

# Building History Newsletter

Issue 6

July 2017

## Building History's first PhD

We are delighted to report that Wendy Andrews, who joined the first cohort of the MSt in Building History in 2011, has completed her PhD in the Faculty of Architecture and History of Art and will take her degree later this year. During the MSt Wendy undertook a professional placement with the National Trust in the East of England and wrote her dissertation on 19th-century wallpapers at Oxburgh Hall, Norfolk. This led her to the Cowtan decorating firm's archive at the Victoria and Albert Museum, where orders for six of the Oxburgh papers were recorded, and to the recognition that this resource offered potential for more intensive research into wallpaper materials, patterns and trade in Britain and overseas in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Wendy's doctoral research was supervised by Dr James Campbell and supported by an AHRC Doctoral Training Partnership award.

## Fourth Annual Lecture & Hampton Court visit



On 8 April Marilyn Palmer, who is Emeritus Professor of Industrial Archaeology at the University of Leicester, delivered the fourth Annual Building History Lecture at Queens' College, Cambridge. Marilyn's focus was country house technology, the subject of her recent book with Ian West, which is in turn the outcome of a long-running National Trust-sponsored research project. A large gathering of past and present Building History students joined delegates from the

Construction History Society's annual conference for what proved to be a wide-ranging exploration of a rapidly expanding area of study. Topics ranged from the evolution of sprung service-bell systems, through early telephones relying upon locally generated electricity stored in Leclanché cells (an early type of battery), to water supply and disposal. The lecture was followed by a dinner in the 15<sup>th</sup>-century great hall of Queens' College.

On the following day, which proved exceptionally warm for early April, some 30 students and alumni travelled to Hampton Court Palace. Dr Lee Prosser (pictured) and Dan Jackson of Historic Royal Palaces conducted



roof tours taking in Hampton Court's outstanding roofscape (below), the intricate 1530s carpentry of the timber ceiling above the Chapel Royal, two early king-post, common-purlin roofs recently confirmed as the work of Inigo Jones, and the extensive survival of platform roofs in Wren's King's and Queen's Apartments of the 1690s, as well as a remarkable series of items from the Archaeology Stores.



## Students and alumni

Lee Bilson (Cohort 3) has been appointed a Trustee to Arvon, a literary charity dedicated to fostering creative writing in the setting of historic houses.

Megan Doole (Cohort 3) has presented papers on horse transport buildings to the York Transport Historians Group and, in advance of this year's Manchester-based IHBC Annual School on transport infrastructure, to the IHBC's North West Branch.

Sophie Hetherington (Cohort 4) has started a new job working as a Heritage Consultant with Turley, based in London.

Rachel Reese (Cohort 3) has taken on casework responsibilities for the War Memorials Trust in London, working closely with Historic England on a programme of list enhancement.

Chris Senior (Cohort 3) has set up a new Cambridge architectural practice, PiP Architecture, with its own in-house heritage arm, PiP Conservation. Formerly DPA Architects, the practice was highly commended in the Cambridge Design and Construction Awards 2016 for its jocular Cor-Ten steel Potting Shed (above) within the Fellows' Garden at Jesus College. More details at: <http://www.pipconservation.co.uk/projects/project/Potting-Shed-Fellows-Garden/>





At a ceremony in May (below), Spheron Architects, in which Tszwai So (Cohort 5) is a director, received the RIBA London award for their Belarusian Memorial Chapel, Finchley. Tszwai also has a short article in the *RIBA Journal* on Victorian 'rogue' architect George Truefitt, the subject of his MSt dissertation. <https://www.ribaj.com/culture/rising-stars-tszwai-so-george-truefitt-architectural-association-victorian>.



### Course accreditation

In addition to being recognised by the IHBC, the MSt in Building History has recently been accredited by the Hong Kong Institute of Architectural Conservationists (HKICON) as a 'relevant degree' for the purposes of applications for Professional Membership of the Institute.

### Awards and prizes

Amy Boyington (Cohort 1) has been awarded a publication grant from the Society of Architectural Historians of Great Britain (SAHGB) in support of her contribution to a volume of conference papers, *Women and the Country House in Ireland and Britain* (Four Courts Press, forthcoming).

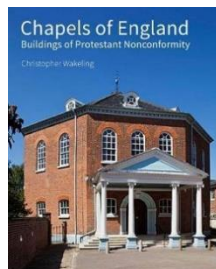
Applications are invited for the 2017 IHBC Gus Astley Student Awards. See <http://ihbconline.co.uk/newsarchive/?p=14709>. Closing date 31 July.

### Conferences

Adrian Green reports that 'Caring for Brutalism', a Durham University Centre for Visual Arts and Culture conference, is planned for Saturday 21 October, co-sponsored by Durham City Trust and the Twentieth Century Society. Speakers, including Barnabas Calder, Catherine Croft, Alistair Fair and Elaine Harwood, will address the conservation of 20<sup>th</sup>-century concrete architecture in general, and the threatened Dunelm House (Architects Co-Partnership, 1966) in particular.

### Course contributors

Christopher Wakeling's long-awaited *Chapels of England: Buildings of Protestant Nonconformity* will be published by Historic England in July, filling a need for an informed and broadly based study of this numerous, often misunderstood and acutely threatened building type. The cover shows Thomas Ivory's elegant Octagon Chapel, Norwich, of 1754-6.



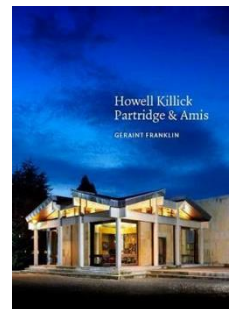
Sarah McLeod, who has led the Arkwright Society for the past eight years, is leaving on a high with the announcement that the recent conversion of the blandly named 'Building 17' (the taller building on the left, next column) at Cromford Mills, Derbyshire, is one of two UK winners of the 2017 Europa

Nostra awards for conservation. Building 17 formed an early powered extension to Richard Arkwright's pioneering 1771 water-powered cotton-spinning mill at Cromford (seen to the right). Potentially deadly lead chromate contamination needed to be encapsulated before the building could be converted to provide lettable workspace for creative industries, in a project supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund as well as the European Regional Development Fund. Successive cohorts of students on the Industrial Buildings and their Conservation module of the MSt have witnessed various stages in the programme.



Sarah McLeod moves to become the new CEO of the Wentworth Woodhouse Preservation Trust (WWPT). Wentworth Woodhouse, near Rotherham in South Yorkshire, was greatly enlarged for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marquis of Rockingham from c. 1735 onwards to designs by Ralph Tunnicliffe, a local architect, though its completion was superintended by Henry Flitcroft following Tunnicliffe's death. Famed for the longest country house elevation in the UK, Wentworth Woodhouse was notoriously compromised by post-war coalmining in the vicinity and has been blighted for many years by structural problems. Restoring the building and opening it to regular public access presents enormous conservation challenges. WWPT purchased the house earlier this year, aided by a grant from the National Heritage Memorial Fund. Sarah will be continuing in her role as Chair of Heritage Trust Network, the umbrella organisation for building preservation trusts.

Geraint Franklin's *Howell Killick Partridge & Amis* appears in Historic England's 20th-Century Architects series illustrated by James O. Davies' photographs. HKPA's notable designs include the Senior Combination Room at Downing College, Cambridge (1967-9; right). Geraint has also edited a revised version of *Understanding Place: Historic Area Assessments* for Historic England. This guidance document, first produced for English Heritage in 2010 under the editorship of Adam Menuge, provides practical advice on undertaking assessments of the historic built environment in order to understand and explain the heritage interest of a settlement or area. <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/understanding-place-historic-area-assessments/>.



Historic England  
Understanding Place  
Historic Area Assessments



### Application deadlines

Applications October 2018 entry to the MSt in Building History are invited from graduates with a good 2:1 or better, to be received no later than 30 June 2018. Please contact the Course Director or Course Administrator (email addresses below) for information. Full details available at <http://www.arct.cam.ac.uk/courses/mst-building-history-1>.

The Undergraduate Certificate of Higher Education in Historic Building Conservation, based at Madingley Hall (University of Cambridge Institute of Continuing Education), is open for applications for October 2017 entry until 10 July: <http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/course/undergraduate-certificate-higher-education-historic-building-conservation>