



Building History Newsletter

Issue 4

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Annual Building History Lecture and visits



On 9 April at Queens' College Simon Bradley, Joint Editor of *The Buildings of England*, delivered the third annual Building History Lecture under the title 'St Pancras Station: Architecture and Engineering'. (Simon Bradley's television series 'Railways: The Making of a Nation' was broadcast on BBC4 recently.)

The following day past and present Building History students, accompanied by delegates from the Construction History Society

Annual Conference, visited the 13th-century aisled timber barns at Cressing Temple, Essex, and went on to examine the nearby 11th-century 'log church' of St Andrew, Greensted. Tansy Collins (Cohort 3), whose work on aisled barns featured in *Newsletter 3*, presented the Cressing barns.

The fourth Annual Lecture, on 8 April 2017, will be by Professor Marilyn Palmer: "Enormous, complicated and highly articulated machines" [Girouard]: the introduction of domestic technology in Victorian and early Edwardian country houses'. Further details will be announced nearer the time.

Slyfield House and Painshill Park



Photo: Anna Shelley

Late in August a group of past and present Building History students assembled for a visit to Slyfield House, near Cobham, Surrey. The house is remarkable for its 17th-century brickwork and plaster ceilings. A predicted violent storm having failed to materialise, the party continued, after an alfresco pub lunch, to nearby Painshill Park, one of the 18th century's most celebrated landscape gardens. The visit inaugurated what we hope will be a series of similar visits to buildings and sites both familiar and less well known. Anyone interested in organising a visit is invited to contact the Course Director.

Awards

Gillian Roberts (Cohort 4) has received a substantial award from the City of Wolverhampton Regenerating Buildings Preservation Trust in support of her dissertation research on Wolverhampton architect William J. H. Weller (1877-1960). Weller was born into a long-running architectural dynasty and trained at the pioneering Wolverhampton Art College. Before the First World War he specialised in comfortable houses for Wolverhampton's industrial and professional elite, fusing Arts and Crafts materials and motifs with references to the local vernacular to create a distinctive style for Wolverhampton.

Jana Schuster (Cohort 4) is currently on a Giles Worsley Fellowship with the British School at Rome. Her short research project ('Living Heritage: The historic and contemporary reuse of ancient architecture in Rome') explores the after-life of buildings from classical antiquity.

Photo: Spheron Architects



Tszwai So (Cohort 5), currently studying for the MSt in Building History, received an *RIBA Journal* Rising Stars Award at a recent ceremony. The award cited his recent Belarusian Memorial Chapel in Finchley, North London (see <http://www.ribaj.com/intelligence/tszwai-so>). The Chapel, a striking design in timber (above), is inspired by the wooden churches of Belarus. It commemorates the 1986 nuclear disaster at Chernobyl, Ukraine, the effects of which were felt disproportionately in neighbouring Belarus. Tszwai studied Architecture at Hong Kong University and completed his Part 2 at London Metropolitan University in 2006 before becoming a director at London-based Spheron Architects (<http://spheronarchitects.co.uk/belarusian-memorial-chapel/>).



In April the National Trust (NT) was honoured with a Europa Nostra Award for the conservation of the Gothic Tower at Wimpole Hall, Cambridgeshire. An Architectural Award from the Georgian Group followed. The Tower was derelict when acquired by the NT in the 1970s; a combination of difficulties hindered attempts to restore it for many years. The conservation project, informed by the research of course contributor David Adshead and the Course Director, Adam Menuge, among others, was part-funded by a Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) agreement managed by Natural England. It was led by Wendy Monkhouse and managed by Paul Coleman at the NT. External works (see the September 2016 issue of *Context*) are now complete and we hope to include the building in future course programmes once access arrangements are agreed.

Students and alumni

Matt Cooper (Cohort 3) has been promoted to Inspector of Historic Buildings and Areas with Historic England, based in London.

Karey Draper (Cohort 1) has published an article exploring the shattering effect of the First World War on the Stopford Sackvilles of Drayton House, Northamptonshire. Her article, which grew out of her MSt dissertation on the wartime uses of the county's country houses, is in the 2016 volume of *Northamptonshire Past and Present*.

Charlotte Evans (Cohort 2) has published her first book: a history of the architectural practice Feilden+Mawson, founded by Bernard Feilden. Charlotte undertook her professional placement with the practice and worked until recently as their Architectural Historian. The book, *Feilden+Mawson: A Place for the Future*, is published by the practice, to which enquiries should be addressed.



Karen Fung (Cohort 3) is now a Senior Heritage Officer with the Antiquities and Monuments Office, Hong Kong. Her new role involves providing technical advice and overseeing grant-aid for privately owned 'graded' (listed) buildings ranging from vernacular houses to colonial era monuments.

Oliver Gerrish (Cohort 4), in collaboration with the interior designer Caroline Percy, has established a programme of study days in the elegant surroundings of Syon House, the Duke of Northumberland's London residence. The programme focuses on the interior decoration of historic houses. See <http://historicdecoration.com/> for details.

Sophie Hetherington (Cohort 4) has announced her engagement to Eli Keren, who she first met at Wolfson College when he was a student on the MSt in Creative Writing.

Luke Jacob (Cohort 2) has left Historic England and is now working for the Heritage Collective in London.

Jonathan Lee (Cohort 3) has been appointed a Trustee of the Postcode Culture Trust, which distributes funds from the People's Postcode Lottery.

Charmaine Ng (Cohort 3) is now working as an architect for Heatherwick Studio, an architectural and design practice best known for the so-called 'Boris Bus' and the projected Garden Bridge across the Thames.

Rachel Reese (Cohort 3) started work as a Conservation Administrator with the War Memorials Trust in March.

Anna Shelley (Cohort 3), who worked for Purcell UK after completing a placement there, has recently started a new job as a Heritage Consultant with Icen Planning in London.

Course contributors

The long-awaited monograph, *Apethorpe: The Story of an English Country House*, edited by Kathryn A. Morrison, with contributions by John Cattell, Emily Cole, Nick Hill and Pete Smith, was published by Yale University Press this summer.

Allan Adams, who recently retired from Historic England, is the author of new sector guidance on the role of drawings in generating and conveying understanding of historic buildings. *Drawing for Understanding: Creating Interpretive Drawings of Historic Buildings* complements the recently revised *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice*. It is highly recommended and can be downloaded free at <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/drawing-for-understanding/>.



Drawing for Understanding

Creating Interpretive Drawings of Historic Buildings



David Adshead, for many years the National Trust's Head Curator, has joined Elizabeth Jamieson as co-director of the Attingham Summer School.

Barnabas Calder's *Raw Concrete: The Beauty of Brutalism* (Heinemann), a highly readable personal odyssey through British concrete architecture, will appeal to all students who enjoyed the Post-War Building History module.

Anthony Geraghty, who led a memorable course visit to Wren's Trinity College Library in 2012, has been appointed to a professorship at the University of York.

Adrian Green has published *Building for England: John Cosin's Architecture in Renaissance Durham and Cambridge* (Institute of Medieval & Early Modern Studies), a study of the architectural patronage of Cosins, who was Master of Peterhouse College in the 1630s and became Bishop of Durham after the Restoration.

The publication of *Holkham: The Social, Architectural and Landscape History of a Great English Country House* by Christine Hiskey, Archivist at Holkham Hall, is expected imminently (Unicorn Press). Christine's book brings together the fruits of many years' research in Holkham's archive.

Marilyn Palmer, a regular course contributor, and Ian West have published a new study, *Technology in the Country House* (Historic England). The fruits of a major National Trust-sponsored research project, hosted by the University of Leicester, it is likely to become a standard reference work. Marilyn Palmer will deliver the 4th Annual Building History Lecture on 8 April 2016 (see above).

Application deadline

Applications are invited from graduates with a good 2:1 or better, to be received no later than 30 June 2017. 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>