



IHBC Membership e-letter

Issue 4: 18 March 2010

Update & forward planning

This fourth issue of our Members' e-letter covers the period to our Council meeting on 11 March 2010, which took place in the Theatre Trust's offices in central London. Discussions continue to focus on the future planning of the institute, with particular concern over the ongoing impact of the recession on our core income streams and resources. Substantial consultations, notably the most recent consultation on the [Corporate Strategy 2010-15](#), are shaping our plans, with the AGM expected to finalise our members' instructions to Council.

Membership grows as rates held

In light of the impact of the recession on many members, our rates for 2010 have stayed at 2009 levels. Subscriptions are now being collected, and we are hugely appreciative of all maintaining their membership at what is clearly a difficult time. That said, the continuing growth in IHBC membership numbers marks the success of our work, while our subsidised rates for those on low-income represents our substantial investment in the sector and its future. Members are also reminded that subscriptions are tax deductible, with guidance at http://www.ihbc.org.uk/membership_tax.htm.

PPS 15 update: IHBC's advice sought

Council received a verbal update on progress towards England's Planning Policy Statement on the Historic Environment, as its officers reported on a meeting hosted by Communities and Local Government (CLG) to consider operational impacts of the revised draft. Council endorsed the position of the IHBC's delegates and of the RTPI, also there, highlighting the following points alongside a number of other detailed observations:

- with the RTPI, warmly welcoming the substantial efforts made to address so many of the issues raised in the joint IHBC-RTPI response to the first draft, and thanking the responsible officers for their strenuous efforts in this regard;
- reiterating our concerns over the impact of radically new guidance at a time of diminishing resources;
- reaffirming the need for stakeholder consultation on the revised draft.

Annual School 2010: London 10-12 June 2010

Booking for the 2010 Annual School, led by our London Branch with the National Office, has been launched. The event is focussed on historic environment conservation services and is supported by English Heritage with the principal sponsor being Montagu Evans. Booking, and opportunities also for sponsorship, exhibition stands and other advertising, is linked [here](#)

'Branch Connection Days', November 2010

In November 2009 the National Office hosted a second 'Branch Connection Day'. Exploring membership admissions procedures, discussions highlighted the need to include more guidance in the Full Member Application Form. Work is progressing on a revised version. The 2010 Branch Connection Day will explore financial management for Branches, and again will take place in Birmingham in November. Details will be released when available.

Joint international conference: *Investing in the past*

The IHBC, with APT and the Glasgow City Heritage Trust, is arranging an international conference in Glasgow 'Investing in the Past - *Funding Heritage Projects: Global & Local*'. Taking place over 18-20 November 2010, venues include the Fruitmarket and Lighthouse, while the City Council, a key supporter in the initiative, has already agreed to sponsor a civic reception for up to 300 delegates, so early booking is recommended. The event is also supported by ICOMOS UK and Historic Scotland. Details (and register for updates) at www.investinginthepast.co.uk.

IHBC contributes to Penfold review

Among the IHBC's substantial policy submissions recently, its contribution to the Penfold review, the DBIS-supported review of 'non-planning consents', may be among the most important. Following encouragement by English Heritage for the review to interview officers of the institute, the formal response included substantial 1-to-1 telephone discussions between the departmental official and our chair, policy chair, government liaison secretary and director. For the submission, developed from the interviews, see http://www.ihbc.org.uk/consultations/docs/PDF/Penfold_final.pdf.

IHBC Gus Astley Student Awards update

The 2009 winners of the Gus Astley Award have been selected by Roger Bowdler, Head of Designation at English Heritage, and arrangements are under way for the successful entrants to speak at and participate in the forthcoming School in London. The 2010 awards are now open, with information [here](#).

IHBC co-funds scoping for Wales 'Heritage Link'

The IHBC Wales Branch and the National Office joined to help co-fund a scoping study into the development of a link body for heritage and conservation bodies in Wales.

NewsBlog database testing

Following the success of the NewsBlog, and the need to make it more accessible, our IT team have established a test version of a searchable database. Comments from users are very welcome following this [link](#).

2009 conservation resources survey completed

Following research in 2006 & 2008 the next 'snap shot' survey of staffing in LPA conservation services has concluded. Figures are being analysed by project co-funder, English Heritage.

IHBC partners in HPR-compliant 'HER 21'

IHBC has helped advise on and partner in English Heritage's modernisation programme for Historic Environment Records (HERs), with the aim of defining 'HPR compliant' HERs. Attached to a c.£400,000 investment by EH, IHBC has promoted it on the NewsBlog and hopes to partner in projects. For details follow this [link](#).

Disciplinary procedures update

Following detailed discussion in committee and council, the institute's finalised disciplinary procedure is ready for its launch on our website and for presentation to the forthcoming AGM. The full procedure was noted by IHBC's Council in 2003, while a new, more accessible version has been devised for web usage.