



IHBC London Newsletter

Summer 2017

Upcoming Events

13th September Branch Membership Training Event

Following the unprecedented demand for our last training session on 12 July we are holding another Training Event on Wednesday 13 September, from 6.00 - 8.30 pm at Lichfield's offices, 14 Regent's Wharf, All Saints Street, London N1 9RL. (10 mins walk from Kings Cross station). The main aim of this event is to assist people in upgrading their membership from either Affiliate/Associate to Full membership.

This event is now sold out but you can add your name to a waiting list in case of cancellations by emailing: leanne.etchells@lichfields.com

3rd October Branch Day Conference: Back to the Future

In this, the 50th year since legislation was passed to allow the designation of conservation areas, it is appropriate for us to celebrate our achievements in establishing these areas as a key part of our historic environment. At the same time however, we should also be looking at what lessons we have learned over the years as well as challenging ourselves to consider what conservation areas are going to look like in the future.

As we also celebrate the 13th of IHBC's London Conferences, we will be looking ahead, against a background of reduced local authority expenditure and continuing uncertainty over funding. The conference will cover a wide range of issues, including how are conservation areas perceived: does expectation match reality? How can we protect their special character from inappropriate development? What is the potential for post-war designations and how to engage communities.

See website and book your place at: backtothefuture.ihbc.org.uk

WANTED!

London Branch Membership Mentor

We are really keen to appoint a much-needed Membership Mentor to assist existing Affiliate members with the process of upgrading to Full membership and any new potential members who may wish to apply for Full membership.

Ideally you will currently be employed or semi-retired and will have joined the Branch during the last five years, so you are familiar with the updated membership form and competencies. You will be asked to mentor a maximum of four applicants per year to coincide with Membership Committee deadlines.

Please contact Sheila Stones at London@ihbc.org.uk for more details regarding the extent of what you would be asked to do.

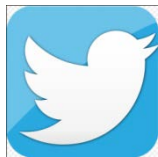
London Branch Newsletter Editor

The branch committee is also looking for a new Newsletter Editor. Again, Please contact Sheila Stones at London@ihbc.org.uk for more details regarding the extent of what you would be asked to do.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Twitter Account and Email Address

IHBC London has a Twitter account! For the latest heritage news and updates on branch activities, follow us at:



@IHBC London



Our email address is London@ihbc.org.uk. Add us to your address book, and check your spam box to avoid missing Branch events!

2017 So Far

28th January - Visit to Whitechapel Bell Foundry

Our first Branch Event of the New Year was a tour of the historic Whitechapel Bell Foundry. An entry in the Guinness Book of Records lists the Whitechapel Bell Foundry as Britain's oldest manufacturing company, having been established in 1570 (during the

reign of Queen Elizabeth I). It has been in continuous business since that date, in various different locations. The foundry is relocating once again, and so this was a fantastic opportunity to see the machinations of the business before its doors close for the move.



28th February – Joint ClfA and IHBC Event

The second branch event was held on the afternoon of Tuesday 28 February at The Gallery on Cowcross Street, where members heard from Sandy Kidd, Principal Archeology Adviser at GLAAS about Archaeological Priority Areas. There were also presentations on Local Listing and enforcement action in conservation areas.

4th April – Seminar on Building Control and Enforcement

In April, members heard from David Watkins of DHW Architects about the historical development and importance of Building Regulations, and explored examples of flexibility in their application relating to listed buildings. Mark Bray, a freelance Enforcement Officer currently working at Brentwood Council, provided a very useful guide to on-site Enforcement at Listed Buildings, whilst Louise Brown, Conservation and Environment Team Leader gave a hair-raising review of her experiences in building enforcement at Huntingdon District Council.

12th July Branch Membership Training Event

IHBC Director Sean O'Reilly gave a presentation on the membership application process, followed by small group discussions on the areas of competence. These events are a great way for prospective applicants to find out how to understand their

skills, knowledge and experience in the context of IHBC membership criteria and accreditation.

3rd August – Film Night, ‘Citizen Jane: Battle for the City

Thirty-four London Branch Members attended our Film Night, kindly hosted by Lichfields at their Kings Cross office suite. We were pleased to have secured a private screening of the documentary film ‘Citizen Jane: Battle for the City’, about Jane Jacobs’ mission to prevent wholesale post-war redevelopment of the historic neighbourhoods of New York. In 1960, her book *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* sent shockwaves through the architecture and planning worlds, with its exploration of the consequences of modern planners’ and architects’ reconfiguration of cities, which still resonates today. This film, which was screened at the Toronto International Film Festival 2016 to mark the centenary of Jacobs’ birth, retraces the battle for the city as personified by Jacobs and “master builder” Robert Moses.

The film starts by explaining how regeneration arose out of the laudable aims to tackle poor living conditions and poverty. However, the approach that was taken saw the existing neighbourhoods as a ‘cancer to be cut out’ and replaced with a Utopian vision of regularity and order. It was based on how cities ‘ought to be’, rather than how they actually were. The thinking was influenced by the ‘birds eye view’ perspective, looking down on areas from above, rather than thinking about how people experienced neighbourhoods, interacting with each other on the streets.

The film argued Jane Jacobs point that in cities, there is actually a balance and order in what at first sight appears to be chaos. Neighbourhoods rely on the interplay between a mix of uses and people, to provide social integration, surveillance and safe streets. This breaks down when it is replaced by segregated uses, super highways built for the supremacy of the car, monotonous tidy towers and abandoned crime ridden public social space. The film showed many of the post war New York regeneration schemes subsequently being dynamited and totally demolished. However, the point was made that even when such buildings are replaced, it takes a couple of generations for the neighbourhoods to become re-established in any social sense.

Interestingly, the film reminded us that Le Corbusier had promoted housing in mid-rise blocks, with tall blocks reserved for office uses. This was hailed as an example of how influential ideas can be misinterpreted. The film also showcased the dangers of individuals wielding absolute power without enough checks and balances. The developer Robert Moses, who for many years was the chief regeneration tsar of the New York City authority was driven by a Utopian view of a clear new order and took the view that “you couldn’t make an omelette without breaking some eggs.”

A memorable scene from the film shows new thinkers turning models of high rise blocks over on their sides to demonstrate that the same amount of development could all be accommodated within the same sized site!

What was so powerful about the film was that it left the viewer questioning, what of the future? It showed how the world is experiencing an unprecedented population growth and how for example, China is responding by building rows of identical towers. It asked if we are building the slums of the future and many in the audience would no doubt have this question in mind, given that in the UK, we appear to have been creating more high rise blocks again. What is plain is that we must heed the lessons learnt from the past and apply them to the present and future. Good urban design, good building design quality and good public realm must surely play a key part in this.

Christine White, IHBC Branch Events Coordinator.

RECENT BRANCH MEMBERS

A warm welcome to:

Nairita Chakraborty

James Sugrue

Matthew Cooper

Melanie Goode

Hebe Hicks

Frank Roger

Delia Stavropoulou

Rebecca Whewell

Fiona Williams

Amanda Buttinger

Tessa Harvey

Ailish Killilea

Jade Maloney

Conor Meehan

Marcus Clarke

Soki Rhee-Duverne

Holly Sharpley

Caroline Sones

Michael Stubbs

Sophie Harman

Faye Bowen

Chris Constable

LONDON BRANCH COMMITTEE

Chair: Sheila Stones
London@ihbc.org.uk
01223 582716

Branch Secretary: David Andrews
dandrews@wandsworth.gov.uk

Treasurer: Jenny Tonkins
Jenny.tonkins@turley.co.uk

Events Co-ordinator: Christine White
Christine.white@enfield.gov.uk

Publicity Co-ordinator: Grant Lock
Glock@nlppanning.com

Applications Mentor:
Currently vacant, volunteers welcome!
Please contact Sheila Stones at
London@ihbc.org.uk for more details

Membership: Kate Jefferson
katejefferson@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Jenny Tonkins
Jenny.tonkins@turley.co.uk

Ex-Officio Members:
John Webb
Johnwebb575@btinternet.com
David McDonald
president@ihbc.org.uk
Florence Salberter
Rosemarie Wakelin

Council+ Representative: Lucie Carayon
lcarayon@googlemail.com

This newsletter is by IHBC members for the IHBC
London branch.

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

For the next edition please forward submissions to

Jenny.tonkins@turley.co.uk

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