



The Society for the
Protection of Ancient
Buildings

Annual Review 2015



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.

2015 was possibly the busiest year in the SPAB's long history with many new ventures undertaken.

The year offered an opportunity to celebrate the life of founder-member Philip Webb, who has influenced generations of SPAB supporters. Centenary events included the re-launch of the Philip Webb Award – a competition for architectural students. The Centenary also allowed us to strengthen links with partner organisations such as the National Trust and V&A Museum.

Webb's practical approach has influenced our annual Working Parties and 2015's in Sussex was the largest ever. The event drew much media coverage and attracted support from South Downs National Park and the local MP. The Society's HLF-funded Maintenance Cooperatives Project (MCP) was represented at the working party, with 2015 seeing the project's first full year in operation. MCP has already exceeded its aims for the establishment of cooperatives and is drawing interest from places of worship beyond its target areas.

The Society also ran a working party in Scotland, as well as undertaking a major research project to assess the state of Scottish thatched buildings. In Wales our casework and campaigning was supplemented by comment on the emerging Historic Environment Bill. We also played an active role in the establishment of a new Welsh Heritage Group.

Public sector cuts, during 2015, posed threats to the Society, but also produced new opportunities. We began a strategic review with the aim of developing the Society while ensuring financial resilience. Substantial progress was also made during the year with IT improvements needed to support this growth. **Matthew Slocombe, Director**

Front Cover: Delegates on the SPAB Repair of Old Buildings course visit Wilton's Music Hall in East London (SPAB)

SPAB: Hands on History

Educational courses & events: over 1000 participants (900 in 2014)

Scholarship & Fellowship: 127 Scholarship and 89 Fellowship site visits, ranging from cathedrals to brickyards

Technical Helpline: 1,132 enquiries handled (950 in 2014)

Website: 178,712 hits (173,480 in 2014)

Twitter followers: 10,612 (8,234 in 2014)

Facebook supporters: 4,181

Cases logged and considered: 1,818 (1,998 in 2014) Number of responses 587 – up from 2014

MCP: 36 cooperatives established

1 The SPAB's second Briefing, on lime, was published in collaboration with the Building Limes Forum (SPAB)

2 Award Judge Kevin McCloud presented the 2015 Philip Webb Award to architect Holly Splisbury (Ralph Hodgson)

3 The 2015 SPAB John Betjeman Memorial Award went to St Martin of Tours, Bilborough, Notts for wall painting conservation (Rachel Morley)

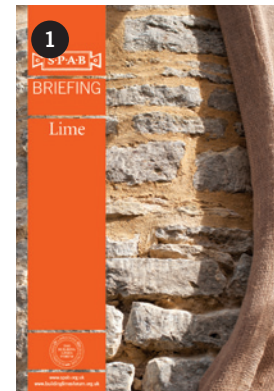
4 SPAB Scotland, with support from Historic Environment Scotland, undertook a survey of Scottish thatched buildings (Isla Campbell)

5 Local MP Nick Herbert (centre) visits the SPAB working party at Manor Farm, Sullington, West Sussex (Richard Eeva)

6 The SPAB, with support from Historic England, carried out cobble repair trials in North Devon and shared the conclusions at a conference in Exeter (SPAB)

7 The 2015 SPAB Scholars and Fellows at Hampton Court Palace (SPAB)

8 The HLF-backed Maintenance Cooperatives Project is the biggest single venture the Society has ever undertaken (SPAB)



"The work of SPAB members and supporters is of great value, not just in saving our ancient buildings, but in handing down valuable skills."

Nick Herbert MP, after visiting the 2016 SPAB working party

Supporting the SPAB

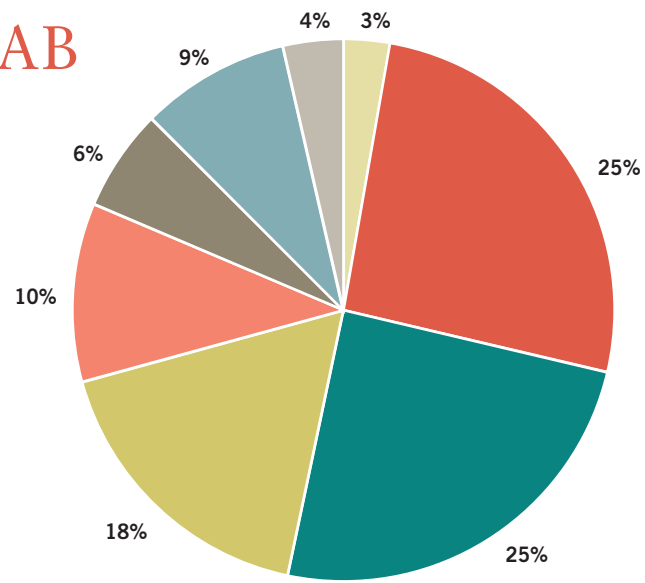
The work of the SPAB in 2015 continued to be supported by a range of regular sources of income, including membership subscriptions, bequests and grants. In addition, the SPAB generates income from its activities and services.

It remains challenging to attract and maintain the levels of charitable support needed, particularly in a crowded market where available funds are increasingly in demand. Nevertheless, the SPAB is very fortunate to have a committed group of members and generous supporters who are key to its long term sustainability.

The largest sources of income in 2015 were bequests and grants (both 25%) and membership subscriptions (18%) each contributing significantly. A further 29% of SPAB income was generated through various activities, including advertising and investments, as well as courses and events. In addition the SPAB received 3% of its income in charitable donations.

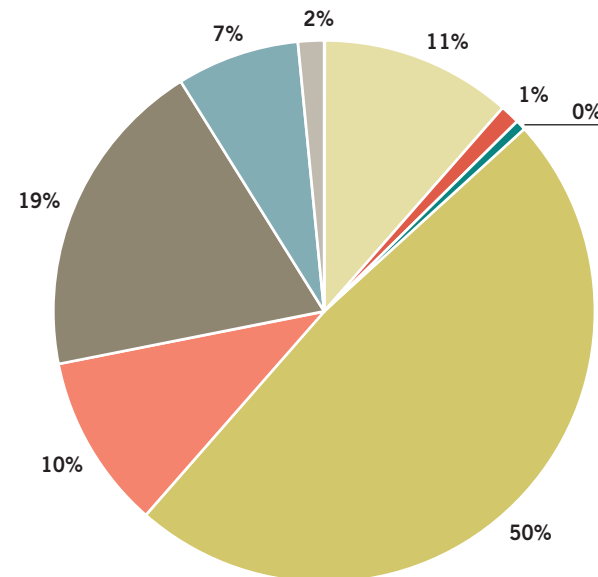
Expenditure to meet its objectives as a charity and membership organisation shows that SPAB puts its resources towards educational activities (50%), technical advice and research (19%) and casework (7%) aimed at protecting the historic environment. Providing membership services and the administrative framework that helps to support all SPAB activities, accounts for the remainder of the costs of activity in 2015.

Audited figures will be available in the 2015 Report and Accounts which can be obtained on request.



2015 Income £1,640,236

- Donations
- Bequests
- Grants receivable
- Membership subscriptions
- Income from charitable activities
- Advertising income
- Investment income
- Other income



2015 Expenditure £1,612,434

- Costs of generating funds
- Investment management
- Building maintenance grants
- Educational activities
- Membership services
- Technical advice and research
- Casework expenditure
- Governance costs

Philip Webb Centenary

“I hope the Philip Webb Award goes from strength to strength in fitting tribute to Webb’s quiet genius.”

Tessa Wild, National Trust: Webb Centenary partner during 2015

In 2015 the Society marked the centenary of its co-founder, architect Philip Webb, through articles, events and activities, including the re-launch of its Philip Webb Award, a design competition for young architects. Our centenary partnership with the National Trust allowed us to offer the Webb-designed country house, Standen in Sussex, as a live brief on which entrants could base their scheme.

The award was won by Holly Spilsbury of Purcell, a Masters student at Manchester University. Her scheme for Standen was displayed alongside Webb’s own drawings in the V&A/ RIBA architecture gallery as part of the museum’s Webb centenary exhibition. Chair of the judging panel, Kevin McCloud, presented prizes to Holly and runners-up Luke Nagle and Jeremy Haest.

The annual Members’ Weekend was held in Cumbria and focussed on Webb and Morris’

work in the county, with visits to, among others, Lanercost Priory, Naworth Castle and Brampton church. Centenary events included members’ visits to Red House and Emery Walker House. The spring lecture series explored aspects of Webb’s life, work and continuing influence, as did our Centenary blog with specially-written articles and featured objects. Assistance from a private donor helped the Society to provide new conservation-grade storage for its collection of Webb drawings.

Standen House in West Sussex, designed by Philip Webb and built 1894-6. The Webb Centenary logo features a Webb design for stained glass at Red House, Bexleyheath (SPAB)



Technical Advice and Research

“Very helpful, saved us time and money.”

Feedback on our technical advice line from homeowner,
Carmarthenshire

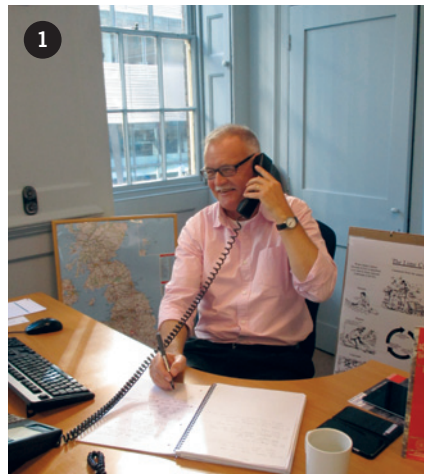
The SPAB’s technical activities lie firmly at the heart of its work. We strive to deliver high-quality advice to ever-wider audiences, informed by our respected conservation approach.

The number of enquiries handled by the Society’s Technical and Research Team rose again in 2015 and we are indebted to Historic England (formerly English Heritage) for its continuing financial support. A comprehensive survey of feedback from callers produced impressive ratings with 41% of respondents giving our technical helpline a top rating of 10/10.

Among the many issues considered by the SPAB Technical Panel during 2015 were an apparent increase in brownish-red surface discoloration on lead roofs over recent years, the definition and measurement of ‘breathability’ and options for church heating.

Our technical staff lectured to a wide range of audiences, gave advice at several shows and contributed to external publications, including a new book on sustainable building conservation from RIBA Publishing. This has a chapter on our ongoing energy efficiency research, about which we also ran a further technical seminar in 2015 with the Sustainable Traditional Buildings Alliance.

The Society continues to be represented on numerous technical committees.



1 Architect David John answering the SPAB technical helpline (SPAB)

2 An abseiling conservator at the 2015 SPAB working party, led by the technical team (SPAB)

3 The SPAB technical team contributed a chapter to *Sustainable Building Conservation*

Education and Training

“A superb introductory course which stimulates thought about how (conservation) ideas apply to (one’s) own property.”

Old Houses for the Future course delegate

Highlights of a varied and well-subscribed course programme included a practical roofing course in Derbyshire, a cobble conservation event in Devon, retrofit seminars and – as a new addition to the programme – a textile craft day themed around past and present day communities of Spitalfields.

This year we also re-launched our weekend course for homeowners, with an updated format and new content; and celebrated five years of our hands-on masterclass partnership with Historic Royal Palaces.

We also received an increasing number of requests to design and deliver bespoke training for other organisations, which included a traditional building skills forum in Merseyside, CPD sessions for architects, and repair strategy workshops in the Midlands.

With continued grant support from Historic England, we ran seven Faith in Maintenance courses this year, including one at St Martin, Brampton,



Cumbria as part of our Philip Webb Centenary celebrations.

Scholarship & Fellowship

This year’s Fellows were stone conservator Emma Teale; Ben Hornberger, a self employed carpenter and timber framer; and blacksmith, Joe Coombes-Jackman. At the Fellows’ Presentation event at Carpenters’ Hall in November we celebrated training our 100th Fellow since the programme began in 1987.

2015’s Scholars were architects Oliver Wilson, Niall Bird, David Burdon and Joanna Daykin. They visited over 120 sites during the year and, in their words, ‘managed to cover a lot of topics: pointing, mortar, lime, glass, plaster, concrete, tiles, slate, quarrying, timber... the list goes on’.

1 The SPAB’s stone conservation masterclass at the Banqueting House, held in conjunction with Historic Royal Palaces (SPAB)

2 The SPAB’s Spitalfields-themed textile day, Stitching Communities Together, was inspired by the work of the Society’s founder, William Morris (SPAB)

3 SPAB timber conservation master class, held in conjunction with Historic Royal Palaces (SPAB)

Working Party

“Truly inspirational”

South Downs National Park on the working party

The Society carried out working parties in Scotland and Wiltshire during 2015, but by far the most ambitious was our main event at Sullington Manor Farm and Church in West Sussex. Over 150 volunteers and experts carried out repairs to seven buildings across five days, embracing masonry and timber repair work.

Our Working Party team also welcomed 150 Year 6 pupils for a day of hands-on history away from the classroom and nearly 400 visitors came for a public open day. They enjoyed walks and talks, as well as practical demonstrations and the spectacle of conservator Geoff Gale abseiling down the exterior of the Saxon church.

A BBC film crew spent a morning filming on site and interviewing participants. On the last day of the project, Nick Herbert, MP for Arundel and South Downs, also paid a visit.



2015 Fellow Ben Hornberger summed up the week: “The working party is the chance to show people how to repair old buildings in a sympathetic manner. Everyone gets a different experience at the Working Party, there are so many different crafts and trades here and you can have a go at all of them. As a Fellow it’s nice for me to learn from other people and I also get the chance to teach others about my craft.”

1 Supervised volunteers learn about preparation and use of lime mortar for masonry conservation at the working party (Richard Evea)

2 The working party brings together enthusiastic volunteers for an enjoyable, as well as useful week (SPAB)

3 The working party’s schools day allows children to experience traditional building crafts at first hand (Richard Evea)



Casework

“I would like to thank you for all the help and support received over the reordering of St Michael’s – surely the Chancellor must take note of the SPAB’s comments.”

Local objector who had sought the Society’s support

The volume of casework remained at a high level in 2015 with the casework team working to protect buildings which ranged from churches and cathedrals, to secular buildings of all scales.

Buildings at risk continued to be important within the casework team’s campaigning. Many of our larger secular cases involved substantial schemes of alteration and reuse which would sometimes have resulted in substantial harm. Balancing the ‘at risk’ status of a building against the benefits of a new use is difficult, but we have been successful in ensuring more appropriate and conservation-led proposals. We see this as a key activity that will help promote the SPAB’s message of conservative repair to a wider audience.

Major reordering and sympathetic re-use extension schemes for churches were also common, with some projects proposing a high level of intervention. We have noticed an increased



number of schemes seeking to replace historic floors, commonly as part of underfloor heating schemes. This concerning trend is leading to the loss of significant historic fabric and patina, which substantially alters the character of churches and cathedrals. We seek to secure less harmful solutions.



1 Archbishop’s Palace, Charing, Kent
The Society was involved in discussions about the future of this exceptionally important building at risk (SPAB)

2 Clandon Park was much-discussed by the SPAB after the disastrous fire in April 2015. We have been working with the National Trust in the hopes of informing the approach to the building’s repair and re-use (SPAB)

Outreach

“The message of National Maintenance Week is applicable to buildings of all types and all ages.”

Neil Oliver, Archaeologist & Broadcaster

Taking the SPAB message of conservative repair to the widest possible audience is at the heart of our communications work. We continue to promote the Society in a variety of ways.

Social Media

In addition to our established Facebook page with 4,000 likes, we now have over 10,000 followers on Twitter (@SPAB1877) and are beginning to use video to illustrate and illuminate our work, our people and our principles.

Throughout 2015 the SPAB Scholars and Fellows blogged about their conservation journey, offering a unique and regularly updated view of their learning experience.

Follow the latest recruits here:

www.spabscholarsandfellows.wordpress.com

The SPAB e-newsletter, a monthly update on our activities, news and events, now has over 6,200 subscribers.

Sign up to receive the bulletin on the SPAB website.

The SPAB Magazine

Our respected members' magazine enables us to showcase our work and offer detailed information about the Society's achievements and projects. Featuring a range of articles, regular items, news and reports



from the built heritage world, content is balanced to reflect the diverse interests of our members.

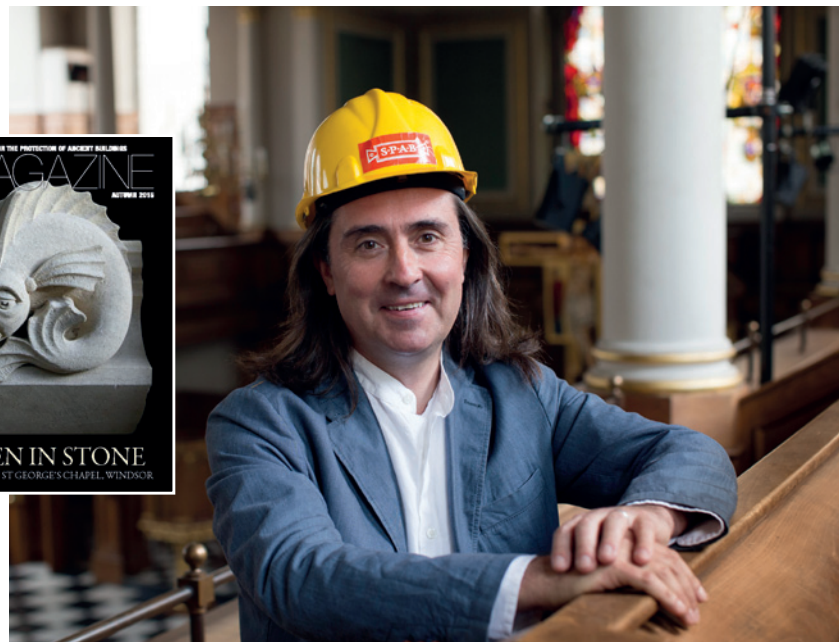
National Maintenance Week

This annual fixture in the SPAB's calendar takes William Morris' exhortation to 'stave off decay by daily care' to a receptive consumer audience. In 2015 TV historian Neil Oliver – no stranger to the maintenance needs of ancient buildings! – helped us to spread the word.

General awareness

SPAB HQ welcomed around 200 visitors to events for London Open House and Chelsea Fringe festival in 2015. For many attending, it was a first introduction to the SPAB and our work.

TV historian Neil Oliver helped spread the word for National Maintenance Week (Ralph Hodgson)



Mills Section, SPAB Scotland & Wales

Wales

In Wales SPAB responded to consultations on the new Historic Environment (Wales) Bill and on Cadw's 'A Strategic Action Plan for Places of Worship'. A conference lecture was also presented at the 'Policy Forum for Wales' in Cardiff. We have been instrumental in forming the Wales Heritage Group, a network of statutory consultees and voluntary organisations, and helped prepare a Manifesto for the Heritage for the forthcoming Welsh Assembly elections. We continue to exhibit and raise awareness of the SPAB and best conservation practice at a number of key events such as the Royal Welsh Show and 'Hiraeth' in Conwy.



Mills Section

The Section's activities in 2015 included an event celebrating the milling heritage of Yorkshire, a tour of Essex mills and a successful programme of courses including Maintaining your Mill and Practical Flour Milling. Our Young Millers enjoyed an event at Mill Green Mill, Hatfield, and with the arrival of Sophie Martin, our new administrator, *Mill Watch* (the Young Millers magazine) has had a welcome re-design. Membership has stabilised at around 820, excluding our Young Millers.

The Mill Repair Fund has been very active, awarding grants to Heage Windmill, the Bonnington Waterwheel (Edinburgh), Cockhill Mill (Northern Ireland) and Lindleys Mill (Sutton Bridge).

SPAB Scotland

In 2015 SPAB Scotland visited two historic Lanarkshire mills: Carluke High Mill, listed as at risk and supported by a SPAB Mills Section campaign, and Carmichael Mill. The third and concluding Scottish working party took place at Hobkirk, in the Scottish Borders, where repairs were made to the local Victorian church and the nearby remains of medieval Souden Kirk. The committee also co-organised the annual SPAB Energy Efficiency conference, which took place in Stirling. A SPAB survey of thatch buildings in Scotland was completed, with results due for publication in 2016. SPAB Scotland is grateful to Historic Environment Scotland, formerly Historic Scotland, for supporting various activities.



- 1 Bonnington Millwheel, Edinburgh, during repairs (Bonnyhaugh Lane Residents Association)
- 2 Heage Windmill – sail repair (J Bailey)
- 3 Carluke Mill, Lanarkshire, before repairs (Bob Paterson)

Members & Regional Groups

“A crowded, brilliant weekend, very well organised and very friendly too. Many thanks and congratulations.”

Members’ Weekend attendee

Membership

The interest, engagement and support of SPAB members continues to provide a highly important, and much valued, basis for the SPAB. Over 600 new members joined in 2015.

During the autumn we conducted a survey to learn more about members and potential members, and to hear ideas. Over 1,600 people participated in the online survey, so a big ‘thank you’ to all those who got involved. Results from the survey have been included in our communications and will inform changes and refinements to our activity in 2016 and beyond.

Also in 2015, members helped with further donations to our ‘Annual Fund’.

Regional Groups

The regional groups organised another year of fun and informative events for members. These included: a hot lime day in Norfolk; a scaffold tour of medieval wall paintings at Chalgrove, Oxfordshire; a day exploring Cumbria’s clay buildings; a visit to the conservation work at Wiston House, Sussex; and a walking tour of Ludlow.

Towards the end of the year we were delighted that a London group was formed. The group



celebrated its launch with a festive performance of Handel’s Messiah. With over 1,000 SPAB members living in the capital, it is hoped the group will flourish.

Our warmest thanks to all the group organisers and committees for their tireless and invaluable work for the Society and their commitment to the local membership.

Members’ Weekend in Cumbria

The Cumbrian connections of the SPAB’s founders, William Morris and Philip Webb, provided a thread running through the Members’ Weekend. Based in Carlisle, activities included tours of Carlisle Cathedral and the Tullie House Museum’s wonderful Arts and Crafts collection. The members’ meeting on Saturday afternoon included a fascinating talk by Professor Peter Burman describing Webb’s work at Naworth Castle.

1 SPAB members visit Carlisle Cathedral during the 2015 Members’ Weekend in Cumbria (Andy Marshall)

2 The Cumbrian weekend included a tour of Naworth Castle, where founder member Philip Webb worked (SPAB)



Financial Review & Grants Awarded

In 2015 the Society’s income rose to £1.64m (£1.43m in 2014) with expenditure slightly reduced at £1.61m (£1.64m in 2014). This left the Society with a small surplus for the year. Although investments were hit by a fall in the market, they rallied in the last quarter achieving 3.8% growth overall. Subscription income was little changed from 2014 at £0.28m with donations and bequests up from £0.38m to £0.47m. Grant income rose slightly to £0.4m, showing that the Society’s work remains attractive to funders despite increased demand for limited resources. Income from charitable activities rose from £0.16m to £0.17m.

SPAB Grants

In 2015, the Society paid three grants from its Baber Fund for emergency repair works at Bodinnick Chapel, Cornwall; the Frank James Hospital, Isle of Wight; and the Old House, Plas Tirion, Conwy. From the Misses Newcombe Bequest we offered two grants, one to the Powell and Welch Almshouses in Bitteswell, Leicestershire, for conservation work to a plinth and commemorative plaque; and the other for repair works to Sir Robert Christopher Almshouses in Alford, Lincolnshire. The Society’s Thomas Hardy Memorial Fund paid a grant for repairs to Hardy’s Cottage, a small cob and thatch building in Higher Bockhampton, Dorset which was the writer’s birthplace.

Legacies

The Society was very fortunate to receive generous bequests in 2015 from the estates of Barry Sharrocks, Ian Askew, Alistair Barnetson, Menda Lambrinudi, Michael Gratton, Robert Bridges, and an anonymous benefactor.

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 on our day-to-day activities.

Annual Fund 2015

In response to an appeal to the membership for donations to assist with funding of SPAB’s charitable activities, over 200 members gave donations of more than £25,000 including Gift Aid.

Major donations (over £1000)

Anon re Webb Award, Richard Broyd Trust, Roger Mears and Joanie Speers, Henry Bosanquet, Warren Marsh, Hazel Guile, Philippa Baker, Richard Broyd, J C P Dalton, Maggie Hill, and anonymous benefactors.

Grant-funded programmes

During the year English Heritage became Historic England, whilst continuing to support SPAB projects. These included our casework, technical advice line, and energy efficiency research. Casework in Wales was also given funding assistance by CADW.

Scholarship Support

Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation, Dance Scholarship Trust, Drake Trust, Alan Baxter Foundation, Norman & Underwood.

Fellowship support

Historic England, William Morris Craft Fellowship Trust, William Morris Society, Drake Trust, Historic Environment Scotland, Ernest Cook Trust, Carpenters’ Company Charitable Trust, Carrington (1953) Ltd, Norman & Underwood.

Maintenance Co-operatives Project

Heritage Lottery Fund, J Paul Getty Jnr Charitable Trust, Leche Trust, Stephen Clark 1957 Charitable Trust, Radcliffe Trust, Garfield Weston Foundation, Historic England, Drake Trust.

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)*
Iain Boyd (Vice Chairman/Chairman)*
Dr Mark Archer (Hon Treasurer)
David Alexander (Vice Chairman)*
Stephen Bull
Professor Peter Burman*
Mildred Cookson
Gillian Darley
Brian Foxley
Richard Max
John Sell
Jessica Sutcliffe*
Ray Wilson*

Guardians

David Heath (Chairman)*
Iain Boyd (Vice Chairman/Chairman)*
Dr Mark Archer (Hon Treasurer)*
Malcolm Adkins
David Alexander*
Rachel Broomfield
Stephen Bull
Professor Peter Burman
Mildred Cookson*
Robert Davies
Fiona Deaton*
Robin Dukes
Brian Foxley
Ian Harper
Britt Harwood
Nicholas Hobbs*
Shawn Kholucy
Ellen Leslie
Roger Mears*
Conor Meehan*
Rachel Morley
Sandra Purves
Peter Rumley
Stephen Scammell*
John Sell
Nino Strachey*
Jessica Sutcliffe
Nicholas Warns
James Weir
Ray Wilson*

Director Matthew Slocombe
Deputy Director Sara Crofts*
Company Secretary Douglas Kent

Technical Panel

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 McNeilage
Philip Orchard
Joe Orsi*
Maya Polenz
Tim Ratcliffe
Dr Caroline Rye
Marianne Suhr
Steve Wood

Education & Training Advisory Committee

Tom Flemons (Chairman)
Andrew Townsend (Vice Chairman)
John Bucknall, corresponding member
Mildred Cookson
Dorian Crone
Alex Gibbons
Dr Sharon Goddard
Chloe Granger
Philip Hughes, ex-officio member
Elizabeth Long
Hugh Conway Morris
Susan McDonough
Ben Newman
Nichola Tasker
Ulrike Wahl

SPAB Scotland Committee

Carsten Hermann (Chairman)*
Jessica Snow (Chairman)*
Professor Peter Burman
Sandra Purves
Lucy Stewart*
Susan Warren*
Craig Wilson*

Mills Section Committee

Jonathan Cook (Chairman)
Mildred Cookson (Vice Chairman)
Rebecca Hardy (Hon Treasurer)
Jim Bailey
Stephen Bartlett
Douglas Cairns
Rob Cumming
Russell Jones
Bob Paterson
Brian Pike*
Alison Yardy

Communications Advisory Group

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

*For part of 2015



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



www.spab.org.uk

Company No 5743962 Charity No 111 3753
Scottish Charity No SC 039244