

APT seminar success! The Rights Answers for the Right Project, Taunton, 18 March 2006

APT seminars are intended to provide detailed information to members on matters of current importance and to provide guidance to assist with future projects. It has become evident that the education requirement of the Heritage Lottery Fund is of increasing importance. The HLF has made it clear that it sees education as a core activity and that every project that is grant aided by the Lottery must deliver an education benefit. Securing adequate finance for projects is essential and VAT is a subject that causes considerable confusion. Trusts cannot be expected to understand the finer points of VAT calculations but it is important that they understand the right questions to ask. Moving projects from the feasibility stage to site is frequently seen as a stumbling block and various initiatives have been introduced in recent years by the Architectural Heritage Fund to assist. All of these items were the subject of the seminar with a focus on securing "the right answers."

Education – Somerset BPT

Erica Adams, Secretary of the Somerset BPT, outlined recent projects undertaken by the Trust or in progress and emphasised the co-operation achieved within different County Council departments. The Trust sees itself fortunate in having a Technical Adviser within the Environmental Services Department who has close links with others in Education and Archaeology. Arising from this the Trust has been able to employ an independent Adviser - Rachel Shaw - who is a former primary school teacher.

In a separate presentation Rachel outlined the approach adopted in seeking to involve local schools and to assist the teaching staff in securing maximum benefit from local

projects. Particular reference was made to the St. Margarets Hospital scheme where many different groups of children were involved throughout the whole process.

Education - HLF

A detailed presentation given by Dr. Jo Reilly, HLF Policy Officer for Learning and Skills outlined the various types of learning that HLF considers important and how these can be related to building conservation projects. The key clause in the HLF Strategy is that finance will only be made available to scheme that will "ensure that everyone can learn about, have access to and enjoy their heritage." The primary issue for HLF is that an applicant organisation should demonstrate that it has an education strategy and that it is not simply seeking to add an education paragraph to an application. The HLF website lists relevant publications and guidance, all of which are also available in printed form direct from HLF.

Education – National Trust

At Tynesfield, west of Bristol, where there is a major HLF grant, the issue of education is high profile. Antonia Nichol, SW Region Policy Officer, presented to the seminar the NT experience there and elsewhere. On many NT sites considerable emphasis is being given to involving the wider community and in providing craft training and other skills and the NT does have a track record in producing material on the value of the historic heritage. Information on this is available on the NT website.

VAT

It is impossible to summarise the complexity of current VAT legislation particularly as practice is often influenced by legal challenges and case law. All Trusts should be aware of the basic information provided in VAT information leaflet 708 - VAT and protected buildings. Tim Davis and Richard Holm provided a summary

of the current taxation on building conservation projects but much of their time was spent in providing answers to the many questions

raised. It is obvious that projects can be derailed by late demands for taxation and delegates were keen to determine how to avoid this.

The advice is that as much information as possible should be presented to HM Revenue and Customs at an early stage so that the VAT liability can be clarified. The difficulty is that projects evolve over time and that this may influence the amount of tax to be paid. For complex projects a VAT specialist may need to be employed.

AHF Initiatives

In conclusion and by way of inspiration, illustrated examples of the current initiatives available from AHF were presented by Maria Perks who explained that AHF is currently experiencing excessive demands and some of the initiatives have had to be cut back. All trusts should be aware that the up-dated information leaflet outlining all AHF initiatives is available.

Colin Johns, APT Chairman

News from the APT Co-ordinator

In early December, I travelled up to Glasgow for the Scottish area meeting which gave me the opportunity to experience the weird and wonderful happenings of the Britannia Panopticon Music Hall. Having heard stories of strange goings on of the paranormal type, I tried to make sure that I sat down in the least haunted seat possible and learnt all about the history of freak shows and of course what is happening at the moment with our Scottish BPTs. This music hall really is a bit of a find, not only because I had problems finding it but also because it exists in one of the most unlikely places; on top of an amusement arcade.

It was also the last time I attended an area meeting in Scotland with Laura Norris as the area representative. I would like to thank Laura for helping me to find the right bricks to lay my foundations on when I started here and her significant and constant contribution

to APT. I have no doubt that Mia Scott, the new area representative for Scotland, will continue the excellent work.

My travels next took me to Narberth in Wales. One thing I have learned on my travels throughout the APT wilderness is that my relationship with twisty roads has not exactly flourished. In fact, being in the passenger seat can make go as green as the lush pastures and landscape I should be admiring. Despite being slightly green at the gills, I have certainly not been put off coming to area meetings in green areas! And so my twisty travels took me to the Bonded Warehouse at Narberth, which has a huge amount lot of potential and I was glad to discover that the original contents of the building are being retained, which will maintain the character and history of the place.

More recently, I attended my first area meeting in the Midlands, where I discovered another hidden gem; the Ironbridge Institute at Coalbrookdale. Set against the backdrop of a stunning viaduct and impressive architecture, the Ironbridge Institute is well worth a visit not just for its picturesque surroundings, but also the variety of courses it offers.

My last area meeting of the year took me to Kings Lynn. When I had some friends over for supper a few Saturdays ago, I told my friends all about the exotic places APT was taking me to over the next couple of months. I was told with a smirk that I shouldn't get too excited about going to Kings Lynn but when I arrived there this couldn't be further from the truth. With the sun beating down on my face and the abundance of fascinating and beautiful buildings around me including the inspirational Hampton Court, Greenland Fishery and Clifton House, I couldn't help but have a lovely day.

Over the last month or so, I have had my first experiences of trying to acquire properties. I have to say that I have come to associate APT meetings with buying unsuitable flats. Over the last month, I have nearly made two rather questionable property purchases. Thank goodness that the area meeting in the Midlands and the *Right Answers for the Right Project* seminar in Taunton gave me the

chance to realise what a mistake I would be making! I now have a lot of sympathy with anyone going through the pain and torture of property acquisition. Please feel free to swap scary stories about buying property (*hopefully not about my new flat*) with me at the **APT National Conference**, which will be held at **Cromford Mills, Derbyshire** from the **12th to the 14th of October**. I hope to see many of you there – I'll keep you posted of the details!
Louisa Baily, APT Co-ordinator

BPT achievements

Farewell and thanks to Laura Norris as APT area representative for Scotland

At the National Committee meeting in February we recorded much appreciation for her past work and said farewell to Laura Norris who has represented APT Scotland since 2000. In her time with APT Laura has made great efforts to promote the cause of building preservation trust activity in Scotland and has been a key figure in raising the profile and standing of our organisation. In addition Laura has been active at national level and although those of you who have attended recent APT conferences may not have seen the contribution made by Laura, her behind the scenes work has been invaluable. Laura is moving on to become Director of the Vivat Trust so we wish her well and will be keeping in touch. At the same time as expressing our thanks to Laura we welcome Mia Scott as the new Scotland representative. Mia is Project Director of the Highlands Building Preservation Trust and can be contacted by email at mia@hbpt.org.uk (tel 01463 718 778).
Colin Johns, APT Chairman

Congratulations to our new BPTs!

Cardigan Building Preservation Trust, Wales
Ford Park Cemetery Trust, Plymouth

HOLTOP receives commendation and shortlisting for Waterpoint

A project carried out by the Heritage of London Trust Operations (HOLTOP) received a Commendation in the Partnership category in 'The Waterways Renaissance Awards 2006' and was also shortlisted in the Historic Environment category.

The Grade II listed St Pancras Waterpoint was saved from demolition by relocation from outside St Pancras Station to a new site some 700 metres away on a viaduct overlooking both the mainline railtrack and Regents Canal. Rather than a brick by brick dismantling and the unavoidable loss of a lot of detailed brickwork, the building was severed horizontally. The two complete sections each weighing in the order of 135 tons were lifted by two of the largest mobile cranes in the UK onto special transporters, usually employed in moving sections of oil rigs, then taken by road to the new site.

Leased to British Waterways and managed by the St Pancras Cruising Club, it provides a superb meeting place and a viewing point from a platform built within the original iron water tank. The judges recognised the innovative mode of relocation, careful preservation of the structure and, in its new location, its enrichment of the canal side scene. HOLTOP has to record the credit due to the technical initiative of its professional advisers, the financial support of its partners - and a degree of tenacity by the trust itself.

Malcolm Crowder, APT Vice-Chairman

Hearth project a hit with prime ministers, suffragettes & bons viveurs!

In February, Hearth Revolving Fund completed their College Green House project in Belfast. College Green House is in a crucial corner location in the university conservation area, and it completes a good listed terrace, but when Hearth researched its history more closely it soon became apparent that it had a fascinating social background. Its Edwardian owner, John McConnell, was employed by the Craig family, and his contemporary James

Craig was the first prime minister of Northern Ireland. Before the parliament buildings at Stormont were built the new parliament frequently met in the Theological College beside College Green House, and almost certainly Craig would have called there for tea or billiards.

More intriguingly, McConnell's daughter Mabel had been heavily involved with the suffragette movement and then moved to England where she met a fiery poet called Desmond FitzGerald who moved in Irish Republican circles. She eventually eloped with him from College Green, and their youngest son Garret was the Taoiseach who signed the Anglo-Irish Agreement with Margaret Thatcher.

College Green House has had a multitude of uses as a private dwelling, a school and before its fire in 2000 it was a popular dwelling for young art students, who appreciated the character of the old building. When there was a fire in the building in 2000 it was closed because it met hardly any regulations, and Hearth purchased a long lease on it.

And today its uses have been further extended. As well as the six restored flats, the old coach-house and stables are now an excellent small restaurant and micro-brewery. Real ale fans should call there when next in Belfast to test the Headless Dog brew!

Marcus Patton, Director, Hearth Revolving Fund

“Thoir liobht dhan lobht”:

Highland BPT opens sail loft to the public

In glorious sunshine on 17th March 2006, Calum Crockett, former coxwain of the Stornoway lifeboat and one of the last residents of the sail loft in the 1930's, returned to the building to cut the ribbon and open the sail loft to the public. The ceremony marked the completion of one of the hardest fought projects tackled by the Highland Buildings Preservation Trust and brings to a happy end the work of the last eight years. An end that is until the snagging works start...

In many ways this project should offer vindication to other trusts struggling against the odds to save a building. The sail loft has survived many things including demolition threats, HLF refusals, the resignation of one of the design team and even a hurricane. Today it stands proud on North Beach, Stornoway, its fresh coat of limewash glowing, as a beacon of what can be achieved in the regeneration of the historic waterfront of Stornoway – a precursor for the proposed Stornoway THI - and a truly catalytic conversion.

It has always been a special building, even in its state of advanced dereliction, and has inspired passion and commitment from the Trust, the design team (with the exception of one former member!) and most remarkably from the residents of Stornoway. In many towns and villages of the Highlands and Islands, disused historic buildings are seen as a blight on the community, a relic of the past to be excised. The sail loft is so much more than a building to the people of Stornoway and working with local artists (including a “wallpaper pirate!”) on our audience development programme we have captured some of these memories which anchor the sail loft so firmly in the life of the town, and incorporated them in the fabric of the restored building. The seven properties in the sail loft and the adjoining commercial hotel are now for sale on the open market and eventually the story of the project will be released on DVD, the hardest thing now is letting go!

Mia Scott, Project Director, Highland Buildings Preservation Trust

BPT products and services

Would you like an experienced volunteer to work with your trust?

From time to time, APT is contacted by individuals who are willing to give their time and expertise to BPTs. We have recently been contacted by an experienced volunteer in the Cambridge area. If any trust would like to take advantage of this offer, please contact APT.

**Don't forget the APT National Conference
12– 14 October 2006 at Cromford Mills,
Derbyshire**

Do you need any handmade peg tiles or bricks?

If the answer to that question is yes, the Cambridge Tile and Brick Co, set up by the Cambridgeshire Historic BPT, can help. The tiles are particularly suitable for buildings in the Cambridge, Bedford, Dunstable and Oxford areas, where the Greensand and gault clay corridor can be found. To find out more, please go to www.cambstileandbrick.co.uk

Would you like to hold an event at Thoresby College in King's Lynn?

Thoresby College, which was built around 1500, hires out its Great Hall and Undercroft for events. The College is a BPT project taken on by King's Lynn Preservation Trust, the first trust to receive an AHF loan. For more information, email Mrs Johnson at mail@klprestrust.org.uk (tel 01553 766 922).

Louisa Baily, APT Co-ordinator

Grants schemes

Grants for churches and chapels

English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund announced on 1 March that they will be offering £17.5 million pounds in repair grants to nearly 150 Grade I and Grade II* listed churches and chapels across England. In recognition of the many churches and chapels which still need to look for ways of funding their repairs, English Heritage will be launching a campaign called *Inspired!* to raise support for the volunteers fighting to save these buildings. For more information on the *Inspired!* Campaign visit www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.9238

New source of funding for historic houses

A scheme has been launched by the Country Houses Foundation to assist the repair and restoration of buildings in England of historic or architectural importance. It is envisaged that six grants will

be made per year ranging between £50,000 and £250,000. Grants will be awarded to buildings with a sustainable future, which provide some sort of public benefit. Applications can be made throughout the year, however decisions on grant allocation will take place in April and October. For more information, please go to

www.countryhousesfoundation.org.uk.

Louisa Baily, APT Co-ordinator

Initiatives and advice

Area rules

APT is a grass-roots organisation which seeks to respond to member needs but from time to time it is asked to provide specific guidance. The APT area committees were set up at the time of APT's establishment but it seems that some can no longer find their area "rules" hence the following. These area guidelines are intended to provide a framework within which the committees can operate so that their work is in accordance with the requirements placed on APT by its charitable status.

(REGION) Area Committee Rules

1. The Committee will be known as the "(REGION) Area Committee", being an Area Committee of the Association of Preservation Trusts.
2. The area to be covered by the Area Committee will include the counties of (STATE COUNTIES). National building preservation trusts who wish to attend (REGION) Area meetings will be included as members.
3. The Committee will act as an informal forum of its members to discuss matters of mutual interest and to act as a link between the members and the Association of Preservation Trusts. It will have no powers to bind the activities of its members.
4. The Rules and Members of the Area Committee will be consistent with the rules of the Association of Preservation Trusts, but, subject thereto, the following will apply;

4.1 Membership

Membership of the Committee will be open as of right to any building preservation trust or organisation within the area defined above that is a member of associate member of the Association of Preservation Trusts.

Any other building preservation trust or organisation with similar aims as the Full Members may be invited to join the Committee as an Associate Member.

The Committee is empowered to invite any individual person or other organisation to be represented on the Committee and such persons so invited will be regarded as Observers.

The Committee may appoint or terminate the appointment of any Associate Member or Observer as it sees fit.

4.2 Meetings

The Committee will meet not less than twice, no more than four times each year.

Each Full and Associate member of the Committee is entitled to send one representative to the meeting. Provided that the Committee agrees, then additional representatives may be present at the meeting but shall have Observer status.

The venue and timing of each meeting will be left for the Committee to decide, but with the intention that the venue will rotate around the area with the members agreeing in turn to host the meeting.

Except as provided herein, it will be for the Committee to decide its own procedure.

4.3 Voting

Where a vote is called for at any meeting, voting will take place by either a show of hands or by a secret ballot (as decided by the Chairman) and a simple majority in each case of those present will be sufficient to decide a question.

The voting rights will be as follows: The representative of each Full Member may

vote on any question; the representative of any Associate member may vote on any question except with regard to membership of the Committee.

Observers will have no voting rights;

The Chairman will not be entitled to a vote unless he is the representative of a Full of Associate Member, save that in all cases he will have a casting vote where necessary.

4.4 Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer

The Chairman is to be directly elected by the participating representatives annually. The organisation which the Chairman represents can nominate a further representative to the Committee. No person is to serve for more than three consecutive years as Chairman of the Area Committee, but may be reappointed after an interval of not less than one year.

The Committee will appoint a secretary whose role will be to deal with the administration of the Committee and the co-ordination of its affairs.

The Committee will appoint a Treasurer whose role will be to deal with its financial affairs.

4.5 APT Representatives

The Committee will nominate one of its members to be its representatives on the Association of Preservation Trusts National Committee. It may also nominate one of its members to act as a deputy.

5. Rules

All questions relating to the Committee will be decided with regard to these Rules. Where there is no provision in these Rules, then it will be for the Committee to decide what should be done.

These Rules will not be altered except where at least one month's notice will be given in writing to all Full and Associate Members and then passed at a meeting of the Committee by two-thirds of the Full and Associate Members present and entitled to vote.

Louisa Baily, APT Co-ordinator

New fire legislation

The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order, in force from April 1, will replace existing legislation on fire safety. The new law will apply to all premises, with the exception of private dwellings, as soon as they become occupied.

Under the new Order, fire certificates will no longer be issued or valid and will be replaced with a risk assessment audit. Fire officers will be given a new enforcement role to ensure owners will meet the required standards.

Emphasis will be placed equally on prevention as on means of escape. Specialist Skills will not be required for small premises and there is no need to employ an external consultant, however training and consultation with other experts may be required.

For more information, please consult:
www.odpm.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1162101
Dorothy Leiper,
City of Wolverhampton Regenerating BPT

Forward Scotland website: Guidance for conversions of historic buildings

Forward Scotland has just launched a new website for those involved in the sustainable conversion of historic or traditional buildings. Based on research carried out during a conversion of a building in Glasgow's Trongate, this website provides guidance for consultants, planners and clients involved in such conversions. The website guides users through the stages of producing a feasibility study into the proposed conversion. Such a study is needed to identify the options available and show whether a new use can be reconciled with the building's cultural significance, can be physically accommodated, will not be detrimental to the building fabric, and is economically viable.

For more information, please go to:
www.trongatereport.info

Liz Davidson, Project Director, Merchant City THI & Programme Manager
Historic Environment Regeneration Fund, Historic Scotland

New Gift Aid regulations

From 6 April, new rules on claiming Gift Aid will allow more charities that charge an admission fee to visitors to benefit from Gift Aid, provided that they meet the donation criteria for the new Gift Aid scheme. To benefit from the scheme, most charities will have to focus more on soliciting donations from visitors at the time of their visits. If a visitor makes a donation in place of an entrance fee, Gift Aid can only be claimed if the donation is at least 10% more than the normal admission charge, or if they entitle visitors access to the property whenever it is open over a 12-month period.

The Institute of Fundraising has launched a new Tax-Effective Giving Programme, which offers charities information and support on how to maximise tax-effective giving.

For information call the Tax-Effective Giving Helpline on 0845 458 4586 or visit www.institute-of-fundraising.org.uk
Louisa Baily, APT Co-ordinator

Heritage Works: The use of historic buildings in regeneration:

A toolkit of good practice

I have a well-thumbed copy of *Catalytic Conversion: Revive Historic Buildings to Regenerate Communities* published by the AHF, IHBC, SAVE and UKAPT in 1998. English Heritage also recognised the role of historic buildings in regeneration at that time and now the big hitters in the property world have taken up the same cause by taking part in *Heritage Works*, a study of heritage-led regeneration.

Drivers Jonas has prepared this guide for English Heritage, the RICS and the British Property Federation. It is aimed at developers, owners, community groups and practitioners. It examines the case for heritage-led regeneration and provides a step-by-step guide for projects.

After examining listed buildings as heritage assets – mainly in an urban context – the guide goes on to make an economic case for the reuse of historic buildings in regeneration with

useful case studies. It then sets out the steps that have to be taken to achieve a successful project, with a welcome recognition of the management that will be needed to ensure continued success. Single Project and Revolving Fund BPTs will find themselves among the quaintly named 'delivery vehicles' for regeneration.

The current consents regime is explained with an introduction to the changes arising from the *Review of Heritage Protection* (2004) and the *Revisions to Principles of Selection for Listed Buildings PPG15* (2005). References to publications and web links are provided.

This new guide should prove useful to BPTs. I hope that it will also encourage those promoting area regeneration to use historic assets to lead projects, rather than leaving them to be sorted out at the end of the process.

For more information go to: www.english-heritage.org.uk/upload/pdf/Heritage_Works.pdf (Tel 0870 333 1181)

John Pavitt, APT National Committee

Bonding with your local authorities

All Building Preservation Trusts - large or small - have an overriding need to develop good relationships with their local authorities.

Some of you - particularly revolving trusts - are, in one way or another, in close partnership with your local authority. For example, in my own case, the Somerset Building Preservation Trust (SBPT) was the brain child of the then Chairman of the County Council - Ralph Clark (who became first Chairman of the SBPT) and the Head of Architectural and Historic Heritage for Somerset - Russell Lillford. Russell continues to sit as an Officer at the SBPT Board meetings and acts as Hon. Technical Adviser. His knowledge, expertise and background are invaluable. Somerset County Council, as is the case with many other Councils throughout the country, maintain a Buildings at Risk register. For revolving BPTs who wish to "bond" with their local authority, it is a good idea to make contact with the conservation officer to work together on the selection of a potential project. In Somerset, once we are on site with a particu-

lar project, Russell, our Chairman and myself to visit various buildings at risk in the County, the findings from such visits being reported back to the SBPT Board so that the next project can be decided upon.

The Somerset County Council Architectural and Historic Heritage Department is made up of wide-ranging expertise - including for example archaeology over which we often need in-depth advice before appointing an independent archaeologist to record a project site. They help me in the co-ordination of the schools educational programme connected with our projects. We also have access to the County Valuer who sits as an Officer at the SBPT Board meetings.

In a nutshell, Russell and I, as Secretary to the SBPT, work closely to ensure a smooth working situation in relation to Somerset's built heritage.

The SBPT also has a good working relationship with the 5 District Conservation Officers and the Historic Buildings Officer for Exmoor National Park. The District Conservation Officers also attend SBPT Board Meetings. In turn I attend meetings of the Somerset Conservation Officers Group, which is co-ordinated by Russell's Department.

We also have representative Councillors from the County and District Councils sitting on the SBPT Board. They have a great interest in what is going on in their "patch" and, by virtue of the fact that they have chosen to sit on the SBPT Board, they automatically have a deep interest in the built heritage. I find them endlessly supportive.

You may well be reading this and thinking "How does this apply to MY Building Preservation Trust?". If you have become a building preservation trust for one particular project you may have had little, as yet, to do with your local Conservation Officer. If this is the case, I would warmly recommend that you do get in touch with your relevant Conservation Officer(s) at the earliest opportunity and discuss your project in depth. Draw the Conservation Officer(s) into your work as much as possible and, if you can, involve him or her in the decision making that is neces-

sary. Every Conservation Officer will want to see as much of their built heritage saved and restored but he or she will not necessarily have the resources to handle this. A close working relationship with your Conservation Officer(s) can assist in unlocking some budget "doors" that will help towards your costs. Also, do talk with your local Councillors as they can give you tremendous support. Consider having a Councillor on your Steering Group.

By bonding with your local authorities you will find there will be areas over which you can exert some influence. After all, keenness and dedication frequently spills over on to others. You may find yourselves persuaded to form a revolving trust - although for many of you one project in a life-time may seem enough! As one who goes from project to project, don't be deterred - it becomes a very fulfilling way of life!

Erica Adams, Secretary for Somerset BPT & area representative for APT National Committee

Online resource for planning issues in Northern Ireland & the Irish Republic

This online resource on architecture and planning is accessible at www.paddi.net
Ian Rice, Projects & Development Officer, The Architectural Heritage Fund

Planning Aid

For many people finding out about Planning Aid for the first time, their response is one of surprise that anything so useful actually exists. Planning Aid is a national service that provides free professional town planning advice for those who can not afford to pay professional fees. The service also undertakes community planning projects, aimed at getting hard-to-engage groups involved in the planning process. A further area of work is delivering training and education initiatives to teach people about planning.

Planning Aid England is delivered through nine regions, whilst separate Planning Aid charities cover London, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Planning Aid England has around 50 staff and almost 600 volunteers to

deliver the service. The service is funded nationally by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Big Lottery. At regional level, the service works with a range of partners including regional assemblies, local authorities, regional development agencies, and schools.

Planning Aid helps people and communities to participate in planning decisions that affect their lives and to play a part in the planning of their area.

For more information, there is a Planning Aid web site at www.planningaid.rtpi.org.uk. The national help line number is 0121 693 1201.
Dave Chetwyn, National Planning Aid Manager for England, Royal Town Planning Institute

Campaign for VAT off professional fees

The Ecclesiastical Architects and Surveyors Association (EASA) is campaigning for recovery of VAT on professional fees associated with repairs to historic churches and chapels. Given the charitable nature of parish administration and the lack of receipted VAT invoices and relevant forms kept, it is felt that professionals have an equal level of responsibility as contractors undertaking repairs and this should be taken into consideration. For more information contact: admin.secretary@easynet.co.uk

Wind energy and climate change and the historic environment

English Heritage has produced publications for developers of wind energy projects and the implications of climate change for the historic environment. Copies can be downloaded from the HELM website (Climate change publication www.helm.org.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.6012 or wind energy publication www.helm.org.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.6014) or a hard copy can be ordered through customer services quoting product code 51098 on 0870 333 1181.
Louisa Baily, APT Co-ordinator

For Events & Courses see the Back Page >>>

Requests for your input

Consultations and surveys

Stonehenge Roads consultation

Given the mounting costs of building a 2.1km tunnel to divert traffic away from Stonehenge, the Highways Agency are reviewing the original plans for the tunnel in search of lower cost alternatives.

For information, go to www.highways.gov.uk/roads/projects/3659.aspx. The deadline for responses is **24 April**.

Rural development programme for England 2007- 2013

The Rural Development Programme, responsible for distributing European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development funds, is holding a consultation on its priorities for England. Three core themes are addressed; enhancing the environment and countryside, fostering a more competitive business environment and enhancing opportunity in rural areas.

For more information, please go to www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/rdp2007-13/index.htm.

The deadline for responses is **22 May**.

Listed building casework

This consultation focuses on proposed amendments to the Appointed Persons Regulations on listed building consent and enforcement notice appeals for buildings in England. It is suggested that local authorities should not be required to report to the Secretary of State on grant listed building consent unless English Heritage have objected in writing.

For more information, please go to www.odpm.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1163801.

The deadline for responses is **24 May**.

Survey of Scotland's historic & contemporary built environment infrastructure

Jura Consultants are currently undertaking a survey on the remit, funding and activities of

non-governmental organisations operating within the built environment sector in Scotland. The survey has been commissioned by Historic Scotland, the Historic Environment Advisory Council for Scotland and Built Environment Forum Scotland and will be used as a basis for a report to the Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport. For further information, contact Jo Robertson at Built Environment Forum Scotland on 0131 556 5353 or email jrobertson@befsc.org.uk.

Louisa Baily, APT Co-ordinator

Apply apply apply...

DCMS New Years Honours

Nominations for the DCMS New Years Honours are currently being requested. Nominations can be submitted by anyone who feels that a colleague of theirs makes a real difference in their field of work, through their pursuits or interests on a local level. Nominees have to still be performing the service for which they are nominated for at the time of the publication of the list. For more information, please contact Pat Le Bruin on at pat.le-bruin@culture.gsi.gov.uk (tel 0207 211 2313). The deadline for nominations is **28 April**.

Heritage Open Days

Heritage Open Days celebrates England's architecture and culture by offering free access to interesting buildings that are usually closed to the public or normally charge for admissions. To take part in Heritage Open Days from 7 to 10 September, you must register with The Civic Trust by **2 May**.

For more information, please email at hods@civictrust.org.uk (tel 0870 240 5251).

Heritage Interpretation Awards

The Association of Heritage Interpretation (AHI) are inviting entries for their 2006 Heritage Interpretation Awards from throughout the UK and Ireland. For 2006, there is a new award called the Special Category Award, which is aimed at projects

that have successfully engaged with people who often find access to heritage difficult. The closing date for entries is **5 May**.

For information, please go to www.heritageinterpretation.org.uk/awardsidx.html.

Louisa Baily, APT Co-ordinator

News from the AHF

Changes to AHF grants and loans

At its recent meeting, The Architectural Heritage Fund's Council of Management agreed to a number of changes to our grants and loans. This follows a review of the AHF's financial position, and in particular the increasing pressure on our loan fund, which is at its highest-ever level of commitments. Although this is a welcome sign of the success of our schemes, it leaves our resources very stretched and means that we are having to take some measures to address this, as any prudent organisation would.

The changes we are introducing are as follows:

Loans. The interest rate on **new acquisition loans only** increases to 6% from 1 April 2006. The rate on cashflow loans remains at 4%. Where a loan is partly for acquisition and partly for cashflow, only that portion which is towards the acquisition will be charged at 6%.

Overdue loans. Extensions will **not** be granted on loans (both current and new loans) unless a special case is made to, and accepted by, the Council of Management, and if there is an extension, the interest rate will rise to 6% for the extended period (in exceptional circumstances the Council may agree to an extension at 4% interest).

Grants. **Project Administration Grants** will now only be available to BPTs which have uncommitted cash resources of less than £10,000, and a BPT will only be able to have one PAG at a time.

Project Organiser Grants are being refocused to help a BPT to pay for the time of a project

organiser *to take a project towards the start of work on site*, and not for the on-site phase, which can be reclaimed from the main project funders. The maximum grant is also being reduced from £15,000 to **£10,000** and can still be no more than 75% of the total cost of a project organiser (for that phase).

There are no changes to the Options Appraisal scheme.

Please do talk to any member of our projects team if you would like more information about any of the above.

Revised application deadlines

We have recently experienced problems with the late submission of applications, and given that we try to visit all new applicants in the period between receipt of the application and writing of the paper for our meeting, we are changing the deadlines for the rest of the year as follows:

11 May - for consideration at the June meeting
10 August (for September)
26 October (for December)



Office move

Thanks in particular to a sterling effort by Diane Kendal, our Office Manager, our move (together with APT) went smoothly, and we are now well established in Alhambra House, on the site of the former Alhambra Theatre. Please could you change any databases you may have which contain the old address – the new one, in case you have missed it, is

**9th Floor, Alhambra House,
 27-31 Charing Cross Road, London
 WC2H 0AU.**

Ian Lush, Chief Executive, The Architectural Heritage Fund

Dates for the diary in 2006

25 April **The fight for the future of built heritage: bringing the sectors together to find new uses**, The Royal Society of Medicine, London, W1. For more information, email conferences@landor.co.uk (tel 0845 270 7965)

26 April **Russell Commission findings on youth action and engagement workshop**, Museum of London. For more information, please email Jennifer.baker@btinternet.com (tel 01494 432 610).

27 April **Conserving our stained glass heritage**, Kings Manor Conference Centre, York. For more information please email Derek Hunt at derek@limelightstudios.co.uk (tel 01858 565 274).

27 April **Fire safety legislation update**, RIBA, London. For more information please email vanita.patel@inst.riba.org (tel 0207 307 3681)

29–30 April **Early English shire towns**, Rewley House, Oxford. For more information please email ppdayweek@conted.ox.ac.uk (tel 01865 270 380).

12–13 May **Ferrous and non ferrous metals in construction**, The Ironbridge Institute, Shropshire

Between May and October 2006, the Ironbridge Institute will also be offering courses on conservation of twentieth century buildings, conservation of non structural and structural timber in historic buildings, ceramic building materials, recording historic buildings, large object conservation and traditional estate management. For more information, please email Harriet Devlin at harriet.devlin@ironbridge.org.uk (tel 01952 435 900)

4–7 May **World Heritage: global challenges, local solutions**, Ironbridge Institute, Coalbrookdale. For more information please email Dr John Carman at J.Carman@bham.ac.uk (0121 414 7493).

12–14 May **Conservation and design show 2006**, Riding Stables Hatfield House, Hertfordshire. For more information please email Anne Haworth at annehaworth@beamsltd.co.uk (tel 01992 504 331).

12–14 May **The Architecture of the Tudor and Jacobean Age**, Rewley House, Oxford. For more information please email ppdayweek@conted.ox.ac.uk (tel 01865 270 380).

13 May **Joint study day, Broughton House, Kirkcudbright**. For more information email nationaloffice@ahss.org.uk (tel 0131 557 0019)

16 May **A strong city: Church buildings – faith – regeneration seminar**, St John at Hackney, London. For more information please email Kim Pearson at kpearson@shaftesburysoc.org.uk (tel 0208 239 5527)

18 May **Basic maintenance of historic buildings**, Cressing Temple, Cressing.

Between June and September 2006, Essex County Council is offering other courses on technical details of historic buildings, lime and how it is used, dating historic buildings, timber, corporate and team building days and hands-on traditional building skills courses. For more information, email Katie Seabright at Traditional.BuildingSkills@essexcc.gov.uk (tel 01245 437 672).

31 May – 2 June **Inspiring cities: New design in a world heritage city**, Edinburgh. For more information, please contact Holyrood Events on 0131 272 2137.


18 June **Upminster Windmill craft fair**, Upminster Windmill. For more information, please contact Bob Sharp at bobsharp@ukonline.co.uk (tel 01708 226 040)

21 June **Lottery Monitor annual conference**, British Museum, London. For more information email elle@lottery-monitor.com (tel 0207 954 3414).

22 June **SAVE book fair**, 70 Cowcross Street, London. For more information, please contact Rosie at events@savebritheritage.plus.com (tel 0207 253 3500)

6 July **Sussex Heritage Trust Awards 2006**, De La Warr Pavillion, Bexhill-on-Sea. For more information please email Annette Coombes at info@sussexheritagetrust.com (tel 01825 767 087)
Closing date **3rd May**.

26 August – 3 September **Architectural Heritage Society Scotland tour, Bologna, Italy**
For more information email nationaloffice@ahss.org.uk (tel 0131 557 0019)

**Don't forget the APT National Conference
12–14 October 2006 at Cromford Mills,
Derbyshire** 

Disclaimer: This is only a newsletter, the information in it should not be relied upon in lieu of independent professional advice or opinions taken to represent those of all APT's members or its national committee.

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