



The Society for the  
Protection of Ancient  
Buildings

## Annual Review 2016



# Annual Review

The SPAB is the country's oldest building conservation body. Ideas set out in our Manifesto of 1877 guide work to this day. The Society is an association of practical enthusiasts who care deeply about the integrity of old buildings and encourage a respectful approach to their care

In 2016, a new strategy set Growth, improved Reach and a strengthened Identity as the SPAB's targets. To achieve this, the Society intends to place more emphasis on campaigning, with historic floors the cause championed in 2016.

The year saw the country vote to leave the European Union, which posed questions but also created opportunities for the Society. When government requested 'post-Brexit' policy ideas, we urged a review of tax on historic building work, an increase in support for UK-based craft skills training, and investment in domestic production of traditional building materials. Further policy ideas were contributed by the Society to a new historic environment sector strategy called Heritage2020.

2016 saw introduction of valuable new Welsh historic environment legislation, on which the Society commented. We also helped establish a Wales Heritage Group. With Historic Environment Scotland, we published a pioneering survey of thatched roofs which highlighted a need to support materials production and skills. A working party at Balmerino Abbey proved a successful joint venture between SPAB Scotland, National Trust for Scotland and the local community.

Throughout the year the Society discussed with the National Trust plans for fire-damaged Clandon Park, and ensured that our Scholarship and Fellowship trainees visited. Despite some sad losses during the year, including fire damage to Exeter's Clarence Hotel and the death of trustee Brian Foxley, 2016 brought much that was positive. This included the SPAB London group's successful first year, renewed Historic England support for our technical advice line, an enjoyable members' weekend in King Lynn, and great results from our HLF-backed Maintenance Co-operatives Project.

Matthew Slocombe, Director

## SPAB: Hands on History

### Educational courses and events:

850 participants

**Scholarship & Fellowship:** 112 Scholarship and 120 Fellowship site visits, ranging from cathedrals to brickyards in 2016

**Technical advice line:** 1,090 enquiries handled

**Website:** 170,255 hits

**Twitter followers:** 12,931

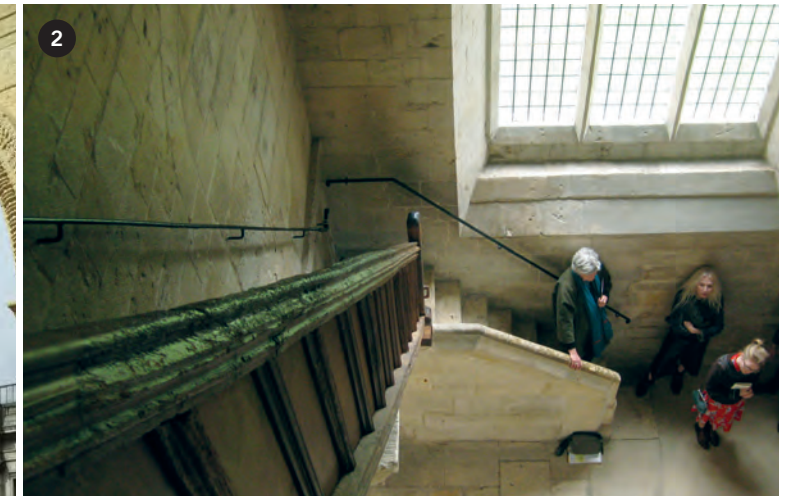
**Facebook supporters:** 5,197

**Cases logged and considered:** 1,065 Number of responses 476

**MCP:** 32 cooperatives established in 2016 and 8 coop minis

- 1 Palmyra ruin in Trafalgar Sq: SPAB said a digital replica could never replace the original (SPAB)
- 2 Stair, Bishops Cleeve Church, Glos: our judges decided that skillful joinery repairs by Hugh Harrison's conservation team should win the SPAB's John Betjeman Memorial Award (SPAB)
- 3 The SPAB returned to Greatham old church, Hants for its 2016 working party (SPAB)
- 4 37 Spital Sq hosted a Big Draw event for budding artists (SPAB)
- 5 The SPAB Maintenance Cooperatives Project had a third successful year (SPAB)
- 6 Scholars and Fellows spoke about their training at the 2016 Members' Meeting in Kings Lynn, Norfolk (SPAB)
- 7 SPAB Scotland's national survey of thatched buildings was published (Zoe Herbert)

**Front Cover:** SPAB Fellow Lizzie Hipsley-Cox and Scholar Triona Byrne at Knole House, Kent (Ralph Hodgson)



# Supporting the SPAB

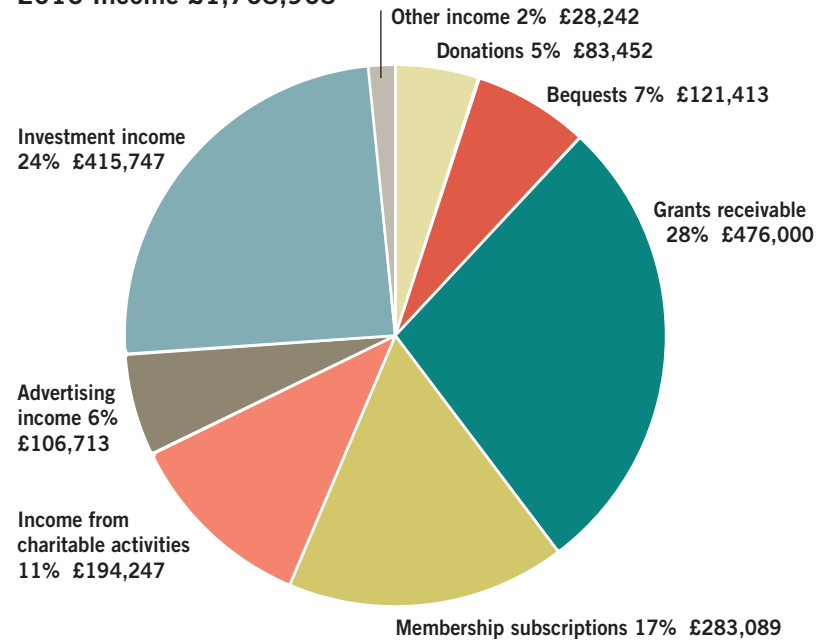
With growth as a strategic target, the fundraising challenge faced by the SPAB is considerable. We have been fortunate to retain relatively strong levels of funding from public sources and we are extremely grateful to members, supporters and other grant-givers for the assistance they have provided. Income from a range of sources boosted turnover to its highest ever level in 2016.

The largest sources of income in 2016 was from grants (28%), investments (24%) and membership subscriptions (17%). Donations and bequests were slightly below the level of recent years at 12%. A further 6% came from advertising in the SPAB Magazine, with income from charitable activities, including courses and events, (11%) providing the remainder.

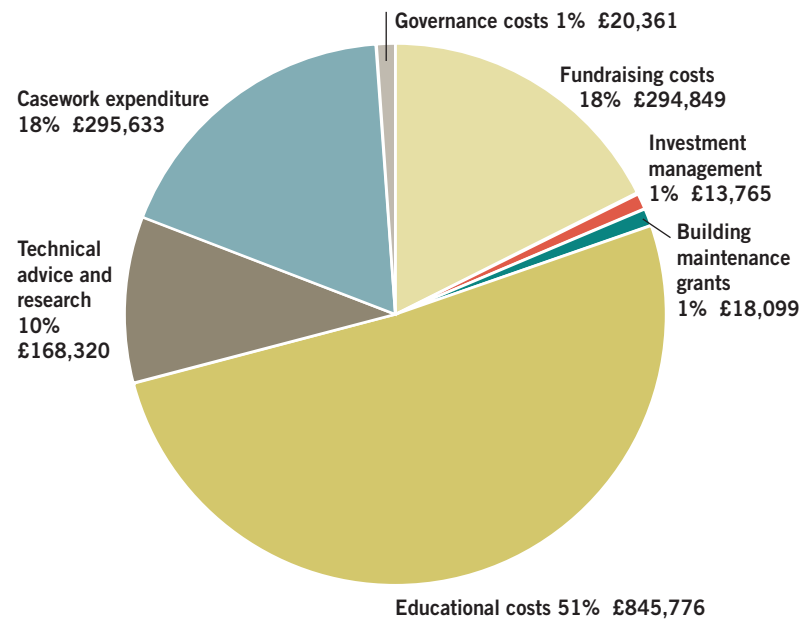
In order to meet objectives as a charity and membership organisation the Society put its resources towards educational activities (51%), technical advice and research (10%) and casework (17%) aimed at protecting the historic environment. Providing membership services and the administrative framework that helps to support all SPAB activities, accounts for the remainder of the costs in 2016.

*Audited figures will be available in the 2016 Report and Accounts which can be obtained on request.*

## 2016 Income £1,708,903



## 2016 Expenditure £1,656,803



Revised accounting arrangements for 2016 mean these charts are not directly comparable with those in the 2015 Annual Review.

# Mills and Millwright training

2016 has been a particularly significant year for the Mills Section. In addition to our core activities, we commenced work on the Development Phase of the Millwright Apprenticeship Programme which will be one of the largest activities the Section has ever undertaken, and we received from the late Enid Lamb the most significant benefaction ever, left to the Section for the repair of windmills.

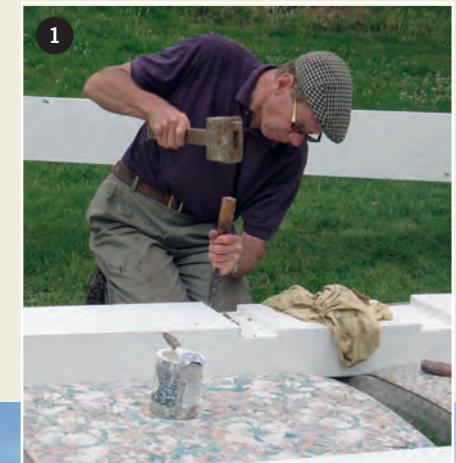
Our Spring Event was held in memory of the late Vincent Pargeter, a Committee Member for over 30 years and one of the country's most eminent millwrights. Our Autumn Event 'Crop to Crust II' brought together farmers, millers and bakers to celebrate the role of traditional mills and milling in the renaissance of artisan bread and baking.

The Millwright Apprenticeship Programme is a vitally important project to train a new generation of millwrights. The number of experienced millwrights is rapidly decreasing as millwrights retire and the remaining firms fail to recruit apprentices due to the cost. We are therefore developing a scheme to train five apprentices who, over three years, will

learn the skills of millwrighting, working under the supervision of a Master Millwright. We are grateful to the Pilgrim Trust which has supported the Development Phase of the Programme.

1 The Society mourned expert millwright and Mills Section committee member Vincent Pargeter who died during the year (Mildred Cookson)

2 Traditional threshing at Heckington Mill, Lincolnshire (Jim Bailey)



# Technical Advice and Research

**“Thanks for the advice over the phone. It was really useful and has given us a clear way forward”**

Feedback on our technical advice line from enquirer

The SPAB’s technical activities are fundamental to its work. One of the most effective channels that we have for delivering high-quality practical advice to a wide audience is through our popular Technical Advice Line. Operating most weekdays between 9.30am and 12.30pm, this handles over 1000 calls a year. Thanks to Historic England – English Government’s statutory advisor on the historic environment – the future of our helpline is assured for the next three years. Historic England announced in late 2016 that it would contribute half the costs of running this unique, frontline service until the end of March 2020.

Our technical publications are also an important means of disseminating advice. During 2016, we published a new Regional Advice Note on *Slating in South-West England*, by Terry Hughes, and two Statements: *‘Breathable’*, *‘Breathability’ and Old Buildings*; and *Heating in Churches: A Cautionary*



*Note on Underfloor Heating.* These publications are all available on our website. Our technical staff have also continued to lecture to a wide range of audiences and gave advice at several shows. The SPAB’s advice is underpinned by our research, particularly into energy efficiency, and we continue to be represented on numerous technical committees.



**1** Technical Panel member and timber expert Dr Joe Bispham speaks at a SPAB Repair of Old Buildings course (Ralph Hodgson)

**2** ‘Soft capping’ to the wall head of roofless Greatham old church is being monitored by the Society (SPAB)

# Education and Training

**“I feel very inspired and enthused about the whole concept of conservation”**

Feedback from Repair Course delegate, May 2016

Our well-attended programme of courses attracted a diverse audience. Demand for our Repair of Old Buildings course remained high. Other courses reflected subjects of perennial concern: damp, timber decay, retrofitting domestic properties, using lime, and planning/ carrying out maintenance. Courses on vernacular flooring materials and historic floors as works of art, and a major seminar on caring for historic floors reinforced the SPAB’s Floors Campaign. We continued our Historic Royal Palaces training partnership, delivering Masterclasses on a variety of themes. The team also ran bespoke courses for museums, architects and local authorities.

Primary school children visited the Working Party to try hands-on activities. Budding artists of all ages flocked to Spital Square in autumn as SPAB



participated in the Big Draw festival for the first time. Our lecture series *Handcrafted House* and *Markings, Mysteries and Myths* proved popular; and our Philip Webb Award design competition and John Betjeman Award for church conservation drew many interesting entries.



## Scholarship & Fellowship

Three Scholars (an architect, engineer and building surveyor) and four Fellows (two masons, a stained glass conservator and a slater/roughcaster) threw themselves with gusto into their SPAB conservation tour which took them around the UK and Ireland, and to Italy and Cyprus.

The Building Limes Forum kindly provided membership for both Scholars and Fellows in 2016, as did English Heritage.

**1** Walking on a Work of Art historic floors course (SPAB)

**2** Course delegates view ceiling boss conservation at Winchester Cathedral (SPAB)

# Working Parties: Balmerino & Greatham

**“It was my first SPAB event and I’m definitely hooked. I learned a lot even in a few days and it was great to meet so many likeminded people – I wasn’t expecting it to be quite so social!”**

**Greatham participant**

## Balmerino Abbey, Fife

The highlight of 2016’s activities for SPAB Scotland was the Scottish Building Conservation Working Party at Balmerino Abbey. The event was organised jointly with the Building Limes Forum, Historic Environment Scotland and the National Trust for Scotland. With outstanding support and catering provided by the local community, 20 volunteers worked for three days under professional supervision to conserve the wonderful ruin of a 13th-century Cistercian monastery. They repointed stone masonry and placed soft capping on exposed wall tops.

## Greatham, Hampshire

After 16 years we returned to Greatham. Blessed with sunny weather the SPAB specialists worked alongside 40 volunteers to help conserve both the old ruined church and the Victorian church nearby. With guidance from SPAB and Historic England experts, and craft demonstrations for schools and the public, we left at the end of the week with the buildings in much better condition and the local community briefed about their future care. A thoroughly enjoyable week of hands-on repair!



**1** SPAB Scotland’s 2016 working party at the National Trust for Scotland’s Balmerino Abbey (SPAB)

**2** Turf being laid on Balmerino Abbey’s wall head, as part of the soft capping process (SPAB)

# Casework

**“..brilliant initial result! Thanks for all your help and wonderful letter!”**

**Local campaigner**

2016 saw the Society launch its Floors Campaign which came into being after the casework team identified a concerning increase in the number of schemes involving historic floor replacement, often linked to underfloor heating installation. Although some cases of this kind have been secular, these schemes are predominantly proposed for ecclesiastical buildings. The campaign sought to raise awareness about the interest and value of old floors and to emphasize that floor replacement substantially alters the character of buildings, through loss of historic fabric and patina.

As part of the campaign the casework team co-authored a guidance document entitled *Historic Floors in Churches*, produced in conjunction with Churchcare (part of the Church Buildings Council). This is now statutory guidance under the Dioceses,

Pastoral and Mission Measure 2007. The guidance must be given due consideration when churches are considering the repair or replacement of an historic floor and we are pleased that this collaboration means our advice will reach a wider audience.

The volume of casework remained at a high level in 2016 with the casework team working to protect buildings in great number and of diverse types. The trend for conversion of public houses and barns continues, as do schemes for major reordering of church buildings. As ever, the team worked at an admirable rate, reviewing all cases received and responding to those that caused concern.

The Society and its Guardians’ committee advised on the repair of Wythenshawe Hall, Manchester after a disastrous fire (Manchester Evening News)



# Outreach

**“The SPAB Magazine is first class”**  
SPAB member

The SPAB approach to old buildings is at the heart of everything we do. Our outreach work continues to take that message to the widest possible audience.

## Campaigns

Our 2016 Floors Campaign, urging people to appreciate the ‘history at your feet’, was sparked by the Casework team’s concern at the loss of vulnerable ancient fabric underfoot. The problem affects both secular and religious buildings where the intrinsic importance of old floors to a building’s historic integrity is often overlooked.

## Social Media

In addition to our Facebook page, we now have nearly 13,000 followers on Twitter (@SPAB1877). The SPAB Blog continues to publish lively, well-received material.

The SPAB bulletin – a monthly email update on our activities now has over 7,200 subscribers. Sign up to receive the bulletin on the SPAB website.



## The SPAB Magazine

Our respected members’ magazine features a range of articles, news and reports from the built heritage world. Content is balanced to reflect the diverse interests of our members.

## General Awareness

We continue to explore new, home-owner oriented themes to bring SPAB to the widest possible audience. Our annual National Maintenance Week 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 Society.



The Society was involved for the first time in the Big Draw event (SPAB)



# Maintenance Co-operatives Project

**“A HUGE thank you for all you have done over the last three years through SPAB! The events I have attended have been particularly useful and the setting up of co-operative groups will have a lasting benefit for Cumbria. Thank you for all your hard work!”**  
MCP supporter in Cumbria

## Mission Accomplished!

The Heritage Lottery Fund has pronounced the Maintenance Co-operatives Project as “Mission Accomplished”, a fantastic place to be three and a half years since it began in 2013.

The project, which was set up to build on the hugely successful Faith in Maintenance training programme, aimed to provide support to people who look after places of worship, by bringing them together to share knowledge and ideas, and translate their training into practical maintenance. Spread over five regions across the country it was an ambitious undertaking, but our team rose to the challenge and worked tirelessly to spread the SPAB maintenance message. Today the project looks like this:

- 32 co-operatives
- Eight co-op minis (inc. four with the National Churches Trust)
- 200 places of worship
- 173 events and training days
- 2,600 registered places at events
- 550 volunteers
- 1,200 people attending one or more training days
- 78 MCP kit boxes
- 5,000 cups of tea and 350 home baked cakes\*  
\*ish

We are continuing to hear about places of worship which have been inspired by the project to form their own preventative maintenance programmes and demand for MCP training days continues to rise. So while we say goodbye to the project team in spring 2017, there is more to come from the MCP.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the funders, partners, volunteers and staff, as well as the National Lottery players, who made this project possible.



- 1 Monument maintenance at Maiden Newton church, Dorset (Simon Baker)
- 2 Inspecting for insect attack (Sue Manson)
- 3 The Maintenance Cooperatives kit box (Sue Manson)

# Members & Regional Groups

**“The speakers were excellent and their depth of knowledge and enthusiasm were superb”**  
Members’ Weekend attendee

## Membership

The engagement, support and commitment of our members are hugely important to the SPAB. We were happy to welcome over 600 new members to the Society this year.

## Members’ Weekend

It was 25 years since the last Members’ Weekend in King’s Lynn and it was wonderful to return to this often overlooked but richly historic town. Once an important port for Hanseatic traders, Lynn’s changing status has allowed some exceptional buildings to survive. Members enjoyed a tour of a medieval merchant’s house, visits to ‘wool churches’ in contrasting states of repair; tours of the town by historian and former mayor Dr Paul Richards; and talks from Dr Anna Keay and former SPAB Secretary Philip Venning.

## Regional Groups

Our volunteer organisers have worked incredibly hard to produce a wonderful variety of events for members across the country this year. Visits



have included: Compton Verney, Warks and its grounds; a lime day in Great Musgrave, Cumbria; a tour of repairs at Kersey Mill, Suffolk; Rochester Cathedral; church maintenance with the Melbury Gutter Gang in Dorset; a tour of a traditional blacksmith’s workshop in Kettering and an action weekend at Croxley Great Barn.

We would like to thank all members and volunteers for their support this year.



1 SPAB Fenland & Wash Whittlesley Mud Walls event (Jen Barbac)

2 Members’ Weekend: Kings Lynn town tour by Dr Paul Richards (SPAB)

# Financial Review & Grants Awarded

In 2016 the Society’s income at £1.7m was slightly above the previous year (£1.64m in 2015). Expenditure was little changed at £1.65m (£1.61m in 2015). Investments performed somewhat better than in the previous year achieving 7% growth overall. This left a small surplus for the year of £0.05m. Subscription income was little changed from 2015 at £0.28m. Grant income rose slightly to £0.5m, showing that the Society’s work remains attractive to funders including the diminished public sector. Income from charitable activities was slightly up at £0.19m.

## SPAB Grants

In 2016, the Society offered or provided grants from its Baber Fund to support emergency repair works to the Ropewalk at the Parrett Works, Somerset; Archbishop’s Palace, Charing, Kent; and Tyntyla, Rhondda, South Wales. From the Misses Newcombe Bequest we offered to assist repair to a well house at Sackville College, East Grinstead, West Sussex.

Mill Repair Fund grants were offered or paid to: Swaffham Prior smock mill, Cambridgeshire; Lindley’s Mill, Notts; Billingford Mill, Norfolk; Offley Mill, Staffs; Cockhill Mill, Armagh, Northern Ireland; Heage windmill, Derbyshire; Bardwell windmill, Suffolk.

## Major donations (over £1000)

Dr HG Bosanquet and other benefactors who wished to remain anonymous.

## Grant-funded programmes

Historic England and Historic Environment Scotland continued to give valuable support to SPAB projects. These included our casework, technical advice line, energy efficiency research and the William Morris Craft Fellowship. Casework in Wales was also given funding assistance by CADW.

## Scholarship Support

Dance Scholarship Trust, Drake Trust, Lloyd Weber Foundation & Wheler Foundation

## Fellowship support

Supporters were Historic England, Historic Environment Scotland, William Morris Craft Fellowship Trust, William Morris Society, Drake Trust, Carpenters’ Company Charitable Trust, Carrington (1953) Ltd, Churches Conservation Trust, John S Cohen Foundation, Robert Kiln charitable trust, Tylers and Bricklayers company charitable trust, Hazel Guile and David Linford

Assistance with the Fellowship Presentation ceremony was received from: Fullers Builders Ltd, Owlsworth IJP, Houghtons of York, PAYE, Dr Jon Castleman, Dr Peter Rumley, Hall Conservation, Ellis & Co.

## Maintenance Co-operatives Project

Heritage Lottery Fund, York Consortium for Conservation and Craftsmanship.

## Legacies

The Society was very fortunate to receive generous bequests in 2016 from the estates of Martin Evans, D Hughes, John Mason (via his trust), Gregory Milner, Nigel Power, Barry Sharrocks, Jean Wilding Walsh and Isobel Watts.

Bequest income remains an important source of funds facilitating all of the Society’s activities and we are immensely grateful to those members and non-members who remember, or who are considering remembering, the SPAB in their will – it has a direct effect on our day-to-day activities.

*The Society’s legal annual report and full audited accounts can be obtained on request from 37 Spital Square, London E1 6DY.*

# Committees

## Executive (trustees)

Iain Boyd (Chairman)  
David Alexander (Vice Chair)  
Dr Mark Archer (Hon Treasurer)  
Stephen Bull  
Prof Peter Burman  
Mildred Cookson  
Gillian Darley  
Brian Foxley\*  
Ian Harper\*  
Richard Max  
John Sell  
Jessica Sutcliffe  
Charles Wagner\*

## Guardians

Iain Boyd (Chairman)  
Dr Mark Archer (Hon Treasurer)  
Malcolm Adkins\*  
Rachel Broomfield  
Stephen Bull  
Prof Peter Burman  
Mildred Cookson\*  
Robert Davies  
Fiona Deaton\*  
Robin Dukes  
Brian Foxley\*  
David Heath\*  
Ian Harper  
Britt Harwood  
Carsten Hermann\*  
Nicholas Hobbs  
Shawn Kholucy  
Ellen Leslie  
Conor Meehan  
Rachel Morley  
Peter Rumley\*  
John Sell  
Nino Strachey  
Jessica Sutcliffe  
Nichola Tasker\*  
Eve van der Steen\*  
Charles Wagner  
Nicholas Warns  
James Weir  
Ray Wilson\*

## Director and Company Secretary

Matthew Slocombe (Director)  
Douglas Kent (Company Secretary)

## Technical Panel

Philip Hughes (Chairman)  
Stephen Bull (Vice Chair)  
Paul Bedford  
Neil Birdsall  
Catharine Bull  
Nick Cox  
Anthony Goode  
Carsten Hermann\*  
Stafford Holmes  
Dr Bruce Induni\*  
Torquil McNeilage  
Philip Orchard  
Maya Polenz  
Tim Ratcliffe  
Dr Caroline Rye  
Marianne Suhr

## Education & Training Advisory Committee

Tom Flemons (Chairman)  
Andrew Townsend (Vice Chair)  
Len Conway  
Hugh Conway Morris  
Mildred Cookson  
Dorian Crone  
Alex Gibbons  
Dr Sharon Goddard  
Chloe Granger  
Elizabeth Long  
Susan McDonough  
Ben Newman  
Emma Simpson  
Nichola Tasker  
Ulrike Wahl  
John Bucknall (Corresponding)  
Philip Hughes (Ex-officio)

## SPAB Scotland Committee

Carsten Hermann (Chair)  
Prof Peter Burman  
Sandra Purves  
Lucy Stewart  
Craig Wilson

## Mills Section Committee

Jonathan Cook (Chairman)  
Mildred Cookson (Vice Chair)  
Rebecca Hardy (Hon Treasurer)  
Jim Bailey  
Stephen Bartlett\*  
Douglas Cairns  
Rob Cumming  
Simon Hudson\*  
Russell Jones  
John Lace\*  
Adam Marriott\*  
Bob Paterson\*  
Alison Yardy

## Communications Advisory Group

Paul Harris (Chairman)\*  
Iain Boyd (Chairman)\*  
Ian Angus  
Gillian Darley  
Sarah Freeman  
David Heath  
Roger Hunt  
Katie White\*

\*For part of 2016

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

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