



The Society for the
Protection of Ancient
Buildings

Annual Review 2011



Annual Review

Welcome to the third of our Annual Reviews in the new format. Our legal Annual Report and Audited Accounts will appear on our website (www.spab.org.uk). Paper copies can also be obtained on request.

Achievements

The SPAB has always punched above its weight. Its influence over the years has been out of all proportion to its size, and this is most true in the area of training. When we first started thinking about the most effective ways we could help historic church buildings and other places of worship we immediately identified the most common cause of decay, damage and intimidating expense – lack of regular maintenance. We can take great pride and satisfaction in the completion of our five year Faith in Maintenance project (FiM), that has trained nearly 5,000 volunteers who look after historic places of worship. This was recognised in a major European award in 2010, and in 2011 it was chosen from among a number of European cultural projects for admission to The Best in Heritage Club at an event in Dubrovnik. Further information about FiM is available on www.spabfim.org.uk

At a national level the Society can claim some credit for persuading the Government to start thinking about the effects of the Green Deal on historic buildings. This nationwide initiative, to be launched in Autumn 2012, will provide incentives to building owners to improve the thermal performance of their buildings. The SPAB agrees with the objective, but was alarmed by the fact that some of the measures being considered failed to understand historic buildings as a whole and could well store up major problems, for example through increased damp. As a result the Society wrote to The Times newspaper, supported by a wide range of highly respected heritage bodies and individuals, expressing our collective concern. Since then the Society has been represented at a series of meetings with the Department for Energy and Climate Change, where the Society's own research has been able to provide some of the basic facts that so far have been missing. However much more needs to be known. The Society is keen to continue this research, which has placed us in the forefront of this important debate.

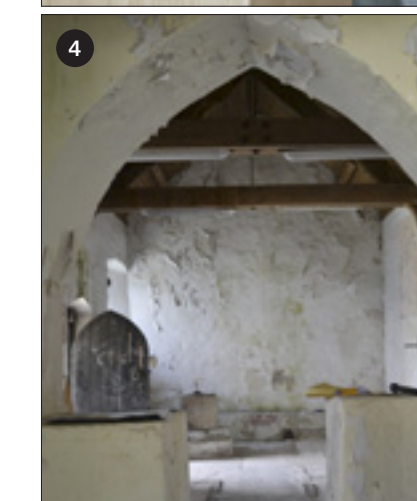
Up to now, with the exception of some funding from Dartmoor National Park, we have largely had to pay for this ourselves. We hope that in 2012 it may be possible to secure some official funding to continue this work, and help with its publication.

Planning for the Future

Having undertaken our strategic review, a process of considerable change got under way during the year, though much of it will only start taking effect in 2012 and beyond. Over the years the Society has changed dramatically, in size, the scope of its work and its reputation, though its message of conservative repair remains the same. Many of the agreed changes are designed to improve internal governance and management, to make the SPAB more efficient, improve its funding, and bring it into line with the best charity practice. In the Autumn Philip Venning, the SPAB Secretary since 1984, announced he would be retiring at the AGM in 2012. The trustees decided that as part of the internal reforms the post should be redesignated. After a rigorous external recruitment process Matthew Slocombe, the current Deputy Secretary, was appointed to be the new Director from July 2012.

SPAB Award Schemes

The Society has three awards – the Betjeman Award for repairs to a church or chapel in use in England and Wales (not given in 2011); the Esher Award for an individual's outstanding contribution to the Society's aims; and the Philip Webb Award for architecture students. At the Society's AGM at the Mansion House in the City of London the Esher Award was presented to Anthony Goode of Leicestershire for his unstinting practical support for SPAB courses, the annual working party, and in many other ways. The first prize in the Philip Webb Award, judged by Eric Parry, Patrick Dillon, and Nick Hirst, was won by Clara Byrne of Nottingham University for a project based on a grade II* building in Soho.



Photograph: Allan Warren

1 The Society was saddened by the death of the Duke of Grafton KG, the SPAB President and former Chairman.

2 The BBC Politics Show South filmed the Secretary at Wymering Manor, Hants, talking about public bodies selling historic buildings.

3 Sir Donald Insall, former SPAB Scholar and Committee member, speaking at the AGM at the Mansion House, London.

4 The Society is hoping find a future for Eglwys Brewis church, Glamorgan, a landmark early case.

5 The Mills Section's Crop to Crust conference, Warwickshire.

Front Cover: A visit by the new Dorset Regional Group to Dunshay Manor.

Casework

In its casework, the SPAB gives advice to planning authorities, owners and professionals. Cases arise from information received about neglected buildings or planning proposals. Councils in England and Wales are obliged to notify the Society of applications involving demolition work to listed buildings. We also hear from parishes, dioceses and cathedrals when certain works to listed churches are proposed.

Policy and SPAB Advice

The Society's casework relies on historic environment policy and guidance set by government at a national level. We use it to help argue for the protection of listed buildings whenever harmful alteration or demolition is proposed. In 2011 we were newly adapting our casework to the policies of Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 5, introduced in 2010. This document and its related Planning Practice Guide base decision-making on the impact on a building's 'significance', which can be 'harmed' or 'enhanced'. At 144 High Street, Maldon in Essex debate continued about whether harm or enhancement would result from Restoration proposals. These were considered at a public hearing towards the end of the year – the third concerning the building in which the Society has been involved. We felt very strongly that the applicants' aim to reinstate the long-lost Tudor appearance of the building was misguided and would be harmful to its Georgian character and interest. We backed the council at the hearing and received valuable support from SPAB Essex Regional Group member Veronica Smith who explained to the



Planning Inspector that not all local people backed the scheme. We were delighted when the appeal was rejected – an endorsement for SPAB principles within the planning system.

Despite the newness of PPS5, in 2011 the government was already contemplating the document's replacement. Much discussion and media comment was devoted to its proposed successor, the National Planning Policy Framework, which aimed to combine all planning policy into a single, slimmed down statement. Historic Environment policy was to be allocated a mere three pages. The strongest criticism of the proposals came from the National Trust, CPRE and others who were concerned about the document's underlying 'presumption in favour of sustainable development' and the potential threat this posed to the countryside. The historic environment policies were less contentious, but the Society still felt it necessary to express concern about the document's brevity, its intended removal of the 'presumption in favour of the conservation of designated assets' which had featured in PPS5, and the possibility that 'sustainable development' might trump conservation considerations. We were also worried about the uncertain plans for the publication of supporting guidance. This seemed more necessary than ever in view of the conciseness of proposed policy.

The Society worked closely with English Heritage in discussion of the draft NPPF and we have appreciated the fact that EH is showing an increased willingness to work with the voluntary heritage sector. A manifestation of this is the National Heritage Protection Plan (NHPP), with which the Society has been closely involved. This aims to set priorities which are shared by all heritage organisations. A number of SPAB projects and areas

144 High Street, Maldon: the Society argued against proposals to reinstate its Tudor form.



1 The Robin Hood Hotel, Newark: the SPAB successfully opposed an application for total demolition.
2 The Society committed significant time and effort to the discussion of proposals for Durham Cathedral.

of work, including casework, contribute directly to the NHPP's aims and are cited in the Plan.

Volunteering and new SPAB Casework Panel

Assistance from expert volunteers continues to be vital to the Society's casework. In 2011 we sought to strengthen the input of volunteers through the creation of a new 'virtual' Casework Panel. This aimed to complement the work already done by the Society's Guardians' committee and Technical Panel. Its aim is to establish a pool of people who might help the SPAB, either individually or collectively, to form views on applications or issues. Panel members, on joining, agreed to offer the swift opinions needed by the Society when working within the tight timescales of the planning system.

2011 was the first full year of the implementation of the SPAB's new Strategy. In casework this set new priorities for staff and led us to commission research. This was assisted by volunteers recruited through an advertisement in the Society's magazine. Conclusions are expected in 2012.

Major Cases

Among notable cases in 2011 was an application to demolish the grade II listed buildings that form the Robin Hood Hotel in Newark, Nottinghamshire. Assisted by SPAB Guardian Britt Harwood and local SPAB member Chris Healy, we were able to combine with other local and national organisations to oppose

the demolition. This proved successful and proposals are now being reconsidered.

We reported in 2010 on our considerable involvement with College House in Masham, North Yorkshire, recognised as an astonishing 12th century domestic survival. Our involvement has proved fruitful with original proposals for alteration and subdivision now reconsidered. A far more appropriate scheme is now under development.

Churches & Cathedrals

While economic conditions had some impact on the number of secular applications for listed building consent we saw in 2011 - particularly from the north of England – applications for ecclesiastical buildings remained plentiful. The majority concerned internal reorderings and extensions. We had no objection to many but in the case of others, such as St Peter's Church, Prestbury, Cheshire we urged further thought. The Society often works in conjunction with the member of the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) nominated by the Joint Committee of the National Amenity Societies (of which the SPAB is a member). In April 2011 the Society played a leading role in the organisation of a conference for the Joint Committee's DAC nominees. It was held in Manchester at Chetham's School and offered a valuable opportunity for discussion of issues of common interest. These included the removal of pews, treatment of bell frames and the

extension of churches. A presentation by SPAB Scholar Malcolm Fryer on his work to St Paul's Hammersmith generated lively discussion.

Much of our work with cathedrals concerned the treatment of historic stonework. This was the case at Canterbury Cathedral where we discussed plans for the Great South Window, and offered our opinion on structural and design issues. Stone conservation is an important topic at the meeting we now attend annually with the Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England. We were pleased by conservation work to the statue of St Hugh at Lincoln Cathedral, and considered sympathetic the new design involved in the cellarium project at Westminster Abbey. Considerable time and effort was put into discussions of Phase One of the Open Treasures project at Durham Cathedral. Through the work of Guardians committee members Roger Mears, Brian Foxley and Peter Burman, the Society made a major contribution to the development of the scheme. There are issues with which we retain concerns, but the Society has been pleased by the positive response to our advice.

Buildings in Need

Targeted assistance for 'Buildings in Need' is a principal objective of the SPAB's current strategy. In 2011, our research established that 47% of councils held 'buildings at risk' registers, but in many cases these were not updated regularly or were not accessible on-line. Further research will look at ways in which the Society can be of greatest assistance to neglected historic buildings. Our casework during the year included involvement with 'buildings in need' such as Boxley Abbey Barn, Kent and Winstanley Hall, Lancashire (where we offered small grants towards emergency work, as well as advice).

Wales

Tyntyla in Ystrad, Rhondda Cynon Taf may be the last remaining unaltered small sub-medieval farmhouse in the Rhondda valley. The Society became involved after a blaze destroyed the barn roof and left the standing masonry vulnerable and an application to demolish the barn, attached to the farmhouse in traditional longhouse style, was submitted. Meanwhile a tree fell on the roof of the uninhabited farmhouse, leaving structural timbers open to the elements. The Society felt it was crucial



1 Winstanley Hall, Lancs where the Society sought a solution to the building's future.

2 Tyntyla: an important 'building in need' case from South Wales.

to save this building. Cooperation between the owners, the Society, the planning authority, Cadw, the Royal Commission and others has offered hope.

Eglwys Brewis, St Brise, in Vale of Glamorgan has been of interest to the SPAB since our earliest years. The church had a reasonably hopeful future until recent plans for the development of the airfield on which it stands were shelved. Basic repairs have been carried out and the building has been secured for the present, but it now lacks any role. We are liaising with interested parties to find a way forward.

The Society helped to resolve a technical debate at St Bridget, Skenfrith. In the spring the SPAB held its Technical Panel meeting there. The view of the Panel, that a requirement to apply lime-based external finishes was not justified on this occasion, helped break the impasse and unlock financial support.

Advice

The Society is constantly aiming to make its philosophy and technical expertise as widely available as possible, and continues to expand the way we do so.

Technical Enquiries

The Society has always believed its free technical advice line to be a valuable and unique service. But it was only in 2011 that we confirmed this impression. We asked a volunteer, Rod McDonald, to contact a range of previous callers to the advice line to see if they had found the advice useful and had acted upon it. The results were an astonishing endorsement of the value of the service, with many enthusiastic responses.

The Technical Panel continued to meet every two months and consider some of the trickier technical questions and issues, quite often about unexpected failures or new products that claim to be suitable for old buildings. One meeting was held in South Wales (see Casework) and one at the Society's working party in Nottinghamshire.

Technical Research and Publications

As mentioned earlier in this Review the Society continued with its research into the energy performance of a range of different types of old building with monitoring equipment measuring the air quality, humidity, moisture, CO₂, and other elements in seven buildings. We are very grateful to Dr Caroline Rye and others for leading this pioneering work. The initial findings helped identify some of the gaps in the understanding about the way traditional buildings behave. They also confirmed our fears that the Government's proposed Green Deal could lead to unintended and damaging consequences if unsuitable insulation products are used. Though we are pleased the Government has belatedly recognised that old buildings are different from new ones, we remain concerned that the proposed energy assessors under the Green Deal could also be the installers with a vested interest in their own recommendations. We were also pleased to help in the creation of two new bodies The Alliance of Sustainable Building Products (ASBP) and the Sustainable Traditional Building Alliance (STBA).



Dr Caroline Rye reporting on the SPAB research into energy conservation in old buildings.

Both bodies, which met at Spital Square, are helping take this vital issue forwards.

No new SPAB publications were issued in 2011 but progress was made on a new Regional Advice Note on Stone Slating in the South West, and on *The Old House Eco Handbook*. As usual the Society was able to comment on draft publications produced by others including an English Heritage guide to mothballing and temporary uses for vacant historic buildings (increasingly relevant as the recession leaves ever more buildings empty and at risk). As usual Douglas Kent, the Technical Secretary, published questions and answers in *Cornerstone* (and later on the website). In 2011 he covered timber stairs; weatherboarding; rafter-level insulation in pitched roofs; and cold weather precautions.

Technical Events

Technical events and courses included one on running plaster cornices, in Leicestershire, and another on specifying Welsh slate, based at Penrhyn Quarry in North Wales. Courses based in London covered specification writing, salts in masonry, specifying leadwork, and terracotta and faience. The major event of the year was a highly popular day in October on energy efficiency and old buildings where the SPAB reported on its own energy research.

The annual working party at the Mediaeval church at Ratcliffe-on-Soar, Nottinghamshire, officially came to an end in 2011 (though some final works will take place in 2012). The Society is most grateful to the village for all the support they have given us over the years.

Education and training

The Society remains one of the largest providers of practical education and training in building conservation in the UK, a role it has played for 80 years.

Courses

The continuing recession saw the sudden failure of several of the best known historic building contractors, and was reflected in lower numbers for many of our normal courses. But we were able to run the usual range of technical events, the twice-yearly Repair Course, and the London-based homeowners' course.

As in 2010 the SPAB was able to arrange several bespoke courses, and is looking forward to doing more in the future. One day courses for the regional staff of the Heritage Lottery Fund were held in Norwich and Halifax, and a CPD course for the Royal Institute of British Architects South/South Eastern Region took place in Oxford. In October, in conjunction with Great Yarmouth Council, the Society ran a three day course for young building students at Great Yarmouth College.

Faith in Maintenance

The Society's largest ever training programme, running courses on basic maintenance for volunteers who look after churches and other places of worship, came to the end of its five year term with over 50 courses or related events in 2011. The project was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund with support from English Heritage and various charitable trusts. In total the FiM project delivered 150 courses, training 4,585 volunteers from a range of religious denominations in England and Wales. A total of 10 workshops were held specifically for young people. As well as the courses the project generated related materials such as a widely distributed dvd, a maintenance calendar, handbook, and dedicated website (see www.spabfim.org.uk). Though the previous project has ended the Society will be offering further similar courses, thanks to extra funding from English Heritage, but on a different

1 Heritage Lottery Fund staff on a SPAB course in Halifax, Yorkshire.

2 Great Yarmouth College students being introduced to traditional skills.



1 Scholars and Fellows on the Sun Inn, Saffron Walden, Essex.

2 Repair Course delegates at Apethorpe Hall, Northants.

basis. The Society has also made a successful Round One bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund to develop a successor project based on Maintenance Co-operatives that draws on the experience of FiM.

William Morris Craft Fellowship

The four 2011 Fellows were: Emlyn Harris 25, a stonemason, at Canterbury Cathedral, Paul Agar 22, a plasterer with Fullers (Builders) Ltd., Tom Soare 29, a stonemason with SPAB Fellow Matthias Garn, and Kenny McCaffrey 40, a stonemason with Historic Scotland.

The Fellows travelled far and wide undertaking crafts, from hemp plastering at Ty Mawr Lime, Brecon, to throwing bricks at Bulmer brickworks, Sudbury, taking in forges, paint technologists, glaziers, woodsmen, cob wallers, and thatchers on their journey. They saw stone tile roofing repairs, scagliola conservation, and a limestone quarry in Somerset, and learnt the plane table surveying method with John Borland RCAHM (S) in Fife, producing drawings for the Scottish national archives.

The 2011 Fellows' Presentation was held at the Athenaeum Club, London, where, 25 years ago, the William Morris Craft Fellowship was first launched. Baroness Andrews, Chair of English Heritage, was

the guest of honour. Viscount Linley presented the SPAB Secretary Philip Venning with the Queen Mother Memorial Medal for his contribution to building craftsmanship.

Scholarship

In 2011 the three Scholars were Boris Bogdanovic, an architect, born in Croatia but who had lived and trained in several countries; Joanne Kelly, an architect from Glasgow; and Harry Wardill, an engineer who had recently worked on a Turquoise Mountain project in Kabul.

From their second day, when they attended a Technical Panel meeting in Wales discussing the re-rendering of church towers, they travelled throughout Britain, visiting an enormous variety of sites. They were able to get their hands dirty thatching, working stone, moulding plaster, even laying a plaster floor. Highlights included a week spent with the masons at Gloucester Cathedral, and 10 days in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, winding up at a conservation conference in Dubrovnik. The Scholars were also privileged to stay in a number of country houses between Orkney and Osborne for their final three months studies. The Society owes their many hosts and teachers a great deal.

Mills

It was a year of consolidation for the SPAB Mills Section, ensuring it is able to live within its means given the current economic climate, whilst focusing our energies upon delivering our Mission – to protect and promote our milling heritage.

Staff

Restructuring our finances meant we had to reduce the working hours of our Administrator, the only paid post of the Section. Sadly, this meant saying goodbye to Simon Hudson in August. Simon made a significant contribution to the protection and promotion of our milling heritage, and we thank him for his energy, enthusiasm and commitment. He is replaced by Emma Sheridan-Smith who, although working part time, has quickly set to work building relationships with many members, mill owners and others.

Membership

The Section's membership numbers have suffered due to the recession. The Committee had to take the difficult decision to increase membership subscriptions, not withstanding the economic climate, in order to balance the books; to provide the resources necessary for our work protecting our milling heritage; and to broaden our membership appeal. Members can look forward to some positive changes in what the Section provides to its members.

Meetings

An example of our exploring new avenues including partnering with like minded organisations was "From Crop to Crust", the Section's April Meeting and Conference held in partnership with the Traditional Cornmillers Guild and Real Bread Campaign. Hosted by the NFU Mutual, the conference brought together some 100 farmers, millers, bakers and associated enthusiasts to explore the role of the traditional mill in the food chain that binds these three groups together. As well as learning more about each other's respective business areas and the renaissance of interest in artisan flour and breads, the conference provided an important networking opportunity helping to further safeguard the future of working mills in the UK.



Wicken Mill, Cambs, received a grant from the Mills Repair Fund.

The Autumn meeting, held at the Mills Archive in Reading (another valued partner organisation) followed a more traditional format. Entitled *Mill Memories*, through a series of fascinating presentations, members shared memories of mills lost and indeed saved.

Courses

The Section ran two courses which generated income for the Mill Repair Fund, a course on Practical Flour Milling held at the Maud Foster Mill, Boston and Maintaining your Mill held at the Mills Archive.

Casework

In amongst a number of pieces of casework, the Section was involved in two important public inquiries. The owners of Felin Wen Mill, Llandybie appealed against an enforcement notice served by Carmarthenshire County Council (with the support of the Section) for the reinstatement of the mill machinery. The Section also supported the owners of Stanton Mill, Suffolk in preparing for a public inquiry.

Mills Repair Fund

In addition to awarding grants to mills including Whissendine and Wicken, the Mill Repair Fund benefited from a single donation of £5,000 towards the repair of mills in the East Midlands, and from the setting up of annual donations from members totalling £900 per year.

Outreach

New Media

As part of its new strategy the Society will be giving greater emphasis to ways of getting our message across, with technology and social media playing an increasingly important role. The use of Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, and other media have all become central to our work rather than marginal add-ons. During the year plans were also made for the Scholars and Fellows to write a regular blog about their training programmes as they travel the UK in 2012.

Cornerstone

Our members' magazine continued to present a professional image to the wider world and attract high quality advertising. A feature on local councils and public bodies selling off their listed buildings generated extensive national publicity, including an interview with the Secretary on BBC television's Politics Show South. Other features included rival views about the treatment of ruins.

Properties List

The Society first published occasional lists of 'threatened buildings' in 1955, and in those early days it did help with the rescue of some that faced demolition. More recently the quarterly list, now on our website, has acquired a slightly different role – highlighting buildings in need of repair where we hope those acquiring one will turn to the SPAB for advice and perhaps a place on a homeowner's course. However the Society has been thinking about how to target buildings in need, and where the list might fit with this.

National Maintenance Week

National Maintenance Week, the brainchild of former SPAB Chairman David Lodge, has a simple aim: to publicise the need for owners of buildings of every age and type to carry out routine maintenance, such as clearing out gutters. In 2011 the Society commissioned a MORI poll to indicate the degree of priority people gave to looking after their buildings compared with other types of spending. To date NMW has depended on having a well-known person fronting the campaign, which in turn

ensures press and media coverage. In 2011 we were grateful to Jonathan Foyle of the World Monuments Fund Britain, but better known for his hair-raising television programmes climbing buildings such as Lincoln Cathedral.

Public Face

The Society has learned from experience the exhibitions and shows where it is worth the effort and expensive of manning a stand. In 2011 we were able to give advice and information to a large number of owners of old buildings at the Listed Property Owners Show, and also at the National Home Improvement Show, both in London. As we regularly find with our technical advice line owners have too often been given confusing or downright wrong information about the best ways of looking after their houses: our aim is to steer them in the right direction.

As part of a Heritage Alliance programme to introduce MPs to the work of heritage bodies we held a briefing session for Andrew Rosindell MP at Spital Square.

London Open House

For the 19th year the Society opened its 18th century headquarters in Spital Square to the general public as part of London Open House 2011. Though numbers were down on the previous record year, as usual we welcomed visitors of every age and background (past years have included a Cabinet Minister, a minor Royal, and a group of young Goths). One of the attractions of 2011 was a demonstration of wood window repairs and upgrading by SPAB Guardian Malcolm Adkins.

Overseas

As in some previous years the Society hosted a visit by senior Chinese urban planners and other officials. In 2011 we welcomed a group from Guangzhou province.

www.twitter.com and search for @SPAB1877
www.youtube.com/user/SPAB1877
www.spab.org.uk/videos-podcasts/audio-slideshows/
www.maintainyourbuilding.org.uk

Members

Membership

It was encouraging that in 2011, after falling for the three previous years, the total membership at the year end showed more stability, down by less than 30. Resignations were still largely due to the financial situation. In response, although a subscription increase was due, it was decided to defer it for another year for the Main society, though the Mills Section had to increase subscriptions out of necessity.

Applications from new members were buoyant. In April joining online by credit card was successfully introduced and soon the majority of applications were being made this way, with a particular increase in the number of student applications (more than 12 %) and to some extent corporate ones (more than 5%).

Regional Groups

The regional groups continued to prosper with the ongoing efforts from their organisers, who put on some fantastic events for local members this past year. We are immensely grateful for all their hard work and enthusiasm.

The newly formed Dorset group had a successful first season of events, which included visits to Bingham's Melcombe and Lulworth Castle. There have been several handovers and changes in organisation, leading to a re-invigoration of the Marches and Suffolk groups. A new group is currently being planned for the Hertfordshire & Bedfordshire region and will soon be joining the other regional groups with a first programme of events. .

The year was packed with fascinating visits and events across the country. The BBO group, for instance, visited two historic schools, Stowe and Eton College, as well as organising the popular Henley Lecture series during the winter months. Among the Yorkshire group's many events in the past year was the visit to Waterfront Wakefield in October, part

The Yorkshire Regional Group on a visit to Norton Conyers.

of a series focussing on major urban regeneration schemes. The Fenland & Wash group visited Thetford Warrens in April and have since provided concerted efforts together with the local Breckland Society to prevent further deterioration of the medieval warren lodge. In May the Nottinghamshire region repeated their 2010 success of the Tuxford Building Conservation Fair, which boasted 29 exhibitors and attracted around 500 visitors throughout the day. The Kent & Surrey group's 17th season of events was concluded with visits to Guildford and Otham, and the group look forward to celebrating their 200th visit by the end of 2012.

SPAB in Scotland

The SPAB's presence in Scotland is small but effective. In 2011 technical days were held on ruins with a focus on lime mortar; and another on energy conservation held in Edinburgh. During SPAB National Maintenance Week a full day of Annual Building Maintenance lectures, aimed at both professionals and homeowners, was a success. Other events included a study of Penicuik House near Edinburgh, as well as a series of lectures during a visit to Falkland Palace. The Scottish AGM was in Perth which included a tour of historic shopfronts.



Financial Review

The financial results for 2011 were very positive with income from donations, trusts and bequests reaching a record of £638,000. The extent to which legacies remain an important part of the Society's finances helped offset a miserable year for stockmarkets in which our investments fell in value by £122,000. The Society is extremely grateful to all those members and non-members who include the SPAB in their wills.

The Society is fortunate in having a diverse source of income. That from subscriptions and advertising were steady or slightly up, while that from grants, general events such as courses, and investment income was generally down. On the expenditure side costs were generally flat to slightly down compared with 2010, which meant that overall the Society recorded an operating surplus. This was reduced to £20,000 after realised and unrealised investment losses were taken into account. As a result the Society's total funds rose above £4 million. The Society regularly reviews its reserves policy.

Donations (over £1,000) and Legacies

We are most grateful to all individuals and bodies that have supported us financially in some way.

Major Donations

Anon re Webb Award; Anon; R Deeble; Gibson Trust; Michael Manser; Wheler Foundation; Tanner Trust (for Mills Section); Colin White (for Mills Section)

Scholarship (external funders):
Dance Scholarship Trust; Alan Baxter Foundation;
Cathedral Architects Association; Drake Trust

William Morris Craft Fellowship (external funders):
English Heritage; William Morris Craft Fellowship Trust;
William Morris Society; Carrington (1953) Ltd

Legacies

Lady Florence Allen; T.Barron; Corinne Bennett;
Rosa Davis; Sarah Douglass;
Miss E Y Edwards; Jean Gordon; Miss Margaret Howard; J G Lewis; R W Martin;



The Society offered a grant towards emergency work at Boxley Abbey 'barn'.

John Mason Will Trust; Mrs A L Morris; Barbara Murdoch; Revd William Smith
Mr C H Summers

Grants to SPAB

English Heritage continued to grant aid our statutory casework and our technical advice line; and Cadw our work in Wales.

SPAB Grants

The Society has a number of small grants left by benefactors for specific purposes. In 2011, as in previous years, we contributed to the costs of the Society's annual working party at Ratcliffe-on-Soar, Nottinghamshire from the Miss Truman Fund. From the Misses Newcombe Bequest for almshouses we offered a grant to the Shrewsbury Drapers Cross Almshouses; and from the Baber Fund for emergency repairs to Boxley Abbey barn, Kent, and Llanthony Secunda Priory, Gloucester.

From the Thomas Hardy Memorial Fund we made grant offers to Tolpuddle church; Bradford Abbas church; Winterborne Tomson church; Little Bindon Abbey; and Hyde Farm granary, Sutton Bingham. We also agreed to a somewhat larger than usual grant to SAVE Britain's Heritage to assist in the rescue of Winstanley Hall, Wigan.

Audited Accounts

The Society's legal Annual Report and full Accounts will be available on the Society's website and on request from Spital Square.

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Graeme Walker

Chris Wilson*

EDITORIAL BOARD

Ian Angus

Clem Cecil

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Kate Griffin

Paul Harris

Roger Hunt

Douglas Kent

Matthew Slocombe

Robin Stummer (Editor)

Philip Venning



Repairs to Winterborne Tomson Church, Dorset, received a grant offer from the SPAB's Thomas Hardy Memorial Fund.

The SPAB continues to grow in strength as a powerful voice for historic buildings and an effective link with people and communities. We remain unequalled in the role we play in educating and training present and future generations in the proper care of our unique architectural inheritance. This Annual Review shows just some of the many ways the SPAB is working to prevent needless damage and destruction.

We can only do this with your support. Please join the Society if you are not already a member. Donations and legacies of any size are vital if we are to continue to fight the threats which come in so many guises. For more information about how you can help the SPAB please consult our website or contact the SPAB office (address below).



The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings

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*The names listed include those who served for only part of 2011.



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