



IHBC e-letter: Issue 19

April 2014

The poster features a photograph of a stone monument on a hill overlooking Edinburgh. To the right of the photo is the IHBC logo and the following text: 'IHBC Annual School 2014 Edinburgh 5-7 June 2014 The Art of Conservation'. Below this, it states: 'The School reasserts the notion of conservation as a cohesive 'art' based on sound principles. John McIntyre Conference Centre, Pollock Halls, University of Edinburgh www.ihbc.org.uk/edinburgh2014'.

Recent Highlights

1. [Annual School 2014 open for booking and sponsorship](#)
2. [IHBC 'Member & user' survey report update](#)
3. [IHBC co-branded British Standard 7913, on historic building conservation, available at 20% off list price](#)
4. [Two issues of *Context* published this year, the more recent themed on 'Valuing Heritage'](#)
5. [IHBC's *Yearbook* printed and circulated, following the 2014 School theme on 'The Art of Conservation'](#)
6. [New IHBC 'LETS' \(Learning, education, training and standards\) Liaison Officer post agreed](#)

Council business: Constitutional change and investment

Unusually, a second Spring Council meeting of the IHBC was planned in 2014, to help address the programme for the update of the IHBC's 'Memorandum and Articles of Association', our constitution, in advance of recommendations to the 2014 AGM.

These changes lay the ground for the operation of more democratic processes for 2015 and after.

Items also covered at the meeting included agreement on the final revised versions of the Articles; the text of the Proxy for voting at the 2014 AGM, and the draft AGM Papers. Council also approved, subject to revisions of details, a draft policy for covering trustee attendance at the AGM.

This Council meeting offered also a timely opportunity for detailed consideration of further opportunities to support our corporate and charitable work. As well as the recent appointment of support consultants covering the new 'Research Notes' and the NewsBlogs, Council took the opportunity to consider the creation of a whole new post, operating under the provisional title of 'Learning, Education, Training and Standards' ('Lets') Liaison Officer, discussed below. Details of this will be posted on the IHBC's 'Jobs *etc.*' site when available.

Officers' reports

Each Council meeting opens its new business with reports from the IHBC's lead officers on their recent activities. Our President Trefor Thorpe offered feedback on his attendance at a series of profile-raising events, including the launch of the 'Cut the VAT' research findings on 3 March; the BS7913 launch on 10 March and the launch in Cardiff of a new 'research tool' by the Sustainable Traditional Buildings Alliance (STBA) of which the IHBC is a member.

IHBC's Chair Mike Brown reported to Council on his own recent activities, including alongside some of the events listed by the President, Mike's involvement with the National Heritage Protection Plan (NHPP) Advisory Board. He also reported on his discussions with partner bodies on new methodologies to help evaluate and encourage conservation capacity in local authorities. Also, on 17 March, and alongside Bob Kindred, Mike offered evidence to the inquiry into archaeology services.

IHBC 'LETS' Liaison Officer

Council also considered in more detail a proposal that had been raised at the previous meeting. This involved allocating reserves to help establish a post supporting volunteer and Branch-related educational activities. The post as proposed focussed especially on the rolling out of the 'Stepping Stones' programme, the IHBC's suite of plans intended to guide Affiliates more effectively in their progress towards becoming Full Members of the IHBC.

Lead trustees and officers spoke to the proposals, noting both that

without this additional resource it would be very difficult to implement the changes necessary for the success of the 'Stepping Stones' programme; that it would be a very valuable resource more widely to the institute, and that the person selected would be critical to success as they would serve as an 'enabler' that would grow with the institute.

The term of the post was considered in some detail, and an initial period in the order of '3-years with a presumption in favour of extension' was considered reasonable, while an appointment in time for the September 'peripatetic Council' – which will underpin the 'Stepping Stones' programme – was considered desirable.

National Heritage Protection Plan (NHPP)

The additional funding offered to IHBC Branches in England to support engagement with the English Heritage-led NHPP consultation was reviewed and widely supported.

Mike Brown, who is also Vice Chair of the Advisory Board to the NHPP, reported on the potential value of the NHPP to the wider sector, and the importance of getting it right following this consultation. Also he noted that, to deliver on that potential, the institute needed its members to get involved with the consultation. All were encouraged to ensure that their Branch Committees and members were made aware of the importance of this consultation.

Annual School 2014: Edinburgh & the art of conservation

NB: ANY NOTES OF INTEREST IN OR SUGGESTIONS FOR SPONSORSHIP OF THE EDINBURGH 2014 ANNUAL SCHOOL, ON 'THE ART OF CONSERVATION', ON 5-7 JUNE, SHOULD BE PASSED TO FIONA NEWTON, IHBC PROJECTS OFFICER: projects@ihbc.org.uk

Updates were provided on the 2014 Annual School, with a special welcome being given to the news that consultancy CgMs had been confirmed as main sponsors, and that a substantial body of bookings were already in place. Council welcomed the programme and thanked the Branch Committee for their work.

Other Branches already committed to hosting future Annual Schools include East Anglia for 2015 in Norwich, which has its draft programme under discussions with the Education Committee, and the West Midlands in 2016. The IHBC is also considering the Republic of Ireland as a venue for 2017.

New members

The following members were elected to the corresponding membership categories and branches. They are noted here with congratulations and welcomes as appropriate:

Full members

Amy Davidson (LO), Rebecca Burrows (EM), Joanna Burton (EA), Laura Levitt (EA), Lauren Way (LO)

Affiliate membership

Marsaili Aspinall (SC), Chris Bodey (EM), Robert Buckley (LO), Adrian Curran (NI), Julia Garnaut (OV), Rebecca Kerr (SC), Donna Laing (SC), Wallace Loo (OV), David Mahony (WM), Judith Mosley (OV), Neal O'Leary (WA), Paul O'Loughlin (LO), Heloise Palin (LO), Emma Penny (YO), Ray Rice (RI), Christina Stuart (LO), Emma Wells (YO), Justin Webber (EA), Michael Wright, (LO), Mike Wye (SW), Katherine McClean (NI), Lucy O'Connor (SC)

Branch updates and reports

Each Council meeting receives updates on circulated Branch reports, details of which may be found on the Branch pages on the IHBC's website.

NB: All Branches are especially encouraged to announce their activities and publications on the IHBC's LinkedIn Group, and take advantage of this open network to advertise their achievements across our digital networks.

As ever, Branch updates may be made available for wider consumption through Branch Committees passing on their reports and updates to the IHBC's IT consultant, Peter Badcock, for posting on the Branch pages on our websites.

IHBC Volunteering & Governance: A reminder

A cover note from our Chair Mike Brown:

The strength of the IHBC lies in the willingness of its members to step forward and volunteer. The trustees are always pleased to hear from members willing to contribute their skills, time and experience, either at local or national level. Council has asked our President, Trefor Thorpe to conduct a review of our governance arrangements and recommend improvements to them and our election procedures. In the meantime here is a reminder of the current arrangements:

The Institute of Historic Building Conservation is a registered charity

and limited company operating under the oversight of our Council, a Board of Trustees who are also the directors of the company. The IHBC's Council is supported by an executive body, the National Office, and advised by council members and volunteers operating through our Committee and Branch structures. See our website and 'Yearbook' for details.

Each year the IHBC's Council members are elected at our Annual General Meeting. Council Members are the trustees of the Institute and include elected Officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary), Branch Representatives and Committee Chairs. Only Full Members of the IHBC enjoy voting rights on the Council.

All IHBC members and supporters are encouraged to contribute to the operations of the institute, locally and nationally. Such contributions serve as suitable preparation for trusteeship.

All posts are open for election each year. Anyone interested in developing skills for a post as a trustee should review the relevant job descriptions and specifications, and also consult with a relevant post-holder, Branch or Council member, or the National Office, on how to best to progress skills.

Anyone interested in trusteeship should:

- Get involved with IHBC Branches and/or relevant national Committees*
- Develop a strong understanding of the IHBC's national operations by monitoring regularly our membership and news information services, including the NewsBlogs, Membership eletter and our in-house publications, Context and our Yearbook*
- Familiarise themselves with the duties of trustees in general, and of the corporate operations of the Institute (see http://ihbc.org.uk/about/corp_papers/corp_papers.html)*
- Familiarise themselves with the duties of any particular post they are interested in, in line with the guidance provided on the website (including business plans and, where available, job descriptions)*
- Be prepared to offer a minimum of 8 days per year in the service of the institute, typically working days*
- Recognise that, by law, trustees are not allowed personal gain from their role, and are obliged to represent the national interests of the IHBC.*