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2018 South Branch Activity Summary

This year has been another busy and successful year for IHBC South Branch. We have held 5 South Branch Committee meetings to agree and plan all the activities. Key details as Follows:

Divine Intervention

All Saints Church The Bury Odiham in Hampshire on January 19th

This explored how best to make Alterations and Changes to Protected Churches

The event was very well attended with excellent speakers. Full report on IHBC South Branch website. Church buildings and making appropriate changes to them always seem to provide a strong draw for people interested in conservation.

Naval Gazing

Portsmouth Historic Dockyards, May 18th 2018

Was a terrific event held in a spectacular setting, exploring how some of the nation's most precious naval assets are cared for as well as the docks and buildings which house them and their related heritage

The Branch had to work very hard to get enough people to attend this to make it viable despite a raft of brilliant speakers and a wonderful venue. It was slightly more expensive than most of our other events but significantly cheaper than events run by other branches, notably London and the South East. It may not have ticked enough CPD boxes to appeal to a larger audience.

MATE Day

Woodstock – September 13th

Was organised by South Branch and run by Kate Kendall with a key talk by **Rob Parkinson**, architect and recently retired from Historic England. Again, this was well attended and held in an excellent venue with Rob being a strong draw to potential members. However, the Committee continue to feel that the most effective way to encourage new members is to continue to offer interesting, relevant IHBC events which represent excellent value for money for all IHBC members.



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Yearning for Timelessness

Oxford Mathematical Institute – October 26th + AGM

An IHBC South Branch conference exploring modern architecture in historic settings was in a fabulous venue with excellent speakers on a very contentious topic. This was well attended but again the branch had to work hard to secure enough attendees to make this work. Reassuringly a large number of members who attended the AGM are very happy with the way the Committee are running the branch.

Sponsoring one member to the Annual School in Belfast

South Branch try to do this each year and were again able to for a grateful Bursary recipient - Rosemary Thornber.

One way or another all of the above were successful, interesting, relevant and provided excellent value for money to everyone attending and most especially IHBC members in particular. The Committee are gratified to see so many IHBC members coming to South Branch events from other regions many travelling very considerable distances.

Where South Branch have failed at times is simply trying to do too much with the resource at our disposal. It was for this reason we had to delay the Clay Day to June 7th 2019. All of the very successful activities above have been driven by people on the Committee who consistently give a disproportionate amount of their time. It is frustrating for the few Committee members who work so hard to deliver such excellent events when so few IHBC members within the South Branch are willing to offer any support or assistance.

Finally, the transfer of the treasury role from David Birkett (after 25 years) to Morwenna Breen-Haynes has happened too close to the year-end which has frustrated the process. This change should have been made several months earlier but this was simply not practical given peoples' other commitments.

*Jonathan Clarke 05/12/18
South Branch Chairman*