

IHBC Yorkshire Branch – Programme of Events for 2007/08

As you will know, IHBC now requires us all to undertake 50 hours of CPD over two years. In order to try to see how we could draw up a programme of events, five of us (Keith Knight [Branch Chair], Peter Fisher [Events Officer], Ken Burley, Richenda Codling and David Rhodes) met on Tuesday 10 July 2007 in the Ackhome (formerly the Acorn) in York to try to come up with ideas for a programme of events over the next year. We were conscious of the need to relate events as far as possible to IHBC's eight criteria for membership. Whilst there are many national courses, conferences and seminars every year on various conservation topics, these are not always affordable by IHBC members (or their employers) and there is, therefore, a need to arrange more local and cheaper events.

A number of points (in no particular order) emerged from our discussions.

- The benefit of joining forces with other professional institutes and bodies where they are holding events which would be interest and relevance to IHBC members. This could stimulate inter-disciplinary discussion as well as minimising organisational demands on the Branch Committee. Specifically mentioned were the RIBA, RTPI, AHF, APT, SPAB, Yorkshire Association of Civic Societies and BURA (British Urban Regeneration Association) and trying to involve local authority Historic Environment Champions.
- The Restoration Yorkshire Conference (organised each year by Keith Knight and Penelope Whitworth of the APT) would be the principal event. Followed by the branch AGM - provisional date 16 November. YHACS (Yorkshire and Humber Association of Civic Societies) have also expressed an interest in being involved. The theme and content of this year's conference is yet to be finalised.
- We should aim to hold events on a quarterly basis, thus having three events in addition to the conference. It would be desirable to vary the dates of events between weekdays and weekends.
- Because of the large size of the Branch area and the consequent deterrence to travel, we should try to spread events between the four constituent counties – York/North Yorkshire, East Yorkshire, South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire. (or for the traditionalists the three Ridings)
- The idea of holding a debate, e.g. house builders versus architects, probably in conjunction with the RIBA's Architecture Week. Town centre regeneration versus redevelopment was another suggestion.

Specific ideas were as follows:

- Putting forward buildings to be opened for Heritage Week Open Days. These could be LA or privately owned buildings. There is a need to move swiftly on this, as buildings must be registered with the organisers the Civic Trust, by the end of July. This may be impracticable and may need to wait until next

year.(www.heritageopendays.org.uk)

Possible visits to:

North Yorkshire

York Hand Made Brick Company, Alne (Hambleton).

Chris Topp Blacksmiths, Carlton Husthwaite (Hambleton). IHBC (or NYCOG) visited here some years ago, but Chris would probably be pleased to host another visit. He is particularly concerned at the inferior quality of much reinstatement of ironwork currently being undertaken and would probably welcome the chance to talk to IHBC members. (He has previously spoken to NYCOG.)

Gledstone Hall, N Yorks, where Mark Womersley is currently involved.

South Yorkshire

Cusworth Hall (Doncaster) recently undergone a £7.5m restoration programme (details Richenda Codling).

Wentworth Woodhouse (Rotherham) and Repton landscape – Nicola Ashurst has been involved in sample cleaning the Mausoleum (in separate ownership).

42 King Street Thorne, derelict mid C18th town house - restoration project being undertaken by the South Yorkshire BPT (details Ken Burley). The most appropriate time to visit would be next Spring.

1 & 2 Market Place, Thorne (Doncaster) – a potential restoration project (details Ken Burley).

West Yorkshire

Tower Works site, Holbeck (Leeds) – Keith Knight is involved here, and will be leading tours as part of Heritage Week on Sunday 9th September 2007.

East Yorkshire

Arc, Hull. (Architecture Centre) and Wilberforce House and Museum, Hull

Please respond to these ideas with suggestions of your own, especially if you are able to organise an event. We will then follow these up with a view to producing a firm programme of events for the next twelve months.

Peter Fisher
Events Officer
Email p.fisher@dsl.pipex.com