



The Society for the
Protection of Ancient
Buildings

Annual Review 2014



Annual Review

The SPAB is the country's oldest building conservation body. Ideas set out in our Manifesto of 1877 guide work to this day. The Society is an association of practical enthusiasts who care deeply about the integrity of old buildings and encourage a respectful approach to their care.

There was growth and development in many areas of the Society's charitable work during 2014. Especially notable was the Maintenance Co-operatives Project (MCP) with its team of eight new staff.

New SPAB research initiatives for 2014 included a study of the decline in surviving examples of historic thatch in Scotland. Findings from our ground-breaking and highly-regarded research work, exploring energy efficiency for old buildings, were aired at a further conference and were included in an Eco Briefing distributed with the popular SPAB Magazine. The Society's annual week-long working party incorporated increased community engagement and schools participation. Local schools were also involved in a mud conservation course held in Leicestershire.

Although the country's oldest building conservation body, today the Society works alongside state-backed organisations such as English Heritage, Historic Scotland and Cadw. 2014 saw considerable preparation for change within these bodies – particularly English Heritage which was to be split to form Historic England and a property-managing charity. The Society discussed the shape of these organisations, as well as planned new legislation in Wales.

Alongside fresh initiatives and policy comment, the Society maintained its core charitable activities, including casework, technical advice, and training. We are extremely grateful to all who helped with and supported this work, both financially and as expert volunteers.

Matthew Slocombe, Director

Front Cover: Conservation of the Poulett memorial at Hinton St George Church, Somerset won the 2014 SPAB John Betjeman Memorial Award (SPAB)

SPAB: Hands on History

Courses: over 900 participants (800 in 2013)

Scholarship & Fellowship: 133 Scholarship and 90 Fellowship site visits, ranging from cathedrals to brickyards

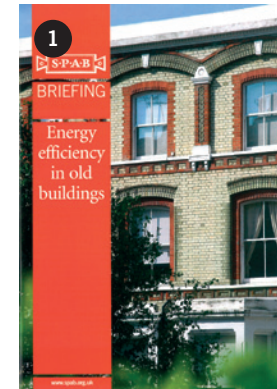
Technical Helpline: 950 enquiries received (814 in 2013)

Website: 173,480 hits (161,441 in 2013)

Twitter followers: 8234 (end of 2014)

Cases logged and considered: 1998 (1799 in 2013)

- 1 The first of the Society annual Briefings was published (SPAB/Ralph Hodgson)
- 2 Garden volunteer Julie Charlesworth and Director Matthew Slocombe interviewed about SPAB involvement in the Chelsea Fringe garden festival (SPAB)
- 3 School children were involved in the SPAB's mud conservation course in Leicestershire (SPAB/Hallaton School)
- 4 Esher award winner Gillian Darley in a seat designed by AGM guest speaker Nicholas Hobbs (Andy Marshall)
- 5 Kevin McCloud was keynote speaker at the SPAB Design seminar and also relaunched the Philip Webb Award for architectural students (Ralph Hodgson)
- 6 The SPAB's annual working party held at the Croxley Barn, Rickmansworth, Herts (SPAB)
- 7 The 2014 SPAB Scholars and Fellows (SPAB)
- 8 Staff and delegates at the SPAB mud conservation course in Leicestershire (SPAB)

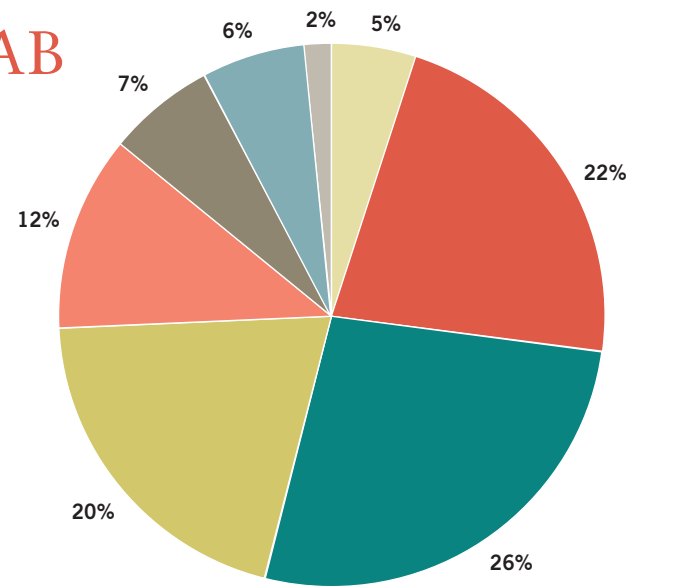


Supporting the SPAB

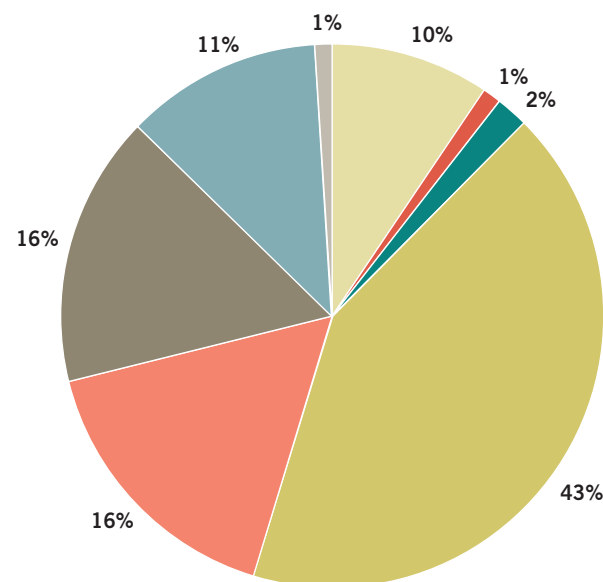
Continuation of the SPAB's work and growth is dependant on the help provided by members and supporters through subscriptions, donations and bequests. As a charity the Society does not set out to make a profit, but instead aims to fulfil its conservation objectives while ensuring a sustainable existence. In 2014 trustees budgeted for a small deficit in order to develop the Society's work. To maintain this level of activity will require support and assistance from members and help from grant-making bodies.

Membership subscriptions provided a very welcome 20% of our income in 2014, but **charitable bequests** (22%) and **donations** (5%) together contributed even more. These sources of income are vital to the continuing work of the SPAB, as are the **grants** (26%) that also provide assistance. Where possible we aim to generate income through a range of other activities, including courses, lectures, and events.

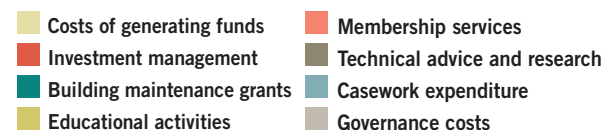
The expenditure chart shows how the SPAB uses resources available in order to meet its aims as a charity and membership organisation. For example: **Educational activities** (43%) includes the annual Scholarship and Fellowship programmes, and the nationwide Maintenance Co-operatives Project; **Technical Advice and Research** (16%) includes the technical advice line, and research into the energy efficiency of old buildings; **Casework** (11%) includes all our vital work to help protect old buildings across the country; and **Membership services** (16%) includes production, printing and delivery of the SPAB Magazine.



2014 Income £1,427,519



2014 Expenditure £1,643,461



New Design for Old Buildings seminar

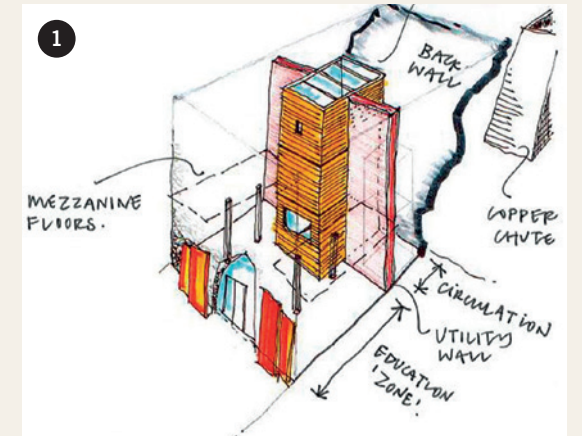
“If only all CPD events could be as interesting as this”

New Design seminar delegate

A seminar, held in December 2014, drew nearly 100 delegates to St Martin in the Fields church to discuss the issue of new design for old buildings. Since its inception the SPAB has promoted creative new design alongside sensitive conservation. The seminar offered an opportunity for skilled professionals to explain to their peers and to students how this can be put into effect.

The day began with an exploration of SPAB principles by Deputy Director Sara Crofts and Guardian-trustee John Sell. Then four case studies examined these principles through real-world projects. Geoff Rich of Feilden Clegg Bradley described the practice's experiment with nesting self-contained reversible 'pods' into stone field barns in the Yorkshire Dales. Elinor Gray-Williams of Donald Insall Associates spoke about award-winning work with the Amlwch Industrial Heritage Trust to create visitor and community facilities in the shell of one of the large copper ore collecting bins along the quayside of this small Anglesey port. Renowned conservation architect Julian Harrap described the technical and design challenges of refurbishing and adding to the 1770 House Mill near London's Olympic Park. Paddy Dillon of Haworth Tompkins spoke about the upgrading, alteration and extension of Sir Denys Lasdun's 1976 National Theatre on the South Bank.

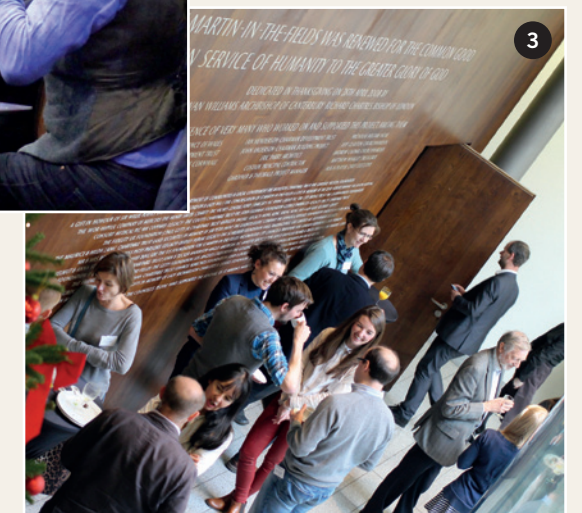
Kevin McCloud's wide-ranging and personal keynote address offered a highly entertaining end to a fascinating and thought-provoking day. Chair, architect and SPAB Scholar Mark Hines, drew the threads of the day together to emphasise the importance the SPAB attaches to good new design for the historic environment.



1 Initial sketch for the Amlwch, Anglesey project, discussed by architect and SPAB Scholar Elinor Gray-Williams (Insall Associates)

2 Kevin McCloud and architect Julian Harrap spoke at the New Design for Old Buildings seminar (Bethan Watson)

3 Delegates at the New Design for Old Buildings seminar, held at St-Martin-in-the-fields, London (Bethan Watson)



Technical Advice & Research

“Huge thanks for all the help and advice offered. In particular your enthusiasm reassured me that historic buildings are well worth fighting for”

Feedback from caller to the SPAB Technical Advice line

The SPAB's technical activities lie firmly at the heart of its work. We strive to deliver high-quality advice to ever-wider audiences, informed by our respected conservation philosophy.

Our technical staff handled an increased number of enquiries in 2014 and we are grateful to English Heritage for its continuing contribution towards the funding of this key service.

The SPAB led ongoing research into energy efficiency for old buildings, supported by English Heritage, and was involved in continuing research into alternatives to lead-based paint for external timber. This research was among technical seminar topics for 2014.

Technical staff contributed to a conference on building performance and attended several public

shows to give advice. They also lectured to a broad range of organisations, contributed to external magazines and books, and helped prepare the impending fourth edition of the Society's *Repair of Ancient Buildings* volume.

The Society continues to be represented on the Technical Panels of the Institute of Historic Building Conservation and Property Care Association, the committee of the Traditional Paint Forum, Conservation of Historic Thatch Group, National Federation of Roofing Contractors' Lime Mortar Working Group and the Bells Committee of the Archbishops' Council.

Technical Panel member Anthony Goode leads training at the 2014 SPAB Working Party at Croxley Barn, Rickmansworth (SPAB)



Education and Training

“It was a great experience; I was impressed by the enthusiasm of staff and lecturers. I won't ever be able to look at an old building in the same way”

Repair Course delegate

SPAB's flagship *Repair of Old Buildings Courses* were heavily over-subscribed in 2014, demonstrating their continuing popularity with professional audiences. Bursary places were provided to assist deserving applicants.

The Society's *Old House Eco Courses* remained popular, as did our specialist *Masterclasses*, run in partnership with Historic Royal Palaces. Thanks to grant support from English Heritage we continued to offer *Faith in Maintenance* ('FiM 2') training on request. We also provided increased levels of bespoke training for historic towns that sought our assistance, and for individual organisations.

Our William Morris Craft Fellowship continued to offer an unparalleled opportunity for craftspeople to develop their knowledge and skills. Our Lethaby Scholarships for architects, surveyors and engineers allowed participants to experience a wide range of building conservation work in the UK and beyond.

Two lively lecture series were held in 2014, including one that marked the centenary of the First World War. The SPAB also organised a well-attended study day on the architectural legacy of WW1 in partnership with the Church of England and the War Memorials Trust.



1 Craft Fellow Alex Gibbons talks about mud building to school children (SPAB)

2 Delegates view works on site at one of the 2014 SPAB Repair of Old Buildings courses (SPAB)

Maintenance Co-operative Project

The Maintenance Co-operatives project closed its first year with 17 co-operatives up and running across England, or in the process of planning their first launch events. Our target agreed with primary funders the Heritage Lottery Fund, over the three year project life, is 25 so we are well on the way to fulfilling that ambition. The character of each co-operative varies from region to region, with local groups sharing expertise, equipment and labour; sometimes with one or two places of worship and in others across more than eight. Most have a predominantly Church of England focus, but we are pleased also to be working with buildings under Methodist, Quaker and Catholic stewardship.

We have held over 45 training days, launch events, and site visits, with further working parties arranged locally to carry out surveys, write maintenance plans and roll up sleeves to clear gutters. Our events have attracted in excess of 650 volunteers and delegates. We are delighted that one

volunteer, Ben Hornberger has successfully applied for the 2015 SPAB Fellowship programme.

A fully booked first conference in York in November brought together the year's work and added credibility to the project. Some groups from outside our regions have expressed an interest in setting up their own co-operatives and we aim to nurture these in the coming months.



The Maintenance Cooperatives Project offers support and advice to volunteers caring for historic places of worship (SPAB).



Casework

The volume of casework remained at a high level during the year. Noticeable trends included a rise in schemes for conversion of public houses into dwellings. As ever, a great number of the alterations proposed comprised the unpicking of earlier changes. Many applications involved replacement of house extensions that were only completed in the 1980s or 1990s. This trend carries the risk of gradual erosion of character and patina through the ongoing process of minor incremental changes.

Major reordering and extension schemes for churches were also common. Whilst many of these are agreed to offer sensible and pragmatic solutions to the church's current needs, some projects proposed a high level of intervention. This can lead to a substantial loss of the special qualities that make old churches and cathedrals uplifting places. Loss of historic floors and the introduction of over-dominant new features are a particular SPAB concern.

We invested time during the year in commissioning a new casework database and also creating a strategy to help measure the impact that we make. Much effort has also gone into building better relationships with conservation officers and Diocesan Advisory Committees and into making contact with like-minded regional and national networks. We continue to be grateful to the many SPAB members who draw particular cases to our attention.

Approximate number of casework notifications in 2014: **5,300**

Number of cases logged on the database in 2014: **1998** (average over 5 years: 2058)

Number of detailed responses submitted in 2014: **513** (average over 5 years: 455)



Blue Boys Cafe, Matfield, Kent was partially demolished while under consideration for listing (Iain Boyd/SPAB)



The Glasgow School of Art was much-discussed by the SPAB after the disastrous fire of May 2014 (Alan Gardner/SPAB)

Outreach

“Careful, planned and regular maintenance is vital to ensure that.. [buildings] have a future as well as a past”

Loyd Grossman’s message as figurehead of SPAB National Maintenance Week 2014

Social Media

Social media is an increasingly valuable tool for SPAB communication, enabling us to reach a wider range of new, potential supporters.

Find us on Twitter (@SPAB1877) and on Facebook.

Our blog, dedicated to the SPAB Scholars and Fellows, follows their progress as they travel the country learning about best practice in building conservation. Throughout 2014 the blog was regularly updated by the Scholars and Fellows themselves and offered a unique view of their learning experience.

Follow the latest recruits’ progress at: www.spabscholarsandfellows.wordpress.com

Loyd Grossman, a SPAB member and Chairman of the Churches Conservation Trust, fronted our highly effective 2014 National Maintenance Week campaign (Ralph Hodgson)



The SPAB Magazine

Our popular members’ magazine enabled us to showcase the Society’s achievements and projects, while including a wide range of features, regular items, news and reports from the built heritage world. *The SPAB Magazine* is intended to have broad appeal to building professionals and conservation enthusiasts.

National Maintenance Week

This annual fixture in the SPAB’s calendar, took William Morris’s exhortation to ‘stave off decay by daily care’ to a receptive consumer audience. As well as mentions on national radio and in newspapers, the November campaign has found a natural home in the property sections of regional print press where our advice and handy ‘top tips’ promote both good maintenance practice and the principles of the SPAB.

Mills Section, SPAB Scotland & Wales

Mills Section

The Section ran a full programme of events in 2014, including four training courses and a meeting held jointly with the Sussex Mills Group at West Blatchington Windmill, Sussex. It also launched the first of a new type of campaign designed to help mills raise funds for significant programmes of repair. The first beneficiary is Carluke Windmill, the only remaining windmill in Scotland.

The Section commented on over 35 listed building applications and was involved in a number of important pieces of casework including:

- Sutton Mill – ensuring a full programme of repair is carried out to the cap, winding gear and tower.
- Arden Mill – opposing a proposal to move the mill to an alternative location.

SPAB Scotland

2014 events in Scotland included continuation of the annual working party at Hobkirk church, Borders. Particularly notable, during the year, was a research project, carried out jointly with Historic Scotland, which aimed to examine the survival of thatched roofs across the country. Results are alarming and will be published in full during 2015.

Wales

The SPAB monitored progress of the Heritage Bill for Wales, in 2014, and provided significant input into a Cadw consultation about a ‘strategic plan for places of worship’. SPAB Wales has been instrumental in setting up the Wales Heritage Group, to strengthen the voice of the amenity societies concerned with the historic environment. We have also played a key role with others in the creation of Sanctaidd, an organisation to support places of worship in Wales. We continue to support ABC Adfer Ban a Chwm (English translation ‘Revitalize Hill and Valley’) a building preservation trust turning derelict/redundant vernacular buildings into affordable housing for local families in rural Wales. We had a stand at the Royal Welsh Show in the sustainable building section run by Ty Mawr, and at the Conwy Feast. We continue to participate in Cadw’s annual Built Heritage Forum (SPAB addressing the Forum in



1 Buildings such as this house on Tree, thatched in marram grass, were surveyed by SPAB Scotland during 2014 (Isla Campbell)

2 Craft Fellow Richard Jordan (left) discusses roofing skills on a SPAB stand at the Conwy Feast in north Wales (SPAB)

2014) and in the twice yearly regional meetings of Conservation Officers in Wales. SPAB Wales continues to maintain close links with the six Diocesan Advisory Committees of the Church in Wales.

Members & Regional Groups

Membership

Over 650 members joined the Society in 2014, with a third of new members joining in the last quarter of the year due to a rise in gift memberships for Christmas. We were delighted to welcome a number of new members at the Listed Property Show 2014. Overall, total membership numbers of the main Society took a slight dip in 2014 but the Mills Section membership held steady. We are immensely grateful to all new and existing members for their ongoing support of the SPAB's work.

Regional Groups

The SPAB's regional groups organised another year of engaging, informative and enjoyable events for local members across the country. These included a practical lime day in Lincolnshire, a seminar on how to maintain your 'Draughty Old House' by the authors of the *Old House Handbook* and *Old House Eco Handbook*, and walking tours of historic towns such as Godmanchester, Hay-on-Wye, Cambridge, Westhall and Weobley. The groups also visited numerous fascinating historic buildings, many of



A visit to Chiswick House as part of the 2014 weekend for SPAB members (SPAB)

which were undergoing building or repair work and most of which are not usually open to the public.

The Sussex group was revived under the leadership of a new committee. The first visit of the newly formed group was to Knole House, Kent to see the remarkable conservation project currently underway. The group hopes to revisit the project in 2015.

Our warmest thanks go to all of our regional group organisers and committee members for their ongoing commitment to the local membership. We would especially like to thank John Bailey and the Kent & Surrey group committee, who celebrated a remarkable 20th year of events in 2014. The group has organised over 220 events over the last two decades which have been attended by an astounding 6,500 members and friends.

The Berks, Buck & Oxon regional group on a visit in summer 2014 (Richard Broughton)



Financial Review & Grants Awarded

The income and expenditure for the Society in 2014 was very similar to 2013 (within 4%). Total income rose from £1.38m to £1.43m and expenditure rose from £1.58m to £1.64m. Although investment gains were still positive, they were less than half those in 2013. Overall, balances fell 3% to just over £4m. On the income side, there was some growth in areas such as events and advertising. Subscription income remained steady but donations and bequests, while still a significant sum at over £387,000, declined around 23% from the previous year's very high level. Grant income rose, reflecting payments from a range of public and charitable organisations, for which we are extremely grateful.

SPAB Grants

In 2014, the Society paid a grant from its Truman Fund to Holy Trinity Church, Ratcliffe on Soar, Nottinghamshire, following the completion of roof repairs after a theft of lead. From this fund, we were also able to assist repair of a small 16th century chapel at Newark in Nottinghamshire, currently owned and used by the Odinst Fellowship charity. From the Misses Newcombe Bequest we paid a grant to the trustees of the Francis Geering Almshouses at Harwell in Oxfordshire following the completion of conservation work to a memorial plaque. The Society match-funded a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund for an educational project at our working party site at Croxley in Hertfordshire. A grant of £6000 was made to SAVE Britain's Heritage, to assist emergency conservation work at Winstanley Hall in Lancashire.

Grants from the Mill Repair Fund were offered to mills including Dunster Watermill and Fulbourn Windmill. A bequest from Lyn Owen was used for repair work to Great Chishill windmill.

Grants to SPAB from Public Bodies

English Heritage continued to grant aid our statutory casework and technical advice helpline. They also assisted the William Morris Craft Fellowship, helped our energy efficiency research work, contributed towards some costs of the Maintenance Cooperatives

Project and supported the continuation of Faith in Maintenance training. Cadw assisted with our work in Wales. Historic Scotland helped the William Morris Craft Fellowship and funded our Scottish Thatch research. The Heritage Lottery Fund provided a major grant towards our Maintenance Cooperatives Movement project.

Legacies

The Society was very fortunate to receive generous bequests in 2014 from Diana Chadwick, Stephen Hart, the John Mason Trust, Sonia Lambrinudi Donald Parker, the RCS Foundation, Bernard Selwyn, and Jane Wade.

Bequest income remains an important source of funds facilitating all of the Society's activities and we are immensely grateful to those members and non-members who remember, or who are considering remembering, the SPAB in their will – it has a direct effect upon our day-to-day activities.

Major donations (over £1000)

Anon re Webb Award, Richard Broyd Trust, R Deeble, Rosemarie Edwards & Donald Insall Associates (*for Repair Course bursaries in memory of Peter Locke*).

Fellowship Support

The Monument Trust, William Morris Society, William Morris Craft Fellowship Trust, Drake Trust, Carrington (1953) Ltd.

Scholarship Support

The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation, Dance Scholarship Trust, Drake Trust.

Audited Accounts

The financial information in this review has been extracted from the annual statutory accounts and management accounts. The Society's legal annual report and full audited accounts can be obtained on request from 37 Spital Square, London E1 6DY.

Committees

Executive (trustees)

David Heath (Chairman)
Nick Cox (Vice Chairman)*
Iain Boyd (Vice Chairman)*
Dr Mark Archer (Hon Treasurer)
David Alexander
Stephen Bull*
Mildred Cookson
Gillian Darley
Martin Drury*
Brian Foxley
Richard Max*
John Sell
Ray Wilson

Guardians

David Heath (Chairman)
Nick Cox (Vice Chairman)*
Iain Boyd (Vice Chairman)*
Dr Mark Archer (Hon Treasurer)
Malcolm Adkins
David Alexander
Rachel Broomfield*
Stephen Bull
Professor Peter Burman
Mildred Cookson
Robert Davies*
Robin Dukes
Brian Foxley
Ian Harper
Britt Harwood
Shawn Kholucy
Ellen Leslie
Roger Mears
Rachel Morley*
Meriel O'Dowd*
Peter Pace*
Sandra Purves
Peter Rumley
Stephen Scammell
John Sell
Jessica Sutcliffe
Nicholas Warns
James Weir*
Ray Wilson

Technical Panel

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Philip Hughes (Chairman)*
Stephen Bull (Vice Chairman)
Paul Bedford
Neil Birdsall
Catharine Bull
Nick Cox
Edward Crane
Anthony Goode
Carsten Hermann
Stafford Holmes
Bruce Induni
Torquil McNeillage*
Philip Orchard
Joe Orsi
Maya Polenz
Tim Ratcliffe
Dr Caroline Rye
Marianne Suhr
Steve Wood

Education & Training Advisory Committee

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Emma Simpson (Vice Chairman)
Mildred Cookson
Dorian Crone
Dr Sharon Goddard
Chloe Granger
Hugh Conway Morris
Ben Newman
Nichola Tasker
Andrew Townsend
Ulrike Wahl

SPAB Scotland Committee

Jessica Snow (Chair)
Steve Wood (Treasurer)
Sarah Freeman
John Gleeson
Martin Hadlington
Carsten Hermann
Sandra Purves
Bill Revie
Duncan Strachan

Mills Section Committee

Jonathan Cook (Chairman)
Stephen Bartlett (Vice-Chairman)
Gerard Breen (Hon Treasurer)
Jim Bailey
Douglas Cairns
Mildred Cookson
Russell Jones
Brian Pike
Alison Yardy

Communications Advisory Group

Iain Boyd (Chairman)
Ian Angus
Gillian Darley
Sarah Freeman
Paul Harris
David Heath
Roger Hunt
Katie White
Andrew Ziminski

Director Matthew Slocombe
Deputy Director Sara Crofts
Company Secretary Douglas Kent

**For part of 2014*

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.



The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings

Founded in 1877.
A charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales.
Company No 5743962 Charity No 111 3753
Scottish Charity No SC 039244

37 Spital Square, London E1 6DY
020 7377 1644
www.spab.org.uk
info@spab.org.uk



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