



IHBC Membership e-letter

Issue 3: October 2009

Members' e-letter update & forward planning

This third issue of our new members' e-letter covers the period up to our recent Council activities in Cardiff on 23-24 September. Council focused on the shaping of our next business plan, scheduled for 2010 and covering the period to 2015. Suggestions and comments from members have already been raised and received (see our last e-letter) and remain very welcome. We're writing to all branches to ask for feedback on two key questions: 'Where do you think the IHBC should be in 5 years time?', and 'What do you think are the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats for the IHBC?'. We'll also have a background paper and survey on our web home page. Please feed back any thoughts through that, through your Branch, or to our Director at director@ihbc.org.uk. While comments are welcome at any point, please bear in mind that we'll be discussing these matters in Council in our December meeting.

IHBC Membership passes 2000

The IHBC now has more than 2000 members, some 15 months sooner than had been (informally) anticipated in our business planning. Eddie Booth, our President, has welcomed this news saying: "This is not only due to our successful membership drives over recent years – people are joining the IHBC because they want to contribute." Extensive profile-raising has helped our rapid expansion, including a circulation of our membership leaflet with the planners' journal, Planning, and a joint feature in Ecclesiastical Heritage on our operations and our business listing, HESPR, discussed below.

2010 subscriptions to stay at 2009 levels

In light of the impact of the recession on many members, our rates for 2010 will remain at 2009 levels. This keeps it under the £100 ceiling. Members are reminded that subscriptions are tax deductible for many, with guidance at http://www.ihbc.org.uk/membership_tax.htm.

Wales Conference: Cardiff, 23 & 24 September

We have had an excellent conference on the issue of economics and conservation at our annual peripatetic council conference in Cardiff, organised by the Wales Branch and our National Office. Over 80 attendees enjoyed presentations from, among others, the Welsh Assembly Government Heritage Minister, Alun Ffred Jones and Cadw Director, Marilyn Lewis. Especially relevant to current discussions on the draft Historic Environment PPS 15, for England, was the link drawn between economic and environment by Prof Tom Woolley, of the Centre for Alternative Technology. Seán O'Reilly IHBC Director and Chair for the day, committed the IHBC to more substantial discussions on this. We will also post presentations on our web site.

Draft Historic Environment PPS 15: IHBC commentary

England's draft policy replacement for the existing planning policy on the historic environment is a key issue for the sector at this time. To encourage the widest engagement by stakeholders with this consultation – covering an area so theoretical that people don't easily appreciate its practical ramifications – the IHBC has used our highly-regarded web Home Page NewsBlog to make our interim commentary on the PPS draft available for wider professional and public consumption. The commentary itself has been collated from our members' comments by our Consultations Consultant, James Caird. IHBC Members (and others) can contribute any feedback through our consultations page at <http://www.ihbc.org.uk/consultations.htm>.

CPD for IHBC Full Members

Following the highly successful testing of council and staff for CPD in the Spring, we are currently calling for returns from a random selection of 2% of Full Members. CPD is mandatory for Full Members, but if our Council is anything to go by, members will have no problem in identifying many more CPD hours than the '50 per 24 months' currently required. However all are reminded that keeping the IHBC's CPD forms up to date is the best way to ensure that your CPD complies with the IHBC's international conservation standards. The forms can be used by all members to guide professional development, and Affiliates will find it especially useful in preparing applications for full membership. Guidance can be found at http://www.ihbc.org.uk/cpd_downloads.htm.

Annual School 2009: Buxton 11-13 June 2009

There was an impressive turnout at the Annual School in Buxton, with record attendance at the Day School. The winners of the IHBC Gus Astley student awards were among those featured in the Fringe School presentations, while the Day School speakers were singularly well-regarded. The East Midlands Branch are to be congratulated for their hard work in developing this, and we're delighted that they will receive a share of the income to help progress the cause of the IHBC in their area over the coming years.

IHBC's business listing 'HESPR' Hits Teens

Thirteen companies are now featured in our trade listing of historic environment businesses (<http://www.ihbc.org.uk/hespr/index.html>). The IHBC encourages commissioning bodies, IHBC members and national heritage agencies to look to our HESPR listing when seeking advisory and related services. HESPR remains the best way to ensure that such work is carried out in line with the conservation standards of the IHBC, and by extension with the international conservation standard established by ICOMOS.

Annual School 2010: London 10-12 June 2010

The Annual School for 2010 is being organised by our London Branch, with the Day School to take place at the prestigious setting of Denys Lasdun's Grade I Listed Royal College of Physicians in June (<http://www.rcpevents.co.uk/Pages/Home.aspx>). Joint themes will link conservation services in local authorities with leisure. Potential sponsors should contact IHBC director, Seán O'Reilly at director@ihbc.org.uk, or IHBC projects officer, Fiona Newton at projects@ihbc.org.uk. Rates range from £5,000 for a main sponsor, to £1,000 as part-sponsor, and our School web site will also feature a range of other trade opportunities, from trade stands to literature distribution.

Jobs advertising

Our jobs website has been flourishing, especially given the hard times the sector faces. All members are encouraged to make sure that any notices about job opportunities reach this extremely cost-effective resource, with rates beginning at £200 (£140 for charities). See <http://www.ihbc.org.uk/jobs.htm>.

About our Website (linked from 'About us' on the navigation panel)

Our website is continually evolving, both to address changing needs in a rapidly evolving sector, and to host new resources to enhance our existing services. To help members keep up to date on the site, we have introduced a new guide listing new and updated material there. The present list is for items introduced over the past 6 – 12 months, and features key resources such as our links to specialist registers and lists and the Technical Bibliography. New items will be dated as they are added to the site. We are currently working on both a support network for membership applications and a tool to help voluntary initiatives access IHBC support more easily. To keep up to date with the IHBC's ever expanding website visit http://www.ihbc.org.uk/about_our_site.htm.

New 'Branch Connection Day', Birmingham, November 2009

The national office will host a second 'Branch Connection Day' in November in Birmingham. It will concentrate on branch membership matters, and invitations have gone out to Branches to take part.

IHBC Gus Astley Annual Student Awards update

The closing date for the 2009 student award was end July 2009, and we have received a healthy 26 entries. The 2010 award (for the academic years 2008-10) has been launched with Conservation Course Director's Forum (CCDF) and other training interests being notified.

PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY FROM THE IHBC

Download from the IHBC's Home Page

<http://www.ihbc.org.uk>

NEED A CONSERVATION PROFESSIONAL?

TRY HESPR, THE IHBC's LIST OF SPECIALIST PRACTICES

See: <http://hespr.ihbc.co.uk/> or the IHBC's Home Page

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