

Heritage Link Update 124

Heritage Link Update is sent to members and supporters of Heritage Link as a way of sharing information of relevance to the historic environment sector. Please feel free to circulate copies within your organisation and to forward copies to anyone else who might be interested.

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CSR: DCMS spin hides disaster for heritage?

The 'generous' funding settlement for the Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS), which 'builds on record investment in arts and culture over the past 10 years' (DCMS press release) has been derided by the heritage sector.

Much of the DCMS' higher than inflation settlement increase of 6.6 per cent, goes to support the Olympic and Paralympic Games. In fact everything else will see just an inflationary increase, effectively maintaining funding at current levels. While the arts, film and museums received uplifts, no mention of heritage or the historic environment rang alarm bells over the English Heritage settlement, yet to be announced.

For the index to Departmental reports visit www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pbr_csr/pbr_csr07_index.cfm [Back](#)

CSR: Urgent lobbying to Secretary of State

Heritage was altogether absent from the DCMS Report published on 9th October. Neither DCMS nor CLG Reports mentioned the Heritage Protection Review. Appalled by these omissions, heritage organisations acted to influence the Department's internal allocations.

Heritage Link Chairman Anthea Case wrote immediately to the Secretary of State, James Purnell, 'We appreciate that DCMS as a whole has secured a reasonable settlement in what has been a tough spending round but while the whole package is being labelled 'generous', we are extremely concerned that there is no mention at all in the Report for DCMS of heritage or the historic environment in clear contrast to funding for the arts and museums and galleries which will increase at least in line with inflation. This indicates to us that yet again heritage falls off the bottom of DCMS' list of priorities.

'Since 1997 Government funding to heritage has not even kept pace with inflation. If these settlements had been inflation-proofed every year since 1997, the sector would now be better off by £100m. This £100m deficit is far from the 'record investment in arts and culture over the past 10 years' that the CSR report claims. We took issue over this with Tony Blair in his legacy speech at Tate Modern and never received a satisfactory answer. So, for the heritage sector, it is simply not true that 'the cultural sectors have continued to flourish through increased Government investment over the last ten years'.

'We urge you to reverse this downward trend by making sure the DCMS 'cake' is cut in a way that internal allocations do not continue to prioritise other cultural sectors at the expense of heritage. If the disparity is not addressed, it will mark 10 years of debilitating cuts in public funding for heritage at a time when non-government support for the heritage is under increasing pressure and make it impossible to achieve a heritage protection system appropriate to the 21st century.' For the full letter see www.heritagelink.org.uk [Back](#)

CSR: English Heritage Chairman fights his corner

Lord Bruce-Lockhart Chairman of English Heritage wrote 'Secretary of State James Purnell is to be congratulated in persuading the Chancellor that the Department oversees an area of activity that contributes so much to our humanity, quality of life and identity.' But he continued 'In the past, heritage has been singled out by Mr Purnell's predecessors for unprecedented cuts in funding over 10 successive years, while funding for other DCMS agencies, particularly sport and the arts, has been substantially increased - proof of the low priority that the Government has given to the nation's heritage.

'Mr Purnell now has a golden opportunity to right that wrong. He can reverse the 10 year trend of a decline in our funding - amounting to some £100 million lost to our national heritage over ten years; give English Heritage the money it needs to help implement the forthcoming Heritage Protection Bill - £5 million per year over three years; give us the additional resources for historic churches that face a particular plight so that we can help heroic and hard-pressed communities and congregations to help themselves; and provide English Heritage with the capital allocation to continue to improve standards, facilities and interpretation of the 400 historic places in our care.

'Since 2001/02 we have been forced to reduce our grants by 11% whilst, over the same period, Heritage Lottery funding has also fallen. Combined, this has meant a reduction in funding for heritage of 13% in real terms, amounting to £50 million. Heritage is hugely popular with the public and the backbone of England's £multi-billion tourist industry. It is not, and should not, be a political issue but part of a nation's self esteem and pride, helping to define our national identity and sense of belonging.

'So please, Secretary of State,' Lord Bruce-Lockhart pleaded 'seize this opportunity; go down in history as the first for a decade to be a heritage hero rather than a heritage hatchet man'.

English Heritage's full press statement is at <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.12191> [Back](#)

CSR: Historic Houses Association

James Hervey-Bathurst, President of the Historic Houses Association contrasted the cultural sectors: 'In the last nine years there have been increases in Government support to other sectors sponsored by DCMS: Broadcasting and the media: 182%; sport: 134%; the arts: 109%; museums, galleries and libraries: 42%; the Royal Parks: also 42%. 'In contrast, the increase for Architecture and the Historic Environment sector over this period was only 14%, and to English Heritage itself, 11%, below the rate of inflation.

'Clearly, in the 2007 Spending Review we are not all starting from the same place. The figures show a strong argument for a greater share to be directed to support for the heritage. The reality of what is happening in terms of support comes at a time when public interest and support for the heritage has never been greater. And there is an increasing need for heritage to be put into good shape for the expected inflow of tourists before and after the Olympics.' [Back](#)

CSR: Sector-wide apprehension

Lords Renfrew, Howarth and Redesdale with Tim Loughton MP, on behalf of the 138 strong All Parliamentary Party on Archaeology, urged the Secretary of State to ensure the final settlement of the DCMS funding through CSR07 recognised the contribution of the heritage sector through a positive financial settlement.

Securing adequate funding to implement the Heritage Protection Review prompted swift reactions from the Joint Committee of National Amenity Societies, RTPI, Planning Officers' Society, Institute of Historic Building Conservation and the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers. If resources are not forthcoming, will the sector rethink its support? [Back](#)

CSR: The Guardian joins the fray: 'heritage the DCMS Cinderella'

The Guardian published a joint letter from 22 historians on 12th October. 'Our national heritage is not a luxury' ran the headline. The academics say that over the past ten years the heritage sector has been treated as the Department for Culture Media and Sport's Cinderella yet the History Matters campaign involved 1.2m people and demonstrated high public commitment and love of our historic places. 'As historians, we appeal to the government to ensure that budgets for heritage are not once again treated as a dispensable luxury'.

The Guardian even published a third leader 'in praise of heritage' on 15th October. 'Though it is the backbone of our tourist industry and massively popular with the public...heritage is not loved in Whitehall'. The national daily declared 'We have a collective responsibility to pass it on to future generations. Mr Purnell must put more of our money where his government's mouth is'. [Back](#)

CSR: So how did it go so pear shaped?

Is DCMS immune to their own *Taking Part* figures that show that the historic environment is the most popular activity across all their cultural sectors? Did DCMS fail to convince HM Treasury or did the heritage sector fail to convince DCMS of the case for government intervention? These are the questions that need to be asked.

This is the first Comprehensive Spending Review to see a co-ordinated approach from the heritage sector. The joint prospectus *Valuing our Heritage* published by the National Trust, English Heritage, Heritage Link, Historic Houses Association and Heritage Lottery Fund in January 2007 identified areas where modest investment - mere crumbs in terms of other government departments - would bring national benefit. *Valuing our Heritage* was backed up by the History Matters Campaign running from July to October 2006 to reveal the huge popularity of heritage. Some of the results are published this week (see below). The heritage seminar held by the think-tank the Smith Institute in September and attended by Minister of Culture Margaret Hodge again debated government support to heritage.

Yet way back in July this year a DCMS official suggested the heritage sector should look to 2010 to the next CSR - to think through a more rigorous approach to justifying public support for the historic environment. Whatever the approach, and whatever the final settlement for the heritage sector, the answer is definitely a 'must do better'.

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CSR: Arts

Government investment in the arts is to be boosted over the next three years with an extra £50m going to Arts Council England (ACE) by 2011. The UK Film Council has been awarded £25 million to safeguard the future of the UK's national and regional film archives. Grant in aid to England's national museums and galleries will increase from £302m to £332 in 2010/11 an increase of slightly above inflation.

The inflation proof settlement means that free admission for all is guaranteed for a further three years. ACE will also get extra funding for special projects such as the new Museum of Liverpool, the Natural History Museum Darwin Centre Phase 2, the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Museum of London merger with the Museum in Docklands. Peter Hewitt, Chief Executive of Arts Council England, said 'This is fantastic news - the Government has acted on the case we have made for the arts. It's a recognition of the work of our artists and arts organisations whose energy and imagination have made our cultural life genuinely the envy of the world.'

Louise de Winter, the Director of the National Campaign for the Arts, was less sanguine 'our relief at the Government announcement has to be tempered in the light of these other issues: the cost of living index is higher than inflation, and the impact of the diversion of £135m from UK Art Councils lottery funds to the Olympics will still continue to cut deep'. [Back](#)

CSR: Museums

Details of the museums' settlement have yet to be finalised. Roy Clare, Chief Executive of the Museums and Libraries Association (MLA) Partnership welcomed the government's commitment to maintain funding 'in real terms for arts, museums and galleries', but 'we will press the case in the coming days and weeks that this undertaking extends to Renaissance - our successful programme for regional museums'.

Clearly unhappy about details yet to be made public, he continued 'we already know enough to realise that this settlement poses some real challenges for the cultural sector and for the MLA Partnership. Our main priority continues to be to deliver the best possible services and benefits for the millions of people who visit, use and enjoy the exceptional resources available in museums, libraries and archives.

Maurice Davies the Museum's Association's Deputy Director agreed that the overall settlement was 'better than people had anticipated', but said that until there was some indication of the level of the allocation, it was impossible to know if there would be enough money to fund Renaissance in the Regions. [Back](#)

CSR: Third Sector

The CSR confirms the funding plans outlined in the third sector review in July 2007 that put forward a new strategy for building the Government's relationship with the third sector to promote social and economic regeneration over the next ten years.

Over the period of the spending review, the Office of the Third Sector will invest over £515 million in third sector programmes, including an £80 million small grants programme for community action and voice (announced in the 2007 Budget); a £50 million local endowment match fund programme, which will enable local independent foundations to develop community endowments to provide sustainability in future grant making; £117 million of new resources available for youth volunteering, through the organisation v ; over £85 million for Capacitybuilders, to develop the sector's infrastructure; and up to £65 million for the Futurebuilders fund, bringing the total projected value of all loans, grants and loan guarantees under the management of the fund to £215 million by 2011. [Back](#)

CSR: CLG and local authorities

Communities and Local Government did fairly well in the Spending Review according to Urban Forum, with a real terms increase of 2.9%. Within this the biggest increase is for housing with a 40% increase from 2007/ 08 to 08/09 in funding to deliver new houses.

The CSR confirmed that £2bn would be spent on neighbourhood and local renewal although details have yet to be made public but it is likely to include investment in community anchors (independent community-led organisations), further investment in asset transfer and the implementation of the Quirk Review. Secretary of State for CLG Hazel Blears had already announced a new £50m fund to promote community cohesion and integration.

However, the local government settlement is being described by the Chairman of the Local Government Association as the 'worst settlement for local government in a decade'. Local Authorities get a 1% increase a year for the next three years, compared with an increase of 39% over the previous 10 years. Local Authorities will also have to make efficiency savings of almost £5bn over the next three years. [Back](#)

PSA targets: where did the historic environment one go?

Alongside the Spending Review, and equally important, was the announcement of a new series of Public Service Agreements (PSAs) which set out the outcomes that government wants to see happening over the next three years. The 30 PSAs are grouped around four headings; Sustainable growth and prosperity (PSAs 1-7); Fairness and opportunity for all (PSAs 8-17); Stronger communities and a better quality of life (PSAs 18-26); and A more secure, fair and environmentally sustainable world (PSAs 27-30).

Each PSA has a series of performance indicators that will be used to measure progress. Heritage Link and others were consulted on a historic environment PSA target in June but this failed to reach the final 30. It has been subsumed in to PSA 21 Build more cohesive, empowered and active communities led by Communities and Local Government. The sixth indicator refers to the percentage of people who participate in culture or sport.

DCMS is the lead department for only one, PSA Delivery Agreement 22: to Deliver a successful Olympic Games and Paralympic Games with a sustainable legacy and get more children and young people taking part in high quality PE and sport see http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/5/6/pbr_csr07_psa22.pdf Within this Indicator 2 will plan for improving the physical, economic and social infrastructure of East London. Indicator 4 relating to the number of people taking part in government-supported programmes associated with the 2012 games notes the expected increase in public participation in cultural and community activities across the UK but the indicator itself refers only to the uptake in sporting activities.

For more on the thirty Public Service Agreements visit www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pbr_csr/psa/pbr_csr07_psacommunities.cfm [Back](#)

Results of History Matters Campaign underline huge popularity of heritage

Contrasting with CSR outcomes, the *History Matters - Pass It On* campaign demonstrated the huge popularity of heritage. Around 1.2 million people took the trouble to respond to the History Matters campaign in 2006. Now a new publication, landing on Ministers' desks this week, records some of the reasons why history matters to them. Heritage Link, English Heritage, the National Trust, Historic Houses Association and the Heritage Lottery Fund have taken the results of 10000 History Matters postcards and 20000 declarations of support, publishing responses from people of all ages and backgrounds - the youngest 6 years old and the oldest over 90.

In the tapestry of comments many of the threads follow the same kinds of issues. Whether speaking of an attachment to Lancashire or Cockney London, cherishing objects infused with personal significance or rejoicing that certain experiences have become a thing of the past, the writers all show eloquently their different and delicate awareness of heritage.

By understanding personal and collective roots, taking notice and asking questions of landscapes, stories and places and 'the little things... which so often get missed and forgotten' - and even comprehending the fact that they must become footnotes in history themselves - many people feel that their sense of identity and ability to understand unfamiliar life stories and cultures is strengthened. In avoiding mistakes or misconceptions from the past, there is a sense of ordinary communities being able to choose and cultivate the values needed for the present and the future. 'If only politicians would study history,' says David Roberts, 63.

Copies have already gone to Ministers. Heritage Link members will all receive a copy of this new booklet in the next week and there will be more copies available at the AGM and Heritage Day on 11th December, and for the 125 people registered for the Yorkshire and Humberside event on 22nd October. To access a pdf online go to <http://www.heritagelink.org.uk/docs/WhyHistoryMatters07.pdf> If you would like Heritage Link to send you a copy contact kathryn.schofield@heritagelink.org.uk [Back](#)

Local Distinctiveness wins out says Work Foundation

The British high street is breaking free from the tyranny of the chain store and using home-grown businesses to attract visitors says the Work Foundation think-tank. Its investigation into the identities of the nation's towns and cities found a growing backlash against uniform housing estates and unimaginative architecture. From Cambridge to Cardiff, towns and cities are keen to assert their regional identities, says the paper *Distinctiveness and Cities – Beyond 'Find and Replace' Economic Development*.

Neil Lee, author of the report, said that financial constraints have been partly responsible for homogenisation. But the vogue for asserting local identity is partly due to the devolution of power to local councils. 'People are beginning to realise that local identity matters.' The challenge is for towns not to imitate but to innovate themselves in a unique way, using their own distinctive qualities.

Developments that harness a unique aspect of a city's culture, such as Hay-on-Wye's literary festival are the most effective. 'Distinctiveness works best when the unique history of a location is used to build a compelling proposition'.

Ideopolis: Knowledge City-Regions - Distinctiveness and Cities - Beyond 'Find and Replace' Economic Development can be found at <http://www.theworkfoundation.com/products/publications/azpublications/ideopolisdistinctiveness.aspx> [Back](#)

Planning Gain charge to be statutory

Amongst his many announcements, the Chancellor confirmed that Government intends to legislate in the forthcoming Planning Reform Bill for a new statutory planning charge to enable councils to capture greater levels of planning gain to support new infrastructure and housing. This investment will be in addition to Section 106 agreements. Section 106 agreements are felt by some to be inadequate, being limited in number, unable to mitigate the cumulative impacts of development on infrastructure, and because local authorities vary enormously in exercising powers to use them.

Housing Minister Yvette Cooper set out further details of the new statutory planning charge. The provisions will empower local authorities to apply standard planning charges for all new development, residential and commercial above a certain threshold, to support infrastructure delivery. Where appropriate Local Authorities will be able to use planning charges to supplement a negotiated agreement. Planning charges should be based on a costed assessment of the infrastructure requirements. Planning charges should also include contributions towards the costs of infrastructure of sub-regional and regional importance identified in development plans. Planning charge policies in development plans will be tested through the development plan process.

The Minister added 'We will be in touch with the development industry and local government very shortly to discuss how we can best work with them and other stakeholders as we prepare the new legislation, and put new planning charges in place',

For more information see <http://www.communities.gov.uk/statements/corporate/planningreform?version=2> [Back](#)

DCMS response *Caring for our Collections*

The Government has published its response to the Culture Media and Sport Select Committee's Sixth Report of Session 2006-07, *Caring for our Collections*.

The Government wholeheartedly endorses the value of museums 'Our museums, galleries and archives are, indeed, among the best in the world. They are an integral part of the cultural offer which makes the UK both one of the most exciting countries to visit and one of the best in which to live'.

But responses to the Committee's concerns are brief. The success of the Renaissance in the Regions programme is acknowledged but additional funding is 'dependent on the outcome of the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review' and any extension beyond the larger museums will form part of MLA's review of Renaissance due by June 2008. The Government response claims that the Government has 'implemented the large majority of Sir Nicholas Goodison's recommendations either in full or in part' but this was not borne out by those giving evidence to the Committee. Nor does the Response address concerns that the diversion of funds to the 2012 Olympics will make it difficult for museums to make the most of the opportunities for showcasing their collections.

However some significant undertakings are to be welcomed. The Report recommended that Designation Challenge Funding should be made available to libraries and archives. The Response says that MLA has 'an aspiration' to extend the fund to this sector. The National Archive's self assessment approach may be made applicable to Local Authorities. The response also states that the National Archive and MLA are developing a joint policy statement over leadership and strategic direction for archives, due in the spring of 2008.

The Response is available on the Department for Culture, Media and Sport website http://www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Publications/archive_2007/cm7233_caringcollections.htm [Back](#)

Central and local government spending on the third sector

Two new reports commissioned by the Office of the Third Sector estimate central and local government spending on the voluntary and community sector for the years 2000/01 to 2003/04. There has been a substantial rise in central and local government funding for the sector in recent years, and these figures indicate that a greater proportion of the total funding is beginning to come through local government.

Local government spending on voluntary and community organisations rose by about 62% in real terms between 2001/02 and 2003/04, from £2.6 billion to £4.3 billion. Local government spending on the sector is estimated to have risen five-fold since 1984/85.

Central government spending on voluntary and community organisations rose by 16% in real terms between 2001/02 and 2002/03, and again (by 12%) in 2003/04 (this includes spending on housing associations). Central government spending on the sector has increased by more than three quarters in real terms since 1998/99.

For further information see

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/Research_and_statistics/third_sector_research/expenditure.aspx
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A&B launches online tax guide

Arts & Business, the national charity dedicated to increasing private investment into the arts has launched an on-line tax guide explaining how to give efficiently and effectively to the arts.

Speaking at the launch on 4th October, Minister for Culture Margaret Hodge said that in a tight fiscal environment partnerships were very important, as was finding different sources of funding. The UK's cultural offer was central to people wishing to visit and come to live here; encouraging private giving to culture is one of her priorities as a Minister. She felt there was ignorance around the current tax breaks and that this guide would therefore be very helpful. However she concluded that the biggest challenge was to create a different culture so that people felt that giving to the arts and culture was part of their lives.

The on-line tax guide, at www.aandb.org.uk/taxguide, is for arts fundraisers, donors and wealth managers. Although it does not include any new measures, A&B's guide aims to demonstrate that, contrary to popular belief, it has never been easier to give to the arts and the tax benefits have never been greater. [Back](#)

Embracing Difference: Diversity workshop event in the South West: 28th November

The fourth Heritage Link *Embracing Difference* event will take place in Bath on 28th November. These events are designed for voluntary heritage sector groups including local history groups, civic societies, historic houses and buildings, small museums, archaeology groups, together with representatives of community groups, who are interested in putting forward ideas and proposals for realistic and fundable projects that reach out to and engage new and diverse groups in their heritage.

As the growing numbers of participants from around the country will testify, these are very interactive events, with practical activities, networking opportunities, and inspirational guest speakers. Our first three Embracing Difference workshop events in Birmingham, Hartlepool and Leicester have had fantastic success in helping people gain confidence in putting together their own project proposals.

'The strength of this event - sharing of experiences and learning how diverse Diversity is,' commented Tim Blewett from Launde Abbey, a delegate who came to the Leicester day.

The date will be confirmed in the next few days. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Places are limited, so to express interest contact Angela Dove: Heritage Link Diversity Programme Co-ordinator at angela.dove@heritagelink.org.uk or phone 07799898150. See www.heritagelink.org.uk/diversity The Diversity Programme is supported by English Heritage. Travel bursaries may be available to encourage those organisations which would otherwise find participation difficult. [Back](#)

Buildings history expertise: HPR prompts EH survey of skills

New research being carried out by Atkins for English Heritage with the support of Historic Scotland will chart the health of the various specialisms engaged in 'buildings history' in the UK - principally applied architectural history, buildings history and buildings archaeology - providing baseline information on the current and likely future levels of activity in this area. The research will provide a basis for the development of training programmes in response to anticipated growth in this part of the heritage sector arising from reforms to heritage protection legislation and the planning system in England and Wales.

Questionnaires are being sent to practitioners, heritage bodies and training providers and are also available to download. Questionnaire A is for units, consultants and others engaged in buildings history surveys, Questionnaire B for organisations commissioning or regulating buildings history surveys. Both can be downloaded from Buildings History Survey via www.helm.org.uk Heritage Link members are also being contacted directly.

The results of the survey will be available in early 2008. For more information contact English Heritage staff, John Cattell, Chief Buildings Historian (john.cattell@english-heritage.org.uk) or Robert Hook, Head of Training and Standards (bob.hook@english-heritage.org.uk). [Back](#)

Architect fined after demolition of two listed lodges

Architect Quinlan Terry has been fined £25,000 for unauthorised demolition work to two Grade II listed lodges in the grounds of a Regent's Park John Nash house. The two lodges, located in the driveway to grand Regents Park mansion Hanover Lodge, were left in ruins after building contractors moved in, exceeding the works of alteration that had been granted listed building consent.

Contractors Walter Lilly & Co Ltd, who were responsible for the construction site, were fined £20,000 after pleading guilty to committing two offences for the demolition of each lodge. Both the contractor and architect were also ordered to pay more than £5000 costs by the City of Westminster Magistrates' Court.

Westminster City Council's Cabinet Member for Planning, Cllr Robert Davis, said 'Westminster has a rich architectural heritage and it is the council's duty to protect this for future generations... I hope the size of the fine will send a very clear signal to anybody who thinks they can damage or destroy listed buildings without regard, whoever they may be.' Mr Terry was reported in the Evening Standard (on Friday 12th October) as stating that the failure to gain proper permissions had been 'purely administrative rather than malicious'.

Westminster City Council's planning department is now liaising closely with the architect to ensure the buildings are restored as close to their original condition as possible.

For more information visit

<http://www.westminster.gov.uk/councilgovernmentanddemocracy/councils/pressoffice/news/pr-3952.cfm> **Back**

Victorian Society lists Top Ten endangered buildings

A list of the Top Ten Endangered Buildings in England and Wales shows that some of our most significant Victorian and Edwardian buildings are suffering serious misuse and neglect including Grade I-listed Shadwell Park in Norfolk and St Walburge's Roman Catholic Church in Preston. Appealing to historians, enthusiasts and campaigners around the country, the Victorian Society asked people to scour their local areas and send in photographs and details of any good quality Victorian or Edwardian buildings at risk. The number of significant buildings at risk was such that as well as the Top Ten Endangered Buildings list published in the Victorian Society's magazine, The Victorian, nine short-listed buildings have also been named on its website.

'We were amazed at the response to our appeal,' said Dr Ian Dungavell, Director of the Victorian Society. We already knew from the number of local residents that contact us that heritage matters to very many people but we've been shocked by the number of significant buildings that are not getting the protection they deserve.'

The Victorian Society's Top Ten Endangered Buildings list can be viewed at

<http://www.victoriansociety.org.uk/downloads/2007Endangeredbuildings.pdf> For information about the Top Ten Endangered Buildings hunt or to nominate a building, please email community@victoriansociety.org.uk or write to The Victorian Society, 1 Priory Gardens, London W4 1TT. **Back**

English Heritage seaside reports highlight value of heritage in regeneration

A recent poll conducted by English Heritage reveals that seaside historic buildings appeal to modern visitors as much as they did when they were first built. Three-quarters (77%) of the 1,003 interviewees agreed that 'the historic character of seaside towns is what makes them beautiful and enjoyable'. Two-thirds agreed that 'seaside towns hold a special place in my heart', and 'seaside holidays and seaside towns are at the centre of our national identity'. But three-quarters (76%) agreed that 'many seaside towns are shabby and run down. The government should invest more to preserve what is distinctive and valuable there'.

These results are published to coincide with a two-day conference on England's seaside resorts, their heritage and its role in regeneration, held in Hastings 16-17th October. They also echo a report published by English Heritage which show how heritage can be a dynamic resource for regeneration. Regeneration in Historic Coastal Towns highlights 15 examples across England where historic assets like hotels, fishermen's huts and harbours are acting as a catalyst for successful regeneration and economic diversification. Details of these examples are available from www.helm/coastaltowns

The report also points out that high maintenance cost is among the many factors hindering physical renewal of historic architecture and threatening its survival. Weathering is often more pronounced in coastal towns where buildings face salt-laden winds, making the cycle for maintenance shorter and therefore more expensive. In places where the housing market is not strong, large quantities of Georgian and Victorian housing stock ageing at the same rate can leave private owners and local authorities with a backlog of urgent repairs to fund. The report

calls for a broader vision and national policies to tackle common issues faced by seaside towns, such as a high degree of social deprivation, a lack of good marketing and visitor offers, poor access and an ageing population.

Regeneration in Historic Coastal Towns is downloadable from www.helm.org.uk/coastaltowns The new English Heritage publication *England's Seaside Resorts* will be available from www.english-heritage.org.uk/shopping or 0870 333 1181 shortly. More information on seaside resorts project can be found at www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.8340 [Back](#)

New study of plane crash sites: information requested

Thousands of planes have crashed into the sea around Britain, many during WWII. Today, more and more are being found by divers; and increasingly as a result of dredging for sand and gravel. One unexpected result of the recent scheme for dredgers to report archaeological finds has been the routine discovery of plane crash sites, sometimes with human remains.

The crash sites of military aeroplanes are given automatic protection under the 1986 Protection of Military Remains Act, meaning they should not be disturbed. The problem is that the location of the great majority of crash sites at sea is not known. Even known shipwreck sites have, on closer examination, recently been proved to be of aeroplanes.

A preliminary study of the issue by Wessex Archaeology has been commissioned by English Heritage, funded through the Aggregate Levy Sustainability Fund. The first phase of this study is already underway. Wessex Archaeology are asking individuals and organisations with records or specialist knowledge of aircraft crash sites or losses at sea to come forward and tell them what information they have and why they think that aircraft crash sites at sea are important. The deadline for this stage of the project is 30th November, 2007.

The project website is <http://blogs.wessexarch.co.uk/aircraftcrashsitesatsea> [Back](#)

British Waterways delivers safer standards on its historic waterways

British Waterways is the public corporation responsible for 2 200 miles of historic waterways and the third largest collection of listed buildings in the UK. The organisation has recently defined a set of Minimum Safety Standards that it is delivering consistently across its network. These standards are essential for user and visitor safety and will be progressed over the next 18 months. Examples of required works include; bridge signage, safety ladders in lock chambers, bollards at lock-sides, and additional safety signage at various bridges and tunnels.

Some of this work will affect the historic environment of the waterways and British Waterways' regionally based heritage advisers are making early contact with local planning authorities and statutory agencies to seek consents or 'clearance' for the work. Conservation Officers and other colleagues in the conservation sector are asked to be aware of British Waterways' programme and be assured of British Waterways' commitment to protecting the heritage of the waterways whilst implementing the safety works without delay. For further details and regional heritage contacts at British Waterways email nigel.crowe@britishwaterways.co.uk [Back](#)

CABE Space launches design skills scholarships

The new CABE Space design skills scholarships have been launched to address a lack of formal design training for people whose work has an impact on the quality of public space. The scheme offers professionals the chance to travel in order to gain greater understanding of design in the public realm. From highways engineers and planning officers to park workers, access officers, leisure and amenity officers and regeneration professionals, the scholarships are open to anyone who could use the experience to help bring knowledge of good design in the public realm to their own work and to inspire others in their field.

To apply for a scholarship visit www.cabe.org.uk/scholarships Applications close on November 30th at 5pm. Selected candidates will be called for interview in January and successful applicants will be notified at the end of January 2008. [Back](#)

Review of green belt by Natural England

England's 14 green belts established in the 1950s to contain urban sprawl cover 13% of the country. Natural England, the Government's statutory adviser on landscape, has assessed the case for a review of green belt policy as part of a fresh approach to greening new development particularly in view of the Government house building programme.

Natural England whose role is to advise on the implications of this for the natural environment, agreed at its Board meeting on 10th October on the need for a housing policy that puts green space at the heart of all new development - see Natural England's pre-scoping paper *Housing Growth and Green Infrastructure* available from <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/press/news2007/101007.htm>

Sir Martin Doughty, Natural England's Chair, said 'The time has come for a greener green belt. We need a 21st century solution to England's housing needs which puts in place a network of green wedges, gaps and corridors, linking the natural environment and people.' The board of Natural England proposes that England's towns and cities are 'greened' by putting green spaces at the heart of all new development. The most sustainable solution of where to locate new housing should be sought including a review of the role of the green belt, taking into account quality of life, nature conservation, landscape protection, flood mitigation and the impact of a changing climate.
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Internet tourist promotion: EnglandNet

DCMS is improving the range of the national internet portal EnglandNet by offering information and promotional material about other sectors supported by the Department. DCMS says it would particularly benefit from entries from heritage, the historic and built environment, museums libraries and archives, film and professional and grassroots sport. The internet platform developed with VisitBritain is a customer focussed web portal aimed at both domestic and international visitors. It includes details of quality assessed hotel and other accommodation with booking links together with information on local and regional destinations. Visitors can use it to create personal travel and visiting itineraries.

The EnglandNet portal is reached through VisitBritain's websites www.visitbritain.com and www.enjoyengland.com [Back](#)

Conservation Awards: Winners rewarded

Expert judges awarded two prestigious awards of £15,000 to conservation projects caring for heritage, one for preservation of a silk doublet from the 1620s, the other for a scheme spreading knowledge and techniques for proper preservation of antique paper and documents.

The Award for Conservation was presented to Tuula Pardoe of the Scottish Conservation Studio and Sue Payne, curator at Perth Museum, for their work in textile conservation. Durham University Library picked up the Collections Care Award. The project, with funding from MLA North East, helped 50 diverse organisations across the region improve their preservation of documents, books and manuscripts.

Other winners were Rachel Morrison and The Courtauld Institute of Art, for research into cleaning unvarnished paintings; The National Archives, Kew, for the 'Active preservation at the National Archives: PRONOM and DROID' project and Professor Norman Tennent and Dr James Nobbs for inventing a computerised technique to improve colour-matching in ceramic conservation. The Awards were sponsored by Sir Paul McCartney and supported by key organisations: the Institute of Conservation (Icon), English Heritage, the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA), the Digital Preservation Coalition (DPC) and the National Preservation Office (NPO). For more information see <http://www.conservationawards.org.uk/index.php> [Back](#)

PEOPLE

Heritage Lottery Fund: Board vacancies

The HLF/NHMF has a number of regional vacancies for committee members beginning in 2008. The positions sought are located in: the East Midlands Committee (Chair and Member); the East of England (Member); South East England (Member) and West Midlands (Member).

For background information and the application pack go to <http://www.hlf.org.uk/English/AboutUs/Vacancies/> Applications should be made by 5th November. [Back](#)

Culture North East: Chair

The Department for Culture Media and Sport invites applications for the role of Chair for Culture North East. This Regional Cultural Consortium (RCC) champions the whole spectrum of cultural and creative interests in the region, including tourism and sport. All eight RCCS, now Non Departmental Public Bodies, have the responsibility for implementing their Regional Cultural Strategy and have a role in central policy making, regional data collection and research.

The Chair of CNE has responsibility for providing overall effective strategic leadership. The set of responsibilities, skills and competencies, time commitment and expenses are set out at http://www.culture.gov.uk/working_with_us/Public_appointments/pa_vacancies/paadvert_cne.htm together with application details. Candidates should reside in, work in, or be able to demonstrate strong links with, the region. [Back](#)

EVENTS

Culture Minister to speak at Heritage Link's Heritage Day 11th December

Culture Minister Margaret Hodge has accepted Heritage Link's invitation to address the heritage sector at our next National Heritage Day. The day, now one of the biggest annual gatherings of the sector, follows the usual format starting with the morning AGM for members, followed by a national networking lunch for all, the Ministerial presentation and open forum.

For a change from town halls and places of worship, this year we are heading for the Ritzy Cinema in Brixton, originally designed as the Electric Pavilion in 1910. All are invited, individuals as well as representatives from public, private and voluntary organisations. Download a registration form on Heritage Link's homepage www.heritagelink.org.uk [Back](#)

Deconstructing Building Stone: One Day Seminar

These seminars review the different types of building stone, including slate, used in Britain. They examine the question of how to assess the quality of building stones, looking at British and the new European standards.

Presentations will cover the importance of selecting the correct building stone, new methods of testing relative durability of a slate, whole life cycle costs, regional building practices and stone extraction. To conclude there will be a review of the challenges of sourcing regional building stones for the repair and maintenance of the built heritage.

The dates and locations are: 23rd October, East Kilbride; 8th November, Inverness; 28th November, Watford and 22nd January 2008, Port Talbot. For further details and to book at the special online price of £145, go to www.bre.co.uk/events or e-mail events@bre.co.uk See <http://www.nsiuk.org/> for further details. [Back](#)

Hands On Heritage Skills at Beamish Museum: 6th November

This event looks at the progress and future aims of the Heritage Skills Project and includes a practical skills session and a guided talk.

One of the following practical sessions can be selected: Letter Carving in Stone or Artistic Blacksmithing - both in 'The Great Shed' at Pockerley Manor. For the Guided Talks there is a choice of: tour of the Masonic Lodge looking at the painting techniques used, with a demonstration; or a tour of Home Farm looking at hard landscaping such as cobbles and stonework around the Grade II listed building.

There are limited places available and all interested participants must apply for a ticket for their place to be confirmed. Contact Andie Harris at the North of England Civic Trust, tel: 0191 232 9279, admin@nect.org.uk [Back](#)

Family History Event: National Waterways Museum, 24th November

The National Waterways Museum in Stoke Bruerne will join with expert archivists from Northamptonshire Records Office to encourage people to explore their roots and the local significance of the waterways in an all-day event.

The workshop costs £10 per person, which includes entry to the National Waterways Museum and the special exhibition *People - Who are We?* Places are limited and must be booked in advance by calling 01452 318225 or emailing teresa.wilmshurst@thewaterwaystrust.org.uk [Back](#)

SITUATIONS VACANT

We expect all organisations whose posts are advertised below to offer equal opportunity to all and to welcome applications from all sections of the community

Legacy Trust UK: Executive Director

Legacy Trust UK has been endowed with £40m from the sector's leading grant givers to create a lasting legacy from the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Trust anticipates that it will support a programme of projects on the themes of culture, knowledge and sport with a particular emphasis on involving young people. Many of these events will be eligible for inclusion in the Cultural Olympiad.

The Board is looking to appoint a full-time Director to manage and fulfil the mission of the Trust, with outstanding ambassadorial skills.

For the full role description and application procedure contact legacy@perrettlaver.com Apply by 6th November.

Edinburgh World Heritage Site: Director

The Director will be a candidate with innovative thinking, effective communication, drive and enthusiasm to deliver the aims of the organisation. A strong background in conservation and architectural heritage with a proven track record of leading a small team successfully and working effectively with other organisations is required.

The post will provide direction and leadership and be responsible for all operational activities of the organisation. He/ She will also contribute to the heritage/conservation debate in Edinburgh and to the management of the World Heritage Site.

Salary c.£40,000. Contact Caroline Sibbald with any enquiries about the application process on 0131 220 7728. Interested candidates should visit www.ewht.org.uk and download the job profile and application details. Closing date 2nd November.

North of England Civic Trust: Project Manager

The North of England Civic Trust, based in Newcastle, provides professional services in the public interest across the North East, Cumbria and North Yorkshire.

The Trust is now seeking a project manager, ideally an architect or other suitably qualified professional (inc. IHBC, AABC), with the experience to oversee development and delivery of publicly-funded heritage, regeneration and community capital projects, or historic environment management projects for the Trust and others. Applicants should have project management experience of heritage capital projects including finance and public funding procedures and design and conservation experience.

Salary: c. £27,000, dependent on experience. For further details or discussion contact the Director, Graham Bell, graham.bell@nect.org.uk, 07815 874423. Apply by 31st October.

SAVE Britain's Heritage: Administrator

SAVE Britain's Heritage is seeking a part time administrator (2 days per week) to help ensure the smooth day to day running of its small, slightly unconventional office and providing administrative support to the SAVE team.

Salary £17,500 pro rata. Please contact Catherine or Adam at SAVE for a copy of the job description and application form on 020 7253 3500, save@btinternet.com Closing date: noon, 2nd November.

Heritage Works Buildings Preservation Trust Ltd: Project Manager

This organisation was formerly Ancoats Building Preservation Trust, now operating across England and Wales. A Project Manager is required to develop and implement historic building regeneration projects. Construction and conservation experience essential. Post may be full or part time, based in central Manchester.

See www.heritageworks.co.uk for more information or telephone 0161 278 1755. Salary £25,000 - £30,000 (full time). Closing date 29th October

Eastside Community Heritage: Two Posts

1. Project Manager. Salary £27,500

This is a three year opportunity to manage a community heritage oral history project in the regeneration area of East London. The post will manage four part time community project officers, develop local heritage projects and work with partners from archives, museums and heritage centres to coordinate outreach activities, reporting and monitoring project activities with them. Relevant experience a necessity.

2. Archive and Administration Officer. Salary £22,601

This post will be responsible for maintaining the archive to BS5454 Standards, and managing the project finances. Experience is sought in basic book keeping and administration support.

Applications and job descriptions available at www.hidden-histories.org.uk Closing date 16th November.

Historic Scotland: Assistant Inspector of Historic Buildings

This post is fixed term for nine months. The successful applicant will be involved in researching, preparing and presenting architectural and historic descriptions for statutory lists, including survey work, viewing existing listings and identifying eligible new sites.

A first or upper second honours degree is sought, or a postgraduate qualification in Art History, Architectural History, Conservation Architecture or equivalent. A full clean UK driving licence is required.

Salary £19,148-£26,278. For full details email hs.recruit@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or call 0131 668 8641 quoting ref HSC/07/ 123. Closing date 9th November.

Heritage Lottery Fund: 2 Posts

1. Development Officer, London Region (Maternity Cover). Salary Range £23,298 - £26,280.

This is an opportunity to work as part of the London Team assisting the Development Manager in the planning, implementation and evaluation of outreach strategies in the region. This may suit someone who is looking for a secondment opportunity or fixed term contract up until November 2008. Closing date 29th October.

2. Grants Officer, South East region. Salary Range £23,298 - £26,280

The job holder will report to a Senior Grants Officer forming part of the regional operations team. Primary responsibilities will be to assess and process applications for grants in the region including process monitoring of projects undertaken by successful applicants. Applicants should have relevant previous experience in a similar role, to include a working knowledge of one of the following areas and familiarity with at least one other: grant distribution, project planning and management, experience in one of the heritage sectors funded by HLF, town planning, historic building conservation and landscape management. Closing date 26th October.

To apply online visit www.hlf.org.uk Interviews for both posts will be held in early November 2007.

Planner (Conservation), Cardiff

The Regeneration Group is responsible for conservation, design, regeneration projects and the City Centre Strategy. A suitably qualified and committed team member is sought to assist in conservation work. Applicants should be qualified in town planning or equivalent leading to RTPI or equivalent membership. Some experience of issues relating to conservation and listed buildings and ideally an additional qualification in this field would be preferred. Good communication and IT skills and a high level of organisational ability are necessary.

Salary: £18,450 - £26,928. Contact Lindsay Cuddy for details on 02920 873 485. Download the application pack at www.cardiff.gov.uk/jobs Closing date 26th October.

Donald Insall Associates, 4 posts. Cambridge/ Chester/ London/ Shrewsbury

Opportunities for talented and enthusiastic architects with a minimum of 3 years experience and an interest in conservation. Work will include a challenging range of historic and new building projects in sensitive areas. Applicants should have good design skills, job running experience on listed buildings, a strong record in the production of working drawings and specifications, and be proficient in the use of AutoCAD. Hand drawing would also be advantageous.

Contact Elaine.Taylor@insall-camb.co.uk for information on the Cambridge post; Beverly.Hinks@insall-deva.co.uk (Chester); Sharon.Bartlett@insall-london.co.uk (London) and for Shrewsbury Geoff.Broster@insall-salop.co.uk.

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