



2002

Institute of Historic Building Conservation
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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6.00pm Friday 5 July 2002
Science Lecture Theatres
University of Warwick
Coventry CV4 7AL

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 **IHBC AGM 2001 Minutes**
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Institute of Historic Building Conservation held on Saturday 7 April 2001 at the Windeyer Lecture Theatre, University College, Howland Street, London W1 and the matters arising
- 3 **Officers' reports**
- 4 **Branch reports**
- 5 **Financial statement and Treasurer's report**
- 6 **The Institute's Business Plan**
- 7 **Election of Officers and notification of nomination of Branch Representatives**
- 8 **Motions to the AGM**
At the time of going to press no motions have been submitted to the Secretary of the Institute

THE INSTITUTE OF HISTORIC BUILDING CONSERVATION

www.ihbc.org.uk

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Number 1061593

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These documents were
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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE INSTITUTE OF HISTORIC BUILDING CONSERVATION

**Edward Lewis Lecture Theatre, Windeyer Institute,
University College, London
Saturday 7 April 2001**

Present

Malcolm Airs (Chair)	David Rhodes	Robert Ladd
M V Rowan	David Maine	Philip Grover
Gus Astley	Neil Sumner	Stephanie Hewitt
Alexandra Fairclough	Elfed Roberts	David Baxter
Stephen Bateman	Jo Day	Georgina McLaren
Trevor Thorpe	Nathan Blanchard	Richenda Codling
Lawrence Manogue	Alan Richards	David Birkett
David Stirling	Colin Wilson	Tom Sargent
Sheila Stones	Ruth Connolly	David Blackburn
Jane Jackson	Chloe Walters	Elizabeth Byron
Peter Badcock	Garry Cooper	Martin Ellison
Fiona Newton	Chezel Bird	Robert Walker
Julia Smith	Eddie Booth	Paul Barker
Martin Andrew	Karen Dudwell	Barry Sellers
Jon Finney	Hugh Norwood	John Webb
Eimear Murphy	Ian Ayris	Roy Lewis
Richard Morrice	Keith Murray	Derek Latham
John Preston	Dorian Crone	John Stagg
Sarah Higgins	Kate Clarke	David Pigott
Stephen Boniface	Peter Hoey	John Beverley
Bob Kindred	David MacDonald	John Yates
Mary King	James Ross	Jack Warshaw
Adron Duckworth	Mark Strawbridge	Richard Eckersley
Edward Morton	Julia-Ann Renfrew	John Sewell
Rik Fox	John Taylor	Rosemarie MacQueen
Jane Raylance	Graham Lee	James Clare
Susan Dobby	Bob Parlowe	Sarah Homer
Rob Parker-Galliford	Michael Brown	Roger Dowty
Douglas Campbell	Margaret Barnes	Rob Fraser

1 **Apologies For Absence**

Kathryn Baird, Mike McCannell, Ian Lund, Barry Joyce, Sally Stradling, Bernard Dee, Frank Kehone, Paul White, B Hogg, Debbie Robertson, Peter de Figueiredo, Ian Lindsay, Bob Scriven, John Townsend, Bob Chitham, Mike Knights, Frank Kelsall, Miky King, Alison Davidson, Gaynor Mallinson, Graham Steaggles, Nigel Barker, Alan Taylor, Dave Bullock, James Webb, Joanna Stubbs.

2 **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Institute of Historic Building Conservation held at the John Anderson Building, Strathclyde University, Glasgow on 16 June 2000 and matters arising**

There were no matters arising and it was therefore accepted that the minutes could be signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

3 **Officers' Reports**

The following Officers added to their written reports.

3.1 **Chair**

3.1.1 Malcolm Airs indicated that he had also been involved in various advisory boards including the Association of Preservation Trusts and the Advisory Board of Maintain. Since his report in the AGM papers, he had met with the Chair of English Heritage who made a commitment to address the next school.

3.1.2 The Chair reported that he had also met with the Institute of Field Archaeologists to explore common concerns. He had also attended an intensive weekend in March with the Joint Committee of the National Amenity Societies to consider conservation across all sectors.

3.1.3 He stated that he was greatly indebted to those who had taken an active role in last year's AGM, including Branch members, whose activity was shown in the tangible results of the impressive *Yearbook*. He referred to the second Business Plan which allows the Institute to building on the previous Business Plan.

3.1.4 Referring to the Romania Project, the Chair expressed his gratitude for the work put in by various IHBC members.

3.1.5 He noted that the Institute was only three years old and that there were a lot of challenges ahead but that it was already seen by many outside observers as an effective body working for the professionalisation of conservation.

3.1.6 Farewells were bade to members who were retiring from Council including: David Davidson (Publicity Secretary); John Clare (Scotland); Mike Taylor (East Midlands Branch); David Baxter (West Midlands Branch); Martin Andrew (South Branch); Mary King (who would cease to be Immediate

Past Chair on the retirement of Malcolm Airs as Chair, and who had presented him with the gavel of office inscribed ACO); and Rosemarie MacQueen (London Branch). Malcolm Airs added that Rosemarie had represented London Branch since the inception of the ACO and had done a tremendous job for the conservation of London's historic environment. He then made a presentation to her. Rosemarie MacQueen indicated that the Branch would be left in the safe hands of Jon Finney, the current Vice Chair.

3.2 Membership Secretary

Gus Astley indicated that some overdue membership fees were still awaited.

3.3 Education Secretary

John Preston reported that the CPD proposals were an interim measure, pending full proposals.

3.4 Law and Practice

Alexandra Fairclough pointed out that, in her report, West Midlands should read East Midlands.

3.5 Technical Secretary

The Technical Secretary indicated that Bob Kindred had joined the UNESCO Cultural Committee as IHBC representative. Bob Kindred added that the ratifying of the UNESCO 1970 treaty regarding the import/export of materials would have some significance for conservation. He also stated that this is the 30th anniversary year of World Heritage sites and that he is already talking to UNESCO on this matter.

4 Branches Reports

4.1 Nothing further was added to the Branch Reports.

4.2 On a point of order, a member of the audience queried when questions were allowed. John Beverley questioned the Chair's report, dealing with administration and contracting work out. Malcolm Airs indicated that the Institute was looking at business opportunities, points of contact for members, and the expansion of the image of the Institute. A number of offers are being considered and the views of members will be canvassed by Council through Branch Representatives. Rob Fraser queried when the canvassing would take place. The Chair responded that Branch Representatives would keep members up to date, with the views of Branches being fed back to Council, which would then take a decision. It is the obligation of the Branch Representative to keep members updated.

4.3 Paul Barker asked if the Chair was going to make sure members are written to on this matter as attendance at Branch meetings can be *ad hoc*. He made reference to the Council instructing Branches to make members fully aware. The Chair pointed out that this was a matter for the Branches.

- 4.4 John Beverly asked if it would be appropriate that when deciding on service provision, this should be noted in *Context* to provide an opportunity for consultation. The Chair repeated that consultation was up to the Branch Representatives who should make sure that their Branch was up to date with discussions at Council, which would make its decision in due time, following adequate provision for discussion at Branch level and for representation of concerns to Council.

5 Financial Statement

- 5.1 Robert Parkinson circulated a copy of the accounts for the year ending 30th September 2000. He pointed out that the Institute's assets had grown from around £85,000 to £113,500, which was very satisfying. Expenditure on outreach work had increased from £68,000 to £118,000. Subscriptions had increased to £66,476.93. Some Branches had done well in terms of raising income, while some apparently did nothing at all, but last year's Annual School had raised a surplus by way of compensation. Label income has again exceeded all previous years.
- 5.2 Bob Kindred questioned the amount raised by subscriptions as it had curiously almost doubled, although subscriptions had not doubled. Robert Parkinson indicated that the subscriptions account includes other elements, such as application fees. Gus Astley indicated that, in previous years, he had only logged the main amount of subscriptions received but members' banks sometimes pay more and he accepts these as voluntary contributions. He pointed out that this was not uncommon and there were various reasons for it such as people forgetting to notify change of address, forgetting to pay, or being struck off. James Ross noted that the third largest expenditure was on computer equipment and depreciation which was down from 40% to 20%. Fiona Newton pointed out that East Midlands Branch had spent time on the *Yearbook* and had held no Branch school, and had thus generated no income.
- 5.3 Approval of the Accounts was proposed by Richard Eckersley and seconded by Derek Latham.

6 Business Plan

- 6.1 Stephen Bateman indicated that the Business Plan was not only about funding but, as everything is becoming more complex, about outreach too. He stated that the Business Plan had a slightly changed look. A lot of progress had been made though it had been a difficult year for a lot of Officers in the Institute. Progress was being made on the 2000 Business Plan targets, with a new Council structure being piloted.
- 6.2 Malcolm Airs indicated that he was very proud of the Business Plan, particularly as it made reasonably clear the trajectory along which Council should take the Institute into the future.

7 **Election of Officers**

- 7.1 Richard Morrice handed around an updated list of Branch Representatives for nomination. The nominations were noted by the meeting.
- 7.2 With Malcolm Airs standing down, Eddie Booth was nominated as Chair. This was uncontested. Eddie Booth, in accepting the Chair, paid tribute to Malcolm Airs. Eddie Booth recalled that it was he, amongst others, who had signed Malcolm's nomination form for the post of Chair. In sparing the obituary, Eddie Booth invited Malcolm to continue to Chair the AGM.
- 7.3 Sarah Higgins' nomination for Vice Chair was uncontested.
- 7.4 The positions of Treasurer, Education Secretary, Membership Secretary, Chair of the Editorial Board and Council member (Company Secretary), were also uncontested. In a formal motion, the elections of Officers were proposed by Malcolm Airs, and seconded by Rosemarie MacQueen.

8 **Special Motion on Continuing Professional Development**

- 8.1 In relation to the report presented by John Preston, Rik Fox queried the position of IHBC members who were members of other organisations with CPD requirements, and whether there could be any 'cross-fertilization' as they might otherwise have to do 100 hours of CPD in total.
- 8.2 John Preston stated that the IHBC would be looking to common standards. David Birkett indicated that the RIBA would accept IHBC CPD as part of theirs. Bob Kindred pointed out that it would not be 25 hours per year, but 50 hours over a two year period, like the RTPI, which would allow CPD to be spread out. Malcolm Airs added that it was important to take CPD forward for the professional standing of the Institute.
- 8.3 There were no opposing motions and the motion was carried.
- The meeting closed at 6.25 pm.

OFFICERS' REPORTS FOR THE YEAR 2001–2002

CHAIR

The fact that my election to this post at last year's AGM in London was unopposed should have been a warning. I was immediately plunged into a vigorous debate about service provision that was clearly capable of rumbling on. Fortunately, as a complete newcomer to Council, I was better placed than most to extract a decision in principle, which a small team of officers could then take forward through negotiation. And I am extremely grateful that they did so successfully.

Despite that in-at-the-deep-end start, I must thank everyone on Council for a warm welcome and, indeed, Malcolm Airs for a smooth handover. Fortunately, I was soon able to abandon all those 'hard-act-to-follow' sentiments as Malcolm accepted the invitation to become the Institute's first President. This is not an elected post but one that is appointed by Council. It enables the responsibility for 'meeting and greeting' on behalf of the Institute to be shared, and Malcolm has done this admirably.

Responsibilities have also been shared this year with the three Vice Chairs, who account for themselves separately in their own reports. Sarah, Mark and Ronnie have certainly made my life easier and I shudder to think how my predecessors coped. This has, therefore, been a consolidating year in which we have been learning to spread the load of business, policy and membership issues through the still new committee structure, making full use of local and even virtual meetings.

The Service Provision Group and the *Context* Editorial Board have worked extremely hard to ensure a seamless changeover to our new relationship with Cathedral Communications, the immediate effect of which is that we have a central address, a telephone number and, most importantly, someone to answer it. We all extend a warm welcome to Lydia Porter, our Administrator, who has very quickly made herself completely indispensable.

Context continues to set exemplary standards for a professional journal under its Editor, Rob Cowan, and the Editorial Board led by Nigel Barker. Other, more recent, additions to the repertoire have received equal praise, quickly becoming important parts of the way in which the Institute works. The second *Yearbook* was produced, this time by the Wales Branch under Trefor Thorpe, the second Business Plan was again produced singlehandedly by Steve Bateman, and the IHBC web site was dramatically improved by Peter Badcock and Sarah Homer. All these endeavours require a huge amount of time and effort for which we must all be most grateful.

Meanwhile, our external work has not faltered. Professional development opportunities continue with the Annual School and many regional conferences and seminars, we are represented in numerous places, such as the committee taking forward the issues in *Power of Place*, and we are conducting a survey of local authorities' provision for conservation. Also, of course, we are seeing the fruits of last year's action on *Part L* of *The Building Regulations*.

To summarise this year's achievements, we have:

- appointed Malcolm Airs as the first President of the Institute of Historic Building Conservation
- following consideration of alternatives, changed publisher and taken on a part-time administrator
- contributed again to the BHCT project at Banffy Castle in Romania and, with the Transylvania Trust, received the Grigore Ionescu Award from the Romanian government
- resolved to join the Urban Design Alliance
- begun to test a new structure for Council and Committees, with three new main committees and a reduced number of Council meetings each year
- increased the number of publications of *Context* each year from four to five, now all in full glorious colour
- published, with the assistance of the Welsh Branch, the Institute's *Yearbook* for the second year
- redesigned the Institute's web site, now averaging over 55,000 hits per month, and increased the number of links to other historic environment web sites
- introduced new scales and rates of charges for services
- designed a membership certificate for passing in the near future to all full members
- drafted new *Membership Guidelines* for Branches, a *Guide for Organisers of the Annual School*, and *Standing Orders* and *Regulations* for Council and Committee Practice
- continued to develop an IHBC Guidance Note for owners on the maintenance of historic buildings
- liaised with the RICS on the Historic Buildings' Survey Initiative
- attended a British Council conference on 'Realising Heritage Potential in Hungary'
- organised an Annual School in London, at a surplus to the benefit of the Institute
- organised five Branch Schools and conferences, 46 other Branch events and over 100 Branch meetings of one kind or another
- published at least three Branch Newsletters
- begun the process of introducing a CPD regime for the Institute

- developed a new disciplinary regime for the Institute
- attended meetings of the steering groups of the following
 - *Power of Place*
 - Heritage Forward (now Heritage Link)
 - Review Committee
 - PPG15/16 Conservation Accreditation Framework
 - Church Heritage Database
 - The Built and Moveable Heritage Group (Wales)
 - Welsh Religious Buildings Trust
 - Traditional Buildings Initiative (Historic Scotland)
 - The Historic Burgh's Association of Scotland
 - The Built Environment Forum (Scotland)
 - The Scottish Carved Stones Committee
 - Scottish Executive Working Groups on Conservation Area Management and *The Building Regulations*
 - Historic Environment Information Systems and Technology
 - The Planning Officers' Society's Matrix for Excellence in Urban Design and Conservation
- attended other meetings of
 - CoTAC
 - The Archaeology Training Forum
 - The Supervisory Board of the AABC
 - The Accreditation Framework for Architectural Conservation
 - The Local Authority Conservation Provision Survey
 - The Stone Slate Roofing Group
- responded to consultations on
 - the revised *Part L* of *The Building Regulations*, with important implications for the involvement of all the future Building Regulations in the historic environment
 - the planning green paper
- attended various meetings (in England) of the Regional Cultural and Historic Environment Forums
- and, not least, welcomed another 90 new members to the Institute.

However, there is a continuing need for vigilance. All is not well with the committee structure of UNESCO, the recognition of conservation in Best Value assessments and, in several places, the security of conservation posts. Nor can we be confident of the current government maintaining any commitment to heritage issues.

There is much to be done in the coming year, not least the revision of *PPGs 15* and *16*. We are responding to this and other potential threats by making stronger alliances with other organisations, such as the Institute of Field Archaeologists and Heritage Link. We have an energetic new Consultations Secretary, Dave Chetwyn, to

co-ordinate our policy statements but there is still too much work falling on too few shoulders. If the proverbial bus ran over just three key people, we would be set back by several years. My own ambition, therefore, is to see a more actively involved membership making the Institute ever more effective.

Eddie Booth

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VICE CHAIR BUSINESS

The Business Committee covers the following areas of work for the Institute: the work of the Treasurer; the management of *Context*; the development of information technology; the Annual Schools; the preparation of the IHBC Business Plan; and the development of a business mentality.

During 2001–02 there has been much change in the way that we do things. We have changed our publisher for *Context*, made it a colour journal, increased the number per year, but also ceased the production of *IHBC News*. We have employed a part-time administrator to provide support for key Council officers and functions, we have redesigned the web site and entered into arrangements to increase its linkages and accessibility on the Internet and we have re-evaluated our available sources of income and introduced new rates and scales of charges. Individual Officers' reports will cover some of these issues.

In making all these changes it has been of paramount importance to ensure that they are sustainable in financial terms and are in the long-term best interests of the Institute. Of particular concern has been the recognition that it is no longer possible to do everything on the good will, voluntary basis that characterised the Institute in its early days and the ACO before it. Professionalism and efficiency in the organisation are integral to its success as *the* representative professional body in the conservation field and this cannot be achieved around the kitchen table. The Business Committee has been concerned to evaluate the real cost of our activities so that we can plan adequately for the future. At this stage I am happy to report that we have sustained required levels of expansion and growth in the past year. Looking ahead, further support for the organisation will be necessary, particularly if we are to become routinely successful in the lobbying and policy informing activities which are so central to our existence. Avenues of income generation remain to be explored and the realisation of the potential of the Internet is in its early stages. The expansion of these activities to support the IHBC has been identified as a key work area in the year ahead by the Business Committee.

In addition to working with the Business Committee, I have also remained the co-ordinator of the IHBC's structure review. The reorganisation of Council into three central committees covering Business, Policy & Practice and Membership and the introduction of delegated powers and new reporting procedures got off to a regrettably delayed start in 2001. A review carried out in the Spring of 2002 has revealed that the new structure has focussed attention and activity on these key functions of the organisation. Email meetings have improved the efficiency of

Council but require further development and the successful operation of delegated powers also requires further work. Overall support for the new system exists and it is widely recognised as the way forward, but it is not yet ready to be formally adopted and a further development stage has therefore been agreed.

Finally, having been a Vice Chair for three years, a period generally recognised as a 'term of office' and indeed the term suggested for adoption in the new structure, I will not be standing for re-election at the AGM, but wish to make way for new enthusiasts with new ideas. It has been rewarding, challenging and enjoyable to serve the IHBC and I should like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support during my term of office.

Sarah Higgins

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VICE CHAIR POLICY AND PRACTICE

Council discussed the original objectives of the Policy and Practice Committee at the outset of this year. It was agreed that the focus should be professionalism and relevance, seeking to align with the changing needs of the industry and be responsive to the aspirations of the membership. P&P has determined its aim as the simplification and clarification of procedures as far as possible, to avoid undue bureaucracy whilst concentrating on the matter at hand. The Committee has been proved to be transparent and accountable, with sufficient executive delegation to be able to progress initiatives without unnecessary delay.

In both of these key areas, the first year of the new system has been a qualified success; problems where they have arisen have been largely organisational, and due to vacancies in key posts, illness and inaccessibility of meetings. There appears to be a general tightening of attitudes by employers over allowing time for IHBC business, and the need for members to take leave, and so forth, has mitigated against full attendance. It is the intention to try variations, such as e-meetings and combined meetings/visits/CPD events, so as to minimise these disincentives but the problem remains that the workload is extensive and complicated, and it is stretching the bounds of what can be achieved with voluntary labour alone.

The year has been dominated by the need to respond to extremely important consultation requests, latterly without the services of a Consultations Secretary. Responses have been largely achieved by the valiant efforts of the usual suspects, for which thanks are due. It is expected that, with the very recent appointment of Dave Chetwyn as Consultations Secretary, and an agreed method for prioritising levels of response to the many requests received each month, an altogether slicker and more manageable process will ensue.

Our efforts in promoting the cause have been seriously hampered by the lack of a Publicity Officer in post. It is clear that we simply do not get enough publicity, and to attempt to remedy this, Council has authorised the investigation of alternative interim arrangements, such as commissioning professional help in this area.

On an individual basis, I have been joining in the general effort to foster beneficial links with other relevant organisations, particularly in the field of regeneration. I am on the steering group of Heritage Link, for instance, an organisation which seeks to have influence at the highest level by being the focussed voice of all of the national heritage organisations on a range of agreed issues. I have also been assisting with the organisation of the 2002 Summer School, so if you don't like the entertainment, you know who to blame!

If I continue to enjoy the support of colleagues on Council, I will endeavour to sharpen up the activities of Policy and Practice in the forthcoming year. I am acutely aware that members expect their committees to deal with business without bothering them unduly, whilst being kept properly informed. I can speak on behalf of my fellow Committee Members that fulfilling this expectation continues to be our central aim.

Mark Strawbridge

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VICE CHAIR MEMBERSHIP

Following the creation of the new devolved structure for the Institute, the Membership Committee has been able to meet on four occasions during the year. Having agreed terms of reference and delegated powers and other administrative details, the Committee felt that one of the most pressing needs to be addressed was the production of a membership certificate. Ian Goodman and the North Branch took this issue on board and within a remarkably short time the Committee was able to agree on a format, which was endorsed by Council on 28 March 2002. I hope that certificates will be made available to full Members by, or soon after, this AGM.

Approval of membership applications has been perhaps the main issue discussed and the Membership Secretary is drafting new up to date guidelines for Branches to ensure that there is some continuity in the manner by which Branches check membership applications within the Branch area. The creation of a central Membership Committee was not intended to take over the vetting of application forms, the Branches still being the initial checking mechanism as they are likely to be able to conduct any local enquiries that might be necessary. The Membership Committee will consider applications with the recommendation of the Branch, and if approved, applications will be submitted to full Council for endorsement. It will be important that Branch Representatives remember to submit applications to the Membership Secretary prior to the date of the Membership Committee as opposed to that of full Council.

The Membership Committee comprises four Branch representatives, Membership Secretary and myself as Chair, all (full) IHBC Members who give their time to work for the interest of the other members. We do, however, need to know what you as members would like us to do for you. Please contact me either via your Branch or direct. I look forward to hearing your views and ideas.

Ronnie Robertson

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SECRETARY

This has been a very busy year in terms of the work of the Secretary in administering the Institute behind the scenes. In particular, Council considered that the Secretary should chair the Service Provision Group which was tasked with negotiating the hand-over of the Institute's publishing from Hall-McCartney Ltd to Cathedral Communications Ltd. This was coupled with investigation of the needs of the Institute in terms of the provision of external services, including the need for a part-time administrator (particularly to help with the collection of subscriptions), the use of an office as an external face for the Institute, and possible assistance in future with accountancy and public relations services. The last has been put on hold pending the election of Publicity Secretary and it may be, with the increasing complexity of the finances of the Institute, that accountancy services may be needed. The Service Provision Group advised Council, after discussion with the various Officers concerned, that these were not required now, but Council agreed with the appointment of an administrator. Lydia Porter, who started work for the Institute in January, and who should be present at the AGM this year, has already turned out to be a boon, especially for the Membership Secretary who has been assisted with many of the more routine and time-consuming chores.

I must thank Gus Astley, Nigel Barker, David Stirling and Neil Sumner, the members of the Group, for their help, as well as all the other Officers affected by the changes. It is hoped that the change-over has gone smoothly.

Other than that the Secretary continues to carry out all the main administrative back-up for Council, act as a main contact point for the Institute *vis-a-vis* the outside world, and to deal with all the paperwork relating to the Charity Commissioners and Companies House. I must also thank our lawyer, Elizabeth MacRobert of Ward Hadaway, for all her assistance and advice over the past year.

Finally, I would just mention that I have formally handed in my notice to resign at the AGM 2003. If anybody would like to speak to me about a rewarding job which offers some interesting, not to say unusual, sidelights on conservation and the personalities involved, I would be happy to assist. Discretion assured, of course.

Richard Morrice

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MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

The 2001/2002 subscription year has, yet again, been very busy. Sadly, membership numbers have fallen by 71 during the year, mainly due to the termination of the Temporary Affiliate membership category. At the inauguration of the Institute on 14 March 1997, all former members of the Association of Conservation Officers were automatically transferred to Temporary Affiliate Membership of the new Institute. This was only intended to be a temporary membership category to ease the transition from the ACO to the IHBC. The *Articles of Association* of the IHBC state, at Article 2.2, *Only those persons who have submitted an application in accordance with Article 2.1, and have satisfied the Council as to the matters set out in this Article 2.2 and*

been approved by a majority vote of the Council shall be admitted or thereafter remain as members of the Institute. All former ACO members therefore had to apply for membership of the Institute. At the Membership Committee on 11 October 2001 it was resolved that the Temporary Affiliate membership category would cease on 31 March 2002. As a result, 82 members who had not officially applied for membership of the Institute were removed from the membership database on 1 April 2002.

In addition to this significant reduction in membership, there was also the usual annual fall-out resulting from non-payment of subscriptions. The *Articles of Association* state that, if a member has not paid his/her annual subscription within six calendar months of the first day of the membership year, the membership of that person shall terminate automatically. This resulted in a further thirty members being removed from the database in October 2001.

In the light of the reduced membership numbers, I would again urge all members to try to enrol at least one new member this year. We are particularly keen to enrol new members from private practice. The last subscription drive fell entirely flat on its face - we only received two or three applications after sending application forms out to everybody! Surely you all know some really good practitioners or colleagues who are eminently qualified for IHBC membership? If you want membership application packs, you can either download the documents from the Membership section of the IHBC web site at www.ihbc.org.uk or Lydia Porter or myself can post the fully formatted versions to you if you contact either of us. The new business address can be found at the front of the *Yearbook* or *Context*.

Which, of course, brings me to the best piece of news. A lot of effort has been expended this year in negotiating the employment of a permanent member of staff at our new business address at Tisbury. I am delighted to welcome Lydia Porter as our new Admin Information Officer. She now deals with all subscription enquiries and payments and will send out membership application packs and answer general enquiries where possible. We have a job sharing arrangement with Lydia working part time for IHBC and part time for Cathedral Communications Ltd, the Institute's new publisher. The result of this is that the IHBC phone is also answered quite often by Cathedral Communications staff. I would therefore take this opportunity to thank our new Cathedral Communications colleagues for their help in dealing with IHBC members. Although Lydia will be dealing with the above matters, I will continue to maintain the membership database, deal with applications for membership and administer the Institute's Label Service.

Applications for membership continue to come in and I am pleased to have welcomed 90 entirely new members to the Institute since 1 April 2001 (coincidentally the same number as we welcomed in 1999/2000). The paid-up membership now stands at 1,334 members. Thanks go as usual to the Branch Council Members, Membership Secretaries and Committees for their efforts in carrying out the initial checks on applications. I would again remind older members that there is a £20 concessionary subscription rate for retired members. If you wish to take advantage of this, please write to me and confirm that you are no longer

gainfully employed as a conservation practitioner and that you are not otherwise gainfully employed and I will be able to approve a concessionary rate.

I am pleased to report that the steady increase in the number of members paying by banker's order, together with the prompt payment by others, has resulted in a significant proportion of this year's subscription income residing already in the Institute's Premier Interest savings account. I thank all who helped to achieve this. It really does benefit the Institute as we gain significant income from the interest on this account. Notwithstanding the above comments, I would continue to advise all members who pay by banker's order that they must watch their bank statements carefully. Experience has proved that banks do not always carry out your instructions! Quite a number of banks have continued to pay the former £20 subscription as well as the new £50 subscription. They also have an irritating habit of suddenly altering or stopping payments for no apparent reason! If you have any queries, contact Lydia on 01747 873133 (phone), 01747 871718 (fax) or email admin@ihbc.org.uk.

Apart from being delighted to see the production of the 2002 *Yearbook*, it has resulted in the usual crop of notifications from members that their details have changed. As it says in the *Yearbook*, the data is only as good as that given to me by the publication deadline. If you find any errors in the *Yearbook*, your membership database entry is almost certainly incorrect and you should contact me with the correct details. I do need to be kept up to date about all changes to members details as soon as they occur. The membership database contains your full name (including preferred title for mailings), home and office addresses (including post codes) with phone, fax and mobile numbers, email addresses, job title, educational and professional qualifications, mailing preferences, Branch area, membership type and date of birth. I can supply a form if necessary to enable you to update information. The computerisation of the records continues to reap its rewards in enabling Lydia and myself to track payments effectively and facilitating the easy production of labels.

Please take careful note of the deadlines for payment of annual subscriptions. You are expected to pay your subscription within a month of the commencement of the subscription year (1 April). Those who do not pay their membership subscriptions by 30 September in any subscription year will have their membership terminated. The annual subscription due on 1 April 2002 was £50 for Full, Affiliate and Associate members, £20 for those paying the Retired rate, £10 for the Concessionary student/hardship rate and £75 for those few members who still pay the Corporate/Library rate. You should have already paid this year's subscription. If you haven't, do it now before the matter slips from your memory! It is still of benefit both for members and the Institute if subscriptions are paid by banker's order. Once banks get their payment details correct, they normally seem to pay efficiently. By paying in this way, the Institute gets most of its income at the beginning of the subscription year and can then accrue interest (as stated above). The added benefit for members from paying by banker's order is that they then avoid the possibility of

forgetting to pay subscriptions and being struck off! I would remind you, however, that it is your responsibility to check that your bank has indeed paid your subscription. Please also understand that it is assumed that all overpayments are donations to the Institute unless the Admin Information Officer or Membership Secretary is informed otherwise.

Label income has again risen this year. This income is a welcome spin-off from a service which is proving to be an effective way in which conservation jobs, courses and trade information can be targeted to IHBC members. The service also helps to raise the profile of the Institute with employers and others. Please remember to recommend its use within your own organisation and elsewhere – it helps to keep subscriptions down if nothing else! I am hoping that I can still maintain the upward trend in income from this source in the coming year but my records show a slightly lower income in the early part of this financial year.

As usual, I confirm that Lydia and myself will continue to do our best for you all but we are not infallible. If you have any problems or think we have got something wrong, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Gus Astley

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CONTEXT EDITORIAL BOARD CHAIR

The last year has been very busy for the Board following the decision taken at Council to change publishers. In a very long association, Hall-McCartney has seen the journal develop from a newsletter into a very successful and respected publication. They worked with the predecessor body to the Institute, the ACO, and through their support and advice helped to make *Context* what it was, for which we are extremely grateful. It was therefore a momentous decision for Council to enter into a new relationship with Cathedral Communications to produce *Context* in addition to the *IHBC Yearbook*, which they already produce for us.

The transition from Hall-McCartney to Cathedral Communications has been largely without problems, because of the goodwill on all sides and the hard work of the SPG and the Board. It provided an opportunity to look again at the publications produced by the Institute and, as members are now aware, the decision was taken to discontinue *IHBC News* and produce five copies of *Context* a year instead. With the production of the *Yearbook* in January, this effectively means a bi-monthly publication schedule. This is a challenge because the copy deadlines fall hard on the heels on each other and more material has to be commissioned and/or submitted. The decision has also been taken to publish in full colour for the first time, which makes the journal appear much more professional and attractive. There will be further developments in the coming months to try to improve *Context* and make it even more relevant and indispensable for members.

All of this would not be possible without the hard work of the Board and particularly the Editor, Rob Cowan. However, after two and half years some Board members

have had to step down. Amy Hunt, the Diary and Events Editor, is resigning, as is Sarah Higgins. Their workloads thus fall on the remainder of the existing Board who are already busy. It is therefore important that we have new recruits to spread the load and bring in new ideas. This is just one aspect of a larger challenge for the Institute, as the May edition of *Context* highlighted. As ever, I am concluding this report with an appeal for volunteers – there must be some out there, so get in touch.

Nigel Barker

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EDUCATION SECRETARY

The Education Committee has met four times during the year. The number of members attending has been limited (and was reflected in an underspend on the anticipated budget), but the increased involvement of representatives from Scotland and Wales has been very welcome. The limited number of meetings (and, particularly, the limited attendance at them) is in part a reflection of the general workload pressures affecting all members, but an additional factor has been the extent of my *external* commitment as Education Secretary in representing the Institute's and members' interests in relation to standards and accreditation. This workload over the past year has highlighted the pressures involved in trying to develop a professional Institute and a UK-wide promotional role.

The development and promotion of IHBC as a UK-wide standard-setting body has involved taking part in a wide range of bodies including COTAC, the Archaeology Training Forum, and the Supervisory Board of the AABC Register, as well as involvement in specific initiatives including the development of the Accreditation Framework for Architectural Conservation, the Local Authority Conservation Provision Survey (LACPS), the Planning Officers' Society's Matrix for Excellence in Urban Design and Conservation, and the development of standards for Archaeology.

We planned the IHBC 2001 School as a key agenda-setting event; one of its aims was to try to secure a commitment from English Heritage to accreditation and standards, particularly in relation to public sector conservation work. The commitment on accreditation secured from EH (to AABC accreditation of the lead professional on grant-aided projects, from 1 April 2003), although welcome, is both flawed and limited in its scope; EH's support for the LACPS survey (another outcome of the School) has enabled progress on fact-finding in relation to standards of service delivery, although at a much slower than ideal pace. The development of the POS Matrix provided a welcome opportunity for developing an agreed template for public sector work, in the absence of a commitment from EH. The continuing urgent need for such a template has been highlighted by the Best Value process in England, the Single Status review in Scotland, and Cadw's efforts to find a basis for delegation of applications affecting Grade II listed buildings in Wales.

The most promising development has been the Accreditation Framework for Architectural Conservation, commissioned by Historic Scotland but with UK-wide relevance; this has potential to provide the shared basis for standard-setting and

accreditation which the conservation sector so badly needs. There is potential for IHBC (subject to resourcing) to play a major role; the IFA's role in the current development of standards for archaeology provides a potential model. However there are tensions between pressures to define a discrete 'historic environment' sector comprising building conservation and archaeology, and the need for the conservation sector to maximise its outreach to the wider construction industry. These issues will have been explored at the Oxford Conference on 17 May.

The Committee is charged with development of a CPD regime for the Institute, and the aim had been to present proposals to this AGM. The CPD process needs to be simple and to impose minimum burdens on IHBC members (many of whom have to satisfy more than one Institute's CPD requirements), but also to be rigorous and professionally credible. Implementation of any CPD regime depends on gaining employer support, and agreement of the skills required to deliver agreed standards of service. This in turn will depend on the development of effective public and private sector accreditation systems. As such systems are not yet in place (see above), it would be premature to propose a full IHBC CPD regime now, and therefore no change is proposed this year to the current interim arrangements. There are very significant issues to be discussed and shared with the wider membership; we are planning a workshop session on CPD at the Annual School, and we hope as many members as possible will be able to come.

I have announced my intention not to seek re-election as Education Secretary, at the end of my three year term which concludes at this AGM. I have been working for IHBC (and, previously, ACO) in this field for nearly ten years; this has only been possible because I work a four-day week for my employers. Following my recent marriage, I now have other priorities, and cannot commit the time required to organising the Committee's work (although I have plans for taking forward my work on developing and implementing standards). Nominations are now being sought for a new Education Secretary.

John Preston

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CONSULTATIONS SECRETARY

I officially became Consultations Secretary on 28 March 2002, though I have been active in the role since January 2002. The Committee currently has 12 members, although one of these is due to leave in the near future. The current Committee membership represents seven of the 14 IHBC Regions. I have emailed the unrepresented regions and asked them to appoint representatives, though the response so far has been disappointing.

A consultations page is proposed for the IHBC web site, and the IT Secretary has approved this in principle. The purpose of this will be to raise awareness of the Committee's activities and allow the wider IHBC membership to monitor current consultation documents. This may help to encourage wider participation.

I have also been involved in the increasingly difficult issue of European State aid rules and heritage funding. The implications of the 1999 decision on the English Partnership PIP are now being more fully realised and numerous heritage projects in different areas are in trouble. I gave evidence on the impact of the rules on built heritage to the House of Commons Urban Affairs Select Committee in February, as part of their inquiry into 'The Need for a New European Regeneration Framework'.

The Consultations Committee met on 9 October 2001, and in a joint session with the Law Committee on 25 January 2002. The latter meeting was to discuss the planning green paper. It is intended to develop a more proactive role for consultations, the intention being for the IHBC to help set the national agendas rather than just reacting to proposals put forward in discussion documents. The planned review of *PPGs15* and *16* is a good example of where this approach could be beneficial.

Dave Chetwyn

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LAW SECRETARY

The Law Sub-Committee is a sub-committee of the Policy and Practice Committee and comprises several specialists in their field. The ten members meet at approximately twelve–sixteen weekly intervals. These meetings are co-ordinated to occur on the same dates as the Education Sub-Committee or other IHBC meetings for efficiency and cost reasons.

As the Institute exists to establish the highest standards of conservation practice to support the effective protection and enhancement of the historic environment, the Law Sub-Committee is fundamental to the work of the Institute by reporting pertinent legal issues, case law and ministerial decisions, actively lobbying for changes in conservation policy and practice, stimulating debate on how the law and policy of conservation practice should develop, and organising training needs and serving the educational needs of the members.

The current programme of the Law Sub-Committee for 2002 is to continue with the Law and Practice road shows and prepare the proposed road shows for the next year, to assist with the IHBC's response to the Government's current planning reviews, to provide information and articles for *Context* in relation to pertinent legal and policy issues, and to assist with the Education Sub-Committee's remit and also where possible with relevant consultations in conjunction with the Consultations Secretary.

The Law Sub-Committee has a limited budget. Initially it was intended to run a series of four or five road shows at cost. The first road show was successful in terms of attendance. The fee was value for money and the costs and income were balanced effectively. It is intended to organise several more half-day seminars around the country beginning in June 2002 in the North West. It is hoped that this will be administered centrally by our new administrator. The dates and venues have yet to be determined. Watch *Context* like a hawk!

Alexandra Fairclough

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BRANCHES SECRETARY

The birth of my daughter in the autumn has, I'm afraid, dominated my year, so far leaving little time for IHBC business. Before my maternity leave commenced however, I helped organise last year's Annual School in London and represented Council at meetings on the preparation of the 'Local Authority Conservation Provision' survey.

Julia Smith

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SCHOOLS SECRETARY

2002 sees the publication via the IHBC web site of the *Guide for Organisers of the Annual School* (not a very snappy title, but a descriptive one). It sets out in simple paragraphs suggestions for setting up an organising committee and selecting a venue, and moves on to tips to help the event to run smoothly. The guide has already been circulated to all regional representatives and IHBC Council members a number of times as part of a consultation on the contents. I hope that the pages can be regularly updated to include advice that other organisers wish to pass on.

This year the Annual School in Warwick has been organised by a core of volunteers drawn both from the West Midlands and nationally from IHBC Council (including myself, two Vice Chairs, the Education Secretary and the Business Manager). We owe particular thanks to British Waterways. BW has hosted many of our meetings and has taken on the task of administering the bookings and hosting practical sessions open to all delegates at Hatton Craft Skills Centre.

In 2003 the School is being organised by the East Anglian Branch. The *Organisers' Guide* is there to help the Committee, and I feel that my role as a formal adviser has come to a natural end. I am stepping down as Schools Secretary at this AGM, but will always be willing to assist any Branch that would like additional assistance based on my own experience of ACO/IHBC Schools.

In the meantime I am happy to answer any queries you may have about organising an IHBC event.

Jane Jackson

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EUROPEAN SECRETARY

The IHBC IT Secretary, Peter Badcock, recently published an analysis of visits to our web site which showed very clearly the huge number of inquiries we now receive from overseas countries. The work and reputation of the IHBC is becoming very widely appreciated, and is certain to encourage further interest through the implementation of overseas projects like the Built Heritage Conservation Training Programme in Romania. This has been the major project of the IHBC implemented during the last year and I hope that the Institute is as proud of its outcome as those who have been privileged to be involved. The IHBC has always advertised itself as a

broad church, and this has certainly been the case with the BHCT project which has involved professional architects, conservation officers and structural engineers, working directly with conservation lecturers, craftsmen and labourers, all of whom have contributed to the end goal, and all knowing that their individual input to the jigsaw puzzle has contributed to its success. Holistic conservation involving all disciplines has been shown to be viable through this work.

Through the BHCT Project, Banffy Castle at Bontida, once known as the Versailles of Transylvania and identified in the *World Monument Watch List* of one hundred most endangered buildings, is now breathing new life. This is a major achievement in which the collaboration of the IHBC and the Transylvania Trust has delivered results which have not only achieved a building's restoration but also directly affect the daily lives of everyone directly involved in the project and the residents of Bontida where the project is based. It is a major responsibility where community involvement and conservation practice meet and flourish.

Many of you will be familiar with the BHCT Project through the report in the *IHBC Yearbook*. The project, a joint initiative between the IHBC and the Transylvania Trust, has attracted much attention. In March this year the Transylvania Trust was awarded the Grigore Ionescu Award. This is the highest conservation award given in Romania and was received by them not only on behalf of the TT but also of the IHBC. The Romanian Minister for Culture and Religion, in visiting the project, has seen the results of only a short term collaboration between the IHBC and the Transylvania Trust, which has produced the restoration of the physical fabric of the castle at Bontida, the teaching of building students and architects/engineers who will be the future specifiers of building conservation work in Romania, and the development of a commercial café facility which will act as a catalyst for the cultural and tourism development of the castle, and has pledged future support for its continued development. The work at Bontida has been the main practical project during the past year and has attracted considerable media attention and personal visits from politicians and professionals with significant influence in guiding Eastern European conservation work, (Jonathan Scheele, Head of Delegation of the European Commission in Romania; Simon Mordue, Head of Pre-Accession Assistance, European Commission Romania; Razvan Teodorescu, Minister for Culture and Religion (Romania); Mihaly Nagy, Director for Conservation within the Ministry of Culture, Hungary; Stephan Roman, Director of The British Council, Romania; Alexander Balega, Head of Pamiatkovy Ustav, Slovakia; Cristof Machat, Head of ICOMOS Civih; and many others). Bontida was also one of the projects inspected by the Europa Nostra Committee last summer. This has been one of the most important projects in promoting co-operation between governmental and non-governmental organisations in Eastern Europe and has created an atmosphere of hope and determination, which the IHBC will be instrumental in guiding.

This project will continue in Romania this year but with new innovations, in response to direct requests, which will include a special teaching module for students from the Carpathian Basin (ie Hungary), Ukraine, Slovakia, and the Czech

Republic. In Hungary the Apaczai Fund was set up by the Ministry of Education, and sponsors general educational projects. The work at Bontida in 2001 has inspired them specifically to request the inclusion of the Carpathian Basin module into the BHCT Project this year. Additionally we have been invited by the Pamiakovy Ustav (The National Board for Historic Building Conservation) in Slovakia to present at a conference on conservation training, which is being co-organised with UNESCO, and help organise similar projects in Slovakia. In Italy the authorities responsible for the Episcopal Palace at San Gimignano were given a presentation of the Bontida model in December last year at their request. The palace was until recently used as a prison, and its potential development as a conservation training centre is seen as a means of giving new life to the buildings. Similarly in the city of Oradea (Western Romania) we were invited during April by the Mayor and Chief Architect to inspect their Vauban fortress (which incidentally is the largest in Europe), again with a view to developing the Bontida model to help secure its restoration. This venture was undertaken in association with the Pro Patrimonio (the equivalent of the Romanian National Trust), under the guidance of Sherban Canticuzino, a former Commissioner with the Royal Fine Arts Commission, who is now working jointly with us in the development of Banffy Castle at Bontida.

More recently we have been invited to consider similar work in Latvia by the Gulbene District Council, and the most recent request for assistance came from the Ethiopian Embassy which is seeking British conservation expertise to restore two palaces in Ethiopia. Clearly the approach demonstrated through the BHCT model (teaching whilst restoring a building) and the practically-based minimum intervention strategy promoted by the IHBC is attractive to these countries in seeking to develop their conservation strategies and actively restore and develop their historic buildings. All of these examples serve to illustrate the doors which are opening to the IHBC on the international stage as our work becomes more widely known. The BHCT Project has presented a model which can be universally adapted. Its combination of practical building conservation skills and teaching of conservation philosophy to building students and university students of architecture and structural engineering (targeting the future specifiers), is a unique but simple formula which has struck a chord. It presents the IHBC with a huge challenge.

The high profile and success of the BHCT Project led to an invitation from The British Council in Hungary for members to attend a conference on 'Realising Heritage Potential' in Budapest last November. We were able to give an outline of the work of the IHBC and particularly the implementation of the BHCT Project. This had three direct outcomes. Firstly, an invitation from the Director of the Royal Castle at Visegrad (near Budapest) for the IHBC to become involved in its restoration and development, both directly and as a potential partner to unlock EU funding. Secondly, to work with the Szentendre Open Air Museum of Buildings (again near Budapest) in advising in restoration techniques and training. This co-operation will commence during the coming summer. Thirdly, a private British firm of tourism consultants who attended the conference is now working with us on the development of Bontida.

The concept of exporting heritage expertise is being actively promoted through the Creative Industries Department of The British Council which recognises the wealth of expertise which is available within the IHBC. Consequently The British Council in Romania has invited the IHBC, and the Transylvania Trust, to help organise a major conference on 'Cultural Tourism and its Impact on Regional Development' in Romania later this year. This is seen as the first step in a long series of conferences to be organised throughout Romania and Europe.

As you can judge, the interest in the IHBC and its considerable expertise is substantial and growing. The profile which the IHBC is developing abroad is significant. There is a clear interest in the British approach to conservation (and particularly in practical conservation training), above that of other western European countries. Although there is a clear demand on the wider European level for guiding conservation policy, the Eastern European Countries in particular are looking to Britain to satisfy their needs in the practical delivery of conservation. We in Britain have the luxury of almost 40 years of developing our conservation strategy, but they are keen to see results and look to the IHBC to help them fast track the process. Continued development in this direction needs to be very carefully addressed by the Institute both in terms of directing conservation policy abroad and developing practical projects. The policy and the practice are closely linked but are capable of being delivered through a parallel process. Perhaps we should be more international in our thinking since the demand for our expertise extends well beyond European boundaries. To enable the Institute to meet the clear demand which exists from abroad it will be essential to broaden the personnel base involved in this type of promotion. I therefore take this opportunity to invite members to contact me if they feel they could contribute to this type of work.

I would also wish to take the opportunity to thank our Chairman, Eddie Booth, for his continued support in the development of this work and trust that under his leadership the Institute will prosper internally through its external development.

David Baxter

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UNESCO CULTURE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE

The Committee was established in 1999. The IHBC appointment was made jointly by DCMS and DFID. The purpose and remit of the Committee were explained in the report to the 2001 AGM. The Committee met three times during the year in London, but a significant amount of the work was conducted by email. Although only recently re-established, the future of UNESCO UK's five main Committees has been the subject of a review by the Secretariat since last November. That structure may not continue in its present form although dismemberment has been strongly resisted by all the Committees and formal protest has been made to the sponsoring Ministers. IHBC Council has been kept informed, but the final outcome is not known at the time of writing.

A priority during the year has been development of the IHBC web site UNESCO

pages. These aim to explain the purpose of the relevant UNESCO Charters and Conventions and supporting issues.

As the Government continued to develop the actions required once they ratify the 1970 *Convention on the Means of Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property*, IHBC became concerned about the failure by the Ministerial Advisory Panel (on which it was not represented) to appreciate a number of key issues. These included: a lack of appreciation of architectural fixtures or salvage being 'portable antiquities'; that the actions required must apply to listed buildings as well as to (undefined) 'monuments'; and that applying a 100-year cut off point will fail to protect the content and features of 'modern' listed buildings. Furthermore, the existing powers under the 1990 Act should not be undermined by any legislative clauses proposed within the forthcoming Criminal Justice Bill. There has also been some liaison with the CBA on these issues.

The other significant topic of interest to IHBC has been the Culture Committee's recent initial consideration of an international Convention on Intangible Cultural Heritage and in particular the implication for the practical transfer of traditional craft skills from one generation to another. This has particular relevance in relation to the crisis for heritage skills identified by the DCMS in *A Force for Our Future* and in *Sustaining our Living Heritage – Skills and training in the heritage sector* by the Heritage Lottery Fund. An extensive explanatory paper about this was prepared for the web site in April.

Bob Kindred MBE
unesco@ihbc.org.uk

TECHNICAL SECRETARY

During this year Mark Price unfortunately felt unable to continue with his representation but his departure has enabled the Sub-Committee to take advantage of an offer by Stuart Pryke of the Building Research Establishment, Centre for Heritage, to participate in the work of the Committee and help establish links between IHBC and the BRE.

The Sub-Committee has continued to contribute articles of a technical nature to *Context*, the most recent one being an update on the increasingly controversial issue of thatch and historic buildings. This is a subject which is proving increasingly contentious for conservation officers and in which, therefore, the Sub-Committee is taking a strong interest which is expected to lead to future initiatives, aimed firstly at understanding the nature of the problem. Future subject matter for articles in *Context* is planned to include the cleaning of brickwork and dealing with the flooding of historic buildings.

Liaison continues over the historic buildings survey initiative with the RICS under whose auspices the document now seems likely to be produced in conjunction with their standard survey. Its adoption by the RICS would be welcomed since it would gain increased credibility amongst surveyors and lenders but this has made the

timescale for its production more protracted and has also delayed the conference intended to coincide with its publication. It is hoped, however, that that might now take place in 2002 and it will be aimed principally at users of the survey document.

Links with the Stone Roof Working Group continue and we still hope to assist with their two forthcoming guidance documents on small-scale quarrying for roofing stone and best practice in stone slate roofing but funding difficulties for that group have temporarily held up production.

The major project on which the Sub-Committee has been concentrating its efforts is the formulation and publication of an IHBC guidance note for owners on the maintenance of traditional buildings. This is aimed very much as a practical layman's guide to the maintenance of a variety of building types which are not necessarily listed but are of traditional construction. It is hoped it will be in circulation by the early summer and each member will receive a copy incorporated into an edition of *Context*. Whilst the document is also likely to be on the IHBC web site, good quality hard copies will be available at a very competitive price in bulk orders, which we hope will encourage members, particularly conservation officers, to make them available to building owners in their area. This is believed to be the first document of its kind in the UK, although maintenance of historic buildings is becoming a much more pressing issue, and we hope that members will support an initiative aimed at filling a large gap in building owners' awareness.

I would also like to remind members of our first technical publication, *The Repair of Earth-Walled Buildings*, which gives useful advice on the problems encountered in such structures, copies of which are still available through the Committee.

The revised *Part L* of *The Building Regulations*, in effect since April 2002, did ultimately take account of representations on the potential impact on historic buildings in which English Heritage took the lead, supported by IHBC and others. Members of the Sub-Committee have recently been involved in the production by English Heritage of guidelines for the implementation of *Part L* in relation to historic buildings and we would be interested to hear from members if they experience any particular problems on the ground.

Since I am now approaching the end of my third year as co-ordinator of the Technical Sub-Committee, and being less involved in technical matters in my day-to-day job, I feel the time is coming to hand over the mantle to another enthusiast who can continue to develop the role of the Sub-Committee to meet the needs of IHBC members.

Jenny Chesher
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IT SECRETARY

During the past year the IHBC web site has gone from strength to strength. The purchase and upgrading of IT equipment has continued, but has been at a very much more modest level as most Officers are now equipped to take part in the 'virtual office' to carry out as many duties as possible on the Internet. The first 'virtual' meetings of the Business Committee have taken place on-line at the instigation of Sarah Higgins, Vice Chair Business. This has allowed the business to be conducted very efficiently, in the participant's own time, minimising the disruption and expense of travelling. I have fortunately been able to continue to solve most of the computer problems arising from the Officers' duties, which has again saved a great deal of expense in professional 'help lines' and technicians.

The web site has vastly increased the numbers of people visiting the site, or 'hits' in the present jargon. Figures in the last year have increased three-fold to an average of 55,000 hits per month. Visitors are from all corners of the globe, particularly America and with much interest from the Far East. Visitors from the UK and Ireland form the majority, but only just: a truly international site! The Discussion Forum, where anyone can place a point for open discussion or ask for help in all aspects of our field of interest, has always been a popular aspect of the site, and visitors and participants have increased four-fold in the last year. There were some technical difficulties with the Forum towards the end of 2001 but, after several long winded attempts at repair by the web site hosts and myself, the problem has finally been solved by new software. The Events page has continued as a useful forum to display upcoming events by the Institute and allied organisations. I regret that Officers have not been as diligent as last year at sending me electronic versions of hand outs and leaflets so that I might publicise their efforts. Keep them coming. I can deal with most programme formats, but not hard copy please. The subject of job and general advertising on the site has been subject to much discussion throughout the year. It is hoped that a firm policy can be adopted soon so that this can be instigated as soon as possible. The site has a vast potential to perform a better service to the building conservation community and at the same time generate income for the Institute. As it has expanded the upkeep of the web site has become extremely time consuming. As a result in a change of my work circumstances, I have been able to devote a much more appropriate amount of time to the upkeep of the site. This has resulted in a major redesign and the move to a more professional web hosting package which has been well overdue for some time. The new design has resulted in many unsolicited compliments from both inside and outside the Institute, which makes the many hours spent bent over a computer screen worthwhile. I enjoy producing the site. I hope that you will enjoy using it. It is your site after all. Visit it, take part in discussions, send me information on Branch Events and articles on your work for the Institute (by email please, no hard copy). The site is a fine advertisement for the work of the Institute and, with your help, the service it so plainly provides to the building conservation community at home and abroad can only get even better.

Peter Badcock
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THE INSTITUTE'S OFFICERS 2001–2002

Malcolm Airts is an architectural historian and former Conservation Officer with South Oxfordshire District Council (1974–91). A historian with the GLC Historic Buildings Division (1966–73), he moved for a year to become the Architectural Editor of the *Survey of London*. After 17 years as a Conservation Officer, he was appointed Reader in the Conservation of the Historic Environment at the University of Oxford and a Fellow of Kellogg College. He has published three books: *The Making of the English Country House, 1500–1640*, 1975; *The Buildings of Britain: Tudor and Jacobean*, 1982; and *The Tudor and Jacobean Country House*, 1995.

A founder member of the ACO, Malcolm Airts has been a Royal Commissioner (RCHME) and is currently a member of the Historic Built Environment Advisory Committee of English Heritage.

Eddie Booth is a planner and urban designer, now in the private sector, and has been offering conservation consultancy services to the public sector since 1998. Formerly the Conservation Officer with the Metropolitan Borough of Calderdale in the West Riding of Yorkshire, he was a Historic Areas Advisor with English Heritage in the West Midlands, the South West and in London.

Eddie is an external examiner with Oxford Brookes University, and has been a member of the RTPI Conservation Panel (1992–99), the BSI Committee on the BSI Guide (1994–99) and CoTAC (1993–2000). A member of the organising committee of the 1988 Hebden Bridge School, he has assisted in three successful South East Branch conferences in Lewes, as a member of the South East Branch Committee.

Sarah Higgins has been a Conservation Officer since 1991 working in County, District and City Councils and currently for Tewkesbury Borough Council. She has been a member of the CBA casework panel, a trustee of a BPT and a guest lecturer on conservation courses at York and Leeds Metropolitan Universities. Educated at Oxford, Leicester, and the Ironbridge Institute, she has a doctorate in urban history and a masters degree in industrial archaeology. A former Branch Rep for Yorkshire, as well as a member of the Education Committee, Dr Higgins was an organiser for both the York and Lincoln ACO Schools.

Mark Strawbridge is the Acting Principal Conservation Officer in the Environment Department with Nottinghamshire County Council. He has over 25 years' experience in the conservation, planning, landscape, environmental, urban design and regeneration world. Trained in the West Country, he was Conservation Officer at Plymouth City Council and then Conservation and Design Officer at Charnwood Borough Council before joining private practice in 1987, following which he had 11 years of heritage, planning and consultancy work in the UK and abroad.

He was Consultancy Representative on the East Midlands Branch of the ACO from 1995 until the inception of the Institute, taking over as Vice Chair and then Chair of the Branch.

Ronnie Robertson is Conservation Officer with North Yorkshire County Council. Formerly with the Moray Council, he is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. He was Scottish Branch Representative for some years during the later 1980s.

Richard Morrice, an architectural historian, has been an Inspector of Historic Buildings at English Heritage/DOE since 1982. He was Projects Officer between 1991 and 1995 and has been Secretary since then. He is Events Secretary of the Society of Architectural Historians of Great Britain and a course tutor on the RICS Conservation Course, and a member of both a Diocesan Advisory Committee and a Historic Churches Committee. He is the Institute's representative on the working party on the Church Heritage Database.

Robert Parkinson studied architecture at Oxford Polytechnic and UCL, and worked as an architect in private practice in London. After completing an MSc at Birkbeck in Urban & Regional Planning, he worked in the Urban Design Group at Lambeth, and as Principal Architect/Planner in Westminster. Currently Head of Conservation Design and Landscape Service in West Oxfordshire, and member of Oxford Diocesan Advisory Committee. Treasurer of ACO and subsequently IHBC since 1994.

Gus Astley is an architect, a former SPAB scholar and a Senior Conservation Officer at Bath City and Bath & North East Somerset Councils since 1989. Formerly Assistant Editor of *Context*, he has been Membership Secretary since 1995.

Nigel Barker is an architectural historian with a doctorate on the history of the Board of Ordnance and the AA Diploma in Conservation. He was first employed by Surrey County Council in 1982 as part of the Accelerated Listing Resurvey. Having listed most of Surrey, he was retained by SCC as a Historic Buildings Advisor. Later Conservation Officer with Waverley Borough Council in Surrey, he is now a Historic Areas Advisor with English Heritage at its Guildford office.

John Preston read Architecture and Art History at Cambridge University and is now Conservation and Design Officer with Cambridge City Council. He was ACO East Anglia Branch Representative 1986-96. As a member of the Education Committee, he represents the Institute on CoTAC (Conference on Training in Architectural Conservation) and on the Supervisory Board for the Register of Architects Accredited in Building Conservation, as well as on working groups developing NVQs in Conservation Control and Conservation Consultancy. He is an external examiner for the Anglia and Nottingham conservation courses and is a printmaker and painter.

Julia Smith has been Conservation Officer with Milton Keynes Council for three years. Formally at Buckinghamshire County Council and Test Valley Borough Council, she is a planner with an Architecture Association Graduate Diploma in Conservation. Julia has been Branches Secretary for three years; she previously held the post of South Branch Representative for five years.

Jane Jackson, formerly of York and Bath City Councils, Jane was Conservation Officer at Wrekin DC with particular responsibility for the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site until 2000, when she took up the post of Inspector of Historic Buildings in the English Heritage Yorkshire Regional Office. A planner, she was Yorkshire Branch Representative (with Bob Scriven) between 1989 and 1995, moving then to the new post of Schools Secretary.

David Baxter was, until local government reorganisation, Conservation Officer with Hereford City Council, and is now with the Conservation Team at Herefordshire Council. Initially a planner, he has an urban design qualification and an MA in Architectural History.

Jenefer Chesher is an Inspector of Historic Buildings with the South West Region of English Heritage. A graduate of the York conservation course, she worked on the Accelerated Resurvey of the Lists of Historic Buildings in Devon and was until recently the Historic Buildings Officer with Mendip District Council.

Dave Chetwyn has MAs in Architectural History (Keele University) and Town Planning (University of Central England). He is a Senior Planning Officer (Design and Conservation) with Stoke-on-Trent City Council and has 14 years' experience of planning, design, conservation and regeneration project work. Dave has also been a part-time adult education tutor for Keele University, lecturing on 20th century architectural history. In February 2002 he gave evidence to the Urban Affairs Parliamentary Select Committee as part of its inquiry into 'The Need for a New European Regeneration Framework'.

Peter Badcock is a Senior Conservation Engineer with English Heritage, where he has been employed for 25 years. He is a Chartered Civil Engineer and gained a Postgraduate Diploma in Building Conservation from the Architectural Association in 1995. His love/hate relationship with computers is purely amateur and self-taught, in an effort to keep up with his teenage son.

BRANCH REPORTS FOR THE YEAR 2001–2002

EAST ANGLIA

The Branch meets regularly in Bury St Edmunds. Membership stands at 147 with a few applications in the pipeline. There has been almost no change from last year. A Branch Business Plan was presented to the 2001 and has been distributed to every member of the Branch. The Branch has continued to produce a Newsletter with a change of editor.

The Branch has resolved to launch a Conservation Award Scheme to encourage good conservation practice and to publicise the IHBC. The Branch will use the conservation awards to promote membership and form links with other organisations. A very comprehensive award scheme has been prepared by our membership secretary, which the Branch will implement over time. It is intended to build on a modest start this year.

A number of visits were organised across the region this year: the waterfront development in Ipswich, which included visits to the Isaac Lord merchant's house and Norman Foster's Willis Coroon building; new extensions to churches at the Maltings at Ely and a tour of Ely cathedral with the resident architect, Jane Kennedy; a visit to the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge to see and hear something about the conservation of the polychrome decoration in the entrance hall; and a day looking at various paints and decorations for historic buildings at Swaffam.

Events planned for this summer are a Timber Frame Repairs Day in partnership with Mid Suffolk District Council and 'New Design in the Historic Environment' at Cambridge.

On the 6 February 20 members of the Branch came together in Bury to discuss ideas for the Annual School in 2003. The date has been set for 26–29 June and will be based at the University of East Anglia in Norwich. A separate committee to organise the Annual School has been formed and has already had a second meeting.

Michael Knights

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EAST MIDLANDS

The last year seems to have been one when the Branch Committee breathed a collective sigh of relief. With the first *IHBC Yearbook* sitting proudly on members' shelves and the baton handed on to the Welsh Branch I think we suffered from some sort of 'post traumatic stress' disorder. But despite the shell shock the Committee has still been busy.

The AGM in September 2001 was held in Northampton Sessions House. Our tour took us into the cells and the AGM was held in grand style in the courtroom.

Attendance was, however, very disappointing.

Work continues with a teacher's pack on the historic environment and we are working towards our 2002 AGM which we hope will be held at the National Trust's latest attraction, the Thurgarton Workhouse near Southwell. One of the principal concerns the Committee has expressed in the past few months has been the decline of status of conservation services and the disbanding of conservation teams throughout the region. Sometimes the Committee has even managed to talk about a few real conservation issues.

Members of our Committee have been representing the Branch and the IHBC nationally on various new 'talking shops'. I have been attending meetings of the newly formed East Midlands Regional Heritage Forum whilst our Branch Chairman Mark Strawbridge in his role as Vice Chair (Policy and Practice) always has much to report on meetings he has attended.

Fiona Newton

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LONDON

The Annual School seems to have passed in something of a blur. It has been reported elsewhere and we hope that those attending had both an enjoyable and informative time.

Since then it has been an interesting year, with IHBC Council meetings and the new Business Committee to attend; although some meetings have been 'virtual' utilising the unnerving technology of email attachments. In between there have been successful Branch meetings. In July, 'Mind Body and Spirit in the City' involved a walk from Paternoster through to Smithfield, with David March discussing the new development around St Paul's, the Merrill Lynch buildings in Newgate Street and conservation around Smithfield and St Bart's.

In October we visited Somerset House, with a guided tour by Tom Dyson of Donald Insall and Partners who have refurbished and converted the buildings and transformed the courtyard into one of the most spectacular spaces in London. The walkabout ended with a general discussion of the project and other conservation issues. Then there was a crisp, misty morning in December at Kenwood. Croissants, Bucks Fizz and coffee were followed by a conducted tour of the house and collection with Jill Channer explaining the details of the paintings and hanging: an excellent and cultural end to the year.

This year we hope soon to revisit the City, with the emphasis on archaeology, and we are trying to organise a tour of the Royal Festival Hall which is being restored to its former glory. Details will be circulated—watch this space! An autumn conference on 'High Buildings' is being planned with the RICS, UDG and others to explore the diverging views of English Heritage and CABE. We will also be examining the possibility of a meeting or day conference on the convoluted subject of 'Enabling Development'.

Finally, my thanks to David McDonald (Vice Chairman) and Kate Ainslie-Williams (Events Secretary) for their sterling work. Also, many thanks to Barry Sellars for finding time in his busy schedule to act as our Treasurer and keep us solvent.

Jon Finney

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NORTH

The North has been active, responding to consultations from local authorities, and designing the proposed IHBC Certificate which will hopefully come to fruition in the near future. Seminars have included diverse topics such as windmill restoration and window design. Very importantly, a new Chairman has been elected, Stewart Ramsdale, to take over from the immensely talented but wayward and eccentric outgoing chair, Ian Goodman. Stewart is the Conservation Officer for Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council, a position he has held for a good many years. John Pendlebury is the new Branch Representative. John is a Senior Lecturer at Newcastle University responsible for their successful conservation courses and he hopes to be able to bring his expertise in this field to assist Council.

In recognising the eclectic nature of conservation, the Branch has held discussions with the RIBA and RTPI to establish closer links with these professions and has continued its efforts to encourage the crafts/trades to participate in its seminars.

Ian Goodman

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NORTH WEST

At the Branch AGM, held in December 2001 in Manchester, the Chair and Treasurer (Greater Manchester) were re-elected and a new Secretary (Cheshire) was elected, as the former Secretary stood down in June due to a change in employment location from Tameside to Derbyshire Dales. No new nominations had been received for Committee members or Officers and all incumbents, having indicated their willingness to continue, were duly re-elected. We followed the meeting with our now traditional meal/social event in a nearby restaurant, with 18 of us in attendance.

During 2001 three Branch Committee Meetings were held and the highly popular programme of themed half-day seminars continued, in conjunction with the Greater Manchester and Lancashire Conservation Officers' Groups. In March we held the first of four Branch Committee Meetings scheduled for 2002, and the Annual General Meeting will take place in Chester in December 2002.

The location of our Branch Day Conference in November was Liverpool Anglican Cathedral where we considered 'The Future of Historic Places of Worship'. We again secured a wide range of high calibre speakers and the conference was a sell-out. It was generally agreed that the day was thought provoking, stimulating and very useful from a networking viewpoint. The Events Sub-Committee is now finalising details of this year's theme, which is focussing on rural issues.

Our Newsletter editor was not able to continue in his role but we have been fortunate to have a volunteer replacement, Peter Hoey whose intention, once established, is to publish four issues a year. His recently produced first issue was enthusiastically received. However, for the Newsletter to flourish it is imperative that a steady stream of contributions is forthcoming, so Branch members are being urged to submit items for inclusion.

It is with regret that I announce that I will be resigning as Chair of the North West Branch at the national AGM, as I am moving from the Manchester office of English Heritage to work in the London office in June. Nick Grimshaw, currently the Branch Treasurer will be acting Chair until the Branch AGM in December. I have greatly enjoyed being closely involved in conservation in the North West over the last 12 years and hope that I can continue that involvement through regular contact with colleagues and friends.

Sheila Stones

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NORTHERN IRELAND

This has been a year that has seen us continue our format of four meetings throughout the year. We have attracted most of our members at least once to the various locations that have been visited around the province. We have recruited a couple of new members including the former IHBC Minutes Secretary Sharon Brown who, along with her family, has relocated back to Northern Ireland. We are currently trying to persuade Sharon to keep taking our minutes!

Meetings took place in Drumalis Convent outside Larne ably led by our stained glass expert Colin Hatrick who guided around this important building and its major forthcoming restoration. Our AGM was held in the attractive library overlooking the Irish Sea.

By contrast we visited the west of the province at the Ulster American Folk Park which, whilst a slightly damp occasion, allowed a visit and tour of this important 'architectural zoo'. Our tour guide was most informative on both the local vernacular buildings left by the Mellon family and the traditional timber log cabins of the East Coast of America. We were hosted by Dr Philip Mowat, the curator of the museum and current Chairman of the Historic Buildings Council in NI.

Our autumn visit was not well attended (note to members to let Secretary know please!!!), but we had the opportunity to see at first hand a superb restoration of the Markethill Courthouse which was a former Building at Risk, and the superb scheme undertaken by a local community group with Consarc Conservation as consultants.

Our final meeting of the year saw us traveling to the 'maiden city' and another former Building at Risk on Derry's city walls. The former school has been skillfully converted into a verbal arts centre by Hall, Black and Douglas.

It has been a varied year and thank you to each member who takes responsibility for organising each visit, and to Malcolm, Kenny, and Charlie for continuing support as Branch Officers. We couldn't do it without you all.

Laurence Manogue

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THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

The Branch experienced a very quiet year due to the work commitments of the three Branch Committee members, effectively precluding any concerted attempts to organise events either professional or social. Unfortunately, after a show-stopping Branch launch two years ago, the architectural conservation scene in the Republic has remained almost static in terms of its development. The introduction of new planning legislation has stalled the conservation movement generally, while it gets to grips with that new legislation. At the same time conservation funding from central government has been slashed so grant assistance is at a minimal level, despite a good start three years ago.

It has proved impossible to expand the Branch Committee and, without additional Committee members, it has consequently been difficult to organise Branch events. However, with a sunny summer ahead, attempts will be made to revitalise the Branch and animate dormant members.

Bernard Dee

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SOUTH

The Branch has had a busy year beginning with a reasonably well attended AGM at Stoke Park in Buckinghamshire at which James Webb succeeded to the Chairmanship of the Branch. The AGM was followed by an interesting tour of the mansion to view recent restoration work under the expert guidance of both past and present conservation officers.

In spite of the absence of an Events Secretary two extremely interesting visits were organised during the year. The first, to Stowe, Buckinghamshire, involved an intriguing walking tour through the Stowe Landscape with its collection of Grade I and II* garden buildings. The second visit towards the end of the year was to the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum where Richard Harris, the museum's Director, gave a fascinating insight into the development of the Gridshell and the issues related to such a project. There was an opportunity to visit other buildings at the museum and to catch up on innovations in resin repair techniques.

The Branch continues to endeavour to make connections and partnerships with other similar groups in the region, notably with the South Branch of the RIBA, and it is hoped that combined resources will broaden the scope of and enable better attendance at future events. The issue of participation continues to vex the Committee and will need to be addressed through the coming year if the Branch is not to vanish without trace.

On a more positive note, the year culminated in an extremely successful conference in Oxford which ran under the title of 'Conservation Programme or Architectural Paradigm' and was proposed as a debate on the theme of successful intervention in historic contexts. There were three speakers: Ted Cullinan for the pragmatic rationalists who delighted all with his wonderful sketches; John Winter for the overt modernists with his expert ability to provoke a response; and Robert Adam for those supporters of 'traditional architecture' who gave an instructive lesson in the appropriate or otherwise use of the English language. As always time was the enemy but the afternoon visits to Robert Adam's Sackler Library and Jeremy Dixon/Edward Jones' Said Business School were enjoyable, instructive and illuminating.

The 2002 AGM, sandwiched between debate and visits, saw changes to Committee with James Webb, John Townsend and Jim Humberstone all standing down for various reasons. Thanks go to each of them for their hard work, dedication and mutual support throughout the year. I have stepped in to James' shoes as Chairman and Simon Went vacates his previous role as Buckinghamshire Rep to take the previously empty but vital post of Vice Chair. David Birkett has valiantly agreed to remain in post as Branch Treasurer and Sarah Homer is Oxfordshire Rep. There were a number of people who were prepared to have arms twisted to stand for Hampshire Rep, but Paula Freeland was elected to the post. There are still vacancies for representatives for Buckinghamshire and Berkshire as well as, ideally, an Events Secretary. I feel that one of the principal challenges for the coming year will be motivation of members to participate.

Gill Butter

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SOUTH EAST

Since the last annual report, we have been trying to keep the basic level of service to members going in spite of the small size of our Committee and the difficulty of maintaining contact with our members. We still need to increase the number of active members on the Committee in order to increase the number of Branch activities and involve our members. In order to simplify contact with members, the Committee agreed to ask all members to inform the chairman of their email address so contact can be established electronically. About 30 have let me know their addresses, and another ten have asked to be left on normal post. No word has been received from the remainder! As a result the system is still not up and running. Apologies to South East Region members but I hope to resolve the problem very soon.

With the help of dedicated Committee members, we ran a successful day school and linked AGM at The Maltings at Farnham on the 28 September 2001. The day brought together speakers concerned with regeneration and its successes and problems. The fruitful day, which made a profit due to the advertisers' income, was followed by the AGM. The turnout for this was, however, disappointing. No other events were organised during the year.

The organisation of the next day school and AGM is yet to be finalised although an in principle decision to run it has been taken. It is hoped to hold it at Lambs Brickworks in Midhurst with the AGM at a local hostelry afterwards. It is hoped that this will be organized by the Company due to the lack a Committee volunteer to organise it. I foresee problems that may make the organisation of the day school/AGM problematic in future years.

We would welcome other Branch members to our Committee meetings, and I hope that we can gain some extra Committee members as a result.

Peter Cobley

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SOUTH WEST

The South West Branch Committee has met four times in the past year. The Branch accounts have again shown a healthy income from our annual conference last year. This has allowed the Branch to help support the Somerset Conservation Officers' exhibition and skills initiatives at Mulchelney Abbey in Autumn 2001. Neil Buick has continued his excellent efforts to produce Edition 4 of the *South West Bulletin*. This will in future be produced about every eight or nine months provided the contributions keep coming forward. This is a major cost to the South West Branch and the Committee considered reducing the size and/or quality. But the copy seemed well supported and we have merely changed production with the intention to gain some advertising revenue to defray costs.

The South West Branch Membership now stands at about 207, with no overall increase since last year. The Branch, through its County Groups, continues to develop links with the South West Association of Preservation Trusts. The APT, IHBC and the South West Regional Office of English Heritage have agreed to develop a strategy for unlocking some of the buildings on the *Buildings At Risk* register. This collaboration will be developed on a County basis.

Following the publication in December 2001 of *A Force for our Future* – the Government's response to *Power of Place* – English Heritage has set up a South West Historic Environment Forum (SWHEF) to take forward some of its recommendations. In particular, SWHEF will enable the collaboration of organisations across the heritage sector, and it will assist the provision of training by coordinating initiatives. Ultimately the Forum will be instrumental in taking forward a strategy of work for the region.

The South West held its AGM on 19 April 2002. Although, with some persuasion, the existing Chairman has agreed to care take the role for the next few months, there is currently no Branch Representative. Other changes at the AGM to note are that Ian Lund has now taken on the Secretary role and Colin Johns will be assisting the Committee as Education Officer. County Representatives remain as last year and Colin Ellis continues as Treasurer.

Finally, this year's Annual Conference on 19 April 2002 was on 'Access to the Historic Environment' and provided valuable information on the implications of the Disability Discrimination Act. Nick Smith, Access Officer at Plymouth City Council and Chair of the South West Access Group, energetically chaired the day. Over 100 delegates attended and all speakers provided some excellent and stimulating material. The day owes a great deal of thanks to Nicola Mason, who organised the conference, and Shane Toyne, Conference Administrator. Full details will be written up in *Context*.

David Stirling

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SCOTLAND

As usual the Scottish Branch has been fairly active, working directly with the membership and behind the scenes. Highlights of the last year include a Training Day held in November 2001 at the offices of the Edinburgh World Heritage Trust on the subject of 'Best Value Review and Conservation'. Experienced members and others led an informing debate on the subject before we were treated to a behind the scenes visit to architect Malcolm Fraser's Dancebase project tucked in behind existing buildings in the shadow of Edinburgh Castle. A Training Day hosted by Dundee City covered the subject of 'Conservation Area Appraisals' and the day was rounded off with a visit to the Tayside Building Preservation Trust's fascinating project at Gardyne's Land in the centre of the city. The Scottish Branch provides members for a number of important committees and working groups including Historic Scotland's Traditional Buildings Initiative, The Historic Burghs Association of Scotland, The Built Environment Forum (Scotland), The Scottish Carved Stone's Committee and the Scottish Executive's working groups on Conservation Area Management and Building Regulations. After many years of lobbying the Scottish Branch were granted an audience with the Historic Buildings Council for Scotland at which they were able to raise a number of important issues. Consultations were undertaken for a number of forthcoming national publications and documents and the Branch provided speakers for two major conferences on the 'Historic Town' and 'Design in Historic Places'. At the AGM held on 19 April 2002 a new Branch Committee was elected and a business plan was agreed for the period 2002/3, including an imaginative programme of Training Days.

Jim McDonald

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WALES

This has been an arduous but altogether more positive year for the IHBC in Wales. The production of the 2002 *Yearbook* was a tough call for a small Branch but we are proud of the result. Warmest thanks are extended to all those who assisted and contributed articles and features and in particular to Jonathan Taylor of Cathedral Communications for his advice, support and supreme patience.

The Branch has been involved in major consultation exercises in Wales, concerning the future of Cadw, and the proposed delegation of virtually all Grade II Listed Building Consent decisions to local authorities. The latter involved the canvassing of views from all Branch members via a questionnaire. The prompt 74% response to this was appreciated and the results have proved useful in defining the Institute's views on this matter. The perceptible mood in favour was strongly tempered by concerns about its potential effect in practice.

Branch membership continues to rise inexorably, if not dramatically, and a welcome balance between local authority officers and outside professionals in the built heritage practice field is developing.

Pressures to deliver on other priorities have meant that the anticipated development of the Branch's first Newsletter was not achieved. The resignation from the Branch Committee of its principal advocate, John Edwards, due to his own work pressures at Cardiff Castle, was a major factor in this. We yearn for his replacement by someone with equal enthusiasm. Despite this setback the Branch Committee continues to work for the improvement of communication between members of the Institute in Wales.

The resurrection of the annual events programme proved remarkably successful. Visits to St Mary's Church in Abergavenny and to Tondy Ironworks provided insights into two differing approaches to conservation repair and redevelopment. Then, in September, the tour of Brecon town houses to have the *Development of the Staircase* ably interpreted by the Brecon Beacons National Parks conservation officer, Will Hughes, proved a delightful finale to the programme.

The continued association with the Built and Moveable Heritage Group (a body also including representatives of RCAHM Wales, National Trust, HHA, APT, Welsh Religious Buildings Trust, National Library and Museum, Council of Museums in Wales, and Representative Body of the Church in Wales) adds weight to our joint interests and the effect that we can exert on the National Assembly for Wales.

The Executive Committee has met regularly during the course of the year and at the Branch AGM, held on the 26 November at Llandrindod Wells, the principal officers were again largely returned unopposed. Regrettably we have lost the services of Pat Martin (Caerphilly CBC) and Fiona Cairns (Monmouthshire CC) through work and family pressures respectively. The Branch thanks them and wishes them well. As mentioned above John Edwards has also retired from the Committee, but we have gained Edward Holland (Monmouthshire CC & ex National Trust) and Alan Richards of Cadw, who has taken on the education portfolio. More new blood would be very welcome.

Diolch i bawb unwaith eto am eu cymorth a'u cefnogaeth. Ymlaen Cymru!

Trefor Thorpe

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WEST MIDLANDS

The West Midlands Branch has, as usual, had an active year. We have held four Branch Meetings, a conference, a training day and two Committee Meetings, and have published four newsletters.

Our conference at Birmingham on energy, the new *Part L* of *The Building Regulations* and on the Disability Discrimination Act, was particularly successful. The subject matter included detailed technical training as well as an airing of the wider issues of sustainability and accessibility. It attracted a wide range of professionals from other disciplines, including a number of building inspectors, and did much to raise local awareness of the IHBC. The craft skills day at Hatton gave some of us a preview of one of the highlights of the forthcoming Summer School.

Dave Baxter stepped down after a remarkable chairmanship which put West Midlands IHBC on the world stage. It took his resignation for us all to realise just how many of the Branch routine chores he had done himself, so we are now trying to spread the tasks of running the Branch more widely. We have recently overhauled our meeting structure, to ensure that these precious hours are not dominated by the internal processes of the Branch or Institute. Each meeting now has a regular slot for input and feedback on external policy consultations, helped by Dave Chetwyn's new national role in this key area. We then have an opportunity for peer review of each other's casework, and at least one specialist presentation. We are also on the verge of achieving a Branch email group, with the promise (or nightmare?) of the perpetual virtual meeting.

Meanwhile our real meetings have convened at venues of the most amazing architectural variety—the Edwardian splendour of Stoke on Trent Town Hall, the municipal rationalism of South Staffordshire Council's offices at Codsall, the mannered neo-modernism of Walsall's New Art Gallery, and a heady mix of archaeology and Victoriana at Coventry's former Bluecoat School. CPD is all around us.

At Stoke we studied design strategy. Then, at Codsall, Dave Baxter updated us on the Romanian challenge, which made Patshull Hall look quite manageable on our afternoon visit. At Walsall we learned of early 20th century sculpture and of urban regeneration, before a tour of the Gallery and then the town centre. At Coventry the 20th century frontline of listing was made clear, followed by a presentation and tour on how to conduct urban regeneration on solid medieval archaeology.

In our programme and activities we try to achieve a balance that represents the interests and needs of our members. So we aim for a balance between rural and urban issues, and between the broad sweep of policy and the detail of technique. And we still found time for another three days and nights firing the brick kiln we built a few years ago at Acton Scott...

John Yates

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YORKSHIRE

Looking back over the last few years we have achieved a great deal in the Yorkshire Branch. It all started in 1997 with a very successful IHBC launch in the North at Saltaire. The village is now designated a World Heritage Site and will no doubt soon figure in a study trip or Day School. A Christmas curry seems to have established itself as an annual event but not for the faint hearted and linked into the former West Yorkshire Conservation Officers' meetings which are duplicated in North East and South Yorkshire, with these groups holding separate meetings. We have within Yorkshire at least four excellent university departments all with 'heritage' courses and have in previous years been welcomed to events, worked as external lecturers and facilitators and attended field trips. It is hoped this collaboration can continue for the good of the various courses and the student body, from which we hope to attract our future members.

We started the last year with a number of general meetings, and finally arranged a very impressive Walter Brierley Study Day at County Hall, Northallerton, followed by a private visit to Sion Hill. We had an excellent lunch in the restaurant and to finish tea and cakes round the side of the main house organised by Ronnie Robertson in his back yard.

Later in the year there was a Pevsner walkabout in Leeds led by Sue Wrathmell and Richard Taylor. Since then we have not been able to get a Branch group activity off the ground. I now live by the canal in Sowerby Bridge, a CAP scheme featured in this report of 1999, and I can confirm that conservation-led regeneration has made a great difference to this small town. I am convinced there are many other interesting projects being worked up within the region which would be of great interest to Yorkshire Branch and the national IHBC membership, but they need writing up and illustrating for submission to the Editorial Board for inclusion in *Context* and I shall encourage members to look for schemes that can be used to illustrate conservation work in the Branch.

A number of Branch members recently attended the Yorkshire RIBA 4x4 series of lectures at the Leeds Metropolitan University, attended by well over 100 RIBA and other professionals along with a great many students. Is this the way forward? Are we, whilst a growing branch now with some 117 members, able to put in the time to run such events on an annual basis? This will be the message for the Branch to debate over the coming months because we need to find a level of activity we can sustain.

There is a need to bring more people with varied backgrounds into the Branch and for members to be more proactive in taking up posts, whether secretary, treasurer, publicity, recruitment, business or student representative.

Stephen Bateman
yorkshire@ihbc.org.uk

THE INSTITUTE'S BRANCH REPRESENTATIVES 2001–2002

SCOTLAND

Jim McDonald is Principal, Heritage and Design with Glasgow City Council, being previously with North Lanarkshire Council, Westminster City Council and English Heritage. He has a BSc in Geography from Edinburgh University, an MPhil in Town Planning from the Bartlett and the RICS Diploma in Building Conservation.

THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Bernard Dee is a Director of the recently set up Architectural Conservation Company, based in Dublin, and formerly with An Bord Pleanála, the Republic's Planning Inspectorate. He was a former Scottish Branch Representative in a previous existence, when a Conservation Officer with a Scottish local planning authority. He is a planner by training, and holds the Diploma in Architectural Conservation from the Edinburgh College of Art.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Laurence Manogue is continuing his career break and has recently formed his own practice enterprisingly called Manogue Architects, specialising in work to historic areas and buildings.

WALES

Trefor Thorpe is a Senior Conservation Architect with Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments. He lives in West Wales where he originally worked as a local authority conservation officer before joining Cadw in 1988. With the latter he has worked on the conservation of Monuments in Care but is currently involved with historic building grants, Listed Building Consents, historic building (including HLF project) advice and special (policy and troubleshooting) initiatives and projects throughout Wales—operations that conveniently bring him into regular contact with other IHBC members and prospective members.

NORTH

Ian Goodman was, until Spring 2002, the Chair of the North Branch. Now retired, he is a Christian, singer, cyclist, fisherman and youth leader.

NORTH WEST

Sheila Stones, until recently the Historic Areas Advisor in the English Heritage North West Regional Office in Manchester, has been appointed to the same post in the South London team in the EH London Regional Office. Previously she was Senior Conservation Officer with Salford City Council. She is a planner and has completed the MSc in Building Heritage and Conservation at the University of Central Lancashire. She resigned as North West Branch Representative in Spring 2002.

YORKSHIRE

Stephen Bateman, architect, is Heritage Manager for the City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council. He heads a team of conservation officers dealing with 5,800 listed buildings and 56 conservation areas. A member of the Bradford Diocesan Advisory Committee, he is also a member of the Bradford Cathedral Fabric Advisory Committee. For the Institute, he has recently completed the production of the new Business Plan.

EAST MIDLANDS

Fiona Newton is a Conservation Officer with East Lindsey District Council in Lincolnshire where she has been since 1997. Prior to that she worked at Gedling Borough Council and Nottinghamshire County Council. She holds a degree in history and geography, a postgraduate diploma in planning and an MA in Architectural Building Conservation. She has been Branch Secretary of the East Midlands Branch since the Branch Committee was set up in 1994, following Lincoln ACO Annual School, in which she was involved as an organiser. Formerly IHBC Minutes Secretary from June 1999, she became East Midlands Branch Representative in September 2000.

WEST MIDLANDS

Kathryn Baird, a planner with an MA Conservation Studies, is Conservation Officer with North Shropshire District Council. She is currently completing her DPhil thesis (Oxford) on secular wall paintings of the early modern period in England.

SOUTH WEST

David Stirling has been Head of Conservation and Urban Design with North Wiltshire District Council since 1996. He heads a multi-disciplinary team of 20 dealing with a wide conservation remit. He is a planner with an architectural conservation diploma. He is also a member of the Bristol Diocesan Advisory Committee.

SOUTH

Gill Butter is an architect with New Forest District Council and was formerly Conservation Officer with West Berkshire Council.

SOUTH EAST

Peter Coble is an architect/planner with Strategic Planning at Kent County Council, where he has, among other responsibilities, the care of eight windmills. Formerly in both private and local authority practice as architect and planner, he joined KCC in 1990. He is also Chairman of the Kent Building Preservation Trust.

EAST ANGLIA

Michael Knights has been Head of Conservation at Norfolk County Council for the past ten years. A planner by training he was formerly the Director of the Heritage Brewery Museum at Burton-on-Trent and, before that, Conservation Officer for East Staffordshire District Council.

LONDON

Jon Finney is an architect and planner. After qualifications and private practice, Jon has worked in conservation for various London Boroughs over the last 25 years. He is now the Principal Architect/Planner at the London Borough of Hillingdon dealing with urban design and conservation issues. He is a member of the Victorian Society and the Urban Design Group. He also chairs the LAMAS Historic Buildings and Conservation Committee dealing with all London cases referred to the CBA under the terms of PPG 15. Jon took over as IHBC London Branch Chair in 2000 from Rosemarie MacQueen, having previously been Vice Chair.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND TREASURER'S REPORT 2002

TREASURER'S REPORT ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2001

(Copies available at meeting)

I am delighted to be able to report excellent results for the year. The pattern of healthy growth and consolidation in financial activity continues. The year began with an asset balance in excess of £100,000, and it has become clear that our Business Plan and budget strategy are robust and successful. Income continued to grow, subscriptions were up, but appear to be leveling off. As I reported last year, the income and expenditure figures for the Annual School and Romania now appear in full, rather than as a balance. The School income almost exactly matches the previous year. Substantial grants were received for the work in Romania. The South East and South West branches have once again had a particularly successful year, and East Anglia, Wales and the West Midlands have also had good fund raising results. Income from other branches was, however, disappointing. Once again, label sales have exceeded all previous records.

Expenditure has grown in line with our income and the expansion of our activities. The largest single item was the Annual School; this nonetheless made a profit. Our international operations in Romania accounted for the second largest expenditure item, but this was completely covered by grants received for this work. As the result of the new committee structure and more people being involved, expenses in this area appear to have grown rather rapidly. This may be a one-off increase, but will need to be monitored in future. The following other items are noteworthy: a small amount of equipment was purchased, since the bulk of the 'virtual office' program was completed in previous years; computer equipment depreciation again appears as a figure of 40% pa; membership costs have decreased, reflecting the good work on management of the database, subscription collection and monitoring.

Our assets at 30 September 2001 indicate a further significant increase annual in reserves, and a good spread of working capital across the Branches and Committees. The declining value of IHBC equipment – mainly computers – reflects the increased depreciation percentage now in use, and the low level of the year's purchases. Overall, the figures indicate very satisfactory growth in the end of year, with a balance of over £135,000, in contrast with just over £113,00 last year and £85,000 in the previous year.

On a personal note, may I say what a pleasure it has been to serve as Treasurer of the ACO and IHBC since 1994. When I took over we had about £18,500 in the bank. It has been a personal ambition to hand over assets showing a biblical *ten-fold* increase, unfortunately that is not to be. However, I will be reporting on the Accounts for year 2002-03 at the next AGM, and I hope to hit my target then. I am

delighted to be able to hand over financial control to my successor. I wish him well, and I hope that he will enjoy the co-operation and support that you have all given to me.

Robert Parkinson

18th May 2002

THE BUSINESS PLAN 2002

A copy of the summary of the Business Plan is being distributed to members of the Institute separately. Stephen Bateman, who has been in charge of drawing the Business Plan together, will introduce it to the Meeting and the opportunity will be available for Council to be questioned about it.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND NOMINATION OF BRANCH REPRESENTATIVES

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following nominations have been received at the registered office of the Institute of Historic Building Conservation:

Chair – Eddie Booth

Proposed by Jessica Sutcliffe; seconded by Richard Morrice and Robert Parkinson. Eddie Booth is standing for reappointment as Chair.

Vice Chair – Ronnie Robertson

Proposed by Dawn Whitton; seconded by Tony Robinson and Peter Fisher. Ronnie Robertson, a former Scottish Branch Representative, has been Vice Chair Membership for the past year, co-opted by Council.

Treasurer – Michael Knights

Proposed by Robert Parkinson; seconded by Richard Morrice and Ronnie Robertson. Michael Knights has been East Anglia Branch Representative for the past two years.

Education Secretary

There are no nominations for the post of Education Secretary at the time of this mailing.

Publicity Secretary

There are no nominations for the post of Publicity Secretary at the time of this mailing.

Membership Secretary – Gus Astley

Proposed by Anthony J Albon-Crouch; seconded by David McLaughlin and Robert Parkinson. Gus Astley is standing for reappointment as Membership Secretary.

Chairman of the Editorial Board – Nigel Barker

Proposed by Peter Cobley; seconded by Peter Mills and Jo Evans. Nigel Barker is standing for reappointment as Chairman of the Editorial Board.

Council Member – Richard Morrice

Proposed by Robert Parkinson; seconded by David Brock and Graham Steaggles. Richard Morrice is standing for reappointment by Council as Secretary.

NOMINATION OF BRANCH REPRESENTATIVES

The following members have been nominated by their Branches as Representatives on Council; the Meeting needs to confirm their nomination:

Scotland Branch – Jim McDonald
Republic of Ireland Branch – Bernard Dee
Northern Ireland Branch – Laurence Manogue
Wales Branch – Trefor Thorpe
North Branch – John Pendlebury
North West Branch – no nomination yet
Yorkshire Branch – no nomination yet
East Midlands Branch – Fiona Newton
West Midlands Branch – Kathryn Baird
South West Branch – no nomination yet
South Branch – Gill Butter
South East Branch – Peter Cobley
East Anglia Branch – Michael Knights
London Branch – Jon Finney

MOTIONS TO THE AGM

Motions to the Annual General Meeting shall be made in writing to the Secretary in the names of a proposer and seconder, both to be FULL Members, at least 21 full days prior to the AGM. Urgent motions from the floor may only be accepted at the discretion of the Chair.

Full details of the Institute's AGM procedures are contained within Clauses 10–13 of the *Articles of Association* of the Institute of Historic Building Conservation.

At the time of printing these papers no motions had been received at the Institute's offices.



