



· INSTITUTE · OF · HISTORIC ·
BUILDING · CONSERVATION

SOUTH EAST BRANCH

IHBC South East Branch Committee Meeting

The George and Dragon, Westerham, Kent

Wednesday 26th May 2010

MINUTES

Present: Peter Mills, Sean Rix, David Kincaid, Lone LeVay, Debbie Gardner, Andrew Norris

Apologies: Paul Barker, Jo Evans, Nigel Barker, Eimear Murphy, Glen Moore, Ollie Chapman

1. Minutes of the last meeting (25th March 2010)

Agreed

2. Matters arising

The draw was made for the branch bursary place at the Annual School. John Campbell was drawn out of the hat and David will contact him. Nigel will need to liaise over the finances.

Sean updated on the Heritage Skills Network, which includes the possibility of HELM training on the craft skills agenda, aimed at Conservation Officers. Arrangements for a contractor's breakfast event are continuing.

3. Future events

Sean has organised the Charles Brooking Collection event for Wednesday 23rd June, from 7-9pm at the Cranleigh Arts Centre. Initially the cost was to be £10 per head but this was later revised (see AOB). The cost is £125 for the room so we need to attract quite a few bookings. Sean will advertise to the general public at the hall and will create a flyer to send to Pete for distribution. We will also invite the London Branch and the RIBA South East, plus any others we can think of (RTPI). Sean will send the flyer to Peter Badcock to put on the web. He will also do the text for a CPD certificate which Pete will then use to make a certificate for the event.

Jo is still organising a visit to the Watts Gallery, Compton, later this summer and will let us know the details for distribution.

David suggested the possibility of a speaker from the EH and police authority initiative on 'heritage crime'. He has the details of the DCI from Canterbury who would give the talk. It was agreed that this could be much later in the year (November) when there are less events planned. David will confirm date and book Westerham Village Hall.

A lengthy discussion on the main branch AGM event then ensued, during which various changes of mind about venue/speakers etc occurred. These minutes summarise the finally agreed programme for the day (subject to confirmation).

Debbie has done a lot of preliminary research, but understandably has to take more of a back seat now as she is gearing up to get married (good luck from the Branch).

We are currently going for Friday 15th October for the event, with Friday 8th as a fall back alternative.

We are looking to try to find a venue reasonably close to the Philpotts Quarry at East Hoathley, near East Grinstead. Debbie is attending an event at Solomons in Tunbridge Wells where Andrew also had an event. She will assess its possibilities, but it was felt that it may be too far away. Sean agreed to contact Paul Bysouth of Philpotts Quarry to see if he can suggest a local venue. The venue must be able to cater for a group of about 30 and be able to allow speakers to give presentations. We also need to investigate the possibilities for lunch at the venue – again Paul Bysouth may be able to help with ideas locally (Sean to check - Philpotts to sponsor all catering for the day maybe?!).

Andrew has made contact with a few possible speakers and after some discussion about subject matter, length of talk etc it was agreed that the format would be roughly as follows:

10-10.30am – Roger Birch talking about the geology of the South East

10.30 – 11am – Paul Sohan talking about the history of mining/quarrying in The Weald and issues relating to stone selection.

11-11.15am – Coffee break

11.15– 11.45 - Paul Bysouth talking about Philpotts Quarry and introducing the afternoon tour.

11.45-12.15 - A talk and demonstration of stone dressing by a stonemason from Philpotts.

12.15-1pm – Branch AGM

1-2pm – Lunch

2pm onwards – Tour of the Philpotts Quarry

Andrew agreed to check that the speakers he has lined up are free on that day (need to check what facilities they would need, what expenses they would look for, would they stay for the whole day etc?)

Andrew provisionally agreed to handle the bookings but he will check. Debbie agreed to give him any help he needs with setting up an invoicing system etc from her past experiences.

The cost for delegates was not finalised (dependant on hall /speaker costs etc) but is likely to be the usual figure of around £30-40.

When the details are confirmed (ASAP) then we can put together a flyer but as soon as the basic details are confirmed like date/venue then David will put something on the website and/or Peter will send round an email so members put the date in their diaries.

We would still welcome help/suggestions from members of the Committee who were unable to attend the meeting.

4. Any Other business

The future of the Committee was discussed. David is thinking of standing down as Chair and Sean is prepared to consider taking over, but he is concerned that he needs to be a full member of the IHBC first. Various options were discussed, including Sean taking over as Vice Chair for a year while he sorts out his membership, attending Council a few times on David's behalf. David would then step down in 2011. Alternatively, Sean may be able to take over at the AGM in October if his membership is resolved by then. They will discuss the options between themselves.

Peter would also like to stand down as Secretary after nearly 10 years, but finding a replacement may be difficult. He would be prepared to continue for another year if someone was waiting in the wings and could be shown how to do the job in the meantime. Sean suggested that Affiliate members should be targeted to take on the job. Peter pointed out that Affiliate members tend to be students or newly qualified members who move jobs frequently, so they may not be in the area for long.

Any changes to the Committee will need to be voted through at the AGM.

Peter informed the Committee of the problems Charles Brooking is having as the University of Greenwich say they can no longer house his collection. He is therefore looking for an alternative venue and the Weald and Downland Museum is being put forward so far. Any move will be costly. The branch supports the desire to keep his collection in the South East and it was agreed that, although our branch funds are not particularly healthy at the moment (reported from Nigel), we could afford to make a small donation to help him with costs. After some discussion it was agreed that Sean would put the cost of attending the talk by Charles on the 23rd June up to £15 per head (inc. refreshments) and that any profits made on the night would be donated to Charles.

Peter reported that he had attended the South East Historic Environment Forum meeting on behalf of the branch. Various things were discussed at the meeting, including the need to let it be known that EH are prepared to offer PPS5 training to small groups, such as officers and members, as well as the existing HELM training.

The region is considering producing a regional Heritage Strategy, via the Forum, along the lines of strategy documents already in place in some other regions, and this has become more pertinent following the recent demise of regional spatial strategies, as there is no longer anything more overarching in managing the historic environment in the South East than LDFs. It was discussed whether or not such a document could really have any relevance or practical use in a region as large and diverse as the South East, but the consensus at the meeting was that the idea should be pursued. A full consultation on the contents would take place before publication.

Access to a national historic gardens database compiled by the University of York can be gained via www.parksandgardens.ac.uk

5. Date of next meeting

To be confirmed, but may be the AGM in October if all arrangements can be done via email.