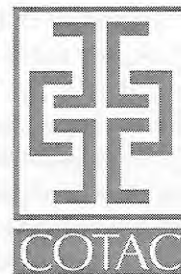


# Newsletter

NUMBER 12  
September 1997



COTAC  
CONFERENCE  
ON TRAINING IN  
ARCHITECTURAL  
CONSERVATION

*COTAC is supported by the Heritage Grant Fund, Department of National Heritage*

## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the mid-year issue of our Newsletter and I trust that you have had an enjoyable and beneficial summer. As the education machinery at Universities, Colleges and Schools swings into action, we are busy preparing for the next COTAC International Conference. This has been organised jointly with the Civic Trust and Bradford City Council who have provided substantial local support. Everything is in place for a very good event. All we need now is you as a delegate to make it a roaring success. A more detailed report of the attractions on offer follows later in this issue together with a copy of the information flyer just in case you don't have the previous one to hand.

In this issue we report on the visit in the Spring of our colleagues from the Department of National Heritage to Bath to meet the Network members that make up this team. The Standing Conference was held away from the COTAC offices as an experiment this time and we were very kindly hosted by the new Management at the Building Research Establishment at Garston. The success of this event, with over 20 Conference representatives making the journey to Watford has encouraged us to repeat the formula for every alternate meeting of the Standing Conference, visiting somewhere of interest to members. Bob Checksfield of the CITB gave a review of the way his organisation supports the industry and conservation in particular and a synopsis of his paper is included.

John Preston shares with us his experience from the development and trials of S/NVQs on behalf of the Association of

Conservation Officers (now Institute of Historic Building Conservation). Richard Davies reports on encouraging stirrings in the Principality of Wales and the possible evolution of a Welsh Network in Conservation. Cathy Mitchison, a teacher at South Camden Community School tells us of the progress and future developments as a result of the CITB Curriculum Centre visits to St. Pancras Chambers by hers and other local schools. Dorothy Bell, Director of the Scottish Centre for Conservation Studies at Heriot-Watt University describes the evolution and benefits gained from an International "Nordic Alliance" as a direct result of Richard Davies' encouragement.

Kate Foley, formerly with English Heritage and now a freelance consultant recently produced a well considered article for *This Quarter*, the De Montfort University magazine on the paradox of

Conservation Training entitled 'Past Times'. This leads into a series of other articles considering the old chestnut of the differences between Conservation and Restoration. These are drawn from such diverse sources as Sue Rawlings' contribution on book repairs in the *Historic Churches Review*, Malcolm Axtell, Chairman of Symm and Company in the magazine of the Architects and Surveyors Institute and Michael Brooke in the *Heritage and Architecture* magazine entitled 'Heritage & Architecture – A Delicate Balance'. These three articles give different views on similar subjects and I would be interested to receive comments on these or alternative views from our readers.

Finally in this section we include



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CHAIRMAN: Rt Hon Peter Brooke CH MP VICE-CHAIRMAN: Donald Insall OBE, FSA, RWA, FRIBA, FRTP, SP Dip. (Hons.)  
DIRECTOR: Richard Davies Dip. Arch., (Hons.) RIBA HON. TREASURER: Stephen Bond MA, ARICS, Grad. Dip. Cons. AA

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an article from the Nationwide Building Society Magazine, *Nationwide*, called 'Keeping up Appearances'. This demonstrates the importance of 'home improvements' being in keeping with the property and its era, good advice to owners as it shows that work which is well done and appropriate can enhance value, whereas inappropriate alterations can substantially devalue property. Some good photographic examples, emphasise the point well. This is particularly useful in the conservation arena as a great proportion of relatively 'ordinary' domestic property is not 'listed' and yet forms an important part of the urban fabric. If we can encourage owners to carry out only appropriate works to the buildings for their own financial interest we may begin to make encouraging progress.

Orion, a small software company from Wales, has developed an interesting and relatively low cost system for a database of images. This has already proved useful for Conservation Officers in local authorities but is claimed to be flexible enough to be used by conservation professionals in a range of fields. Good quality images can be stored using relatively little memory, powerful searching and document imaging are also possible using a scanner. Patrick McMahon's article picks up the imaging theme and looks at the benefits available from the Geographical Information System (GIS) of computer or digital maps.

Malcolm Cobb the Secretary tells us of the Register of

Professional Turners, a derivation from the Worshipful Company of Turners, one of the London Guilds. The Register was established in 1978 to give the buying public some authoritative guide to turners capable of supplying satisfactory work. The Association of Small Historic Towns and Villages (ASHTAV) has had brief mention in a previous issue of the Newsletter and this time we give a comprehensive review of its aims and objectives.

A report from the recent meeting of the Advisory Board of the Cathedrals Research Unit, which was established by the Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies at York and a number of cathedrals following a conference in 1996 is included. This raises a number of interesting issues on training particularly in Cathedral workshops. Ann Holden gives an update on progress of the training courses available at Cressing Temple in Essex and David Gresham tells of his course on period house restoration.

We have the usual list of exhibitions, conferences, seminars and courses. If you have any events coming up that you would like publicising please let me have details. Logos, photographic or line drawn images are always beneficial.

Contributions for the next issue of the Newsletter are required by **21st November 1997** please and ideally on **3.5" floppy disk in MS Word for Windows 6.0 or WordPerfect 5.1/6.0, ASCII or compatible format.**

*Graham Lee*



*Reception area, Bradford design exchange (see opposite page).*



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## COTAC INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 1997, BRADFORD

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**H**AVE YOU REGISTERED YET? If not we advise you to return the tear-off portion of the enclosed flyer **now** for what promises to be the best conference yet. Remember it is first come, first served and places are limited so don't be disappointed, post or fax us your application now.

This is an event being organised jointly with the Civic Trust and Bradford Council with sponsors including BURA, Brian Ford and the Urban Regeneration Partnership.

**Located** in the historic Little Germany area of the City, which takes its name from the German textile merchants who settled and established businesses in this quarter during the last century, this location has one of the highest concentrations of listed buildings in the country. The venue is the Design Exchange, a fine conversion of former warehouses into a specialist location for design companies incorporating conference and exhibition facilities.

An increasing interest in traditional materials and techniques recently has been most encouraging but the Industry still has a desperate shortage of people with the requisite skills to apply these. The **Theme** of the conference seeks to explore how **local pride** in the quality of the built environment can create a **demand** for high standards – **quality**. This can often be stimulated by local people, including civic and amenity societies. Speakers from home and abroad will present a selection of case studies of conservation projects demonstrating what we can learn from them. Many will be publicised for the first time including a number of schemes aimed at creating new chances for employment.

The Conference should be **of interest to all** involved in the **construction/development** business, civic and amenity society members, local authority officers and members, trainers, educators, professionals and anyone with a concern for the quality of their locality. That must be **you!**

We promise an **interesting programme** including a reception hosted by the Lord Mayor on the evening of Thursday 2nd October followed by the Conference Dinner with guest speaker Peter Burman, Director of the Conservation Course at York University. Friday 3rd October is the Conference itself, opening with a welcome from the Lord Mayor, followed by a keynote speech from a guest celebrity. Michael Gwilliam, Director of the Civic Trust picks up the theme **Local Pride – the Catalyst for Quality** with his contribution on the *Pride of Place* and Dr Kevin Grady of the Leeds Civic Society will focus on the *Local Approach* with case studies from Leeds. Continuing the local view Steve Bateman, Conservation Officer at Bradford City will demonstrate *Needs and Support from the Local Authority* with particular reference to City schemes; Elaine Francis, City Manager, gives an overview to *Management of Historic Towns* with specific case studies, and Martin Eagland of the Urban Regeneration Partnership shares with us a glimpse of the *Future for Little Germany* with his organisation's recent study for the area.

During the lunch break there will be opportunities for *guided tours of Little Germany*.

Daniel Therond, Executive Director of the *European Foundation for Heritage Skills* kicks off the afternoon introducing the International perspective with the very latest initiatives planned and in progress by this Council of Europe associated organisation. David Linford, Chairman of the Heritage Building Contractors Group will introduce the *Contractors Role, UK and Europe-wide*. This will be followed by two UK case studies of projects supported by EU funds aimed at employment generation, presented by Martin Purssell and Rob Burns from the *Hamilton Quarter Project* in the Wirral on Merseyside, and by Mick Downes of Stoke on Trent using *Social Funds for Coalmining areas*.

Vitor Dias from CENFIC, the construction industry training organisation for half of Portugal, will describe the *BETA Project* funded by *EU Leonardo da Vinci* funds, working with partners from Finland, Hungary, Ireland and UK. Finally Peter Hillman an Englishman, now living in Greece, will tell us of the *EU Raphael Pilot Project at Ambelakia* which aims to regenerate a whole community.

There will be question and discussion sessions at the end of the morning and afternoon.

Saturday 4th October offers the opportunity for *guided tours* of the historic core of the *City Centre* in the morning and to the Europa Nostra award winning *Saltaire Model Village including Salts Mill with its Hockney Gallery returning via Manningham Mill* in the afternoon.

Why not combine business and pleasure and make it a long weekend, enjoy the delights of the Museum of Photography, the Industrial Museum, the Colour Museum, the Wool Exchange, a number of Art Galleries, and the Cathedral, all in the City?

We look forward to welcoming you to Bradford for some or all of what promises to be a beneficial and enjoyable few days.

Graham Lee



National Museum  
of Photography,  
Film & TV,  
Bradford



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## VISIT TO BATH

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We were delighted to arrange a visit to Bath last April for Nigel Pitman, Head of Buildings, Monuments and Sites and his colleague Margaret Prythergch of the Department of National Heritage (now the Department of Culture, Media and Sports). They are the officers responsible for COTAC's contacts with DNH and had expressed a particular desire to visit Woodchester Mansion. This provided the opportunity for them to meet principals in a number of organisations that form the Bath Conservation Network, to discuss heritage management in the City and activities of the Network.

We commenced with a meeting in the Abbey Chambers where Paul Simons, Head of Economic Development and Tourism, with his colleagues, told us of the economic, tourism and town management issues affecting the town and the actions they are taking. From here we went to the University where Professor Richard Frewer of the School of Architecture and Civil Engineering and his colleagues demonstrated the power of the computer model that they have developed for the City. This enables the viewer to walk or fly through areas, and see major changes, new buildings or alterations. A very useful planning tool and encouragingly realistic as more and more details are added to the model.

John Taylor of COTAC introduced the activities of the Bath Conservation Network and Richard then outlined the courses and research that he is involved with including European links and the proposed summer school. Dr Michael Forsyth, recently appointed to lead the course, outlined the new post graduate

MSc in conservation, incorporating a specialist engineering bias. Ian Hamlen rounded off this section of the visit, explaining the specialist NVQ craft conservation training that is available at the City of Bath College with its strong tradition in stonemasonry.

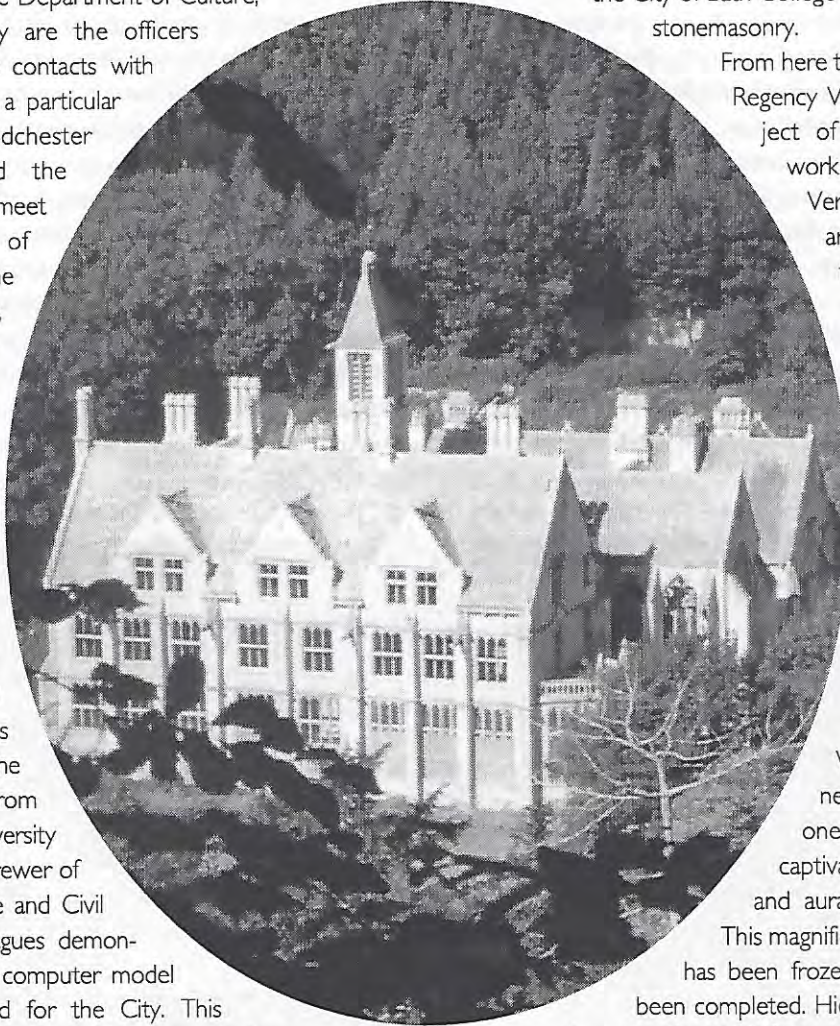
From here the party visited Oakwood Regency Villa and gardens, the subject of extensive conservation work and home of Michael and Vera Forsyth both practising architects in the City, where they kindly gave us lunch.

A briefing at the Buildings of Bath Museum by David Voelkel, the keeper, was the first stop after lunch. This has many fine exhibits including detailed technical models showing the householder how to repair many Regency features.

The final visit was to Woodchester Mansion near Stroud and like everyone else our visitors were captivated by the atmosphere and aura of this unique building. This magnificent Grade I listed building has been frozen in time and has never been completed. Hidden at the end of a long drive in a forested Cotswold valley it is has recently been awarded lottery funding and repair and maintenance work are being used as training projects. Nigel and Margaret confirmed their intention to visit the building again, with much more time than the brief view that had been possible on this visit.

We were very grateful to the officers of DNH for giving the time to come and see on the ground some of the work with which COTAC is involved.

Graham Lee





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## THE COTAC STANDING CONFERENCE

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As an experiment and we believe for the first time in its history, the COTAC Standing Conference played away from home in April this year, holding the meeting at the Building Research Establishment, Garston near Watford. We were very kindly hosted by the management of the newly privatised establishment.

The main business meeting included contributions from **Chris Williams** of the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) confirming their commitment to working with COTAC to set up an Awarding Body for the three higher level NVQs currently under development. He explained that it was his responsibility to take this initiative forward and that there are two main elements:

CIOB's responsibility would be:

- a) registration and administration – issue of certificates and tracking candidates who have received an Award
- b) quality control where the expertise of COTAC in developing the Awards and revising syllabuses would be needed.

**Richard Davies** Director of COTAC welcomed this co-operation and noted that the three S/NVQs being developed are:

- Advice (the role of the professional advisor) at level 5
- Control (the role of the Conservation Officer) at level 4
- Conservation Site Manager at level 4

The trials for these Awards will be completed in the near future.

**Bob Checksfield** of the Construction Industry training Board (CITB) explained that the purpose of his organisation is to ensure that contractors have a trained workforce. He went on to detail this and explain the particular involvement in the conservation sector. See article later in this issue for details.

For the Civic Trust **Michael Gwilliam** confirmed that he was pleased to be involved with COTAC in its International Conference in October. The Trust is a national environmental Charity which is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. It was set up to encourage the nation to take its heritage more seriously and help to improve the quality of living in towns and cities. Currently there are some 900 Civic Societies who are members of the Civic Trust. The central issue at present is to encourage more investment in villages, towns and cities as well as existing buildings in the countryside in order to reduce new development pressure on the countryside. In other words, to make better use of what we have got. The theme for the 40th anniversary is to campaign for better design and to increase the momentum for heritage renewal. A manifesto was produced in March which explained this in detail. The Civic Trust believes it is a campaigning organisation and has to promote its message and get things done. The biggest area for this is the Regeneration Unit which involves local companies, Local Authorities, local communities etc. In the last 6 to 7 years they have been involved in about 250 regeneration projects in cities, towns and villages. In addition Civic Trust Awards have been running at about 37/38 per year. These

can be given to an individual building or groups but are mainly for buildings in their settings. Next year there will be a new Award for urban design.

Together with DNH support, the Civic Trust organises Heritage Open Days. Last year, only four years since starting, saw 750,000 people visiting 1,600 to 1,700 locations as part of this event. These ranged from St. Pancras Chambers to the Cavern in Liverpool. 1997 is the 50th year of Indian and Pakistani independence and buildings around this theme will be opened to the public with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and DNH. The HLF have commissioned the Civic Trust to look at how a programme of town centre renewal can be implemented and a new programme for this will start towards the end of the year. Richard Davies confirmed that reciprocal membership between COTAC and the Civic Trust has been discussed and the Standing Conference agreed to accept this arrangement.

Typed copies of the Network report and minutes of the most recent meeting of the Heritage Building Contractors Group (HBCG) were tabled at the meeting.

The Course Directors Forum had held an open meeting in Oxford recently to which they had invited representatives from the Institute of Historic Building Conservation (formerly the ACO) and COTAC and at which there had been a useful interchange of views. The new Institute plans to recognise courses offering the new Control NVQ.

On overseas matters Richard Davies said that COTAC aims to



*Problems with contour scaling at Tintern Abbey*





*Assessing fungicidal washes*

act as a bridge for Universities and Colleges to make overseas contacts. One problem is that COTAC has found it difficult to raise matching funds in the UK of the kind that our overseas partners in Europe seem to be able to obtain from their governments.

He had just returned from the ICCROM, Urban Conservation Course in Rome. The theme had been that conservation no longer stands alone nor exists as a separate philosophy. The

general view is that in future, conservation will be much more an integrated part of the normal development process.

COTAC is a partner with Ireland and Portugal in a LEONARDO Beta project to develop training material for SMEs. Among other things, COTAC's role is to produce draft material on heavy structural timber roofs, this will be based among other cases on the aftermath of the fire at Hampton Court. The aim is to develop case work as training material for people who already have some experience.

**Eddie Booth** (RTPI) said that as the ACO had now ceased to exist and had been a member of COTAC, he hoped the new Institute of Historic Building Conservation would continue to be a member.

After formal proceedings the new Managing Director of BRE, **Dr Martin Wyatt**, joined the meeting and welcomed members of the Standing Conference. He confirmed that he hoped it would be the start of yet more co-operation with COTAC and the wider conservation world. **Dr Roy Butlin**, who had co-ordinated arrangements for the visit, assisted by a number of his colleagues, gave a comprehensive insight into the specialist research and services that are available from the Establishment. These included laser surveying, fire research and in particular the work that they have been involved with at Windsor Castle, timber and stone decay. We then adjourned for an excellent buffet lunch before embarking on a fascinating tour of some of the laboratory facilities particularly relevant to conservation including a demonstration of laser surveying equipment and the "black museum" of timber infestation by insects and rot.

The success of this event with over twenty members making the journey to Watford has prompted the Standing Conference to repeat the format, visiting a location of interest for alternate future meetings. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 20 November 1997 at 11.00 am in Keysign House and the April meeting in 1998 will be on a date and location to be confirmed at the November meeting.



*BRE 3D-laser survey system*



# COTAC STANDING CONFERENCE MEETING

## Summary of Paper Delivered by Construction Industry Training Board (CITB)

Robert (Bob) Checksfield, Manager, Training and Development of the CITB presented the following paper to the last COTAC Standing Conference held at the Building Research Establishment at Garston near Watford. A synopsis follows:

The CITB provides support to Conservation in three ways.

### 1. The Development of Occupational Standards

- (i) For Craft and Operatives the CITB is the Lead Industry Body and together with COTAC has developed conservation option units and/or assessment guidance for the following awards:

- Wood Occupations Level 3
- Bricklaying Level 3
- Stonemasonry Level 3
- Painting and Decorating Level 3
- Plastering Level 3 •

Other occupations are being considered.

- (ii) The CITB is a pro-active member of the Construction Industry Standing Conference (CISC) which acts as the Lead Industry Body for Professional, Managerial and Technical Occupations in Planning, Construction, Property and related Engineering Services.

CITB is involved in the development of the conservation

units for the CIOB/CITB Level 4 award in Building Site Management.

### 2. Support and advice to construction companies 'in scope' of the CITB (which includes levy payers)

This is achieved primarily in two ways.

- (i) Through the CITB field services who have direct contact with employers and through Training Advisers.
- (ii) Through the CITB Grants Scheme which provides financial support for training.

### 3. Support to COTAC activities.

CITB is currently supporting COTAC in a Leonardo da Vinci pilot project for an exchange programme for Conservation Site Managers.

Bob Checksfield presented a number of overhead projector slides at the meeting. Selected examples of these are shown for the Qualification Structure for Wood Occupations and Stonemasonry together with a table and graph showing the level of grant potentially available to a new entrant trainee in bricklaying.

Bob Checksfield, Training Development Manager, CITB, Bircham Newton, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE31 6RH

April 1997

### LEVEL 3 WOOD OCCUPATIONS - CORE AND OPTIONS LISTS (DIFFERENT ASSESSMENTS WILL BE PRODUCED FOR EACH OCCUPATION MARKED ✓)

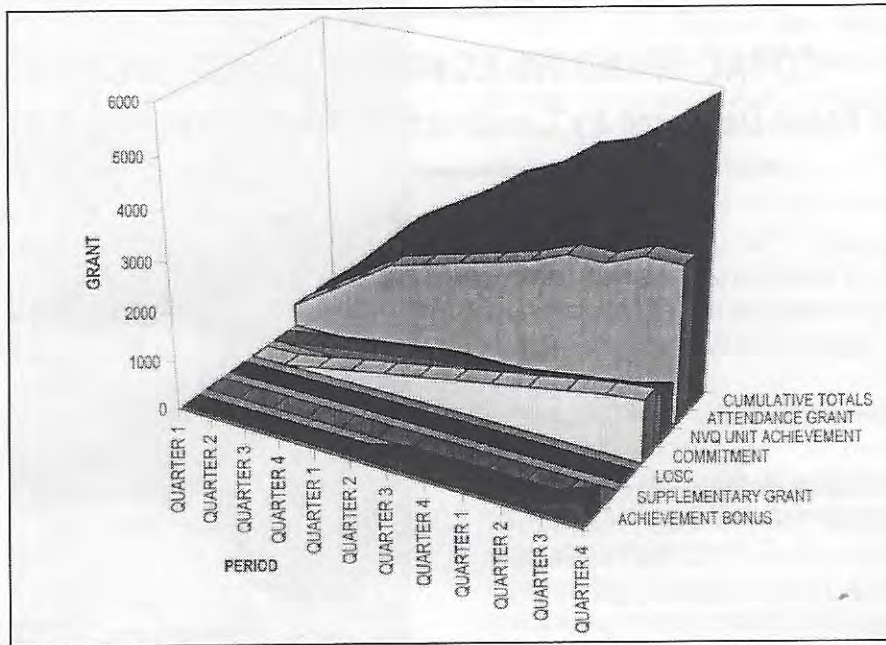
MANDATORY CORE (ALL UNITS)		PLUS	OPTION LIST A (ANY 2 UNITS)						PLUS	OPTION LIST B (ANY 1 UNIT)								
GENERIC UNIT TITLES	ASSESSMENT		GENERIC UNIT TITLES	ASSESSMENT						GENERIC UNIT TITLES	ASSESSMENT							
	C&J	S/FITTING		C&J			S/FITTING				C&J			S/FITTING				
				SW	BW	CR SW	CR BW	BW	SW		SW	BW	CR SW	CR BW	BW	SW		
Uni No 322 (09/95) Produce Products from Procured Materials (Portable Power Tools)	Common Assessment		Uni No. 335 (09/95) Install Finishing Components (Complex Opening, Moulded, Vertical and Horizontal )	✓		✓						Uni No. 339 (09/95) Provide Temporary Structures (Basic Concrete Support)	✓			✓		
Uni No 324 (09/95) Erect and Dismantle Access Platforms (Basic Working Platforms)	Common Assessment		Uni No 336 (09/95) Install Structural Fabric Components (Complex Access, Divisional and Protective)	✓		✓						Uni No 340 (09/95) Maintain the Built Environment (Non- structural and Structural Repairs)	✓		✓		✓	
Uni No 333 (09/95) Maintain Working Conditions and Operational Activities to Meet Quality Standards	Common Assessment		Uni No 337 (09/95) Provide Dimensional Positioning (Frames Straight, Angled, Inclined, Curved)		✓			✓	✓			Uni No 341 (09/95) Record and Maintain Information (Site Measurement and Surveys)	Common Assessment with S/Fitting		✓	Common Assessment with C & J		
Uni No 334 (09/95) Contribute to the Planning Organisation, Monitoring, Control and Evaluation of Operational Activities	Common Assessment		Uni No 338 (09/95) Assemble Components to Form Products (Frames Straight, Angled, Inclined Curved)		✓			✓	✓			Uni No 342 (09/95) Produce Timber and Timber Based Products (Woodworking Machines)	Common Assessment					

Legend:

- SW = Site Work
- BW = Bench Work
- CR = Conservation and Restoration



**EXAMPLE 4 - GRANT FOR A NEW ENTRANT TRAINEE IN 1996/97 UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE ON ENTRY**  
(EXAMPLE USED - BRICKLAYING)



GRANT TYPE (Cumulative)	YEAR 1 (E)				YEAR 2 (E)				YEAR 3 (E)			
	QUARTER 1	QUARTER 2	QUARTER 3	QUARTER 4	QUARTER 1	QUARTER 2	QUARTER 3	QUARTER 4	QUARTER 1	QUARTER 2	QUARTER 3	QUARTER 4
ACHIEVEMENT BONUS	0	0	0	0	0	0	200	200	200	200	200	500
SUPPLEMENTARY GRANT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LOSC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
COMMITMENT	0	0	130	260	390	520	650	780	910	1040	1170	1250
NVQ UNIT ACHIEVEMENT	0	100	200	300	400	500	500	500	600	700	800	1000
ATTENDANCE GRANT	455	910	1365	1820	2015	2210	2405	2600	2900	2900	3200	3200
<b>CUMULATIVE TOTALS</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>1010</b>	<b>1695</b>	<b>2380</b>	<b>2805</b>	<b>3230</b>	<b>3755</b>	<b>4080</b>	<b>4610</b>	<b>4840</b>	<b>5370</b>	<b>5950</b>

AVERAGE WEEKLY INCOME  
IN EACH QUARTER  
ER1327C

**QUALIFICATION STRUCTURE FOR STONEMASONRY LEVEL 3**

**MANDATORY UNITS**

	ASSESSMENT				
	BM	ASC	FM	CR	MGMF
Uni No. 324 Erect and Dismantle Access Platforms (Basic Working Platforms)	COMMON ASSESSMENT				
Uni No. 333 Maintain Working Conditions and Operational Activities to Meet Quality Standards	COMMON ASSESSMENT				
Uni No. 334 Contribute to the Planning, Organisation, Monitoring, Control and Evaluation of Operational Activities	COMMON ASSESSMENT				
Uni No. 379 Shape Materials to form Profiled Components (Working Stone to Shaped Components)	COMMON ASSESSMENT				
Uni No. 380 Provide Dimensional Positioning (Preparation of Templets and Moulds)				✓	

**PLUS**

	ASSESSMENT				
	BM	AR	ASC	FM	MGMF
Uni No. 362 Provide Dimensional Positioning (Groundworks)				✓	
Uni No. 383 Shape Materials to form Profiled Components (Complex Working Stone to Shaped Components)	COMMON ASSESSMENT		✓		✓
Uni No. 384 Provide Dimensional Positioning (Complex Preparation of Templets/Moulds)	COMMON ASSESSMENT				
Uni No. 385 Install Structural Fabric Components (Fixing Work)				✓	✓
Uni No. 386 Repair Structural Components (Repair and Maintenance of Stonework)		✓		✓	

**OR**

	CR
Uni No. 386 Repair Structural Components (Repair and Maintenance of Stonework)	✓
Uni No. 555 Record and Maintain Information (Surface Format and Condition)	✓
Uni No. 615 Prepare Background Surfaces (Removing Components)	✓
Uni No. 616 Maintain the Built Environment (Restore and Conserve Components)	✓
Uni No. 383 Shape Materials to form Profiled Components (Complex Working Stone to Shaped Components)	✓

**Key:**

BM - Banker Mason  
FM - Fixer Mason  
ASC - Architectural Stone Carver  
MGMF - Marble & Granite Mason/Fixer  
CR - Conservation and Restoration

Stonemasonry Level 3 = Mandatory Units plus Option A (7 Units)  
(Endorsed as per assessment)

Stonemasonry Level 3 = Mandatory Units plus Option B (10 Units)  
(Restoration and Conservation)



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## NVQs IN BUILDING CONSERVATION TRIALS

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I have been involved with the development and trials of the NVQs, first as an Association of Conservation Officers representative on the working groups, and then as a verifier for the trials. The experience has been mixed, with successful work on the development of the draft NVQs being followed by much difficulty in recruiting sufficient candidates and assessors for the trials.

The joint launch of the NVQs/SVQs in Conservation Advice (Level 5), Controlling Conservation (Level 4) and Conservation Site Management (Level 4) was a very promising development in terms of both the relationship between the NVQs, and the potential for future awarding body arrangements. The ACO had many concerns about the relationships between the Control and Advice NVQs, not least because the Control NVQ did not include many of the pro-active parts of a conservation officer's work. These concerns seem to be on the way to being resolved, now that the Building Conservation NVQs have been launched jointly, and the Advice NVQ is being promoted in terms of CPD which can be taken either in individual units as required, or built up to a full NVQ. This arrangement will allow Conservation Officers, or other interested professionals to add pro-active units (e.g. building recording) from the Advice NVQ, as required; in this way it will be possible to use the NVQ structure to establish competence across the full range of a conservation officer's duties. The full Advice NVQ (Level 5) requires pre-qualification, at chartered professional status; however assessment of relevant units at Level 4 will be needed to allow full integration in establishing lower level competencies as suggested above.

Turning to the trials, we had extreme difficulty in recruiting candidates and assessors among hard-pressed conservation staff. This has been due in part to potential participants being put off by the impenetrable language of the draft NVQs, but in my view the main problem has been the lack of any significant central or local employer commitment to the process. Individuals sought support from their employers, and the COTAC Chairman wrote to all employers, but neither approach brought results. This was hardly surprising given the lack of any Government financial support towards participation in this initiative (which has been imposed from the top), and a perception on the part of some employers that NVQs are not relevant to professional roles. The position was particularly difficult in Scotland, in spite of the very positive role taken by Historic Scotland, because of the current local government reorganisation.

After much effort, we managed to recruit just enough interested participants to run the trials, and to cover all the units in the Controlling Conservation NVQ - until the intervention of illnesses, job moves, and some disenchantment with the complexity of the task and the time commitment involved. We have not been able to fully test all the units, but even with such a small sample, the trials have been extremely useful. They have shown that once you get past the complexity and the obtuse language, the NVQ format can provide a very effective basis for assessing the com-

petence of conservation officers. This can only happen in practice if the process is made much simpler and less daunting, and there are sufficient assessors with the breadth of professional knowledge required to both guide candidates in selecting and presenting material, and to test their experience and understanding through questioning.

Issues arising from the trials include:

- the language is daunting to even the most committed candidates: a much simpler and clearer description is needed to explain exactly what the candidate is expected to do, and required to provide.
- the structure is good but over-complex (leading to excessive preparation time unless the candidate is briefed by an expert assessor) and needs simplification.
- the NVQs as drafted appear to require a breadth of experience and level of responsibility which are daunting to likely candidates, and in practice excessive for a level 4 qualification (the ranges of the draft Units and Elements need to be reviewed accordingly).
- the specification in terms of evidence and range required needs to be realistic, with provision for simulation where the candidate has not had direct experience.
- evidence requirements need to be carefully specified to prove competence across the range, without excessive preparation time.
- "witness testimony" may be of doubtful value if only available from colleagues who do not have a professional understanding of conservation.
- before and after photographs of projects are essential both as direct evidence of what the candidate has achieved, and as the basis for the assessor's questioning.
- "knowledge evidence" can be effectively tested by assessing the candidate's approach in selecting and presenting product evidence, and by questioning.
- the process relies on having expert assessors able both to interpret the NVQ language, and to ask appropriate questions to draw out the candidate's experience and appreciation of issues (one of the best methods may be to get the candidate to review his or her actions, and how they might have tackled a project differently).
- if the candidate has been fortunate enough to have done work which corresponds closely to a specified unit or element, the assessment can be rapid (and meet the guideline 30 mins per element).
- if (as is likely in most cases) there is no such exact correspondence, preparation and assessment can be a laborious and extremely time-consuming process.

None of the issues arising from the trials is insurmountable, and I feel that an adapted and much-simplified qualification should be



both relevant and attractive to conservation officers and others. It remains to be seen whether the NVQ format and the wording of the CISC manual will allow the extent of simplification required, or indeed whether a further stage of trials of a revised qualification will be possible. I hope that further trials can be arranged, with proper support, and that these will also allow testing (at Level 4) of those Units of the Conservation Advice NVQ which cover the pro-active elements of the conservation officer's work.

The Directors of Conservation Courses have been understandably nervous about the introduction of qualifications based on competence in the workplace, and in particular how these will relate to established academic qualifications. They were also concerned that the unit structure of NVQs is unsuited to a holistic view of conservation. These are justifiable concerns (particularly as the meat of conservation philosophy and practice appears to be concentrated in just one of the Units in both the Conservation

Control and Conservation Advice NVQs). My (admittedly limited) experience with the NVQ trials has been encouraging in this context: during the assessment of each of the units for which I have acted as verifier, the candidate was constantly having to demonstrate underpinning knowledge and understanding. I feel reasonably confident that the Course Directors' reservations can be overcome with increasing understanding of this complementary relationship between academic qualifications and the NVQ units (which test the practical application of academic "knowledge evidence").

Even if the NVQ falls by the wayside, the exercise will have been extremely useful in providing a structured basis for analysing and assessing what conservation officers (and other conservation professionals) do. This process has been very helpful in developing the requirements of the new Institute of Historic Building Conservation, which succeeded the ACO last Spring.

*John Preston*

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## A NEW CONSERVATION TRAINING NETWORK FOR WALES?

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A meeting of representatives from Education and Training Institutions, National and Local Authorities, private practices and construction firms was held in June to consider the need now, for a mechanism specific to Wales to further the development of education and training for building conservation.

Wide ranging discussions took place as to a possible role of a cooperative network and the need for a Welsh focus. Clearly there would be advantages to effective communication across Wales as well as with contemporaries in other parts of the UK and abroad. There was also a need to encourage a dialogue for sharing of knowledge and experience amongst all professionals including contractors and skilled tradesmen and women. The need for education to be cast very wide was emphasized if the "current tide of sacrifice on the altar of improvement" was to be halted. In particular, Welsh domestic buildings were in danger of becoming shrouded in Canterbury dash, synthetic slate and PVC windows. The challenge is to educate the public, professionals and the construction industry at large.

The meeting agreed that Further and Higher Education had a pivotal role to play. There is a need to involve building owners, trusts, amenity groups and all the existing Welsh bodies with strong educational links in support and curriculum development based on the sort of performance standards developed by COTAC within the NVQ framework. The support and involvement of experienced practitioners was also seen as being critical here. The aim should be to break down barriers so that

Conservation is no longer seen as an elite function practiced only on a few high quality buildings.

Whilst all academic bodies now have their own separate business strategies, it was felt that it would be best if agreement could be reached on a range of high quality, value added courses. No one institution was likely to be able to deliver the full range of knowledge and skills required in splendid isolation. A joint venture approach was certainly worthy of consideration and the COTAC network is potentially the vehicle for a coordinated education and training strategy in Wales. The opportunity should be taken to explore the transfer of credits between institutions and between academic and vocational awards for a comprehensive range of initial and mid-career awards.

Finally, there was broad consensus on the part of the public sector representatives with regard for the need to exchange information on suitable professionals and contractors. All felt that the power of specialist approved lists as well as the existence of a multi-centred Welsh network would be significantly enhanced if Cadw were to give their support.

(This report has been extracted from the minutes of the inaugural meeting of the Welsh COTAC Network, held at the University of Glamorgan on 17 June 1997. A further meeting, hosted by Bridgend College, is proposed for early autumn.) For more information please contact Mr. Trevor Francis, University of Glamorgan, Pontypridd, CF37 1DL, telephone 01443 480480 (482164 direct), fax 01443 480558.



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## ST PANCRAS CURRICULUM PROJECT, PHASE 2

### South Camden Community School (SCCS), Camden LEA

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#### BACKGROUND

In 1995, a curriculum project was planned in conjunction with Anne Pennell of Camden TVEI, the local authority department set up to encourage school/industry links. This would use the St. Pancras Chambers building as a context for teaching about materials. A bid was successfully put forward for funding, via Bernie Holloway the local manager of the North London Curriculum Centre, one of the centres established throughout the country by the Construction Industry Training Board to encourage introduction of school children to the industry.

The development of links with outside agencies and between Education/ Industry has continued to be a significant part of SCCS Science Department development plan for 1996-97, and has taken the project into a second phase. The Geography department has joined in to make a cross-curricular bid and maximise the use of the St. Pancras Chambers building in the current year.

It was decided that during phase 2, a resources pack which could be used by other schools in the borough and perhaps further afield should be produced. This is being supported by a number of organisations and individuals including Union Railways, London and Continental Railways and London and Continental Engineering who have already produced an excellent Education pack about the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL) and which was made available to Camden schools at a launch in June. Others

involved include Acland Burghley School, Camden Borough Council, CITB North London Curriculum Centre, COTAC, Kings Cross Partnership, Malcolm Holmes, Borough Archivist and Margaret and Richard Davies Associates, Architects.

Plans included year 12 GNVQ Intermediate Science as well as lower school groups in Key stage 3. COTAC arranged the visits to St. Pancras Chambers on the school's behalf. Times were booked to coincide with the teaching of the "Materials and substances" topic in the lower school and the unit of work about "Materials and their properties" in year 12.

The aim of the Geography project for year 8, was to look at the development of St. Pancras building and the surrounding area. It was set in the context of the National Curriculum levels which deal with change, regeneration, conservation and development of a location and covers levels 1 to 6.

#### ORGANISATION

The funding to pay for the hour long guided tours and cover for staff to accompany the students was provided by CITB.

The science worksheet (included in the pack) to be used on the visit to help provide a focus for students was developed at SCCS. Indemnity Insurance cover was arranged through Camden LEA as required by the building owners against any mishaps during the tours. Lists of student groups were forwarded to London and Continental Railways for security reasons and to enable quick registration on arrival.

Science and support staff were briefed on the layout of the building and the best ways to use the worksheet during the tour. It was decided to arrange the students in groups to complete the worksheet as they toured the building to encourage team working.

One disadvantage to the building is that it had no disabled access so that the wheelchair users could not attend. This problem has now been partially resolved by the owners as a ramp has been fitted over the steps so that there is access to the ground floor.

Year 8 Geography groups visited the hotel and wrote reports about the use of the building in the past, present and its possible future development. Students carried out a role play to empathise with individuals whose names and characters are described in the work pack. Further, they carried out a survey to gain information about public knowledge. They asked

local residents if they knew the location of the hotel and what use they would like to see made of it in the future.



*Typical materials at St Pancras*

#### KEY STAGE 3 SCIENCE

Before the visit, practical work was carried out by the Science group on materials to identify them and make links between their specific properties and the use to which the material is put. Students researched a range of materials in use at home and school. They made samples of concrete and tested them for compressive strength using standard testing techniques which were rigorously checked for safety risks.

All year 9 students visited the St. Pancras Chambers during their study of the "Materials" topic. The visit brought to life their theoretical knowledge of materials and their uses, particularly in relation to the construction industry. The completed worksheets





*Students Sheila Begum (left) and Abdul Noor (right) make their presentations to the 1996 COTAC Conference.*

were collected and checked by teachers and homework set to turn their discoveries into prose. Essays and written accounts were produced by students and published in the school's newsletter.

### **GNVQ INTERMEDIATE SCIENCE**

Visits were arranged for 20 GNVQ students as part of their work in the Intermediate Science course in year 12. Margaret Davies, from MRDA, gave a very lively talk to these students about the materials used in the construction of the building. Her enthusiasm and thorough knowledge of the architecture made the subject very enjoyable and the students really appreciated her input.

The materials box students had put together has more recently been enhanced by another, very beautiful box produced by the Science Museum at a cost of £60. The School was invited by Bernie Holloway to contact Karen Davis at the Science Museum in order to work with her team on the design of the resource box and the "Challenge of Materials" exhibition which opened on May 18th this year. This was a very exciting chance to work as an advisor with the science museum staff, and some funding for teacher release time was provided by the CITB. Meetings with the team at the Museum took place on three occasions. These discussed the finer details of GNVQ assessments that are included in the teachers pack as well as the contents of the materials box and the design of a materials database to be used by visitors to the new exhibition.

The materials box is a really exciting resource because it includes materials that would be very difficult and expensive for schools to obtain. The GNVQ science assignments developed are also excellent, one of them being based on the brilliant glass bridge which was constructed as part of the Science Museum exhibition. Students can do most of their assignment at the museum and finish it off at school.

### **YEAR 8 GEOGRAPHY**

Year 8 Geography groups used 2 lessons for preliminary work to prepare the survey and plan their project. They were looking at

the development of the hotel in terms of the development of the Eurotunnel connections. They investigated the types of people that the changes can affect and what impacts these could have on their lives. People were grouped as:

- travellers/season ticket holders
- railway personnel
- unemployed
- parents
- other business personnel in the local area.

Students planned how they would put their investigation together. A writing frame was developed to provide prompts for weaker students to help them with their written work. The report was written up in a lesson followed by some homework time. Students were able to put their findings into geographical scales, local, national and international.

### **CURRICULUM AREAS**

#### **Key Stage 3**

National Curriculum Attainment Target 3 "Materials and their properties." The levels are all covered in 3 topics, revisiting in year 9, identifying materials and matching their physical and chemical properties to their uses in industry and the home.

#### **GNVQ**

Element 2.2 "Investigate living things, materials and substances."

Students are asked to carry out a survey of various solid materials to find out which samples they would recommend for use as guttering on a roof.

They select materials from 4 groups to survey and test. These are ceramics, polymers, metals and composites. Copies of the assignment sheet used with GNVQ students are included in the pack should teachers wish use it or to adapt it.

#### **Geography Key Stage 3**

The Geography project covered the National curriculum areas of Change, Regeneration, Conservation and Development.

#### **Main benefits to students**



The topic of materials is quite difficult to teach unless one has a lot of resources and samples available and it does not have much meaning for students without linking it to their everyday lives. The visits to St. Pancras building definitely bring this topic to life for many of the students and the follow up work becomes very enjoyable largely because they can relate to it.

The GNVQ students were invited to speak at the COTAC international conference 1996 held at St. Pancras Chambers. They were very excited about actually giving a talk to a large group of professional people and they planned what they were going to say very carefully. It was highly motivating and a great opportunity for them to develop their skills of public speaking. They spoke about their visits to the building and the coursework they had produced and about materials used in the construction

industry. Their appreciation of the opportunity was clear and it was really good to see students who are so obviously proud to be involved in these newly forged links between education and industry.

The Geography investigation involved year 8 students in individualised learning as well as some collaborative group work. The investigation helped to make students aware of the developments within the locality and how it will have impact on their lives and the part that they have to play in that development. They are therefore better able to make judgements about the developments which are taking place based upon their collected ideas.

We look forward to the completion of the full work pack which should be available in the late autumn, early winter this year.

*Cathy Mitchison, Head of Science, South Camden Community School*

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## A NORDIC ALLIANCE

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In October 1996, a collaborative research project was begun by the post-graduate Architectural Conservation Courses in Tampere University of Technology, Finland, the Scottish Centre for Conservation Studies (Edinburgh College of Art/Heriot-Watt University) and the Royal School of Fine Arts in Stockholm. Over the following academic year each course undertook an assessment of the ethical and practical issues involved in conserving a particular building type, the kirk. Particular emphasis was put on the effect that national and cultural contexts had on basic attitudes. This project received the backing of the Finnish Board of Antiquities, Historic Scotland, the National Board of Trustees, Sweden, the RIAS, Sir Bernard Feilden and COTAC.

This Nordic Alliance, as the group has come to be called, is a new venture into cross-cultural education. It which owes its formation to the 1995 Helsinki International Conference on Conservation Education (ICOMOS-CIE), for it was here the three Course Directors first met and, encouraged by COTAC's Richard Davies, decided to explore the ways in which a closer connection between them could be made. Their general aim was to further improve international co-operation and exchange of information, but the Directors also wanted to strengthen the quality of education in each of the three schools by giving their students the opportunity to experience a wider and possibly more challenging range of opinions and attitudes.

There are many similarities in culture, climate and building

materials between Scotland, Finland and Sweden, enough to provide a basis of shared experience from which the differences that do exist can be perceived more clearly. Also, the courses were all based in Schools of Architecture, and had an emphasis on holistic, design-based analysis of problems in common. This chance to meet, talk and argue across national boundaries, the Directors thought, had to be good for the staff, for the students and for architectural conservation in general.

That is the background. The progress to date has been a series of studies, surveys, papers and two extraordinary week-long working sessions, one in Sweden/Finland and one in Scotland (made possible by Historic Scotland support).

So, what has been learned? First some general points.

The Scots could not help but notice the extraordinarily high level of sensitivity in Finland to the gentle more subtle qualities in buildings and in the environment. Their work made that in



*Students out with Professor Vilhelm Helander in Helsinki*



Scotland, England and Wales look, as a whole, rather heavy-handed. Similarly noticeable was the impressive organisation of protection in Sweden especially in regard to the "green" side of conservation. Those wishing to erect new buildings, for instance, have to submit a plan for their future demolition in a "sustainable" way before approval will be considered while, for health reasons, the use of many traditional materials is restricted, many more than UK legislation takes into account.

The Swedes not only have tighter legislation but appear to have more money at their disposal. The Finnish situation is rather different. Because of the sufferings of their past, they have so few "old" buildings that all receive, or have received, an almost excessive care. Instead, they have a huge stock of disused industrial buildings, as in Scotland concentrated in areas of high unemployment and a struggling economy. They also have one of the highest percentage per capita of twentieth-century architectural masterpieces in the world, all of which present new technical and ethical problems of repair.

In respect to our common subject of study, the kirk (or church), overwhelmingly the Scots' response was, "What do they have to worry about?" Not a lot, it seems, compared to us. While we were amazed at the neat mediaeval parish kirks in full working order being studied, both Finns and Swedes were appalled by the sheer numbers of vacant, disused and unsympathetically reused kirks in Scotland that were our concern. The Scots' well-known disputatious tendency has caused the established kirk to split innumerable times from the early eighteenth century onwards. After each secession, the newly formed congregations have immediately set about building bigger and better accommodation for themselves. This is, of course, in addition to the great numbers of dissenters', Roman Catholic and Anglican places of worship. Today, with religious attendance of all denominations at an ebb, the problems of finding any use for the empty (often A-listed kirks are extreme).

In both Sweden and Finland, the comparatively few kirks are, with only the rarest exception (if at all), well used and well maintained even in the depths of the country, and public opinion is actively and strongly supportive and respectful. The Scandinavian conservationists are concerned more with the ethical minutiae of interior decoration and environmental controls, in contrast to the desperate attempts to stave off demolition (or structural collapse) all too familiar to Scots.

There was another great difference we had not foreseen. Though the established kirk in all three countries is Protestant, the Scottish version is Calvinist and the Scandinavians' Lutheran. This is more than an abstruse doctrinal point. In the first view, kirks are essentially meeting places for communal worship, in the second they have a sacred quality in themselves. This has a strong effect on public perception of value. Put crudely, the Scots' conservation problems with kirks are comparable, in effect, more to those faced by Finns with their industrial rather than their religious buildings.

The end result of the Nordic Alliance has yet to come. Each course has profited educationally, the knowledge of the subject of study has been advanced, but probably the most valuable outcome of all is the network of friends and connections that has been made between the three countries. It was extraordinary how many links we discovered had already been formed in the past; e.g. the granite connection between Scotland and Finland is well known but there were similar, less well-known links with Gothenburg. This is only one example out of a richness of past associations. We can now carry these into the future. Architects, planners and historians working in the conservation field will be able to fax their friends abroad when faced with a particular problem whether it be stone (ask Scotland), concrete (ask Finland) or timber (ask Sweden) etc. In all, this first year of the Alliance been a great success. The next should be even better.

*Dr D Bell, Director, Scottish Centre for Conservation Studies  
July 1997*

## PRESS RELEASE

*Release issued  
2nd September 1997*

### END OF COLD WAR SETS OFF COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY OF MILITARY SITES



The Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England is to undertake a national survey of the archaeology and architecture of the Cold War. The survey will cover all aspects of Cold War activity in England, including missile launch sites, radar and communication installations and the massive military bomb shelters, as well as related structures, such as the peace camps, research and manufacturing sites and the 'Little America' architecture of the large US Air Force bases.

Reduction of armed forces since 1991 has been rapid, with the result that many sites used in the Cold War have been sold or simply abandoned. These sites are particularly vulnerable to alteration or demolition. Little has been done to record them for posterity and few recognise the impact many of these sites have had on our recent history and culture. The 'War' officially came to an end on the 27 May 1997 with the major countries signing the 'Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Co-operation and Security'.

The survey will include a study of all relevant aerial photographs for each site, and more specific field recording of the more important sites. Results of the survey will be published as a book covering the major themes that arise, and the material acquired during the survey, will be available to the public through the RCHME's public archive, the National Monuments Record.



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## FROM ANCIENT SECRETS AND RECIPES, TO MODERN BUSINESS SYSTEMS

### The Paradox of Training for Conservation

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#### PAST TIMES

Recently I worked with a group of well-known management consultants on a review of a leading conservation team's business plans for the next decade. I saw hard-headed consultants fascinated as techniques and case histories revealed the rescue of dark, blistered paintings or blackened stone, and it reminded me again of the powerful seduction of conservation. We all understand the power of the crafts. We watch the smith shoeing horses, the glass blower with that perilous glowing bubble on the end of the pontil iron, but there is, it seems, a special sympathy with the art or craft that reverses the action of time itself.

In fact, modern conservation practice has far more to do with science, technology and good management than the romantic observer, and even some old-style conservators, may like to think.

The evolution of conservation as a discipline carries in it the seeds of the unresolved debates and difficulties for conservation education that are only now beginning to be addressed in higher education. Conservation evolved from two distinct roots - craft and science - and only comparatively recently has one sturdy and integrated plant begun to emerge.

The craft of conservation is seen very early in the archaeological record. Its secrets and formulae, such as a 5th century recipe for the repair of Chinese scrolls, were passed on through apprenticeship. There are ancient instructions for the repair of broken glass, and various medieval writings contain recipes for adhesives, gums, resins, pigments and patinas - the stock in trade of conservation and restoration. As time passed these became the closely guarded secrets of practitioners.

Scientific conservation did not really take off in this country until the early 19th century, despite the fact that in the 16th century Elias Ashmole, founder of the Ashmolean Museum, had already recorded some thoroughly modern observations on the correct environment for paintings. Sir Humphrey Davey, one of the great line of British and continental scientists who pioneered scientific conservation, was asked in the early 19th century to unroll the delicate scrolls from Herculaneum. By 1956, Sir Harold Plenderleith, Keeper of Research at the British Museum, had produced his seminal book *The Conservation of Antiquities*, virtually the only published text for the first generation of university-educated conservators.

The dichotomy continued to grow between the "curator chemists" with museum collections at their disposal and the craft-based restorers, whose chemical trade was disguised within arcane recipes and whose hands-on task was primarily the restoration of former appearances. By the late 1930s, when the first British conservation school at the London University Institute of Archaeology had just been started the uneasy pattern of conflict between the demands of a highly scientific discipline and its skilled hands-on practice was enshrined.

As people learned more about the power of scientific tech-

niques and simple observation to reveal the history and fabrication of objects, so the debate between conservation and restoration sharpened. Naturally, conservation education and training was affected. In the same school a student might be taught by a chemist with little hands-on experience and a practitioner with an apprenticeship background. At its best the tension was creative and energising; at its worst, the separation of cognitive and practical skills became damaging and dangerous for students and historic material. Only now, over 50 years on, is conservation education aiming for a combination of knowledge and practice, with students given a carefully integrated approach. However, teaching institutions have yet to come to terms with the important debates on value and meaning currently facing other museum professionals.

A profound change has overtaken the practice of conservation in Britain. In the late 1970s and early 1980s museum curators were faced with a massive backlog of unprocessed material to store. Conservators learned to sharpen their academic focus; to look at the object first in the context of the information it could yield - to select and prioritise using mass screening techniques so that only material which could shed light on the overall academic aim was allocated conservation time and skill. Gradually the emphasis of conservation has shifted from the single object on the



*Left: Healing process – unfired clay figure of Bal Krishna restored after breaks to the neck, wrist and ankle.*



bench to the whole collection in its environment.

The "management revolution" which engulfed the UK also embraced conservation. It had both enthusiastic advocates and fervent opponents. The techniques of environmental and statistically-based condition audits, of risk assessment and of disaster planning have all been pioneered from a conservation base. This most conservative of all professions has stepped outside its natural skill base and learned to take a broader perspective.

Inevitably, any change brought on by economic stringency will be accompanied by losses. It is a natural temptation for administrators to latch on to the shift towards cost effective preventive conservation, but cutting staff in conservation departments and reducing amounts of expensive equipment. Increasingly, hands-on conservation work is being contracted out to the independent sector where, however, it is very difficult to provide equipment and analytical backup at the same level of sophistication as can be found in a major museum. In fact, the existence of a healthy and competent private sector in conservation depends very much on the ability of public sector to maintain expertise, plant, standards and a good research base.

The emergence of extensive contracting out has meant that public bodies such as the Museums and Galleries Commission, the National Trust and English Heritage, have had to develop much more explicit standards for procuring and monitoring work from the private sector. They have also been forced to recognise their own responsibility to engender and focus research that is opposite in scale and application to the preservation tasks they face. There is now some hope of a healthy symbiosis between a private sector enlivened by an increasing volume of publicly funded work and a public sector forced to focus on what it should do best, i.e. set stringent standards for procurement and monitoring of conservation, and provide underpinning research.

Today there are 25 or so higher education institutions offering graduate or postgraduate qualifications in conservation disciplines, ranging from fine art to building. Graduates now enter a fast-changing world of employment. The confident assumption of employment in the public sector that graduates of twenty years ago were able to make is no longer valid. They now need business skills to help them deal with the complexities of tendering, project management, and indemnity, and communication skills to handle a bewildering variety of networks. They face a professional lifetime of moving between public and private sectors and patching together a montage of contracts where they may be called upon for traditional conservation skills or to use one of the increasing battery of conservation management tools.

Many conservation educators now understand that no formal course exists which will fully equip a student for vocational practice, but a substitute for the traditional method of squeezing a quart of knowledge into the pint of pot of a student's memory has not yet been found. One of the projects that should underpin this paradigm shift in conservation is research into educational methods. This would equip graduates with the necessary mix of hand skills and cognitive approaches so they could continue learning productively in the work environment. Of course, the current emphasis on assessment of competence in the workplace, through NVQs, will assist this process. Wise educators are already using the NVQ approach to complement their courses



*Right: Combining knowledge and practice, conservation students today.*

and there is every sign that the conservation profession itself will follow suit and incorporate NVQs into its long awaited professional accreditation scheme.

De Montfort University (DMU) is unique in having three conservation programmes: the BA Honours in Conservation and Restoration in the School of Applied Arts and Design (SAAD), Lincoln; the MA in Architectural Conservation in the School of the Built Environment, Leicester; and the MSc in Conservation Science, in the School of Applied Sciences, Leicester and SAAD, Lincoln. All three schools, despite their different traditions, are beginning to recognise that the underlying commonality of their aims and methods is greater than the sum of their differences. All, for example, contributed to a colloquium held on July 1st in Leicester, when DMU, with the active support of the Museums and Galleries Commission, attempted to establish some goals, targets and strategies to stimulate the lagging field of conservation research.

With a strong and eclectic base of disciplines and the propensity to act positively, DMU is ideally placed to contribute fresh thinking to conservation education. It already has the unique advantage of three schools, representing both arts and sciences, actively engaged in teaching conservation. Not only does scientific research in conservation need to be targeted and new, creative partnerships forged with other higher education institutions in the UK and abroad, but teaching and learning methodology must undergo a radical redefinition to meet the demands of an infinitely more complex workplace.

There is also another task to be undertaken which requires a degree of courage and where a non-traditional background could be a positive advantage. A vital and coherent conservation philosophy which meets and engages with the demands of the modern world, has yet to be evolved. Conservation is to some extent the victim of its own attractiveness. If it is to survive past the millennium as more than an adjunct to the heritage industry it needs to develop some radical new approaches.

*Kate Foley is a consultant to the Bachelor of Arts in Conservation and Restoration run at De Montfort University Lincoln and an Honorary Research Fellow, University of London. She was formerly Director of Science and Conservation for English Heritage.*

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## THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION

The following quotation from an article by Sue Rawlings in the *Historic Churches Review*, Summer 1997, looking particularly at the difference between conservation and restoration, a distinction which frequently has to be explained, may be of interest to readers.

**"Restoration, simply, is repair done in such a way as to return the object, as far as possible, to the state it was presumed to have been in as new. Conservation of books and ephemera is taken to mean the cleaning or repair of an object in such a way that it is usable but does not conceal the work done on it. It should also be completely reversible which means, in practice, that adhesives used need to be water soluble and any substances left in the paper can be washed out. If a repair to a document is done in such a way as to be "invisible" in law it is considered a forgery.**

**Conservation should be repairs undertaken to the highest standards, using only materials which are accepted as being of the purest quality and not likely in time to undergo chemical changes detrimental to an object's continued existence. Conservators are expected to observe a code of ethics in just the same way as other professionals."**

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## CONSERVATION OR RESTORATION

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*The current trend is for old buildings to be conserved rather than restored. Oxford specialist builder, Symm and Company, believes pure conservation is not always the best policy as it can reduce the life of the building and lead to the loss of key features.*

Restoration used to be the norm but in the last fifteen years the conservation approach has become more common. While it is important to avoid interference with the fabric and detail of buildings, a conservation approach does not always guarantee the best long term results.

Functionally, restoration stops the rot and makes a building draught-free, dry and insulated so that it can perform its function. Aesthetically, restoration takes a building back to how its creators intended it to be.

The conservation approach is more academic. Its "don't touch" policy aims to keep the appearance of buildings in the condition they are in today rather than as they were conceived to be. So, not only can conservation make it difficult to ensure the building is weatherproof and functional, it can lead to fine details and carvings being lost.

Realistically, any building over a hundred years old will probably already have been worked on at several stages, so that what is being conserved today may not even be "original". In fact, poor quality 18th or 19th century "botches" may end up being preserved, which is not in anyone's interest.

A recent article in *Perspective on Architecture* on the reopening of Brodsworth Hall highlighted this very subject: "Every last crack in the ceiling and botched 20th century repair to the paintwork has been preserved as part of its (English Heritage's) 'conserve as found' policy". What will this say to our grandchildren about our custody of their architectural legacy?

From a practical standpoint, restoration will probably give a building another 100 years of useful life. Conservation probably delays certain restoration which could well be required within 50 years. In too many situations conservation tends to keep a build-

ing in an old and tired state as well as being more expensive to maintain as the years pass. One factor in favour of conservation is that it is more likely to leave a building looking familiar. Indeed, English Heritage has been extensively praised for barely changing the appearance of Brodsworth.

Whilst regaining the original look of a building is one of the effects of restoration, replacement or restoration of discreet sections can leave it looking different, especially when the new work shows up surrounding material which is in poorer condition. However, Symm has found Oxford scholars thankful for restoration work carried out in the past which has preserved fine detail and accurate profiles on mouldings right into the 90s. They are still in excellent condition. After ten years or so, the new material has usually "weathered in" and looks little different.

Without doubt, poor quality restoration work is interference *in toto*, but there are occasions when original work can be improved upon. In many areas today's technology allows us to do a better job than our ancestors, so the onus is on us to leave a building in better condition than when we started. Surely there is something to be gained by our contributing to today's living buildings?

For example, Symm occasionally needs to replace or reorientate stone which was incorrectly bedded. Limestone, when incorrectly bedded, can erode in a relatively short time, often leading to serious damp problems. On other occasions the company has enhanced the slope on a cornice when, as originally built, it was too flat causing water to pool and subsequent frost damage. With a slightly steeper fall the problem is eradicated and the change is completely undetectable to the eye.

Another common problem arises from stone decomposing when it is held in place by iron cramps positioned too close to an



exposed surface. The cramps rust, expand and burst the stone. Many Victorian buildings suffered this problem as did Blenheim Palace, but non-ferrous cramps are an excellent solution.

It could be argued that this is interference. But consider the benefits. Such alterations are in the interests of the building, preventing erosion and decay. There is nothing wonderful about a building so decayed and worn that it is unsafe or unusable. And that is before its looks are taken into account.

Of course, as builders we will do as we are asked by our clients. But, as responsible builders we tend to advocate restoration on the grounds of practicability, value for money and prolonging the life of the building. For the most part, restoration is carried out with a conservation bias, and in most cases the two approaches are married to good effect.

The restoration of Uppark House in West Sussex after its destruction by fire is a good example. Under the direction of the National Trust, Symm replaced over a hundred sash windows. Although archaeologists and the National Trust's conservators managed to rescue and preserve many charred remnants of the original windows, only one replacement unit could be made from pieces of the original. Eventually, the National Trust reluctantly concluded that the majority would have to be newly made.

Where possible, Symm incorporated original pulley stiles, some sashes and frame components into the new units if they were in good enough condition. The company was able to use its historical

knowledge and specialist skills to complete the task very successfully.

This leads to another key point. The specialist craft skills needed to perform restoration works are in danger of becoming redundant and dying out if they are not used.

One of the solutions to the conservation versus restoration debate is regular maintenance. If the fabric of the building is kept in good enough condition, that building can be restored to its original glory with minimum disruption. But if it is allowed to become decayed or unsound complete restoration, or even reconstruction is more likely to be the only feasible option if the entire structure is not to be lost.

Most people in building, architecture and allied professions are aiming for a similar end result because we all want buildings to be preserved and enjoyed by future generations.

But if Britain's important buildings have to be protected by invisible glass cases and obliterated or disfigured by signs entreating us not to touch anything, we are in danger of turning Britain into a kind of architectural Disneyland and full of museum pieces. We must take care not to remove their soul.

*By Malcolm Axtell, Chairman, Symm and Company Limited, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0EQ, telephone 01865 249567*

This article was first published in the Architects and Surveyors Institute *Journal*.



*Above: Merton College dormer windows, Oxford BEFORE restoration by Symm & Company Limited.*

*Right: Merton College dormer windows, Oxford AFTER restoration by Symm & Company Limited.*





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## HERITAGE AND ARCHITECTURE – A DELICATE BALANCE

by Michael Brooke

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Not many years ago a building restored or constructed to house a heritage attraction was unusual. Now they are an established part of construction industry output. However, is there another building type in this country where the final product has been assembled in such a haphazard way and where overall success is achieved more through luck than design?

Before expanding on this theme - the 'package deal' visitor attraction, the formula interpretation of an event or a locality, is excluded. Here the interpretative and building design team generally deliver the product requested.

With virtually any other building type a wealth of received wisdom can be relied upon to ensure a building is conceived with at least the correct assembly of accommodation to meet an estimate of demand and usage. There is guidance for the architect and operator in some official publications, but it is for use once the strategic decisions are in place and consequently, mistakes made at this level are often irrevocably embedded.

Unlike most other building types there is no ready source of facts for the architect or the putative operator. This probably reflects the extent of variables which heritage based visitor attractions present to client and designers.

There are some common elements, and the advent of the Heritage Lottery Fund has begun to impose a rationale in the process of procuring heritage assets and facilities. It is important, however, to remember that the third party appraisal of an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund is primarily for their benefit to ensure proper allocation of money. The process of preparing and having an application appraised may impose a discipline but the risk is still the applicants.

Frequently the first person a new client turns to is the Architect, often because it is a drawn concept of a proposed restoration or a new building which is needed to 'kick' start a project. This may be an essential stage in the development of the project and must be seen as an objective achieved and not as an immutable part of the project. When that objective has been achieved it is vital to turn attention, if it has not already been done, to the assessment of the strength of the collection or proposed interpretative content. This assessment is probably best done independently, partly to moderate parochial pressures and perceptions and often because the pressures on a client's current resources prevents adequate time being made available, at a critical time, for quality strategic thinking about interpretation.

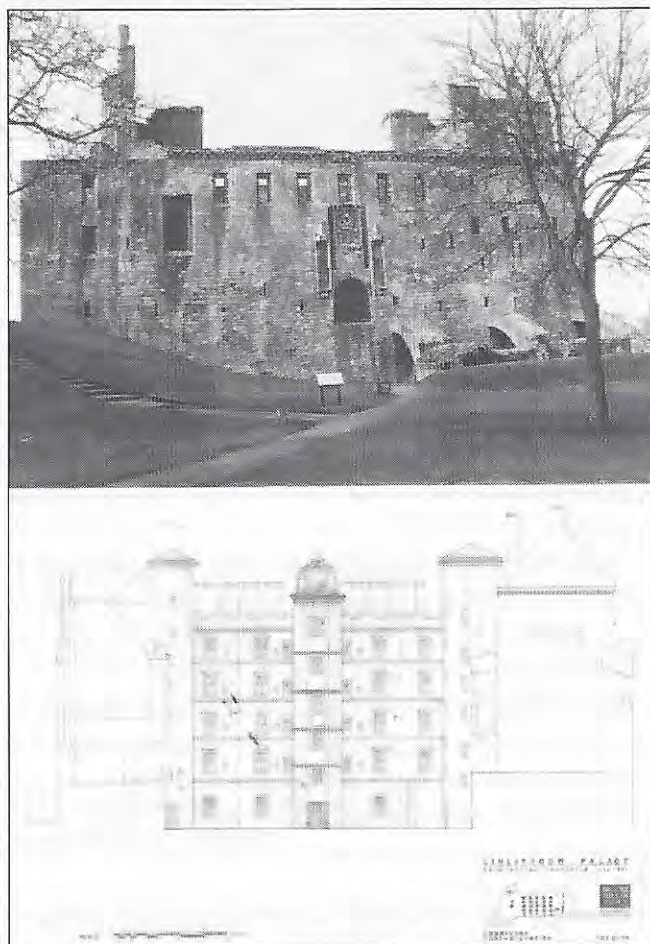
Whichever way an interpretative strategy and brief is prepared it must then be tested for its market appeal. At the end of this initial process the Architect and interpretative designer should now be poised to start to return to work in partnership, to prepare designs, which fully reflect the collection and interpretation to meet the demands of the brief. The design of any shop, toilets, support and catering facilities intended to form part of the project, will take their cue from the interpretative brief and market analysis.

For instance, the shop environment will be determined by the retail content and predicted product turnover and shelf life. Catering facilities and toilet provision will be determined by the source, type and groups of visitors expected, as will education and some of the other support accommodation.

A large part of the design of mechanical and electrical services will be determined by the interpretative designers needs and the consequences of the media used in the presentation and interpretation of the collection or storyline. Decisions about the provision or exclusion of daylight will be influenced by whether this is an existing or new building. All this will be material in determining the form, shape and appearance of the building.

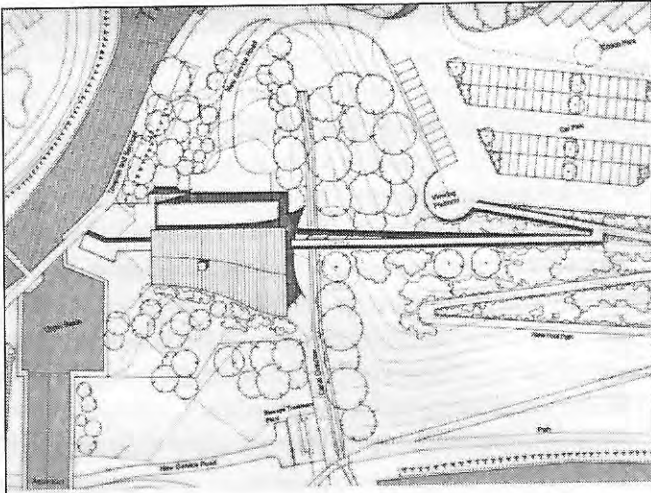
Within the above text, the words Architect and interpretative designer have some degree of interchangeability. This writer is not overly concerned who leads at a particular stage in the development of a project. What is paramount, for the optimum benefit of the client, is the trust and confidence which each of the partners have in the recognition of each other's roles and responsibilities.

The demand for museum and interpretative facility operators to deliver their service in a very competitive environment requires that in the procurement of envelope and content, one element is



Linlithgow Palace





**Anderton Boat Lift**

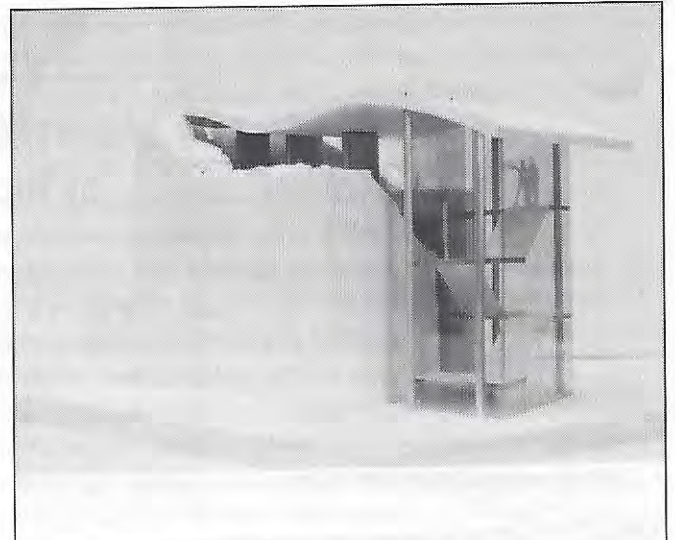
not compromised by the excesses of the other. As building and services come before fit-out this often means it is interpretation and media which suffer physical and/or budgetary constraint. This means that teamwork must extend through the whole design, costing, contract, construction and cost control process.

Whether an extension to an existing facility, 'new build' or part of a restoration project the selection of the team charged with delivery of the finished project is the single most important investment in time and money which its client can make towards a project.

How this can be achieved through simplistic application of EU procurement directives and/or lowest price criteria demanded by Local Authority Standing Orders is another matter, but even here there are ways to avoid a 'pig in a poke' scenario.

*Michael Brooke is a partner in Brooke Millar Peden Architects. He has been practising for 23 years, the last ten of which have been entirely to do with the design and provision of buildings for museum, heritage and interpretation. For further information contact Michael Brooke at 98 New Walk, Leicester LE1 7EA, Tel: 0116 255 6867 or Fax: 0116 255 6869.*

This article was first printed in the *Heritage and Architecture* magazine.



**Caldicot Castle**



**Rhonnda**



ASHTAV was formed in 1990 in an attempt to redress the imbalance in the planning system between developers and local people. When there are conflicts of interest developers can support their applications with large resources and expert professional help. Local Amenity Groups and Parish Councils are often inexperienced in planning laws and procedures and can seldom command expert help. ASHTAV is a registered charity, number 1017025 and receives grant aid from the Department for Culture, the Media and Sports (formerly the Department of National Heritage).

The Charity endeavours to equip local groups with knowledge and expertise to match the developers. It draws on a network of experience gained by established Amenity Societies and Local Councils committed to the reciprocal exchange of help and information. It provides:

1. A Help-Desk with answerphone through which a voluntary panel of Advisers with a range of expertise and experience can quickly be contacted.
2. A Resource Centre, to provide rapid assistance and expert advice commonly available to local groups.
3. A regular Newsletter which publishes advice and information on current planning and related issues.
4. National representation of membership views to constitute an effective voice for the most local level of the community in the conservation and planning of small historic towns and villages.

To succeed in fulfilling its aims ASHTAV needs a wide membership throughout the country so that its voice can be recognised as representative. This will also enable it to tap the widest source of experience and keep in touch with all who need its help.

The organisation currently has over 180 member societies, councils and friends in 30 counties.

## IS ASHTAV NEEDED?

Those who live in or visit Britain's unique heritage of small historic towns and villages value them as an irreplaceable asset. In each region they have their own special character and setting.

Can we afford to lose this precious inheritance because of unsympathetic, unsuitable and out-of-scale development? Surely every effort must be made to preserve the essential character of these towns and villages for future generations. Their conservation is far more than a local matter. It touches the whole population, as well as visitors from all over the world. Indeed, the whole attractiveness of Britain's historic towns and villages is an important economic asset as well as an environmental issue.

ASHTAV's concern is for the buildings, many of them listed, in their setting in the countryside, and for maintaining the harmony of materials, design and scale which form the overall character of each place. There must be care for detail - shop fronts and signs, window frames and doors as well as street furniture which fit the local scene and add to, rather than detract from its harmony.

Unlike national bodies and regional authorities, which have

wider responsibilities, ASHTAV, through the local societies, groups and councils which are its members possesses a wealth of local knowledge and commitment. Its members, working together with other like-minded organisations are well placed to care for the vast wealth of architecture, history and community life which surrounds them.

ASHTAV concentrates on the particular needs and concerns of small historic places. It co-ordinates and encourages mutual support amongst members, facilitating the exchange of experience and expertise, providing opportunities through seminars and lectures for increasing knowledge of conservation issues and the planning process. It also provides a corporate national voice on matters of concern to its members generally.

## OBJECTIVES

ASHTAV's objectives are:

1. Uniting Amenity Societies and Groups, Parish and Town Councils in small historic towns and villages in a common effort for the preservation, protection and where appropriate, sensitive adaptation of their features of historic and public interest.
2. Encouraging high standards of architecture and planning.
3. Stimulating the public interest and care for the beauty, character and fabric of small historic towns and villages in the context of an understanding of the social and economic changes which affect them.

ASHTAV recognises the many social and economic changes affecting town and village life - the growth of industry and tourism, the migration from large towns and cities to the countryside, the decline of traditional agriculture and demographic change. They cannot be resisted but they should be introduced with respect for existing patterns and values.

New development can take place with sensitive consultation and respect for the existing scene and community life. ASHTAV's aim is to ensure that wherever change is thought to be necessary, those whom it most directly affects are equipped to take full and effective part in the decisions involved.

Planning Policy Guidance PPG12 says "*The Secretary of State considers it is most important that local people and other interested bodies should have the opportunity to tell authorities their views on plan proposals. He is keen that local people should participate actively in the preparation plans from the earliest stages so that they can be fully involved in decisions.....*"

"*In addition authorities consult organisations with a particular interest in the plan proposals, including conservation and amenity groups.....*"

**ASHTAV encourages these opportunities for positive involvement by its members.**

*For further information or to join please contact Mrs G Smith, Hon. Secretary, ASHTAV, Beech Cottage Fentham Road, Hampton-in-Arden, Solihull B92 0BB telephone/fax: 01675 443548*



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## KEEPING UP APPEARANCES

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**T**he real value of a period home often lies in its architectural details. We take expert advice on how to ensure 'improvements' are in keeping with our home.

From modest DIY efforts to stone-cladding, the British have traditionally loved using home improvements to define their living space and confirm their individuality. But while such undertakings may indeed turn an ordinary semi into a custom-built castle, a personalised touch can sometimes do more harm than good when it comes to re-selling your property. The key is learning which improvements work with your home and which against it.

**Restoring your home's original features can be expensive but it will certainly help your house sell more readily**

### PERIOD VALUES

When it comes to the crunch, it's often estate agents who have to deal with the effects of home improvements which can make a property easier or harder to sell. 'It's very easy to look at the positive and beneficial sides of home improvements, because improved kitchens and bathrooms can help sell a home', says a spokesperson for the National Association of Estate Agents. 'But the whole valuation aspect depends on the way that the improvement sympathises with the era of the property.'

'Where we find some of our biggest devaluation's are where the improvements made are incongruous with the era of the house. Take a turn-of-the-century terraced property which is all Victorian, marble fireplaces, high ceilings, coricing, plasterwork, panelled doors. Where these have been taken out and replaced with more modern features, that's when you will find devaluation. The house will hold its value if it's presented in the style appropriate to the era. That applies across the board'.

### MAKING A DIFFERENCE

It isn't hard to find examples of modifications that clash with a home's period features. Such improvement 'mistakes' give an idea of the alarming extent to which such improvements can reduce the asking price for your property, in certain circumstances, by as much as 25%, or even more.

'In Gosforth, the area where the maximum prices in Newcastle are obtained, a turn of the century terraced house with four bedrooms will be around the £100,000 mark', says Tyneside estate agent Duncan Young. 'We've got one on our books at the moment which has had a lot of the old features taken out of it; it wasn't a recent improvement, it was a house that had been owned by the same family for 30 or 40 years. At some stage, probably during the 60s, the old marble fireplaces came out and they were replaced by modern gas fires, the panel doors became flush doors, the plasterwork and the coricing was taken out and polystyrene tiles were put on the ceiling. All those sort of improvements devalue substantially,

and that house is on the market for £77,000 - we'll be lucky if we get £70,000 for it'.

### RESTORING CHARACTER

The house was hard to look at with the annex like it was, says Dave Bateson. The Bateson family knew when they bought their 1930s semi-detached house that they would want to improve the 1950s open style 'car port' and flat roofed granny annex.

The building work took several months, but the Batesons don't regret it for a minute. Their builders, Douglas J P Edwards of Cuckfield, extended the house's original pitched roof and upgraded the car port to a double garage. In the process, the annex where Mrs Bateson's mother lives benefited from better insulation, improved access, and the kitchen and garden were both enlarged.

What had been an unattractive add-on was transformed into a seamless extension, in keeping with the original architectural style.



Above: *BEFORE*. Below: *AFTER*





## VALUE ADDED IMPROVEMENTS

Though certainly, a major factor, personal taste isn't the only reason for such a dramatic disparity between the values of untouched properties and their customised equivalents. Original features make a house much easier to sell, a fact not lost on most potential buyers. Though restoring a house to its original state can be worth the effort, the costs of undoing bad improvements are substantial.

'For period houses it's now very expensive to reinstate marble fireplaces. It can be £1,500 for a nice one,' says Duncan. 'I've been into lovely old houses where restoration has been carried out right down to the sash windows, all the brass catches have been polished up and woodwork has been replaced in the same style. It can be worth it and it certainly will make your house sell a lot more readily'.

The cost of restoration depends largely on the time you have to invest in the process, as Duncan explains: 'If you're a bargain hunter constantly touring round antique shops and car boot sales you might pick up enough old-fashioned things to put back into a house. But if you wanted it done instantly over a period of three months, and you were prepared to pay somebody to do it for you, it could prove costly'.

## OLD FLAMES

Pat and Tom Hutchinson have lived in their North London flat for over 30 years, during which time they have replaced their gas fire on a couple of occasions, but until recently they had always kept the same 1960s style fireplace and matching mantelpiece.

'Finally we decided it was time for a change, so we bought a Victorian fireplace with a marble surround that is much more in keeping with our flat, which is in a very large converted Victorian house', says Pat.

'We still have a gas fire, not a coal fire in the grate, although when it's lit the coals do glow and the effect is very realistic, but of course it's a lot less hassle for us than a real fire would be'.

## STREET STYLE

'There was a lot in the house that was pretty hideous', admits Julia Parry, who bought her Nottingham house five years ago. Unfortunately, the previous owners had replaced many of the original 1890s design touches with 1960s 'upgrades'. However, Julia recognised the house's potential and decided to strip away as much of the '60s style as possible, starting with the front door.

'The glass door wasn't just a security worry, it was also an eyesore. I knew that I really wanted a door like the remaining original doors in the rest of the street. So, I had one made, but one that was more secure than the original would have been. It is a new door, but it's one that fits in with my home and the street, and I like that'.

*Photographs by David Gamble and Brian North.*

Reproduced by kind permission of the *Nationwide Magazine*, house magazine of the Nationwide Building Society.



Above: BEFORE. Below: AFTER



Above: BEFORE. Right: AFTER





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## THE FUTURE IS NOW

### A Database for Conservation Professionals with Unbeatable Imaging

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Numerous improvements in functionality have been added to what is believed to be the only commercially available listed building database for Windows. Award winning Orion Imaging, a small but forward looking software developer, has recently launched a new version of its Heritage Management System, known as HMS. Although originally designed for use by Conservation Officers working in local authorities, the package is sufficiently flexible to allow use by conservation professionals in a wide range of fields. A significant feature of the database is that there is provision for an unlimited number of photos or slides per record, which is way beyond most peoples' expectations!

HMS is intended to bring the record keeping aspects of the conservation professionals job into the twentieth century. For the first time, all paper records, photographs or slides, maps and plans can be brought together within one easy-to-use software package, and at an affordable price. The system is designed to be familiar to anyone with experience of Windows, and to operate even on low-end PCs; a Pentium 120 with 16 MB RAM is recommended, but it will function on a 486.

HMS is built around the concept of an individual building record, with unlimited text in a large number of fields (some of which can be user defined) and any number of "images" which can be in the form of 35 mm slides, positives or negatives, maps or plans. In addition the system can be linked to GIS (geographic information systems) or to any ODBC compliant database. HMS may be used in single user or full multi-user mode, and it is easily possible to upgrade from one to the other. Although the system is extremely user-friendly, and straightforward enough to be used by a new member of staff after only a short period of training, comprehensive built-in Help files are provided.

#### QUALITY OF PICTURES

An important feature is the quality of the colour pictures which are stored using Orion's unique image compression technology; normally photographs or plans are very hungry with computer memory, but Orion are able to reduce the files to 3-5% of their original size. They appear almost instantly as thumbnails (small images), and can then be zoomed up to full screen size or greater. A facility exists to print the pictures in colour or black and white using today's inexpensive printer technology, and these can be incorporated into reports with the associated text. The pictures on screen are of good quality, although this obviously depends both on the quality of the original slide or photograph and on the resolution of the original scan. Orion can advise on all aspects of imaging, including integration with the latest digital cameras.

#### POPULATING THE DATABASE

Many people ask how best to transfer their existing data into the Orion database, which is of course initially empty of data but is in

other respects configured to receive all the information to which a conservation professional requires access. Orion's preference is to populate the database with existing data if possible, and this can be achieved by scanning and subjecting the text to OCR (Optical Character Recognition) techniques, thus enabling detailed searching of words or phrases. It is of course also possible to type in the data, although this is likely to be the more expensive option.

#### POWERFUL SEARCHING

The search facilities of the database are very powerful, and queries can be built sequentially, with easy-to-use data selection. For example, it is possible to search through the records to report on all oriel windows or thatched roofs, or to refine this search further by locating all oriel windows within a grade I or II\* listed building in a specific parish. A variety of reports can be produced which can be printed or exported in most common formats (e.g. Word, WordPerfect, Excel, Lotus 1-2-3, or RTF). Security features are incorporated so that it is necessary to login for data entry or edit; otherwise users are unable to change any information. It would for example be feasible to allow users access to limited data, perhaps in a public area.

Although originally written for listed buildings, the system works equally well with collections of objects, artefacts, archaeological remains or trees, and the database can be tailored to individual requirements, having been designed with flexibility in mind.

The system has been installed at a number of English and Welsh local authorities, and is being evaluated by many others as well as overseas users. Orion designed and built the Listed Building database for Cadw, Welsh Historic Monuments, and continues to support this; in addition, Orion has been appointed to develop a significant national archaeological database in association with a leading national museum, details of which are still under wraps.

#### DOCUMENT IMAGING

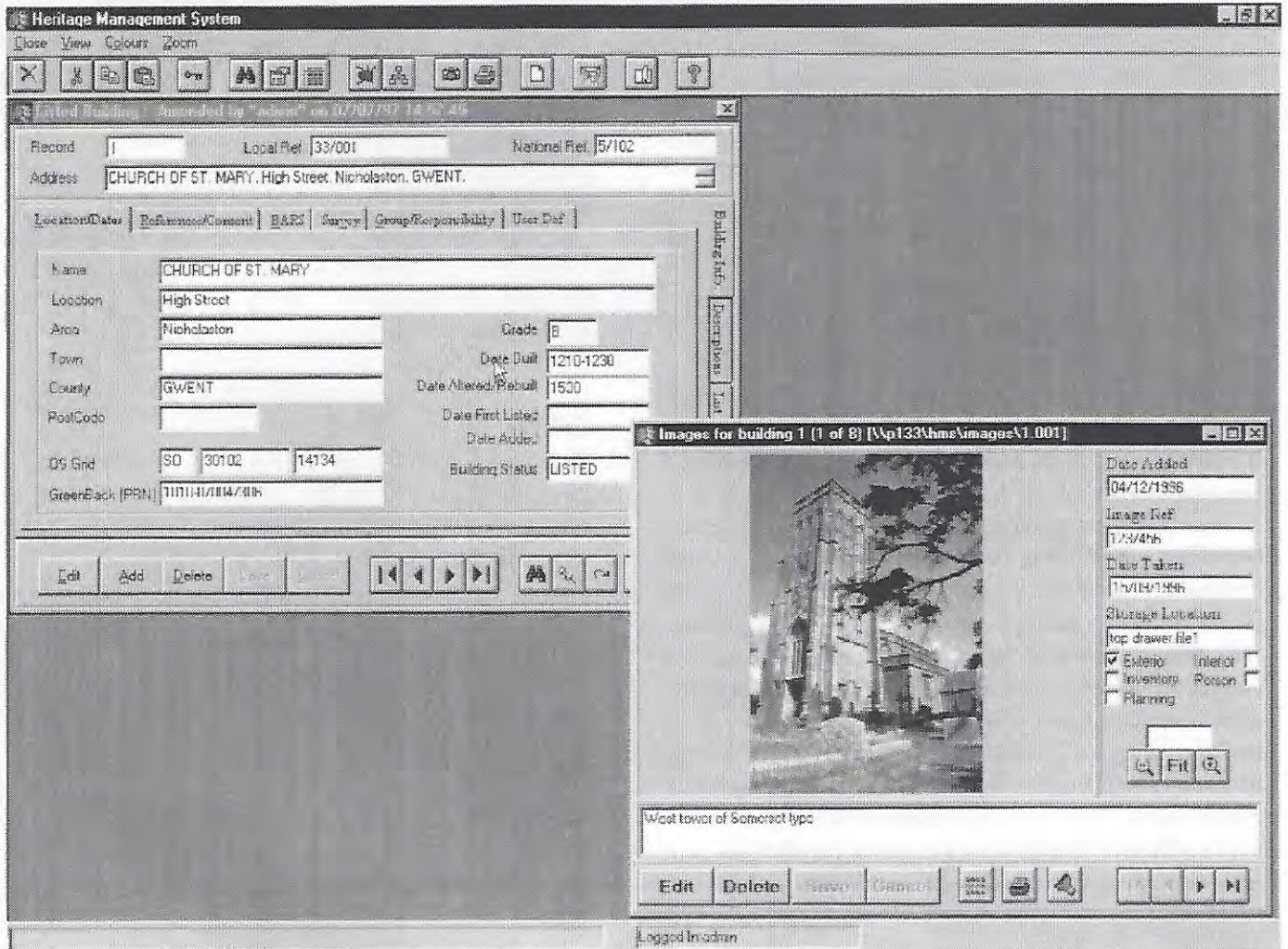
As well as incorporating images, it is now possible to include document imaging which is available as a discrete module. It has always been simple to link outgoing correspondence and spreadsheets in all major formats with HMS, and a new option now exists to scan incoming correspondence, plans and reports, using a compact keyboard scanner or traditional flatbed scanner. The document imaging module is easy to operate, and supports multi-layer filing capabilities (with up to five sub-folders), allowing straightforward and almost instant recall of correspondence. This enables the user to scan documents and correspondence received, and to view these items with the record.

In conclusion, the Orion Heritage Management system for Windows is a client server multi-user database, designed for use



by those familiar with the Windows environment. Document imaging and links to GIS and (for example) Development Control packages considerably increase the functionality of the system. Orion can assist with all aspects of the implementation of your project, including transfer of data and inclusion of images, plans and maps.

Further information, including a colour leaflet and demonstration disk, can be obtained from **David Leron** (Director), **Orion Imaging Limited**, 3 Oldbury Business Centre, Cwmbarn, South Wales NP44 3JU Tel 01633-868811; fax 01633-868968. Internet <http://www.orions.co.uk>





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# GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS USED FOR BUILDING CONSERVATION

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Building conservation, in common with other Built Environment activities, is currently benefiting from the move from paper to computer map images by the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) which has taken place during the past decade. The Ordnance Survey has recently completed its massive programme of converting some quarter of a million paper maps to computer format and GIS allows data to be displayed on these and other digital maps.

"Digital" or computer maps are less subject to loss and deterioration than paper equivalents and they can be joined seamlessly so that the problem of having a site which falls on four corners of adjoining maps is avoided. The ability to view several data sets on a single map also allows information to be interpreted more easily and connections between different data sets can be quickly made allowing "what if" queries to be performed.

Information and photographs relating to Listed Buildings, for example, can be accessed via the on-screen map provided that the buildings have a geographical reference such as an address or Ordnance Survey grid reference. In addition to displaying and querying information data can be analysed in order to present new information upon which planning decisions can be made.

One of the largest construction projects to use GIS in the planning stages is the Channel Tunnel Rail Link which intends to join the Channel Tunnel with the London terminal of St Pancras. The project stored data relating to over 10,000 properties categorised in 50 different themes or "layers" such as ownership details and environmental impact upon archaeology, noise pollution and air quality. Each data theme is weighted for importance and represented on a separate map layer. When the layers are overlaid optimum corridors can be selected for further investigation. In this fashion the 108km rail route was threaded through the countryside of South East England on a line which hopefully will cause minimum damage to property and environment.

## SYSTEMS IN USE

Current surveys show that 80% of local authorities use GIS - principally for planning, engineering and property management purposes. In the private sector GIS growth has lagged behind with only some 35% of construction consultants using it.

The range of systems currently marketed is very wide with costs ranging from several hundred pounds to tens of thousands, depending on the complexity of tasks undertaken. More powerful GISs such as ESRI's ArcInfo also require extensive training programmes for staff and usually demand the services of a GIS specialist, while simpler packages such as the popular PC-based MapInfo and GGP can be used with little or no experience.

GGP marketed by GGP Systems Ltd., has been jointly used by Winchester City Council and English Heritage for the last two years to assist in the management of archaeological sites in Winchester. Existing database records of sites and monuments are linked directly to the GGP, GIS to provide instant access to records through digitised map features. The work at Winchester is part of an initiative by English

Heritage involving 30 major historic towns across the UK. Through the provision of accurate and up-to-date records, planners in the historic towns will be more readily able to consider archaeological restraints when assessing development applications.

GGP have also launched a software package to assist in the protection of historic buildings. The system enables users to access listed building records through map displays and to undertake geographic searches. As well as holding photographs, fixed address and reference details, the listed building database records all planning and grant applications and decisions.

A similar but separate initiative is taking place in the planning offices of Wrexham County Borough Council where details of 760 listed buildings and 19 conservation areas supplied by Cadw are being linked to MapInfo GIS. Fig. 1 illustrates the conservation area around Wrexham's St Giles church (a Grade I listed building) inside which tree preservation areas and further listed buildings can be seen.

## DATA

Data from many sources including paper documents and existing computer files can be used in GIS. Video clips and photographs may be particularly useful; as well as showing elevations of buildings, aerial views can be used for building plans or as the basis for making maps. Infra-red photography from satellites and aircraft can also be used to show, for example, thermal images which can highlight buildings with poor thermal insulation.

The cost of collecting and converting data to a suitable format for GIS use is, however, often a prohibitive factor in the adoption of GIS. It has been estimated that up to 80% of GIS costs can be attributable to data collection/conversion - a figure often underestimated when budgeting for resources.

## FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The current fusion of Computer Aided Design (CAD) and GIS will enable proposed changes to the built environment to be viewed and assessed early on in the design stages. Such proposals may be viewed from the comfort of one's home if they are relayed over the Internet - plans and planning applications are already available from some authorities, notably the London Borough of Wandsworth (<http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk>).

Projects such as the compilation of a digital record of all the listed buildings of England by the Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of England ('Images of England', Newsletter number 11) could be made effective by access from the Internet. By linking text and images to a map-base, members of the public could be encouraged to be more aware of the built heritage around them.

Similar local projects could be displayed at libraries, schools and colleges where photos, video and text relating to buildings of historical and architectural interest can be accessed by computer through a local map. These and other examples of Geographic Information Systems show how new technology can be harnessed to foster an awareness of, and help protect, our built heritage environment.

*Pat McAfee,*





Railways leaflet on GIS and the Channel Tunnel Rail Link. 10,000 properties have been referenced and GIS used to link property titles and their ownership with related information such as boundaries and descriptions.

ADDRESS-POINT taken from the Ordnance Survey Data News – the caption could read: Typical GIS screen display of property showing plans, photograph and sales details.

Identify Results	
1	Su4170ap - AP2029875 Quality.co.uk
Owner	AP2029875 Quality.co.uk
Res. building_type	2
Res. description	BEVERLY LODGE
Post_town_name	ASHFORD
Postcode	SN2 4AB
Res. version_date	19941118
Upr. dist.	SN2 4AB
Building_type	Detached house
Number_of_beds	3
Services_water	Yes
Services_gas	Yes
Services_elec	Yes
Estates_agent	Merch-Dixon
Telephone	(01703) 259522
Price	£11,000
Features	Discretionary garage, fitted kitchen



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## THE REGISTER OF PROFESSIONAL TURNERS

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The craft of turning has provided articles of use and decoration for well over two thousand years. Although there are many possibilities for variation, the turning process, in essence, involves the rotation of a firmly held piece of wood, (or bone, metal, stone etc.) and working its available surfaces with cutting tools. The machine which accommodates these two actions, rotation and cutting, is the lathe. The cutting tools may be hand-held as in common woodturning, or clamped in special frames that can be controlled mechanically, the method usually adopted by the metal turner. Dependent on the dimensions and proportions of the starting piece, what results might be, (with wood) a baluster, a newel post, a finial, a patera or the nave of a cart wheel. By bringing several turned components together, a ship's wheel, a spinning wheel or a chair may be constructed. Creating an "inside" surface, by cutting into the end of the rotating piece produces items such as boxes, goblets and bowls, the latter may be small food bowls, or large enough for use in a dairy. Various factors dictate how the piece should be held, and whether the grain should be parallel or perpendicular to the axis of rotation.

Because of the inherent lack of durability of European timbers, there are few very old (pre 1200AD) examples of woodturning discovered in our part of the world. The site of a bowl turnery found during the Jorvik excavations in York was identified, not by evidence of broken or discarded bowls, but by the characteristic ribs of wood left after the bowls had been parted off. The bowls themselves would probably have been used until broken, then burned or thrown into waste pits.

In early medieval times, the authorities in the emerging burghs required that the important crafts within their walls should be governed by the establishment of guilds. In exchange for certain safeguards, such as protection from commercial intrusion from non-guild sources, the guilds were allowed to exercise control over the quality of their members' work, the organisation of apprenticeship schemes, attendance at fairs, and the welfare of the injured, the old, the widows and orphans associated with the craft. No individual could practice a trade, unless as a freeman of the appropriate guild. A closed shop! But for several centuries, an efficient method of ensuring quality, stability and continuity.

The guild formed by the turners of London was well established by the early part of the 14th century, and for them, there were certain additional responsibilities. The Lord Mayor required them to provide wooden vessels with accurate and consistent volumes, for the measurement of wheat and other commodities. Each turner had a special mark for his products which were checked by the authorities.

The London Turners Guild received its Royal Warrant in 1604, from James I, becoming a Worshipful Company, 51st in order of

preference. The Charter, which still exists, refers to the Company as "the Master, Wardens and Commonality of the Misterie or Art of the Turners of London".

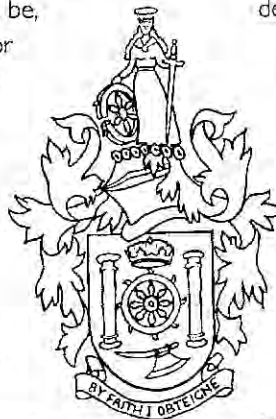
For several centuries the craft flourished. But, because of the availability of new materials, changes in styles of building and furniture and increased communications, it became difficult for the Turners Company to control its trade and it lost influence. By 1750, things were in a bad way. To maintain numbers many guilds accepted as members those that were not of that craft.

in 1850, some new members of the Turners Company decided, although not themselves turners, that they had a responsibility for supporting and protecting the craft. To this end, they held competitions for turners throughout the Kingdom, judged and exhibited in the Mansion House, and well reported in the Press. This programme continued from 1870 up to the start of World War II, and has been revived recently.

In 1978, the Worshipful Company of Turners, as part of its support for the craft, created the Register of Professional Turners. Since anyone in Britain can set up as a turner, and since there has been no trade qualification, it was necessary for some authoritative body to tell the buying public which craftsmen were capable of supplying satisfactory work. Applicants for membership of the Register, hand turners, are assessed by chosen experienced practitioners of the craft. There was no institute teaching woodturning to recognised professional standards, the apprenticeship schemes had virtually collapsed and craft training had been abandoned by most secondary schools. The Register was thus in a unique position. The recent edition of the Register contains 145 names. However after much hard work, we are pleased to say that 1997 has seen the accreditation of the S/NVQ for Woodturning.

The members of the Register, coming from many parts of the United Kingdom, meet once a year at the home of the Turners Company, Apothecaries Hall. The Turners bought their second Hall in 1736, but sold it in 1766, because of straitened circumstances. Although from a wide range of age, background, experience and specialities, they meet as equals enjoying the hospitality of the Turners Company.

Some members are "jobbing" turners, that is they do any work that is offered, whereas others have developed specialities which enable them to make pieces for sale in galleries or to special commissions. The Register list gives the type of work each member is able to do. Most work solely in wood, a few in bone or metal. A lot of their jobs come from a network of architects, builders, furniture makers, antiques restorers, craft shops and galleries. The situation is complicated in the UK by the fact that woodturning has proved to be an absorbing hobby, though the army of amateur turners probably affect the bowl and giftware makers



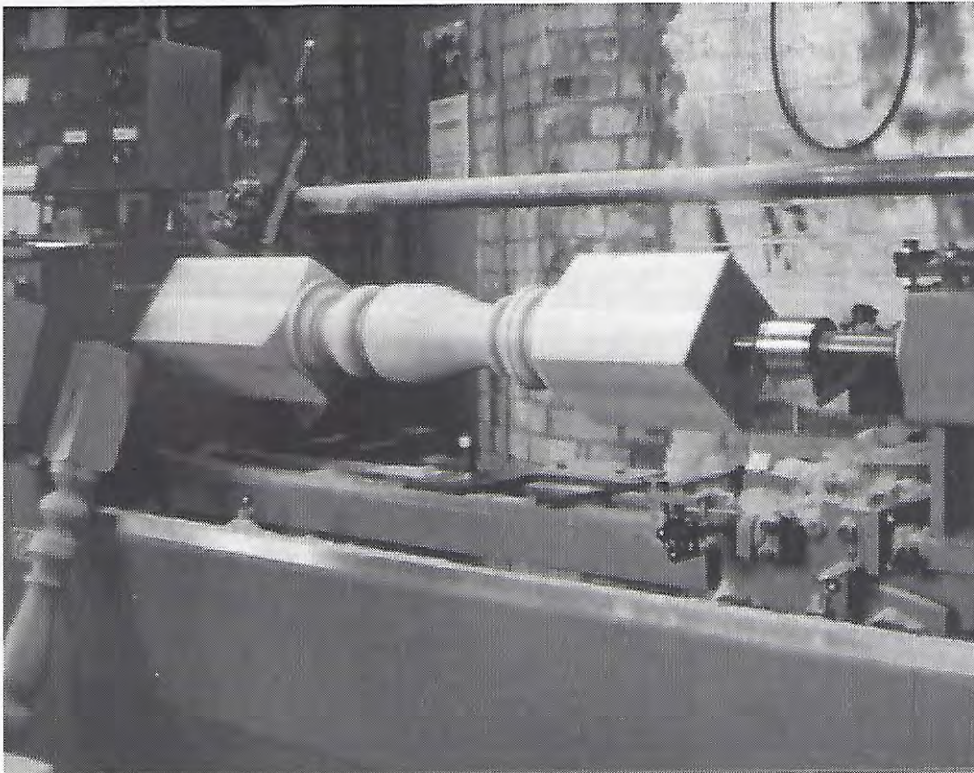


rather than the baluster and table leg makers. The latter have their own enemy, the high speed automatic, even Computer Numerical Controlled (CNC), lathes which produce spindles at numbingly low prices. The professional hand woodturners' strength is that they can offer a quick response to unique designs in unusual timbers.

If more information about the Register is required, please contact the Honorary Secretary, or the Clerk of the Turners Company at the following addresses:

The Clerk of the Worshipful Company of Turners  
Dennis Shaw, CB CBE BSc (Eng.)  
Apothecaries' Hall, Black Friars Lane, London EC4V 6EL  
Tel 0171 329 2533, Fax 0171 329 3249

The Hon. Secretary of the Register of Professional Turners  
Malcolm Cobb, The Workshop, Moor Close Lane, Over Kellet,  
Camforth, Lancashire LA6 1DF,  
Tel & Fax (01524) 735882



*Set of newels for a country house.*



*Right: A reproduction late 17th Century oak panel-backed chair (Model 21s).*



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## CATHEDRALS RESEARCH UNIT (CRU)

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The Dean of Windsor opened the meeting with prayer, following which Peter Burman took the chair and welcomed everyone to the Advisory Board, and in particular Dr Lawrence Butler representing the Department of Archaeology to his first meeting. Pleasure was expressed that the Dean of York had joined the Board, though he was unable to make the present meeting.

### HERITAGE AND RENEWAL: EUROPEAN CATHEDRALS IN THE LATE TWENTIETH CENTURY

The meeting was pleased to note that proceedings of last year's conference had been published, edited by Peter Burman and Sue Taylor, and sent to members of the Advisory Board. Following discussion it was agreed that, if finance permitted, a review copy should be sent to the *Journal of Architectural Conservation*, to the dean or provost of every cathedral (with a request to share it with at least the chairman of the local fabric advisory committee) and to the principal Church newspapers (*Church Times*, *Church of England Newspaper*, *The Tablet* and *Church Building*) with a covering letter and if possible a couple of photographs. Members commented that they had found it both interesting and useful.

Following the first meeting minutes and a covering letter had been sent to key people, all of whom had responded warmly. In his letter, the Archbishop of York had said he would be '... glad to keep my eyes and ears open for possibilities and indeed for potential research students, and if in the course of my travels I perceive any prospects then I will be in touch with you'. Arising from this and other comments Dr Butler said that the Research Board of the Department of Archaeology was willing to act as an encourager, initiator or pump-primer of suitable research projects. He took a very positive view of the potential for academically worthwhile projects relating to cathedrals. Peter Burman said that this gave him an opportunity to explain that, with formal effect from 1 October 1997, the work of the Centre for Conservation Studies (and therefore of CRU) would be merged with the Department of Archaeology. Detailed discussions for the future had been going well, and he read out a supportive note from the head of the department, Dr Harold Mytum.

The Chairman of the Deans and Provosts Conference, the Dean of Wells, wrote that he wished to be 'as co-operative as possible'; while the Cathedral Architects Association had minuted that their 'Steering Group would like to see the Cathedrals Research unit succeed and would be happy to feed ideas as to what is needed via Michael Drury'; and Michael had been co-opted to the Steering Group with that thought in mind.

The Dean of Windsor and the Provost of St Edmundsbury agreed to prepare a short joint paper which would inform members of the Deans and Provosts Conference and the Association of English Cathedrals of the present developing situation with regard to CRU.

It was agreed to make every effort to keep cathedrals authorities in Wales and Scotland informed, and Dr Butler particularly urged contact with the Dean of St David's.

### SECURITY IN CATHEDRALS

A discussion took place arising out of the news that the Department of the Environment had not awarded a research grant towards the intended research programme; the proposal had been well put together by Graham Andrews and Adrian Leaman, and no less than ten cathedrals had 'signed up' to participate. Ian Wainwright suggested that this was nevertheless an important area of potential concern for CRU, that it needed to be seen in a broadly conservation context while acknowledging that one wholly relevant aspect of security had to do with people, and he recommended applying to the Home Office for possible backing for the research. Michael Drury also urged that we should try to progress this research programme, although it was inevitable that fire risks had tended to dominate the debate during the past decade. Sir Robin Catford pointed to the parallels with museums and galleries and suggested liaising with the Security Officer of the Museums and Galleries Commission. Dr Butler pointed to the statutory obligation for cathedrals to draw up and maintain rigorous inventories of their treasures and works of art. The Dean of Windsor pointed to the existence of treasuries in many cathedrals, and to the existence of a network of support through the Goldsmiths Company (contact, David Beasley).

### MONUMENTS AND OTHER SCULPTURE IN AND ON CATHEDRALS

David Carrington reported on the near completion of his doctoral thesis on Conservation and Survival of English Church Monuments - 1750. Following discussion it was agreed that probably most cathedral architects, archaeologists, etc. would not give this a high priority in isolation; but it was felt likely that they might support an academic seminar on the conservation of monuments and sculpture if it were 'networked' effectively with for example the Church Monuments Society, the Council for the Care of Churches, CFCE, and the relevant heritage bodies in England, Wales and Scotland. Peter Burman and David Carrington to explore further.

### PILGRIMAGE AND ITS IMPACT ON THE CONTEMPORARY EUROPEAN CITY

Peter Burman had previously circulated a note of his research conversation with the Dean of Ripon, and the Dean's letter of 19 February. Michael Drury gave the discourse a strong lead by saying that further research and exploration of this issue was both timely and urgent. The changing attitude of the Heritage Lottery Fund is a key issue, and there is considerable confusion in cathedral circles. Several other members spoke strongly in support and Dr Butler linked the enquiry with the issue of conflict in cathedral



precincts and within cathedrals between traffic for sacred purposes and traffic for tourism. He suggested that the research programme would be less limited if it were called 'Pilgrimage and its Impact on the Contemporary Cathedral City'. It was agreed that we had to be both imaginative and realistic, and Peter Burman suggested that it would be possible to continue research into this area by 'hitching a lift' with the research into craft training; this was assented to, and it was further agreed that it would be a good idea to try to bring a really lively interaction about in 1999 by organising a conference on this theme. It would need careful preparation.

## **CRAFT TRAINING IN CATHEDRAL WORKSHOPS**

Peter Burman's memorandum of 10 April 1997 to members of the Advisory Board set out the background to this proposal which had arisen out of conversations with Stephen Mills, Sir Robin Catford, and Gerald Burbidge. The intention would be to investigate the role and potential of cathedrals as trainers of excellence in craftsmanship by visiting those cathedrals who have their own in-house staff and craftsmen (and in some cases also of conservators), producing an account of what training schemes are in place at the present time, and what the envisaged needs are in terms of 'quality' in the fields of wood, glass, lead and stone. [Later in the meeting, it was agreed to add training in conservation of previous books and archives.] A considerable discussion took place. David Carrington, who has recently established a small conservation workshop in the East Midlands, said that he would be glad to participate and to work closely with Peter Burman. Sir Robin Catford described the close involvement of the Radcliffe Trust in craft training over the past thirty years; currently twenty-five apprentice craftsmen in cathedrals are supported by the Trust. He applauded the idea of a research project which would 'jack-up the profile of craft training in cathedrals' and, without being able to commit his trustees, felt reasonably certain that they would want to support it. Michael Drury rehearsed the current provision for craft training, mainly focused in south-east England, and with financial pressures being experienced especially in universities. He emphasised the importance of experience, and the need for a balance between scientific and artistic training. Ian Wainwright expressed the long term interest of the EIG in cathedral works organisations, and the need and pressure to employ craftsmen and conservators who were in one way or another accredited and could guarantee quality. David Carrington spoke

of the roles of UKIC and the Register of Conservators maintained by the Museums and Galleries Commission.

It was agreed that with all the clear support now expressed Peter Burman should as a matter of urgency re-write the Aims and Objectives of the research proposal, and produce a plan of action with a proper budget, and begin the process of raising the necessary funds. The welcome grant from the Prince of Wales's Trust would enable some research work to start this autumn and, meanwhile, a detailed proposal would be put to the Radcliffe Trust.

It was agreed to include the ten or so significant firms (such as Rattee and Kett, and Linford Bridgeman) who also work on cathedrals; to include the Episcopal Cathedral of St Mary, Edinburgh; and to liaise with the William Morris Craft Fellowship Scheme of the SPAB.

## **THE EFFECTS OF ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION ON CATHEDRALS**

Peter Burman reported that it had been suggested to him that this issue (and environmental issues generally) might usefully be re-visited. He instanced the current collaboration at Lincoln between the Cathedral and the City, and the following points were noted:

- proposals along these lines needed to be more specifically targeted;
- often considerable bridge-building is needed between cathedrals and local authorities, as at Lincoln;
- Cadw, English Heritage and Historic Scotland might become involved;
- there is a standing Royal Commission on Environmental Policy under the wing of the DoE; an enquiry as to the current state of play might be made to its secretariat;
- David Carrington knew of disparate work being carried out e.g. in Leicester and Birmingham, but a research project could pull all such efforts more coherently together;
- in sum, it was agreed that it would be worthwhile to get this issue back on the active agenda of cathedrals and their advisers.

It was agreed that the next meeting should be on Tuesday 13 January 1998, beginning at 11.15 a.m. Peter Burman thanked all members for attending, for the generosity and helpfulness of their contributions, and for the fact that the meeting had been more like a fruitful seminar than simply a committee meeting.



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## NEW SKILLS TRAINING COURSES AT CRESSING TEMPLE

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As part of the education work of the Historic Buildings and Design Section, Essex County Council have set up practical courses designed to introduce people involved in the construction industry to traditional building materials and methods. They already ran craft days, consisting of lectures and a few practical demonstrations, throughout the summer, but these are designed for, and mainly attended by, conservation professionals such as architects, planners and surveyors.

Much of the work of the officers of the Section is concerned with trying to ensure the correct use and choice of building materials and techniques. They thought this would be best addressed by providing the sort of education which is not easily available for those who will be actually doing the work.

Committee approval for funding was obtained, a disused barn at Cressing Temple was converted to a heated workshop, and old school woodworking benches were bought, together with some portable woodworking machinery. Tutors were identified from amongst the best of the local tradesmen, most of whom were unused to teaching or public speaking. Hidden talents were revealed on this front, although the most important ability turned out to be an in-depth knowledge of the subject. It is easy for a professional to spot when the tutor has insufficient training and skills. The tutor is backed up by other members of the Section who have welcomed the opportunity to increase their technical knowledge. Books and pamphlets on the subject are displayed, and the tutors also provide hand-outs.

Topics cover lime mortar, lime plaster, lead details, joinery repairs, rubbed and gauged brickwork, flint walling and wattle and daub. The subjects chosen are amongst those which cause the most difficulty on site when it comes to practical knowledge and technical ability. A day on lead details was added because students on the flint walling course spotted the tutor's three full-time leadworkers in his workshop, and were keen to learn more.

Initially publicity was directed, via a specialised mailing list, towards building contracting companies in Essex. Contrary to expectation, the great majority of those attending the courses have been self employed, and had noticed the courses through an article in the only widely-read trade publication: *Professional Builder* (which is free). This has implications for course fees since these students have to bear not only the price of each course, but also earning time lost and travelling expenses. Numbers so far have ranged from 12 to 18, and students have come from as far away as Scotland. Experience, space and tutor:pupil ratio has dictated a limit on numbers for most topics of about 15.

Despite the splendid 22 x 6.5 m workshop at Cressing Temple, it has proved much more interesting to work on live projects. For the last series, the home farm at Audley End was used for the conservation brickwork course, Peter Minter's Bulmer Brickworks near Sudbury for the rubbed and gauged training, where students

were able to watch brick-making by hand, traditional drying and firing methods. The course started with a mathematical calculation exercise, preparatory to cutting and rubbing bricks to form an arch. The Moot Hall at Maldon was used for joinery repairs based on three large sash windows together with other less precious examples supplied by the tutor. A boundary wall was used at the Quaker meeting house in Stebbing for flint walling. The tutor for this two days has just written a pamphlet on the subject for the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. A private house in Manningtree was used for the wattle and daub days and was run by Jackie Wilkinson (Norwich City Council) and friends.

As far as we know, Essex County Council is one of few organisations in the country that are running this type of education programme. Future plans are to start the series again in October, running a course once a month until May, since the winter is the least busy time for the construction industry.

The overall impression of student reaction is of great enthusiasm, surprise at what is taught and a desire to learn a part of their trade not encountered before. Many are bored by the repetitive nature of their current work in the construction industry and find little interest in modern materials. It is too early to notice any improvement in the quality of work in the county, although one of the students is now working at Chequers (the PM's country residence) as a direct result of attending the lime mortar course. However, it has given us, the Historic Buildings team, a better idea of where to find skilled local tradesmen, and which to include on lists sent to applicants and listed building owners.

### TRADITIONAL BUILDING SKILLS COURSES

The next series of one to three-day courses will start in October 1997. Topics will include:

- Lime mortar and conservation brickwork
- Lime plaster
- Practical leadwork details
- Joinery repairs
- Rubbed and gauged brick arches
- Flint walling
- Wattle and daub.

More details of these courses are included in the "Exhibitions, Conferences, Seminars and Courses" section later in this Newsletter.

Bookings will be on a first-come-first-served basis, as classes are necessarily small. For further information and brochures contact **Anne Holden, Historic Buildings & Design, Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford CM1 1LF, Tel: 01245 437666.**



## *Ripe for Restoration*

A one day course entitled 'Period House Restoration' has been designed specifically for house owners and professionals who wish to retain and improve the character, history and charm of their homes. The course has been designed by David Gresham after learning the skills first hand, restoring cottages in Lincolnshire.

"I wanted to restore cottages properly and without spending too much money. This proved to be a winning strategy as it meant moving slowly, doing the research and learning the skills for myself. Anyone who is mediocre at DIY and has an interest can do it. It's mainly a question of using the right materials and adopting a restrained approach. The ripping and stripping, and using wonder cures or miracle products are all out. In favour is honest repair, lime, and an understanding of the architectural history of your home. There's a wealth of sources you can go to for help. The Society for Protection of Ancient Buildings, (SPAB), is a good start, even though your house might not be that ancient. They have an excellent book-list and are always very helpful. However, it does take time to find out what's what and even then it's difficult to find a builder who knows what you're talking about. The idea for the course came as a result of speaking to so many people who understand what is meant by character but have difficulty in knowing how to achieve it."

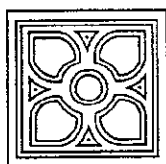
The course is a *must* for all owners of period buildings, including those living in Victorian and Edwardian houses. It will be held in the

magnificent Long Room of The String of Horses at Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings near Bromsgrove, three miles from Junction 1 on the M42 or Junction 5 on the M5. No prior knowledge is required and both house interiors as well as exteriors will be covered. It is an extremely interesting and enjoyable day out where you will meet like minded people and pick up invaluable advice. The course has a built in opportunity for you to talk to the tutor and other participants about specific problems you may be facing.

The Period House Restoration course has been designed to provide you with a framework for the successful restoration of your own home. Many houses are so thoroughly straightened up, and important features such as windows and doors unsuitably replaced that all semblance of age is lost. The course will provide simple and sensitive guidelines of a very practical nature, often saving the owner from expensive mistakes. It is being held on two dates Saturday 12 April and Saturday 13 September 1997.

This course should help you achieve that illusive charm and character that goes with a well restored home. Living in a place that has a cosy mellow ambience is one of life's greatest pleasures. However, if you are still unconvinced, remember that the house that best reflects its age and character, while offering a comfortable and practical interior, will prove to be the most easily saleable in the future.

For course details and booking arrangements contact David Gresham 38 Woodlands Road, Moseley, Birmingham B11 4HE Telephone 0121 449 5666.



## **WOODCHESTER MANSION TRUST** **1, The Old Town Hall, High Street, Stroud GL5 1AP**

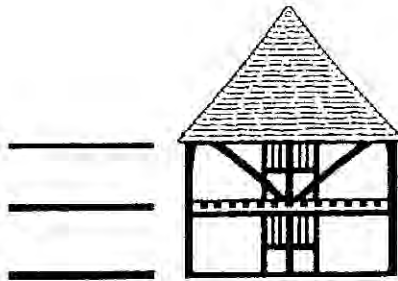
### **THE GRAND STAIR MASTERCLASSES**

**£80.00 inc. VAT (Students £50.00) (Reduced rates for block bookings)**

- **Historic Window Glass and Stone**  
*Daily, week beginning 29 September, 1997*  
Repairing the leaded lights and the stonework of the windows; re-using original glass, matching old glass with new; repairing the moulded stone window jambs and installing the repaired leaded lights.
- **Stone Vaulting**  
*Daily, week beginning 6 October, 1997*  
Stone decay; setting out, cutting and fixing new stone for the damaged vault; temporary support of the vault to allow dismantling and rebuilding.
- **Cotswold Stone Roofing**  
*Daily, week beginning 10 November, 1997*  
Sourcing and selecting new stone slates; dressing and laying slates; swept valleys and other details; ridge tiles.

*A 5-day practical course of work experience with the slaters on the roof of the Mansion itself begins 17 November, 1997. For details contact the Trust on 01453 750455*





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**PROFESSIONAL AND ADULT EDUCATION**

Summary as at 1 August 1997

Suitable for CPD

**PRACTICAL/THEORY one and two day BUILDING CONSERVATION SHORT COURSES**

For those responsible for, or keenly interested in, building conservation and traditional crafts:

- Wednesday 29 October: Traditional Timber-Frame Construction – *Richard Harris and Henry Russell*
- Thursday 30 October: Repair of Timber-Framed Buildings – *Richard Harris and Roger Champion*

A variety of other courses are in preparation for March–June 1998, dates and exact titles to be arranged, including:  
 Sticking a cornice – *Ged Gardiner*; Repair of Traditional Brickwork – *Gerard Lynch*;  
 Timber Decay and its Treatment – *Brian Ridout*;  
 Building Stone in the Weald & Downland – *Tim Tatton-Brown and Bernard Worssam*;  
 Timber Species Identification – *David Woodbridge*; Timber Strength Grading – *David Woodbridge*

**THE WOODSHED WORKSHOP** – a rare opportunity to frame up a traditional building starting with the felled tree – under the guidance of *Henry Russell*. 20 October–11 November.

**BUILDINGS IN COUNTRY TOWNS OF THE WESTERN WEALD** – *Marjorie Hallam*. 4 and 11 October; site visits.

**SATURDAY MORNING TALKS**

- 15 November: Honey Bees in a Changing Landscape – *Ruth Tittensor*
- 29 November: Sussex Churches – *John E Vigar*
- 31 January 1998: Applesham Farm – *Christopher Passmore*

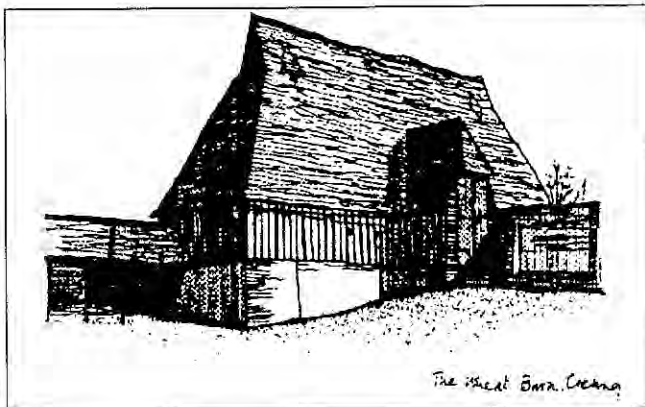
**SUSSEX UNIVERSITY CENTRE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION DAY SCHOOLS** at the Museum

- 13 September: The History of the Inn in Sussex and England – *Janet Pennington*
  - 8 November: The Sussex Landscape – *Geoffrey Mead*
- ... and more dates and titles for 1998 – phone 01273 678926 for details.

Postgraduate Diploma/Master of Science Degree in Building Conservation: Building Conservation Practice and Timber Building Conservation. In association with Bournemouth University School of Conservation Sciences. Next two-year courses start October 1998.

Further details on courses from *Carol Harkins, Adult Education Organiser* – 01243 811363

**TRADITIONAL BUILDING SKILLS**



Short one to three-day courses at Cressing Temple, near Witham, Essex

Lime mortar	27/29 October 1997
Lime plaster	24/25 November 1997
Practical leadwork	12 January 1998
Joinery repairs (amateur)	3/4 February 1998
Joinery repairs (prof.)	5/6 February 1998
Rubbed & gauged arches	2-4 March 1998
Flint walling	6/7 April 1998
Wattle & Daub	4/5 May 1998

Further details and individual brochures are available from *Anne Holden, Historic Buildings & Design Section, Essex County Council, Tel: 01245 437666.*





## Day and Weekend Schools in Local History and Architectural History 1997/8

### ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

#### Medieval and Renaissance Palaces of Europe

Friday 7 – Sunday 9 November 1997

A weekend course which will present a review of recent studies into the medieval and Renaissance palaces of England, Scotland, France, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary. Fees from £44.00.

#### The Early 19th-Century Great House

Friday 9 Sunday 11 January 1998

The fifth in our annual series presenting the current research interests of scholars of the country house and its garden setting. This year will be devoted to the Regency period. Fees from £64.00 (including copy of papers).

#### Iffley: Priests, People and Parsonages

Saturday 7 February 1998

##### in association with The Landmark Trust

This annual Oxford day school will consider the social, local and architectural history of parsonages, with particular reference to Iffley, which will be visited in the afternoon. Fees from £24.00.

#### Public Inquiry Workshop

Wednesday 11 – Friday 13 March 1998

A practical course to introduce potential witnesses and advocates to the procedures of Public Inquiries dealing with the historic environment. A mock hearing will be realistically staged and the filmed results analysed constructively. Fees to be confirmed.

#### Cob and Witchert

Saturday 16 – Sunday 17 May 1998

The use of unfired earth as a building material is a long-established vernacular tradition and this course will explore its history and regional distribution. Evidence on appropriate maintenance and repair will be offered. Fees from £32.00.

#### Planning and the Historic Environment

Friday 22 May 1998

A day school aimed at professionals in a wide variety of disciplines which will examine a current issue relating to the historic environment. Fees to be confirmed.

### LOCAL HISTORY

#### The High Victorian Garden

Friday 3 – Sunday 5 October 1997

##### in association with the Garden History Society

There is no better reflection of Victorian self-confidence than the gardens and parks of the mid-century. Aesthetic fashions, botanical knowledge, overseas connections, changes in leisure pursuits and social attitudes are all manifest. This latest joint conference will include a visit to Waddesdon, home of the Rothschilds. Fees from £44.00.

#### Local History Sources for the Civil War

Saturday 18 – Sunday 19 October 1997

A practical weekend introducing students to sources from national and local archives which enable us to study the local impact of the English Civil War. A walk around Civil War Oxford will be included. Tutors: Dr Christopher Durston and Rosemary Kelly. Fees from £46.50.

#### Piety and Pride in Southern England

Saturday 25 October 1997

##### held at Bulmershe Court, University of Reading in association with the University of Reading Centre for Continuing Education

Eighteenth-century English society was one of contrasts. This day school will focus on some aspects of the period as seen in this area: country houses; enterprise in a market town; life in the parsonage; crime and criminals. Fees from £24.00.

#### Prosperity and Decline in Late Medieval Towns

Saturday 15 November 1997

Controversy continues over the prosperity or decline of English towns in the 15th century. This day school will survey the debate and look at some individual towns and at the evidence for their 15th-century fortunes. Fees from £24.00.

#### Women in Medicine

Saturday 13 December 1997

Although women had always been involved in the practice of medicine, its increasing professionalisation tended until comparatively recent times to marginalise them. The day school will explore women's changing roles in this most crucial and fascinating area of human endeavour. Fees from £24.00.

#### Probate Records

Saturday 17 – Sunday 18 January 1998

A practical weekend studying the format and content of probate records from 1541 to 1858. Students will use facsimile copies and transcripts of records, especially wills and probate inventories, to gain an understanding of the wealth of information they contain. Tutor: David Smith. Fees from £46.50.

#### The Internet for Local and Family Historians

Saturday 7 February 1998

A practical course concentrating on the Internet as a useful resource for historians. We shall deal briefly with how to link your home computer to the Internet, the equipment needed and the costs, but above all you will learn what the Internet has to offer for local, family and general historians. Tutors: Mary Hodges and Bob McIntyre. Fees from £47.00.

#### Anglo-Norman England

Friday 27 February – Sunday 1 March 1998

Do the manor houses and churches, fields, farms and villages of Anglo-Norman England reflect a new culture? Or did 1066 bring in only new landlords and new architectural styles? In an attempt to answer such questions we bring together leading specialists in the history, archaeology, and historical geography of the period. Fees from £44.00.

#### Quarter Sessions Records

Saturday 14 March 1998

##### held at Berkshire Record Office, Shinfield Park, Reading

A practical day at the Berkshire Record Office learning to use the records generated by Quarter Sessions in the county. Tutor: Dr Peter Durrant. Fee: £20.50.

#### Gunpowder and Government

Saturday 21 March 1998

Gunpowder has been a key technology in the evolution of the modern world. This day school will examine it in its local, national, and international contexts, ranging from its manufacture in Civil War Oxford and Bristol to its role in the excesses of the 19th and 20th centuries. Fees from £24.00.

#### The Demise of the Peasant Farmer?

##### The Impact of Enclosure, c.1450–c.1750

Saturday 4 April 1998

The enclosure of open fields, commons and wastes was fiercely, sometimes violently, debated by contemporaries, and it continues to be controversial. This day school will explore the extent and impact of enclosure on land-holding, farming practices, and social attitudes from the late Middle Ages to the mid-18th century. Fees from £24.00.

If you would like further information about any of these courses, please complete the form below and return it to

**Local History Course Assistant,**

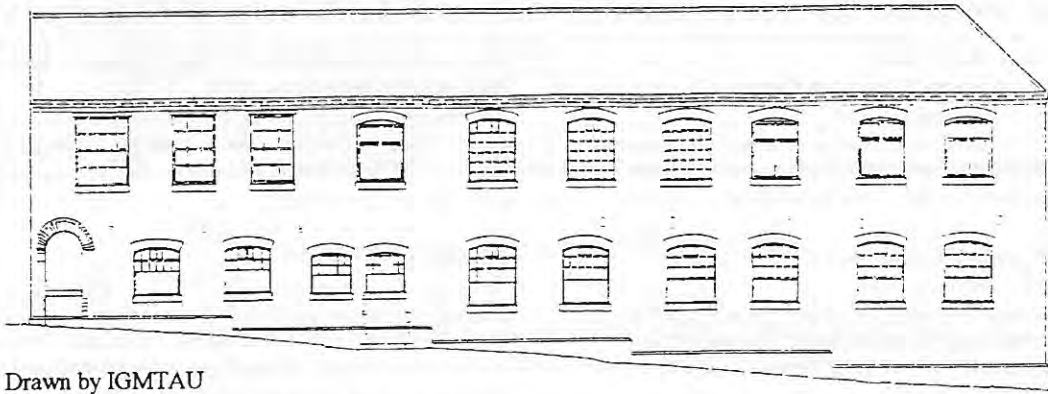
**ODUCE, 1 Wellington Square,**

**Oxford OX1 2JA.**

Tel. (01865) 270369



# A Future for Our Past?



Drawn by IGMATAU

## Industrial Heritage Studies at THE IRONBRIDGE INSTITUTE

Department of Ancient History & Archaeology, School of Historical Studies, University of Birmingham

### HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

The Ironbridge Institute's Heritage Management course was the first of its kind in Britain, and it continues to offer a focused professional training. Conservation of the Cultural and Built Heritage has become an issue of International significance, comparable with the Conservation of the Environment. As a consequence there is a growing demand for trained professionals with the skills required to identify a heritage resource; ensure that it is cared for, made accessible, and passed on to future generations. The course is designed for people working in, or planning to work in, museums, historic properties or historic gardens, cathedrals, or cultural landscapes:

#### Module I: Heritage Management

Everyone responsible for part of the Heritage works with a finite resource which requires appropriate management to ensure its long-term survival. This Module considers key concepts such as Stewardship, Sustainability, and Visitor Management in all Heritage sectors. Central to the sessions is the premise that creative conservation only comes through economic viability and accountability. Core training is given in the management of Volunteers, Projects and Visitors; Heritage Organisations and Legislation.

#### Module II: Heritage Marketing

Marketing is the range of activities that enable a Heritage Organisation to address a wide public and to select target audiences when appropriate. Marketing adjusts the organisation's messages to the outside world, and seeks to further its interests as laid down in policy objectives. This module introduces Marketing Theory, Mechanisms of Marketing, Exploring the Product, the Marketing Mix, using the Media, Market Research, Marketing Strategy, and applies them to heritage organisations. We also examine the concept of De-Marketing to protect a vulnerable resource.

#### Module III: Heritage Finance

The rise of the National Lottery and European Funding mean that business planning skills are essential for all Heritage Managers. Within this Module we examine best practice in Fundraising and Sponsorship; Income Generation through Retailing, and the Admission Charges debate. In addition, we

demistify Managerial Accounting; Performance Appraisal, and Financial Control.

#### Module IV: Heritage Interpretation

Interpretation is the art of revealing the meaning and significance of objects and places. This Module considers Interpretation's philosophy and good practice, and debates such issues as selectivity and bias. Interpretation is considered in the contexts of Recreation Management, Tourism, Education and Museums. Key concepts include Communication Theory, Interpretative Language, Media, Planning and Programming, Exhibition Design and Layout, Visitor Behaviour, Monitoring and Evaluation, and 'Hot' and Challenging Interpretation. The periodical *Interpretation* is also edited from the Ironbridge Institute, for the Society for the Interpretation of Britain's Heritage (SIBH).

### IRONBRIDGE INSTITUTE STUDY DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 1997-98:

- Introduction Week      Monday 29 September 1997 to  
Friday 3 October 1997
- Module I                      Monday 6 October 1997 to  
Friday 24 October 1997
- Module II                     Monday 17 November 1997 to  
Friday 5 December 1997
- Module III                  Monday 12 January 1998 to  
Friday 30 January 1998
- Module IV                  Monday 23 February 1998 to  
Friday 13 March 1998
- Study Week                Monday 20 April 1998 to  
Friday 24 April 1998

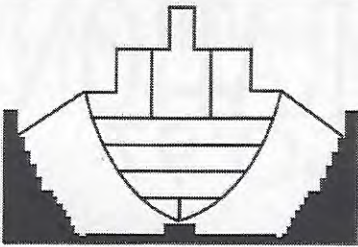
### FURTHER DETAILS

Further details of the Ironbridge Institute's courses can be obtained from Carol Sampson, Ironbridge Institute, IGMT, Ironbridge, Telford, Shropshire TF8 7AW; tel. (01952) 432751; fax (01952) 432237.

### FUNDING LATEST

A £1,000 bursary will be available during 1997/98 for students who have been registered unemployed for a period of six months before starting the course.






**RENDOC**  
**97**

CHATHAM, KENT, ENGLAND





**24 - 26 SEPTEMBER 1997**

A UNIQUE EUROPEAN CONFERENCE  
ADDRESSING THE ISSUES OF REDEVELOPMENT  
AND REGENERATION OF FORMER  
NAVAL DOCKYARDS

SPONSORED BY



CO-HOSTED BY

SUPPORTED BY

British Urban Regeneration Association  
European Commission  
Museu Marítim, Barcelona  
Marin Museum, Karlskrona  
University of Kent

ORGANISED BY Citis Ltd

The European Conference for all those involved in the redevelopment and regeneration of former naval dockyards, including planners, architects, developers, tourism and museum professionals. Dockyards are a special part of Europe's maritime heritage. RENDOC 97 will focus on how to:

- preserve and interpret historic dockyards and waterside environments
- make the most of redundant dockyards in local economic development
- learn from examples and case studies from many parts of Europe and beyond

The Conference marks the establishment of a new network of European towns and cities with a shared experience of economic challenges as a result of dockyard closures. RENDOC 97 will take place in Chatham, England, where a 400-year tradition of building and repairing ships for the Royal Navy ended in 1984, with the closure of 270 hectares of Chatham Dockyard. The Conference sessions on Thursday 25th and Friday 26th September will be held mainly in the Historic Dockyard and Chatham Maritime, enabling delegates to see for themselves what has been achieved by the local authorities and organisations especially created to carry out regeneration, in the wider context of urban renewal in the Medway Towns and the Thames Gateway. Opportunities for study visits to other heritage sites in Kent and further afield, including Greenwich, will be arranged for Saturday 27th September after the main Conference has ended.

**For further information please contact:**  
**Lisa Collins, RENDOC 97, 32 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1V 2SS**  
**Tel: 0171 973 6404, Fax: 0171 973 6600**





# RESTORATION CHICAGO 97

October 16-18, 1997  
Chicago Merchandise Mart  
Market Suites on Eight



*For further information contact:*

EGI Exhibitions, Inc.,

129 Park Street

North Reading, MA 01864 USA

tel 508.664.6455 fax 508.664.5822

e-mail [show@egiexhib.com](mailto:show@egiexhib.com)

*Watch for updates on our web site at*

<http://www.egiexhib.com>



# RESTORATION BOSTON 98

March 12-14, 1998  
The World Trade Center





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## COURSES AVAILABLE FROM NETWORK MEMBERS

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### BOURNEMOUTH JOINT CENTRE

Bridging Certificate for Studies in Conservation – 12 weeks  
DipHE/BSc(Hons) in Building Conservation Technology  
Heritage Conservation – Dip. 2 years full time, BSc 1 further year after Dip.  
MSc/PGDip in Architectural Stonework Conservation – taught 1-year course  
Other short courses:  
Various stone restoration and conservation courses at Weymouth College Conservation Unit.  
Timber-frame repair, charcoal burning, gauged brickwork, cleaning leadwork, at Weald and Downland Museum.  
Lime courses at the Lime Centre at Morestead near Winchester.

#### Contact:

Carol Ryan, Bournemouth University,  
Department of Conservation  
Sciences, Dorset House, Talbot  
Campus, Fern Barrow, Poole, Dorset  
BH12 5BB. Telephone: 01202 524111.  
Fax: 01202 595255

### BUILDING CRAFTS AND CONSERVATION TRUST

Short 1- to 2-day and 6-month Conservation courses for tradesmen at various training institutions throughout the county in: historic brickwork, joinery, timber frame, wattle and daub, flint, external rendering and stucco and leadwork.

#### Contact:

Mr A MacLaren, Chief Executive,  
Building Crafts & Conservation Trust,  
Kings Gate, Dover Castle,  
Dover, Kent CT16 1HU.  
Telephone: 01304 225066

### DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY LINCOLN SCHOOL OF APPLIED ARTS & DESIGN

Access Certificate to HE, Conservation and Restoration – various  
MA in Architectural Conservation – 1 year full time, 2 years part time  
MSc in Conservation Science (taught at Leicester & Lincoln) – 1 year full time, 2 years part time

#### Contact:

Mrs Z Garnett, Co-ordinator,  
School of Applied Arts & Design,  
De Montfort University Lincoln,  
Lindum Road, Lincoln LN2 1NP.  
Telephone: 01522 895076  
Fax: 01522 895137

### LAMBETH COLLEGE

Short courses in the following: Restoration of Plasterwork, Restoration of Masonry, Stained Glass and Leaded Light Work, Graining and Marbling Techniques, Decorative Paint Effects, Trompe l'Oeil, Oil and Glass Gilding, Restoration Skills for Masons and Joiners. Lengths vary from one full week to one day per week for 5–10 weeks.  
Mastercrafts courses for City and Guilds/COTAC Diploma are now available in a number of major craft skills including plastering, carpentry and joinery, sheet and cast metalwork, surface decoration and masonry – 2 years full time.  
Entry requirements: Advanced craft certificate or NVQ Level 3 or substantial industrial experience.

#### Contact:

Mr L Conway, Head of School,  
Vauxhall Centre, Lambeth College,  
Belmore Street, Wandsworth Road,  
London SW8 2JY. Telephone:  
0171-501 5010. Fax: 0171-501 5490.

### PLYMOUTH UNIVERSITY

PgDip/MA in Architectural Conservation – 1–5 years part time.  
CPD – various subjects of interest in conservation.

#### Contact:

Mrs L Watson, Conservation Course  
Co-ordinator, Plymouth School of  
Architecture, Hoe Centre, Plymouth,  
Devon PL1 2AR. Telephone: 01752  
233600. Fax: 01752 233634.

### SOUTH BIRMINGHAM COLLEGE

NVQ Level 3, Restoration and Conservation in Brickwork, Carpentry, Plasterwork and Leadwork – 36 weeks full time.

#### Contact:

Mr M. Cook,  
South Birmingham College (Formerly  
Hall Green College), Cole Bank Road,  
Birmingham B28 8ES. Telephone:  
0121-694 5000. Fax: 0121-694 5007.



**INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED ARCHITECTURAL STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF YORK**

The Centre for Conservation Studies has for nearly a quarter of a century been running an educational programme including:  
MA Conservation Studies (Building Conservation) – 1 year full time taught; 3 years, 1 term per year.  
Short courses: Courses contained within the MA programme: 1–4 days, detailed programmes available.

**Contact:**  
Mr Peter Burman,  
Director of Conservation Studies,  
Institute of Advanced Architectural  
Studies, University of York, The King's  
Manor, York YO1 2EP. Telephone:  
01904 433987. Fax: 01904 433949.

**BARTLETT SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES**

University College London  
MSc Refurbishment Management – 44 contact days plus residential management weekends and part-residential intensive module on understanding refurbishment design, taken in 1 year full-time or 2 years part-time, including writing a research report. Can be spread over 5 years taken as a modular degree. Can be taken as a Diploma in 9 months (excludes the research report).

**Contact:**  
Mr Peter McFadzean-Ferguson,  
Course Director,  
Refurbishment Management MSc,  
Bartlett School of Graduate Studies,  
University College London,  
Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT.  
Telephone: 0171 391 1738/380 7777  
Ext 5912. Fax: 0171 916 1887.  
E-mail: bartlett.pgclerk@ucl.ac.uk

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and forward to:  
**Mr Graham Lee**  
**Project Manager**  
**COTAC**  
**429 Oxford Street**  
**London W1R 2HD**  
**Telephone: 0171-973 3615**  
**Fax: 0171-973 3656**



Any other suggestions for articles for inclusion or improvements to future issues:

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