

**Mission: Through our casework, research, advice and educational outreach the SPAB aims to keep old buildings useful, beautiful and part of people's lives.**

## KEY STORIES

### RESPONSE TO COVID 19

2020 was a challenging year for the SPAB but it sparked innovation. We reacted swiftly to the lockdown measures, bringing courses online, with the first running on 19 March. The technical advice line continued to operate, providing callers with a friendly, expert voice on the end of the phone. The casework team continued to advise on applications and threats to buildings, even though site visiting was restricted. Interest in our social media content rose enormously as we invited guest spots from around the UK and Ireland, ran competitions, and provided learning resources and light relief to our **35,000 online followers**. We continued to support our members by running online skills shares and starting a jobs ebulletin, that featured an average of **60 vacancies a month**. The Mills Section laid plans for millwright training and the repair of the Society's Kibworth Harcourt post mill in 2021.

## SUCCESSES

### OLD HOUSE PROJECT: ST ANDREWS, BOXLEY, KENT



One of the building's major problems was resolved in 2020 – the repair of the roof and chimneys. New handmade tiles were fired, and lime for mortar was burnt in a kiln on site.

Mindful of restrictions, limited numbers of trainees and volunteers were able to participate in the working party onsite and at Boxley Abbey. For those not able to join, we ran online presentations. We are grateful to the many enthusiasts, experts and local people who contributed to the project's progress in 2020. Special thanks also to the Pilgrim Trust, the Architectural Heritage Fund and Sponsor-a-Tile donors for their support. Historic England chose the project to illustrate a successful example of community and volunteer involvement in the South East.



## MORE FOR MEMBERS

In 2020 we launched the member skills shares, online presentations by members for members. **Sixteen members volunteered** to share their expertise and nearly **2000 people attended**. Topics were wide-ranging, including sessions on policy and heritage impact assessments, and lessons learned from old-building repair projects



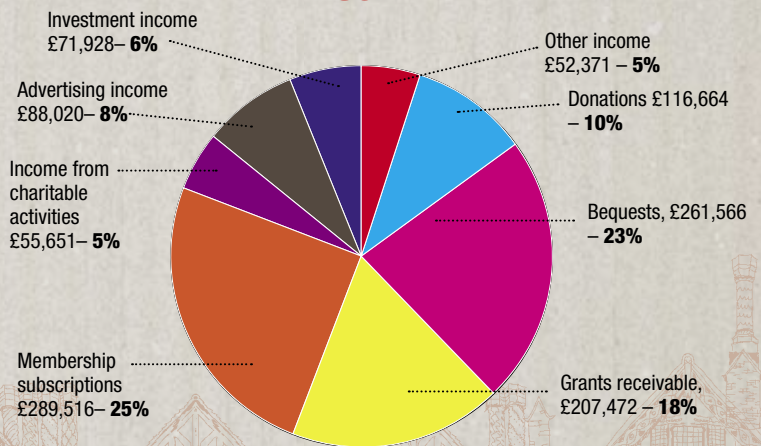
## NATIONAL MAINTENANCE WEEK

National Maintenance Week 2020 was perhaps our busiest yet, with eight free online talks from the SPAB and its regional branches, as well as lots of discussion on social media. In partnership with the National Churches Trust and Historic England, we launched a Maintenance Checklist for places of worship, with a suite of instructive accompanying videos, hosted on our website.

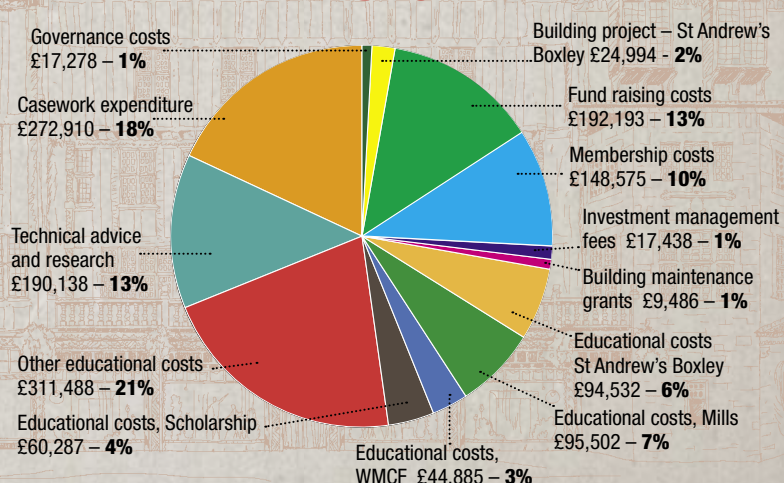
## THANK YOU

In 2020 we were supported by **6579 Main Society** members and over **400 volunteers**. This year we welcomed **1115** new members. Over **556** of you donated to support our work. **Eight** people kindly left gifts in their wills. **Eleven** Trusts generously supported our projects, Historic England and CADW provided statutory funding and the National Lottery Heritage Fund gave special Covid-19 assistance. A loan from the Architectural Heritage Fund supported the Old House Project.

## INCOME



## EXPENDITURE







## ADVICE

An increasing number of enquiries about water-repellent treatments have reached us. We embarked on a collaboration with University College London over a doctoral study looking at the performance of a range of water-repellent surface coatings, both traditional and modern, that are available for historic building use.

We published **three** new or revised **Technical Advice Notes**:

The Need for Old Buildings to 'Breathe'

Conservation of Decorative Leadwork

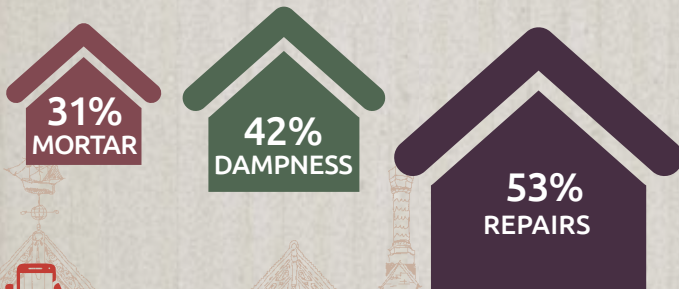
Vernacular Slate and Stone Roofing in Wales and the Marches

Our online knowledge base articles were visited **116,065** times.

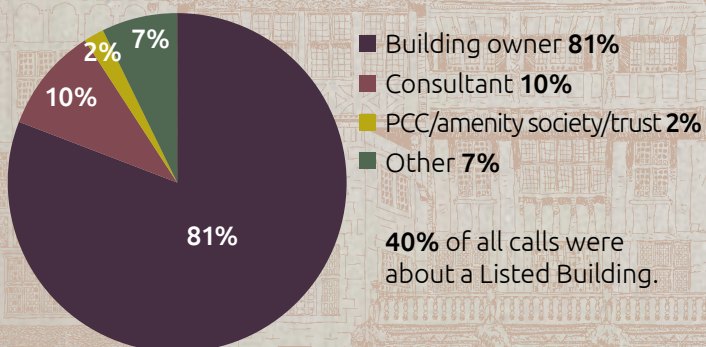
We received **765** calls to the **Technical Advice Line**.

## POPULAR TOPICS

Each call often covers more than one query or concern, these numbers reflect that.



## Who called?



40% of all calls were about a Listed Building.

The SPAB is grateful to Historic England for supporting the Technical Advice Line



## EDUCATION

Adapting quickly to Covid-19 restrictions we moved many courses and lectures online. Our Scholarship and Fellowship programmes were suspended, but the trainees selected were supported in 2020 and begin their programmes properly in 2021.

We hosted **49 courses, lectures and other events**, the majority taking place online, which amounted to **5,078 bookings**. **Nine** of those events were available for free.



## AWARDS

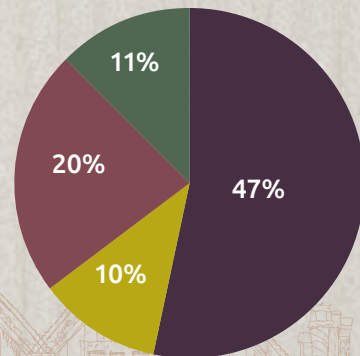
Judges' visits for the John Betjeman Award (England & Wales) took place in October, with social distancing and face coverings in place. Tenterden Methodist Church in Kent won for its repair of a war memorial pipe organ. The first John Betjeman Award (Ireland) was judged remotely, with St Doulagh, Balgriffin, Co Dublin emerging as the winner. Jess Tyson won the Philip Webb Award with her inventive scheme to adapt Nottingham's former Guildhall and Fire Station as a new Arts Centre for the city.



## CAMPAIGNING

'Buildings at risk' were a key focus. We managed to follow up on all of the many buildings brought to our attention. We provided detailed feedback on the government's Planning White Paper.

## Breakdown of cases responded to:



- Domestic buildings 47%
- Religious buildings 20%
- Commercial buildings 11%
- Agricultural buildings 10%

High profile cases included **Ripon** and **St Paul's Cathedrals**, Caernarfon Castle, and demolitions associated with the **HS2 rail line**.

This year we responded to over **1000** requests, with **171** in **Wales**