the left of the main entrance door with etched glazing of a crown motif, symbolic of the pub's name. There are also a number of internally glazed doors with high quality, etched, decorative, glazing.

Unfortunately, it is likely in the past that other original glass in less visible locations has been removed without permission. By coincidence, I found one etched glass window in a nearby house, which a former publican had given away, as confirmed by the owner of the house. I am endeavouring to get this glazing returned to the pub.

As part of the Council's evidence, it was considered essential to include a close-up photo of the windows prior to the removal of the coloured glazing, which the Council did not have, but which I managed to obtain. I am indebted to Geoffrey Brandwood for putting me in touch with George Gimber, a member of the

Richmond branch of CAMRA, who provided the much-needed photo (above right)

The Planning Inspector did not accept the reasons given by the applicant and dismissed the appeal. Original windows were swiftly found and reinstated, but with slender timber battens round them. Although not desirable, I accepted that the battens could remain, to provide stability for the glazing.

This was a very welcome result, and fully justified the considerable amount of time that I spent on the case. I hope that this decision will serve to discourage other owners of listed public houses that the removal of original details, of which there is a most unfortunate trend, is unacceptable in terms of the damage to the building's character and appearance.

Rowena Scrimshaw
Conservation Officer

London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

GOING FOR GOLD

IHBC ANNUAL SCHOOL 2010

You may have been thinking that London Branch has been slightly dormant lately. Lately we may have had fewer events than usual and our annual branch Conference isn't happening this year but all for a good reason— IHBC Annual School 2010.

Yes, London is hosting the IHBC's 2010 Annual School from 10th—12 June and a Branch sub-committee of volunteers, ably assisted by Fiona Newton have been working hard behind the scenes putting in place a draft itinerary, tracking down sponsors, arranging venues etc and working on a whole multitude of other tasks that are required for putting an Annual School. So far

from being dormant we have in fact been working hard!

The last time IHBC London hosted an Annual School was 2001. A lot has happened to London since then; so we think we have plenty to share with the rest of Great Britain. Indeed we are convinced that London, with so many exemplar conservation schemes in recent years, is the ideal place to showcase excellence in conservation best practice.

Using London's unrivalled selection of world class buildings—museums, places of worship, theatres, shops and leisure facilities, we will be looking at the challenges of almost constantly changing user needs and expectations and how best practice conservation is addressing these needs. This will be relevant to anyone trying to apply current conservation principles to historic buildings in public use.

A secondary theme will be delivering quality in conservation against a changing legislative, financial and political background.

We will examine the role of the local authority Conservation Officer, the contribution of the private sector, and the pressures on national

heritage organisations and the voluntary sector.

Sheila Stones

Branch Secretary & IHBC Vice Chair

HAVE YOU SEEN OUR FLYER YET?



Your Branch needs YOU!



London Branch Needs
YOU

ising successful one day conferences and we are confident

in 2010 but, as always, there is plenty of work to go round and we need the support and input of everyone in the

branch if we are going to make this a success. We need:

- Suggestions of exemplar schemes and best practice
- Experienced Speakers and facilitators
- Administrative assistance
- Corporate sponsorship

If you can you help please contact Sheila Stones.

E-mail Sheila.Stones@english-heritage.org.uk



DRAFT PROGRAMME

Thursday 10th June:

Welcome Event—venue—The Building Centre

Current Research Presentations / Tours

Evening Reception

Friday 11th June

Day School—venue—The Royal College of Physicians
IHBC Annual General Meeting.

Annual Dinner / Social Event

Saturday 12th June

Morning Lectures

Afternoon Visits/Tours

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for the IHBC London branch.

The information in its articles are the views of the authors
and not necessarily the view of the IHBC.

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Please send all text as Microsoft Word documents with
images as jpegs.



London birdlife