



The Society for the
Protection of Ancient
Buildings

Annual Review 2012



Annual Review

The Society's Annual Review for 2012 marks another year of growth and achievement for the Society.

Achievements

In 2012 the SPAB was honoured with an award from the EU and Europa Nostra, for its Dedicated Service to historic building conservation. This was a major international achievement that reflected recent work but also the efforts and commitment of many earlier generations. Alongside the well established educational and advisory roles that won it the award, in 2012 the Society continued its pioneering research work into the energy efficiency and performance of old buildings. The Society's aim is to show how energy efficiency can be improved, while avoiding harm to the fabric and character of historic structures. In October 2012 the Society ran a major conference in Birmingham on energy efficiency for old buildings which brought together researchers, conservation bodies and professionals from across the UK. We were also involved in a EU-linked seminar held in Belgium. Although the government's energy-related Green Deal scheme was postponed until 2013 by the Department for Climate Change (DECC), discussions involving the Society continued and we were able to provide advice on the training of the scheme's professional building assessors. Guidance to owners on how energy efficiency-related changes to old buildings can be achieved without harm was offered through our free technical advice helpline and was included in a book called the *Old House Eco Handbook*, to be published in association with the SPAB in 2013.

Influencing Policy

In a time of significant change for the planning system the Society took a strong interest in amendments affecting the protection of historic structures. We played an active part in discussions about the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which was introduced in summer 2012. Also significant was the Penfold Review of consent regimes on which we commented. The Society monitored plans for a new Heritage Bill in Wales as well as the review of internal controls initiated by the Church in Wales. We played an active part in the development of the National Heritage Protection Plan in England, which aims to

coordinate the work of a range of leading national heritage bodies.

Planning for the Future

The Society's Secretary Philip Venning OBE retired in summer 2012 after three decades of dedicated SPAB work and was succeeded by new Director Matthew Slocombe, with Sara Crofts appointed Deputy Director. Alongside this change, the Society's senior management team was given greater delegated responsibility for the running of the organisation to help with the implementation of the Society's Strategy. Development Manager, Sue Barnard, was appointed to assist with future fundraising and membership growth. A new Communications Advisory Group was established and the Education Committee was reconstituted as the Education and Training Advisory Committee with a widened brief. Work began on a new SPAB website with the aim that it should become even more important as a source of information and the Society's principal point of contact with the public. The Society's quarterly publication was renamed the *SPAB Magazine* and its content was altered to place more emphasis on promotion of the Society's work. The Society built on the success of the Faith in Maintenance project with a new bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for the Maintenance Cooperatives. A Round One bid gained HLF support and was run in Stoke on Trent and Shropshire in the later months of 2012.

Awards

The Society's 2012 John Betjeman Memorial Award was presented at the AGM in Manchester to All Saints' Church, Necton, Norfolk. The judges felt that the approach to the repair of the distinctive cupola and tower was well considered and had involved outstanding craftsmanship. The contractors were W. S. Lusher & Son Ltd of Sprowston, Norwich and the architect was Ruth Blackman of Birdsall, Swash and Blackman. The 2012 Esher Award was given to former SPAB Chairman David Lodge.

Our legal Annual Report and Audited Accounts will appear on our website (www.spab.org.uk). Paper copies can be provided on request.



1 Philip Venning retires at the AGM in Manchester in June after nearly 30 years as SPAB Secretary. (photo: Andy Marshall).

2 London Open House at 37 Spital Square, with demonstration by Craft Fellow and plasterer, Paul Agar.

3 The 2012 John Betjeman Memorial Award was presented to All Saints', Necton, Norfolk (photo: Revd Stephen Thorp).

4 Director Matthew Slocombe and Deputy Director Sara Crofts with visiting heritage professionals from Guangdong Province, China.

5 A members' visit to Bank Hall, Bretherton as part of the 2012 AGM weekend.

Front Cover: Emily Hale, bricklayer and 2012 William Morris Craft Fellow (photo: Ralph Hodgson).

Casework

In its casework, the SPAB gives advice to planning officers, owners and professionals. Local authorities in England and Wales are obliged to notify the Society of applications involving demolition work to listed buildings though cases may also arise from information received about neglected buildings. We are contacted directly by parishes, dioceses and cathedral bodies when major works of alteration or extension to listed places of worship are proposed.

Casework themes

In 2012 the Casework Team actively assessed approximately 2,000 applications for changes to listed buildings out of a total of around 6,000 applications received. In cases where the proposals appear to be acceptable we often do not submit any comments to the local authority but in other instances where we have serious concerns we may get involved in discussions on site or provide detailed written advice. Interestingly, despite the recession there still seems to have been a steady stream of applications for extensions and often quite major alterations to domestic properties. Many of these proposals arise out of a perceived need to make houses fit for twenty-first century family life and an accompanying desire to create a large kitchen space to act as the focus for domestic activities. Unsurprisingly, such aspirations can lead to potentially harmful remodelling schemes for essentially quite modest vernacular structures and the Society has found itself objecting to a number of proposals of this type in the last year.

The financial downturn and the perceived lack of grant money does not seem to have stemmed the tide of proposals for large reordering or extension schemes for churches. We have seen a considerable number of such projects in the last twelve months as well as a number of proposals to replace historic floors with new insulated floors incorporating underfloor heating. In each instance the Society gives careful consideration to the arguments put forward in the Statement of Need but often concludes that the proposals entail a greater level of intervention to the historic fabric than is justified by the anticipated benefits.

Buildings in Need

Targeted assistance for 'Buildings in Need' remains a principal objective of the SPAB's current strategy and we continue to be alerted to the plight of buildings in poor condition by SPAB members and concerned

individuals. In some cases we simply provide advice to local groups keen to secure a future for their cherished but threatened local buildings whilst in other cases the Society takes a more active role by writing to the building owner or contacting the local authority to try to encourage positive action. We also undertake site visits and work with other organisations to seek solutions where possible. Southtown Farm in West Pennard, Somerset is a good example of a case where a joint effort between the SPAB, English Heritage, the local authority and a sympathetic owner looks likely to result in much needed repairs to a fascinating and as yet not fully understood farm building, currently known as the Brewhouse. We have also provided advice with regard to the Barn at Boxley Abbey, Cherry Holt Farm near Marsh, a set of agricultural buildings at Hill near Christow, Pond Farmhouse at Crambe and Lodge Hall, Horton in Ribblesdale amongst others.

Designation policy in England

At the end of the year we also noted a change in the approach taken by English Heritage towards the



Old Nant-ewyn, Tanat Valley, Powys: the Society visited and offered advice.



Ovendon Hall, Halifax, West Yorks: the Society is working to help secure re-use.

designation of heritage assets in that the designation department will now direct its limited resources towards those buildings that are most in need of attention. As a result English Heritage will now only take forward applications for designation if the building or site is demonstrably under serious threat of demolition or major alteration; if the type of structure falls within the designation department's priorities under the *National Heritage Protection Plan*; or if the building possesses evident significance and is therefore obviously worthy of inclusion on the *National Heritage List for England*. Applications that do not meet at least one of these three criteria will not be taken forward.

Casework Panel and Volunteers

The SPAB continues to be indebted to those who freely give their time to consider cases and to make site visits on behalf of the Society. The 'virtual' Casework Panel that was set up in 2011 is now operating effectively and caseworkers are able to draw on a wide pool of expertise when required. We are particularly grateful to the dedicated teams of volunteer caseworkers who have been involved in the sometimes lengthy negotiations over major schemes for English cathedrals. Dealing with the volume of information produced in support of these schemes and making repeated visits to cathedrals to discuss evolving proposals requires a great deal of commitment but we have been heartened to note that these efforts can pay dividends. The 'Open Treasure' project at Durham Cathedral is a good example

where the SPAB feels certain that the friendly and collaborative discussions between the Dean and Chapter and the various consultees has resulted in a proposal that is a considerable improvement on the original vision.

The Casework Team is also pleased to have the support of a small team of volunteer caseworkers based at Spital Square – Peter Jamieson, Rod McDonald and Bettina Niemeier – who assist with tackling some of the routine casework that comes to us from local authorities.



St John's Church, Glastonbury, Somerset: we opposed lifting and replacement of historic floor slabs.

Technical and Research Work

The SPAB's technical activities continue to be firmly at the heart of its work as we strive to deliver high-quality advice informed by our unique philosophy to ever-wider audiences.

Technical Enquiries

- **Technical Advice Line:** The continuation of the Society's helpline has been secured up to Spring 2015 following the award of English Heritage funding. The advice line is a service that has become all the more important given the recent reduction of independent advice available from public authorities.
- **Contacts Database:** The Contacts Database provides an invaluable source of names we can suggest over the Technical Advice Line to callers planning work. A new volunteer will be found in 2013 to succeed Dr Jenny West, who has generously assisted us with this database for a number of years.

Technical Events

- **Working Party:** The last of eight summer Working Parties took place in 2012, at the grade I-listed Holy Trinity Church, Ratcliffe-on-Soar in Nottinghamshire. This brought to an end a programme of work that included improvements to underground drainage, repointing masonry in lime mortar, lime plastering and limewashing. The church was re-dedicated in the autumn by the Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham. Our Working Party moves to a new site in 2013.
- **Seminars:** Despite the difficult economic environment, bookings for our technical events have held up well. Our diverse range of seminars included Conservation Engineering; Damp Issues - Causes and Current Thinking; and Interior Surfaces - Analysis and Options.
- **External Events:** As well as involvement with SPAB courses, the Technical and Research Team also contributed to externally-run events, including the National Homebuilding and Renovating Show, National Home Improvement Show, and gave many talks to professional groups and others.

Technical Publications and Advice via Other Media

- **Technical Q&As:** remained a regular feature of the SPAB's magazine. Those published in 2012 covered stonework, suspended timber floor insulation, gypsum plaster floors and leaded lights. As usual, these were retrospectively posted on our website.
- **External Publications:** We contributed technical articles to a range of magazines, such as *Period Living* and *Build It*. We also produced articles on maintenance for both English Heritage's *Conservation Bulletin* and for its revised *Practical Building Conservation* series.
- **Radio and Television:** In Autumn 2012, the television series *Britain's Empty Homes* on BBC 1 featured an interview with Douglas Kent, the Technical and Research Director. The programme was able to use his grade I-listed medieval house in Saffron Walden, Essex to demonstrate how the Society's principles of 'conservative repair' can be put into practice.

Technical Assistance with Casework and Planning

- **Planning Inquiry:** The SPAB offered its conditional support for an application to extend the Hermitage Quarry near Aylesford in Kent. This followed visits and careful consideration of the building conservation issues by our Technical Panel. The quarry is understood to be the sole surviving and viable source of architectural quality Kentish Ragstone, the supply of which is essential for repairing and sustaining the important heritage of old buildings in Kent and further afield.

Collaboration

- **External Committees:** We held regular meetings throughout 2012 with our colleagues in other organisations that share our cause. We were represented on the Technical Panels of the Institute of Historic Building Conservation and Property Care Association, the committee of the Traditional



1 The final year of the Working Party at Ratcliffe-on-Soar, Notts.

2 The SPAB was involved in research to test the performance of alternatives to lead-based paints: samples being tested.

Paint Forum, Conservation of Traditional Thatch Group (formerly Conservation of Historic Thatch group), a new heritage group within the National Federation of Roofing Contractors and the Bells Committee of the Archbishops' Council. The Technical and Research Director also attended a meeting of plumbing organisations led by the Worshipful Company of Plumbers and arranged by liveryman and SPAB Guardian Dr Peter Rumley. It aimed to address the lack of traditional craft plumbing skills.

Research

- **Energy Efficiency for old buildings:** We believe that it is vital to underpin the practical advice dispensed by the Society with a robust research base. Significant advances were made in 2012 with our ground-breaking research into the energy efficiency of old buildings. This led to the issue of two updated reports (available on our website). We are grateful to lead researcher Dr Caroline Rye and her colleagues, as well as to the bodies

that have contributed funding: English Heritage, Historic Scotland and the Dartmoor National Park Authority.

- **Sharing Our Knowledge:** The Society has shared the interim findings of this research with other organisations in the field. In 2012, we participated in further meetings at the Department of Energy and Climate Change ahead of the introduction of its 'Green Deal' funding package for measures aimed at improving the energy efficiency of existing buildings; former SPAB Secretary Philip Venning represented us at associated discussions on training; and Jonathan Garlick, the Society's Technical Officer, attended frequent meetings with the Sustainable Traditional Buildings Alliance.
- **Paint:** Following an SPAB course on lead paints held in association with the Traditional Paint Forum in 2009, our two organisations, along with six other like-minded bodies, including the National Trust, initiated research to investigate the performance of commercially-available alternatives to lead-based paint for external timber. This is being undertaken by the Paint Research Association and progressed well in 2012.

Technical Panel

- **Panel Members:** As ever, the SPAB is grateful for the time and expertise given to us by members of our Technical Panel, a group of old building specialists from various fields who support the Technical and Research Team. Structural engineer Charles Blackett-Ord took over from Louise Bainbridge as the Panel's Chairman in September 2012 and his previous role as Vice-Chairman has been filled by building surveyor and former SPAB Technical Secretary Philip Hughes.
- **Guest Speakers:** Visitors who contributed to lunchtime discussions at Technical Panel meetings in 2012 were Scott Frith and John Clarke of Alseco (UK) Ltd and Martin Brown of Anglia Lime Company.
- **'Breathability' Sub-group:** A new Technical Panel sub-group on 'breathability' was set up during the year. It is chaired by architect Stafford Holmes.

Education and training

The SPAB provides training for a range of audiences and educates through a variety of resources including its historic archive

Courses

In general, course attendance in 2012 was good and the trend for decline, witnessed in previous years following the economic downturn, appeared to have evened-out.

2012 was a year of review as the SPAB undertook an evaluation of the courses it runs, most notably its long-established Repair of Old Buildings course. Following research it was decided to alter the length of the twice annual course from six days to five days after this proved to be favoured by delegates. The course offers an intensive training week of lectures and site visits, and the aim has been to retain the impressive content while ensuring that the week is tightly focused throughout.

Two Historic Brickwork Masterclasses were held at Hampton Court Palace and were run in conjunction with Historic Royal Palaces. This new collaboration proved to be very successful and a useful model upon which to base future partnerships.

Faith in Maintenance

After five hugely successful years the SPAB's Faith in Maintenance project came to the end of its HLF-funded period. However the Society was delighted when it secured English Heritage funding so that we



The successful Faith in Maintenance project continues to run with English Heritage support (photo: Ralph Hodgson).



An historic brickwork masterclass at Hampton Court Palace.

can offer to deliver a Faith in Maintenance course at a modest cost to potential hosts. Four courses have already taken place under the new arrangement and it is hoped that this number will increase over the next twelve months.

William Morris Craft Fellowship

Two stonemasons and a bricklayer completed the Fellowship in 2012. They were Emily Hale, 22, a self employed brick layer from Milton Keynes, Callum Plews, 26, a stonemason from Penicuik employed by Stirling Stone Ltd and Samantha Peacock, 25, a stonemason from Bristol employed at Wells Cathedral Stonemasons Ltd.

The Society was saddened by the death of Gwyn Watkins one of our first Fellows and a stonemason at Burghley House where he hosted many groups of Scholars & Fellows and where his excellent work will live on.

The 2012 Fellows' visits ranged from a lead roofing project at the Canon's Cloisters, Windsor to pargetting in Suffolk, blacksmithing in Sheffield, York & Ratho and kiln building in Machynlleth. The Fellows' Presentation was held in the Ironmongers' Hall in the City of London where a record turnout of Fellows came to wish Rachel Bower, Education



The Society's 2012 Scholars and Fellows.

Officer well in her retirement. Having steered so many Scholars and Fellows through their courses she will be greatly missed as a member of staff but remains involved with the SPAB.

Scholarship

The 2012 Scholars were Charlie de Bono and Henry Sanders, both architects and engineer Justin McAteer, the Society's first Scholar from the Republic of Ireland. During their initial six months they visited a wide range of sites and practitioners around the UK, but also spent two memorable weeks in Ireland and Malta, witnessing interesting conservation challenges and learning about European approaches to historic building repair and re-use. Their final three months of each year's Scholarship involves spending times pursuing a study theme through stays at country houses, made possible by the generous hospitality of supportive SPAB friends.

Scholars also marked Rachel Bower's retirement with presentations at the AGM of the independent Dance Scholarship Trust in Much Wenlock, Shropshire. A sad loss to the Scholarship and the Society was the death of architect Peter Locke, a Scholar in 1950 and much-valued supporter of the SPAB.

We are grateful as ever for the cooperation of hosts throughout the year without whom the Scholarships & Fellowships could not survive.

Archive

2012 saw a significant rise in the number of researchers visiting the SPAB's archive. With 135 years of material relating to specific buildings and places, those carrying out research often discover that the SPAB has been there before them and thus may hold a file on the building in question.

A strategic aim for the Society is to increase access to and awareness of the archive, a significant educational resource. Much 'behind the scenes' strategic planning took place during 2012 towards the conservation of archive files and access to them. Care of the archive was assisted by the regular, dedicated support of volunteer Bernard Wigginton. In 2013 the Society hopes to secure funding to allow it to undertake a major project of archive material conservation and digitisation.

Lectures

Our autumn lecture series included three fascinating and well-attended talks. The Landmark Trust explained about its work at Astley Castle, Warwickshire which combined repair and consolidation with imaginative new design. Martin Higgins discussed his personal crusade for the conservation of Betchworth Castle in Surrey. A trust's work to protect Margate's Dreamland theme park brought a 20th century dimension to the series.

Mills, SPAB in Scotland, work in Wales

Mills

2012 has been a significant year for the Mills Section on a number of fronts. In addition to commenting and advising on a number of important cases including Carluke Windmill (the most complete tower mill in Scotland), the Section launched a new membership leaflet to raise awareness of the work of the Section and was invited to present at a symposium hosted by the Dutch Cultural Heritage Agency launching 'A Future for Mills', the Agency's new strategy on the conservation and repair of mills.

Internally, the Section achieved an important milestone, reducing its operating deficit to under £7,000. A lack of voluntary resource continues to be a major barrier to the Section achieving its Strategy and Objectives in full and this is a key challenge to address in 2013.

The redesigned and presented *Mill News* has proved popular and successful.

Grants from the Mill Repairs Fund were offered to Downfields Windmill, North Leverton Windmill, Stickford Mill, Whissendine Windmill.

SPAB in Scotland

During 2012 SPABiS held a number of events including a visit to the on-going Kelso Townscape Heritage Initiative and to nearby Jedburgh. The 2012 AGM was held at the category A listed Tower Mill, Hawick. During November 2012 an event took place in Aberdeen as part of National Maintenance Week. Some internal reorganisation occurred at the end of the year with Zoe Herbert appointed new administrator. David Roemmele became Convenor, with Jessica Snow as Vice Convenor and Steve Wood as Treasurer. A Christmas Party at Riddles Court, Lawn Market, Edinburgh was enjoyed by members and guests.

SPAB work in Wales

During the year, through the work of our officers in Wales, the Society responded to the consultation on Options for the Delivery of Local Authority Historic Environment Services and contributed to Cadw-convended workshops connected with the forthcoming Welsh Heritage Bill.



Mill News, relaunched in 2012.

We also prepared a paper on the Working of Faculty Jurisdiction in Wales, for the Church in Wales and participated in the National Churches Trust's steering group for establishing a Wales section. Additionally, we joined the Caring for God's Acre national project steering group and visited DACs.

The Society attended Welsh Built Heritage Forum meetings with local authority conservation officers and other events such as the Adfer Ban y Chwm seminar and Welsh Historic Churches conference. Welsh features for the SPAB Magazine included an article on the Early Industrial Housing in South Wales, featuring Cadw's 'Heritage Cottage'.



Cadw's 'Heritage Cottage' in south Wales was featured in an article for the SPAB Magazine (photo: Cadw).

Outreach

Public perception and outreach has been identified in the SPAB's strategy as a key development area. The term 'outreach' can be applied to the work of the Society in the very broadest sense, encompassing every way we communicate with members, potential members, people interested in the built heritage environment and opinion formers.

Over the last year, using a variety of channels and media tools, we have sought to consolidate our work in this area and to create a 'virtuous circle' whereby all our communications activities support and feed into each other. Our aspiration is to establish deeper understanding and knowledge of the Society, its work and its philosophy.

The SPAB Magazine

Our new-look members' magazine has been well received. One of the main aims of our recent changes has been to include more information about the work, achievements and projects of the SPAB. We view *The SPAB Magazine* as one of the most important ways in which we are able to tell the wider world about what we do and why. Packed with features, regular items, news and reports from the built heritage world, *The SPAB Magazine* is intended to have broad appeal to building professionals and heritage enthusiasts. Despite the difficult economic climate, it continues to attract high quality advertising.

Social Media

The Society places emphasis on social media as an increasingly important way to present information, enter into discussion, involve and connect to new audiences. Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and other new media platforms are now an integral part of our communications work. Importantly, social media enables the SPAB to reach younger audiences and those who might not normally be aware of us. The Scholars & Fellows blog charting the progress of our 2012 groups was well received and we are currently building on its success and the lessons it taught us. On Twitter, @SPAB1877 (an affectionate acknowledgement to the year the Society was born)



The SPAB Magazine, redesigned in 2012, promotes the Society's work and ideas.

is followed by 4000 people and that numbers grows every week.

National Maintenance Week

This has become an annual fixture in the SPAB's calendar, enabling us to take William Morris's exhortation to 'stave off decay by daily care' to a receptive consumer audience. As well as mentions on national radio and newspapers, the campaign has found a natural home in the property sections of regional print press where our advice and handy 'top tips' promote both good maintenance practice and the

principles of the SPAB. Our 2012 campaign was linked to our ongoing, ground-breaking research into the energy efficiency performance of old houses, giving owners information about the simple, easy-to-achieve actions they can take around the home to keep it snug.

Public Face

Once again we attended key consumer and professional shows to offer advice and introduce or affirm our message of the importance of conservative repair. In 2012 we gave advice to a large number of owners of older properties (and also to those thinking of taking the plunge) at The Listed Property Owners Show and The National Home Improvement Show. In addition, once again, we took a stand at the industry-focused Natural Stone Show. SPAB officers gave presentations and led seminars at several other events aimed at building professionals during the year.

www.twitter.com search for @SPAB1877

www.youtube.com/user/SPAB1877

www.spab.org.uk/videos-podcasts/audio-slideshows/

www.maintainyourbuilding.org.uk

Members

Membership

For the first time in four years, and despite difficult economic conditions, membership numbers achieved a small increase in 2012. Membership subscription rates had been frozen for over seven years, in response to the economy's difficulties, but in 2012 trustees resolved that this could be postponed no longer. It was decided to increase membership subscriptions of the main Society with effect from January 2013. The proportion of members joining online through the SPAB website grew during 2012, with an average of 46 members joining each month. We are grateful to all our members for the loyal support they continue to show the Society and its work.

Regional Groups

In 2012 the regional groups continued their hard work across England and Wales, and we are indebted to the groups' organisers for their commitment to the local membership and for their encouragement of SPAB ideas and aims in their region.

Many regional visits and events for local members took place throughout the year. The Marches group had been revived in 2011 after a period of dormancy and put on a full programme throughout 2012, which included visits to Much Wenlock, Bedstone College, Hopton Castle and members' houses in Herefordshire

and Shropshire. Other groups had a similarly busy year. The Fenland & Wash group organised an informative and worthwhile 'Introduction to Lime' Day in March, as well as talks and visits to places such as RAF Barnham and West Stow Hall. The Bucks, Berks & Oxon group once again held their Henley Lecture series in the winter months and also put on visits to St George's Chapel, Windsor, Wotton House, Chenies Manor and St Mary the Virgin, Oxford, amongst others. The revival of the Suffolk group was put into motion during the year and an exciting programme of events has been developed for 2013. The Yorkshire group participated in a series of Heritage Skills training events, which were in part led by SPAB Scholar Alan Gardner. Among the group's many events in the past year were visits to Kirklees Manor, Mortham Tower and Gilling Castle. The Kent & Surrey Group celebrated their 18th season of events with visits to the Watts Gallery in Compton, the Chiddingfold Smithy, Sheerness Dockyard and the King's School, Canterbury.

Throughout the year there has been a lot of progress with the formation of new groups and we are grateful to all new volunteers, who have offered their time and energy to the formation of a regional group. We look forward to watching the progress of the new groups in 2013.



Members of the Buck, Berks & Oxon Regional Group at Wotton House (photo: Clive Baker).



Members of the Yorkshire Regional Group at Mortham Tower (photo: G. Moritz).

Financial Review

Investment, grant and event income in 2012 all contributed appreciably more to the Society's finances than they did in 2011. This helped to off-set much of the decline in bequest income.

On the expenditure side, costs rose 6%. These included those associated with the appointment of the Society's first Development Manager, but the expenditure has already begun to bear fruit with new grants secured and a generous and positive response from members to the appeal to assist with the cost of repair and decoration works at our HQ, 37 Spital Square.

Although the Society recorded a deficit of just over £300,000 at the operating level, this reduced to a little over £60,000 once unrealised gains on our investment portfolio are included, reflecting the relatively healthy year for stockmarket returns in 2012. Overall, the Society's total balances fell less than 2% to £3.9m compared with £4.0m at the end of 2011. The Society regularly reviews its reserves policy.

Major Donations (over £1,000)

Anon; Anon re Webb Award; Wheler Foundation; R Deeble; Shipley Windmill Charitable Trust

Scholarship support (from trusts)

Alan Baxter Foundation; Carpenters' Company; Cathedral Architects Association; Dance Scholarship Trust; Drake Trust

Fellowship support (from trusts)

Carrington (1953) Ltd; Drake Trust; Fred Linford Trust; Monument Trust William Morris Craft Fellowship Trust William Morris Society

Legacies

It was perhaps inevitable that the Society's bequest income would fall below the record received in 2011 and so it proved. Overall, income from Donations, Trusts and Bequest fell from over £638,000 to just over £134,000, a decrease of 78%. We were very grateful, nevertheless, to receive generous bequests from Mrs Joyce Billington and Martin Conway Cook, as well as further instalments from the estates

of Sarah Douglass, Rosa Davis and continued and much appreciated support from the John Mason Trust. The Society remains enormously grateful to all those members and non-members who choose to remember us in their wills and their financial support makes an invaluable contribution to the Society's activities.

Grants to SPAB from Public Bodies

English Heritage continued to grant aid our statutory casework and technical advice helpline. They also assisted the William Craft Fellowship, contributed to our energy efficiency research work and supported the continuation of the Faith in Maintenance project. Cadw assisted with our work in Wales. Historic Scotland helped the William Morris Craft Fellowship. The Heritage Lottery Fund assisted the final year of Faith in Maintenance and provided a Round One project development grant towards our Maintenance Cooperatives project.

SPAB Grants

In 2012, as in previous years, we contributed to the costs of the Society's annual working party at Ratcliffe-on-Soar church, Nottinghamshire from the Miss Truman Fund. From the Misses Newcombe Bequest for almshouses we gave a grant to the Shrewsbury Drapers' Holy Cross and to Bishops King's almshouse at Worminghall, Bucks. From the Thomas Hardy Memorial Fund we made grants to Tolpuddle church and Folke Church. Previously grant aided work to Winterborne Thomson Church was viewed by SPAB members during a visit arranged with the Churches Conservation Trust by the Dorset Regional Group. We revised our grant offer to Boxley Abbey 'barn' in Kent and were pleased to see the grant taken up and the work implemented. A surplus from the Kent and Surrey regional group was used to offer further emergency help to the grade I listed Frindsbury Barn near Chatham.

Audited Accounts

The Society's legal annual report and full accounts will be available on the Society's website and on request from 37 Spital Square.

Committees

Secretary, Director, Deputy Director and Company Secretary

Secretary (until June 2012) Philip Venning
Director (from June 2012) Matthew Slocombe
Deputy Director (from June 2012) Sara Crofts
Company Secretary (from June 2012) Douglas Kent

Executive (trustees)

David Heath (Chairman)
Nicholas Cox (Vice Chairman)
Dr Mark Archer (Hon Treasurer)
David Alexander
Iain Boyd
Mildred Cookson
Gillian Darley*
Martin Drury
Brian Foxley
David Lodge
John Sell*
Ray Wilson

Guardians

David Heath (Chairman)
Nick Cox (Vice Chairman)
Dr Mark Archer (Honorary Treasurer)
Malcolm Adkins
David Alexander
Iain Boyd
Stephen Bull
Professor Peter Burman
Mildred Cookson
Gillian Darley*
Robin Dukes*
Brian Foxley
Ian Harper
Britt Harwood
Shawn Kholucy
David Lodge
Roger Mears
Meriel O'Dowd
Peter Pace
Sandra Purves
Peter Rumley
Stephen Scammell
John Sell
Jessica Sutcliffe
Nicholas Warns*
Ray Wilson

TECHNICAL PANEL

Louise Bainbridge RIBA FSA (Chairman)*
Charles Blackett-Ord (Vice-Chairman / Chairman)
Philip Hughes (Vice Chairman)*
Paul Bedford
Neil Birdsall
Catharine Bull
Stephen Bull
Nick Cox
Edward Crane
Alan Gardner
Anthony Goode
Stafford Holmes
Bruce Induni*
Martin McNamara
Torquil McNeilage
Maya Polenz
Tim Ratcliffe*
Dr Caroline Rye
Marianne Suhr*
Steve Wood

Education & Training Advisory Committee

Ian Angus (Chairman)*
Tom Flemons (Chairman)*
Emma Simpson (Vice Chairman)*
David Lodge
Chloe Maher*
Hugh Conway Morris*
Ben Newman
Kirstie Robins*
Sonia Rolt
Nichola Tasker
Andrew Townsend
Ulrike Wahl

SPAB in Scotland Committee

Duncan Strachan (Convenor*)
David Roemmele (Convenor*)
Jessica Snow (Vice-Convenor*)
Luke Wormald (Treasurer*)
Steve Wood (Treasurer)
Martin Hadlington
Steven Laing
Sandra Purves
Bill Revie

Mills Section Committee

Jonathan Cook (Chairman)
Stephen Bartlett (Vice-Chairman)
Graham Deane (Hon Treasurer)*
Gerard Breen (Hon Treasurer)*
Luke Bonwick
Mildred Cookson
Nick Jones
Russell Jones
Geraldine Mathieson *
Vincent Pargeter

Communications Advisory Group*

Iain Boyd (Chairman)
Ian Angus
Gillian Darley
Sarah Freeman
Paul Harris
Roger Hunt
Katie White
Emily Wolseley-Brinton
Andrew Ziminski

*For part of 2012

The SPAB continues to grow in strength as a powerful voice for historic buildings and an effective link with people and communities. We remain unequalled in the role we play in educating and training present and future generations in the proper care of our unique architectural inheritance. This Annual Review shows just some of the many ways the SPAB is working to prevent needless damage and destruction.



We can only do this with your support. Please join the Society if you are not already a member. Donations and legacies of any size are vital if we are to continue to fight the threats which come in so many guises. For more information about how you can help the SPAB please consult our website or contact the SPAB office.



The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings

Founded in 1877.
A charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales.
Company No 5743962 Charity No 111 3753
Scottish Charity No SC 039244

37 Spital Square, London E1 6DY
020 7377 1644
www.spab.org.uk
info@spab.org.uk



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