

# Building History Newsletter

Issue 2

February 2015

## Current cohorts



Cohort 4's seventeen students commenced last October. They are pictured above on January's Cambridge exercise, building on an earlier analysis and recording event at West Stow Hall; below, with James Davies of English Heritage, at the popular Architectural Photography Workshop.



Cohort 3 students are at work on their dissertations and have mostly completed their professional placements. This year's placement hosts included Alan Baxter & Associates, Archaeological Solutions, Bassetlaw District Council, Bath Preservation Trust, the Diocese of London, Beacon Planning and Ashridge Business School, Holkham Hall, Mott Macdonald and the National Trust. We are grateful to them and to others for making such opportunities available.

Please contact us if you are interested in hosting a placement.

## Student and alumni news

**Wendy Andrews** (Cohort 1) gave two lectures on historic wallpaper and the Cowtan order books (her PhD topic) on a V&A Country House course led by Jeremy Musson. The 24 books include samples of thousands of English wallpapers and wallcoverings used in a wide range of buildings, from parsonages to palaces. Wendy is investigating how wallpaper materials, production techniques, designs and installation methods help to establish when buildings were completed or remodelled, how rooms and spaces were used and who occupied them. The V&A has set up a volunteer project in collaboration with Wendy's research, recording every order in one order book, including the date, customer name and address, and information on quantities of wallpaper and rooms to be decorated.



Cowtan & Sons order for The Earl of Leicester, Holkham Hall, Norfolk, November 1882.

Photo: Wendy Andrews. Courtesy of the Victoria and Albert Museum

**Amy Boyington** (Cohort 1) has commenced studying for a PhD in the Faculty on female architectural patronage in the 18th century, and is the beneficiary of an AHRC award. An article based on her dissertation research at Holkham Hall appeared in the *Georgian Group Journal*, 22 (2014).

**Chris Costelloe** (Cohort 1) won a notable victory with the ruling of the Smithfield Public Enquiry, after he pressed the Victorian Society's case for a less destructive conservation-led scheme for this multi-phase market complex.

**Karey Draper** (Cohort 1), now studying for a PhD on the country house during the Second World War, has an article on the topic in *Hudson's Historic Houses & Gardens* (2015).

**Bev Kerr** (Cohort 1) has left the CBA and now works as a Built Heritage Adviser with Purcell UK, based in London.

**Sarah Bridger** (Cohort 2) is now an Assistant Historic Buildings Advisor for Donald Insall Associates, based in London, having previously spent a period as Conservation Officer with Tunbridge Wells Borough Council.

**Charlotte Evans** (Cohort 2) was made Architectural Historian with Feilden+Mawson and is researching the history of the practice since its foundation in 1956. Recent projects have included the WW1 airfield at Old Sarum, Wilts, and the early 17th-century Bramshill House, Hants.

### Student and alumni news (continued)

**Luke Jacob** (Cohort 2) has been retained in the Cambridge Assessment Team of English Heritage, working principally on inter-war public houses. He has also worked on the Gazetteer of Places of Christian Worship project for the Twentieth Century Society:

<http://www.c20society.org.uk/news/gazetteer-of-places-of-christian-worship-update/>

**Matthew Cooper** (Cohort 3) was appointed to the post of Assistant Historic Buildings Inspector for English Heritage (City and East London).

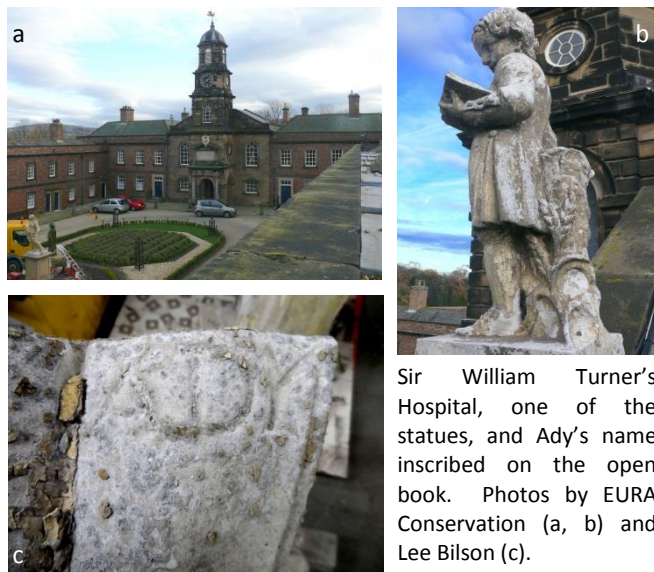
**Jonathan Lee** (Cohort 3) was elected Treasurer of the Construction History Society.

**Anna Shelley** (Cohort 3) became a Built Heritage Adviser at Purcell UK on the conclusion of her professional placement with them in Cambridge.

**Helen Warren** (Cohort 4) was awarded a postgraduate bursary by the Leverhulme Trade Charities Trust.

### Sculptor identified during placement project

All students on the MSt undertake a six-month placement. Placements bridge the gap between the university and the workplace, and are highly valued by students for providing practical know-how and an entry to professional networks.



Sir William Turner's Hospital, one of the statues, and Ady's name inscribed on the open book. Photos by EURA Conservation (a, b) and Lee Bilson (c).

Placements can be very rewarding. For example, **Lee Bilson** (Cohort 3), working with EURA Conservation, undertook investigative and conservation work for Hugh Massey Architects at Sir William Turner's Hospital in Kingleatham, Cleveland (pictured). Turner built the Hospital (a series of almshouses) c. 1676, but it was rebuilt between 1720 and 1750, and includes a chapel (1741-8) convincingly attributed to James Gibbs. Full-length figures of two adults and two children adorn the complex; their authorship was not known. Close access has allowed them to be identified as artificial stone and revealed that two of them bear the inconspicuously placed name 'ADY'. This links them to the sculptor Thomas Ady (*fl.* 1712-53), and strengthens his

association (hinted at by Roscoe et al., *Dictionary of Sculptors*) with Gibbs.

Lee is now working with EURA on the conservation of Decimus Burton's 1863 Temperate House in Kew Gardens.

### New external examiner

We are pleased to announce that **Robert Thorne** has been appointed External Examiner to the MSt. A distinguished building and engineering historian, Robert has worked latterly at Alan Baxter's and has a long association with the Construction History Society. He succeeds **David Baker OBE**, our External Examiner for the first three years of the course, to whom we extend our warmest thanks.

### Contributors

**Dr Simon Bradley's** revised *Cambridgeshire* Pevsner volume was launched in October and is highly recommended. It is complemented by Charles O'Brien's *Huntingdonshire, Bedfordshire and Peterborough* (2014) which covers the remainder of modern Cambridgeshire.

Anyone intrigued by the continuing debate over apotropaic marks should read an article in the latest volume of *Vernacular Architecture* by **Nick Hill** and John Dean.

**Sarah McLeod**, Chief Executive of the Arkwright Society, has taken on the additional role of Chair of the UK Association of Building Preservation Trusts (APT).

**Dr Nicola Stacey**, who presented Kirby Hall to Cohort 4 in October, left English Heritage at the end of January to become the Director of the Heritage of London Trust.

### Forthcoming events

The **Building History Annual Lecture** will be on Saturday 21 March, when Dr Anthony Geraghty of the University of York will explore 'Architecture and History at Castle Howard'. The reception, lecture and dinner afterwards will be timetabled so as to dovetail with the end of the 2nd annual Construction History Society conference in Cambridge on 20-21 March. On Sunday 22nd we will visit Ashridge, Hertfordshire, where we will be led by Jonathan Lee. Ashridge is significant for James Wyatt and Sir Jeffrey Wyatville's extravagant Gothic work of the early 19th century, but also incorporates earlier fabric, including remains of a Bonhommes monastery, and later work by the 20th-century architect Clough Williams Ellis.

The **Churches Conservation Trust (CCT)** is hosting an inaugural conference – Revealing the Past, Securing the Future – at All Souls', Bolton, 25-27 March. Go to:

<http://www.visitchurches.org.uk/Conference2015/>

### Application deadline

Applications are invited from graduates with a good 2:1 or better in any subject, to be received no later than 30 June. Please contact the Course Director or Course Administrator (email addresses below) for information about the course.

<http://www.arct.cam.ac.uk/courses/mst-building-history-1>