

Building History Newsletter

Issue 1

April 2014

Welcome to the first issue of the *Building History Newsletter*, which aims to keep past, present and future students of the MSt in Building History, as well as course contributors and well-wishers, in touch with developments at the Faculty of Architecture and History of Art and with the Building History world. We hope that you will find this a useful and entertaining venture.

Do let us know if you have suggestions for content or wish to contribute news or other material yourself. We aim to issue the *Newsletter* four times a year, so let us know by the end of term (or end of the summer vacation) if you want us to include something (see the end of the *Newsletter* for contact details). We are particularly interested in stories about the work of past and present students – career progression, important discoveries, publications, qualifications, perhaps even reminiscences.

Professor Maurice Howard delivers first Building History Annual Lecture



On Saturday 1 March past and present students of the MSt in Building History gathered in the Faculty for a weekend of varied edification and entertainment. At the centre of the weekend's events was the inaugural Building History Annual Lecture. Maurice Howard (above), Professor of History of Art at the University of Sussex, President of the Society of Antiquaries of London and of the Society of Architectural Historians of Great Britain, and a noted authority on 16th and early 17th-century art and architecture, delivered a well-attended, lively and thought-provoking lecture on 'The patron of architecture in early modern England: the case of Elizabeth I'. Professor Howard's theme ranged from the more familiar ground of



royal palaces and progresses to less frequently considered aspects of Elizabeth's patronage, including educational endowments and disaster relief in towns such as Nantwich. The lecture was followed by dinner for students and guests at the University Centre.

The next day, those who were able to prolong their stay travelled to Oxburgh Hall, Norfolk (above), a moated 15th-century brick courtier house belonging to the National Trust. The architectural development of the house was introduced by the Building History Course Director Dr Adam Menuge, drawing upon detailed investigation and research for English Heritage. An additional dimension was supplied by Wendy Andrews (Cohort 1; now an AHRC-funded doctoral student in the Faculty), whose MSt dissertation illuminated the wallpaper history of the house and led to the mounting of a newly opened exhibition at Oxburgh. Thanks to the generosity of the Bedingfeld family the party also saw parts of the house normally closed to visitors.

The weekend has established an admirable precedent upon which we hope to build in future years. It has also proved an enjoyable gathering for students and an opportunity to build continuity and cohesion between cohorts.

For further information, see:

<http://eastofenglandnt.wordpress.com/2013/04/16/peeling-back-the-layers-at-oxburgh-hall/>
<http://research.english-heritage.org.uk/report/?14346>
<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/oxburgh-hall/>

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

Student and alumni news

Wendy Andrews (Cohort 1) is organising a visit by the Wallpaper History Society to Oxburgh Hall to consider her research findings there (see main story).

Amy Boyington (Cohort 1; right) will be publishing an article in the *Georgian Group Journal* based on her dissertation research exploring the role of Margaret, Countess of Leicester, in the completion of Holkham Hall. Amy has recently resumed working at Holkham, where she undertook her professional placement, following a spell as Assistant Curator at Woburn Abbey.



Chris Costelloe (Cohort 1), Director of the Victorian Society, has been appearing for the defence (alongside SAVE Britain's Heritage) at the Smithfield Market Public Inquiry: <http://www.victoriansociety.org.uk/news/public-inquiry-into-the-proposed-partial-demolition-of-smithfield-general-m/>.

Megan Doole (Cohort 3) has been awarded a bursary to attend the VAG Spring Conference in Gloucestershire.

Contributors

David Watkin and **Frank Salmon** have articles in the recent collection of essays accompanying the William Kent exhibition at the V&A: Susan Weber (ed.), *William Kent: Designing Georgian Britain* (Yale). Frank's contribution follows his article on Holkham Hall in *Architectural History*, vol. 56 (2013). The exhibition runs at the V&A until 13 July. <http://www.vam.ac.uk/content/exhibitions/william-kent-designing-georgian-britain/about-the-exhibition/>

Coincidentally, **Olivia Horsfall-Turner** is also linked with the V&A, where she will be taking up a new post as Curator of Designs and Lead Curator for the RIBA + V&A Partnership.

Other recent publications by course contributors which you may be interested in if you haven't already caught up with them are **James W P Campbell** and Michael Tutton (ed.), *Staircases: History, Repair and Conservation* (Routledge), including an essay by **Treve Rosoman**; **James W P Campbell**, *The Library: A World History* (Thames & Hudson); **Jonathan Coad**, *Support for the Fleet: Architecture and engineering of the Royal Navy's Bases 1700 – 1914* (EH); **Elain Harwood & Alan Powers** & Otto Saumarez Smith (eds), *Oxford and Cambridge* (vol. 11 of *Twentieth Century Architecture*, but available to buy without subscription); **Nick Hill** has published an important reassessment of Oakham Castle in *The Antiquaries Journal*, vol. 93 (2013); and the Course Director, **Adam Menuge**, contributed an

article on the Lake District villa to J K Walton & Jason Wood (eds), *The Making of a Cultural Landscape: the English Lake District as Tourist Destination, 1750-2010* (Ashgate).

James Campbell has also been organising the Construction History Society's first national conference at Queens' College (April) with the help of Wendy Andrews and Karey Draper (Cohort 1), and Jonathan Lee and Nadia Knifton (Cohort 3).

Finally, **Steve Cole** retired in March after a long and productive photographic career with RCHME and English Heritage. We wish him well and hope that his connection with the course will continue. He is succeeded as Head of Imaging by **James O Davies**.

Current cohorts

Cohort 2 students are now mostly working on their dissertations having finished their Year Two professional placements. This year hosts included Cowper Griffith Architects, English Heritage, Feilden+Mawson Architects, Rutland County Council, Queens' College Cambridge, Stowe House Preservation Trust and the Victorian Society. We are grateful to all our placement hosts for their support and welcome offers of future placements (please contact the Course Director, Dr Adam Menuge (email below).

Cohort 3 students are in the midst of their recording projects, with subjects ranging from a medieval aisled barn to a 19th-century canal foundry. Earlier in the year they took part in a recording skills study day at West Stow Hall, Suffolk (right).



Forthcoming events

Advance notice is given of a Twentieth Century Society event on 18 October celebrating the 80th anniversary of Walter Gropius arriving as a refugee in London. Gropius' Impington Village College, to be included on the Post-War module programme for the first time this April, will be the subject of a further visit during a day hosted by the Faculty. Further details to be confirmed.

Application deadline

We still have places for next year. Please mention the course to anyone who might be interested. Applications for October 2014 entry are invited from graduates committed to Building History who hold a good 2:1 degree in any subject, to be received no later than 30 June 2014. Please contact the Course Director or Course Administrator (email addresses below) for information about the course.