



## **IHBC Member Eletter ISSUE 29 - September 2017**

### **Rewards, awards and forwards: From new officers and fee-free student membership to new practice principles and CPD and training events**

#### **Introduction**

This update from our Board and your trustees is a timely reminder of progress following meetings in September (in person), June and April (both online). Here we can look back on the AGM and our Annual School in June - and linked developments – and ahead to what will undoubtedly be a busy year of support for conservation specialists and the wider sector.

In these times of rapid change and even more rapidly changing risk and opportunity, we hope there is some comfort in having the IHBC here to support you with your specialist interests or career ambitions. And if you think we can make better use of our resources, please be sure to let us know: staff, officers or representatives as suits.

#### **5+ big announcements and more: From fee-free taster memberships and new advisers to standards and prizes**

- Our first big announcement this Eletter is the search, just launched, for an IHBC 'Policy Adviser', to transform our consultations expertise and capacity into a more pro-active leadership role for IHBC policy developments. For more information and to apply visit [\*IHBC Jobs etc\*](#)
- The second big announcement is the [\*launch\*](#) and [\*circulation\*](#) of our joint '*Conservation Professional Practice Principles*' – the new practice standard for the sector that we have developed in a partnership with Civic Voice and the Historic Towns and Villages Forum (HTVF), which already has a planned circulation of c.17,000 by 2018
- Our third such announcement is the generous offer of [\*1 year of fee-free IHBC membership\*](#) for new students on IHBC-recognised conservation courses, agreed in timely fashion for relaying to new arrivals on courses in this academic year
- Our fourth is the adoption of an operating plan for an 'International Strategy', in part developed following concerns raised at Council+ and discussed further below
- Our fifth is the development of our new volunteer 'IHBC Groups', light-touch volunteer-led and targeted initiatives that can be supported directly by the IHBC *via* Committees and the National

Office. As these Groups address needs and priorities identified by members in the first instance, they are the most 'bottom-up' structures the IHBC can offer, so if you have an agenda that you would like an IHBC Group to help you deliver, get in touch now!

- First formally launched at the Annual School, the current IHBC Groups are focussing on two water-linked themes: 'Islands', led by Tom Hunter, and 'Harbours', led by Gus Astley Student Award winner for 2017, Hilary Wyatt. We are still in the development stages so why not join now and influence how these important groups evolve. Find out more from Carla, our groups co-ordinator, at [support@ihbc.org.uk](mailto:support@ihbc.org.uk).
- In recent months too, we have had a huge number of other headlines and highlights, many linked directly to our Annual School programmes:
  - First, huge thanks offered especially to the North West Branch for all their hard work in securing our 2017 School, [Manchester2017](#), as a great CPD experience - while the 2018 Belfast School, [Belfast2018](#), is being detailed by the Northern Ireland Branch as we write. Here the remarkable Belfast City Hall is secured for the Annual Dinner; Queens University for the accommodation and lectures, and a splendid array of walks, talks, tours and networks are being finalised
  - [Award presentations](#) at the 2017 School have highlighted and celebrated the great works of generations of practitioners old and new: from Harbour conservation by Hilary, noted above, to BPTs volunteering and book illustrations. Both our [Marsh Awards](#) and our [Gus Astley Student Awards](#) offer unique ways to say, 'well done' in our small conservation world. So be sure to keep an eye out for NewsBlog announcements for 2018!
- More current developments include the following:
  - Our Branches are a core part of our operations, and we know many face huge and complex pressures, so our 'Branch needs' survey, led by Carla Pianese, has just been concluded, and reported to trustees, and a dedicated strategy is being developed in response
  - [IHBC's Conservation Areas 50th Anniversary Fund](#) has been fully allocated and is now closed with great success and welcoming by civic and heritage bodies
  - Our last ['Council+' meeting](#), on 18 May in Birmingham, has been reported on, while our next meeting is scheduled for London on 30 November, and will lead with the 'International' theme, so keep an eye out for that!
  - A new Committee-Branch partnership event linked to our 'IHBC+' strategy is in place as the Education Committee, working with the IHBC's North Branch, explores heritage project management issues across developments at Bishop

Auckland and Auckland Castle, on 18-19 October 2017; see [BishopAuckland2017](#)

- o [HESPR](#), IHBC's heritage business listing, now has 31 members, and if you are interested in finding out more work opportunities, check out our [HESPR website](#) and weekly top picks on the [NewsBlogs](#)

### **IHBC Trustees AGM elections and beyond: Branches, Presidents and Vice President – Upskilling for volunteering!**

You can see our new [trustees and officer](#) on our website and read the [NewsBlog update](#). Remember we are always very keen to get new volunteers – Branch representatives and board members especially – and the best way to prepare your skills for these roles is to join your Branch or National Committees as a volunteer.

Our most recent Board meeting saw trustees:

- Appoint officers and secretaries elected at the AGM to their formal Committee posts
- The re-appointment of the President, David McDonald
- The re-appointment of our Vice President, Mike Brown, immediate past chair of the IHBC
- Ratify proposals that place the role of Company Secretary in the capable hands of IHBC Administrator, Lydia Porter, a change agreed following the retirement of past-Treasurer Richard Morrice, as he also left the post of Company Secretary.

You can review these new appointments on our [website](#), while as noted at our AGM, we are especially keen on getting Full Members to serve as Branch representatives on our Board – and so, as IHBC 'Trustees'. If you are interested in Board experience and can't be a trustee, just let your Branch Committee know – or contact Carla at [support@ihbc.org.uk](mailto:support@ihbc.org.uk) - and see what the IHBC can do to help you help us!

### **International Strategy: looking beyond the borders**

In June trustees concluded discussions on how to develop an 'International Strategy'. The IHBC's 'Corporate Plan 2015-2020' ('CP20') frames how an 'International strategy' can contribute to the institute's delivery of its charitable objects and in the first half of the year – and also following discussion at our Council+ meetings – trustees grappled with the practicalities, potential, and implications of a small organisation such as ours developing an 'International Strategy'.

Measured against CP20, the detailed justification for an international strategy was seen to be fourfold, and linked to core charitable objectives:

- Manage risk to IHBC practice standards, many of which are based on international authorities

- Reinforce the IHBC's authority within the UK
- Seize opportunities on offer from a wider constituency of skills
- Enhance the charity's economic sustainability.

For the purposes of progressing the development of the Strategy, the summary plan was agreed as follows:

- Years 1-2: Scope and explore relevant networks in line with the agreed IHBC+ strategy of 'Experimental evolution'
  - Explore and develop budgetary implications and opportunities, under trustee oversight, for both IHBC and IHBC Enterprises
- Year 3: Agree the detailed 'Strategy' in accordance with CP20
  - Embed that strategy in our forward corporate planning.

This would take the IHBC to 2020 and the anticipated adoption of a fully informed Strategy.

### **Communications: Forward planning in advocacy, leadership, and efficiencies too**

In September trustees also agreed a new 'Communications Strategy: Delivery Plan' for the IHBC's National Office to lead, addressing the Office's obligations under the previously agreed '[Communications and Outreach Strategy 2016-19](#)' adopted in March and reported in in the previous [Eletter](#).

The new 'Delivery Plan' offers a process for trustees to agree on key messages and tie them more effectively to core activities. For example, themes for successive Annual Schools can be formally agreed between trustees and host Branches, alongside the identification of targeted audiences and supporting message. The agreed content can then be rolled out across the IHBC's diverse advocacy and communications platforms, from *Context* and the *Yearbook* to the NewsBlogs and social media, and even on to Committees and networks. This should help your Institute identify, target and deliver on our core charitable objects more effectively, and even, as trustees noted, with significant efficiency savings across our operations.

The plan will be 'test-piloted' alongside the Belfast 2018 school, with the initial implementation planned for the 2019 School. It is anticipated that the full infrastructure for the new approach will be able to be agreed under the next Corporate Plan, scheduled for 2019-20.

### **New members**

A new round of members has been approved on the recommendation of the Membership Secretary in line with constitutional procedures. All have been welcomed and congratulated on their appointment to the corresponding membership categories and Branches below.

### Full Members

Kate Biggs (WA); Anthony Farman (SW); Laurence Hayes (NW); Roger Higgins (NO); Tom Hunter (SC); Lucy Jarvis (EA); Paul Rappaport (OV); Richard Stocking (LO); Rebecca Thompson (YO); Joanne Upton (SE); Victoria Webster (LO); Rowenna Wood (EA)

### Affiliate membership

Kate Attrill (WA); Angelo Aviles (WA); Jonathan Bell (EA); Romana Bellinger (SE); David Bonner (EA); Alexander Bowring (LO); Paul Bradley (EA); Jeremy Bromfield (EA); Maria-Elena Calderon (YO); Louisa Catt (SO); Jennifer Campbell (SE); Valeria Carnevale (EM); Jason Clarke (EM); Claudio Corallo (LO); Joseph Critchley (YO); Kimberley Dowding (SE); Sophie Drew (LO); Grant Elliott (SW); Roberta Ferro (LO); John Folan (LO); Paul Fox (NO); Lucie Fusade (SW); Sarah Generalski-Sparling (SW); Michael Gray (SW); Stephen Griffiths (NW); David Gurtler (LO); Matilda Harden (LO); Neil Hewitt (EA); Jill Himsworth (SW); Zoe Hooton (NW); Joel Hopkinson (SE); Mike Huggon (YO); Tim Jenkins (WM); Shane Kelleher (WM); Helena Kelly (EM); Gillian King (LO); Lauren Kirk (OV); Rory Lamb (NI); Eimar McDonagh (LO); Debbie Moore (NW); Paul O'Connor (WM); Nicolas Page (EA); Cameron Page (LO); Marc Pique Gascon (SW); Ian Pritchard (SO); Jo Redmond (NW); Madeleine Rigby (LO); Glenn Shaw (SC); Tudor Skinner (SW); Ben Smith (EM); Sarah Stirling (NW); Nicola Storey (LO); Michael Sutherill (EA); Jenny Timothy (EM); Ben Tosland (SE); Louise Vaile (WM); Cranmer Webb (WM)

### **Branch updates and reports**

F&R+ meetings focus on statutory duties as well as corporate and regulatory oversight, including finance and risk. Branch updates are noted as papers circulated under 'AOB', with current details posted on the relevant Branch pages on the IHBC's website.

Branches, or their representative trustees, may pass reports and updates to the IHBC's IT consultant, Peter Badcock, at [it@ihbc.org.uk](mailto:it@ihbc.org.uk) for posting on the Branch pages of the IHBC's websites.

We are of course reviewing how best to support Branch operations in line with our survey noted above, and will update members on progress there as soon as we can.

*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.*

## **IHBC Volunteering & Governance: A reminder**

### A cover note from our Chair James Caird:

As we all know, the strength of the IHBC lies in the willingness of its members to contribute to its activities. The Institute is always pleased to hear from members willing to contribute their skills, time and experience, either at local or national level.

It is easy to become informed about the IHBC and involved in its processes through our NewsBlogs, Membership Eletter and our in-house publications, Context and our Yearbook all of which offer opportunities for comment and feedback.

A starting point for active involvement for IHBC members of all classes of membership may be at national and regional Branch levels, where we offer programmes of meetings and CPD that many will wish to attend, participate in and contribute to. There are opportunities, too, to contribute to the governance of our Branches. Details may be obtained from Branch contacts and secretaries listed at <http://www.ihbc.org.uk/branches/index.html>.

Our Annual School gives members the opportunity to meet members from other regions as well as the Institute's national officers, who use this event to help keep in contact with the wider membership.

Those with particular expertise or interest in aspects of conservation or development of policy might like to consider joining one of the national panels or committees. Participation in a committee or panel can lead to further responsibility in that area or in the general governance of the Institute.

The IHBC has recently reviewed its corporate structure and introduced a mechanism for developing interest in the governance of the Institute through an expanded half-yearly meeting called 'Council+' which gives access to a wider regional representation to policy development (this needs better wording). Participation in Council+ is one way of tasting the responsibilities of the Institute's Body of Trustees, our constitutional Council. This is a part of the process that any self-perpetuating body must go through to ensure its long-term future. In line with our current Corporate Plan we will embed in any revised constitution the lessons learned from this and other aspects of this 'experimental evolution' of our governance, as our Past President Trefor Thorpe titled the process.

The IHBC is a charitable trust company whose Board of Trustees, called the Council, is responsible for its management. It comprises the nationally elected officers, including officer that chair our national committees, and the members nominated by the Branches. Any full member wishing to become a trustee needs to be well acquainted with the Institute's policies and ways of working. This can be achieved by any, or all, of the ways already mentioned, and by reference to our Yearbook and our website links from [ihbc.org.uk](http://ihbc.org.uk).

Details of the legal duties and obligations of trustees and the various roles of the Institute's officers also may be obtained from the current chair of the IHBC Secretary, Jo Evans, email: [ihbcsecretary@ihbc.org.uk](mailto:ihbcsecretary@ihbc.org.uk).