

Support the SPAB. Become a member.

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COMPANY NO 5743962

# #SPAB100 ANNUAL REVIEW

Ask me about  
SPAB membership



**Our vision**

Old buildings are understood, cared for and appreciated today, and protected for future generations.

**Our mission**

*The SPAB Approach* is adopted by all people caring for old buildings.

To supply expertise that keeps old buildings useful, beautiful and part of people's lives.

To connect with all people who appreciate old buildings or care for them.



## From the director

In 2018, we undertook a range of valuable, well-established activities and several significant new projects. Overall, the aim was to promote the SPAB Approach to building conservation and to deliver our 2016 strategy: growth, reaching new audiences and promotion of the SPAB's identity.

The most substantial new activity of 2018 was the SPAB's *Old House Show*. This was a major exercise in public outreach, with the aim of bringing helpful advice and information to a new audience. The event was held over two days at the Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich, and included advice surgeries, a talks programme, craft demonstrations and an exhibitors' area. The event was a resounding success with around 3000 attending, the majority new to the SPAB.

The year saw the full introduction of the all-new SPAB website and database, providing a 'shop window' and many improved 'back of house' functions. Included was an online list of properties for sale for members, supported by a printed companion booklet, *The List*.

The SPAB also made a return to property acquisition, purchasing a Grade II\* medieval house 'at risk'. We aim to use this for practical demonstration of the SPAB Approach and for training. Alongside this major project, in 2019 we intend to develop our recent initiative of short-term 'guerrilla' working parties.

We were delighted to re-secure a place on the National Trust's Council during the year, continuing a long relationship, and to take on a supporting role for Europa Nostra in the UK. We were also pleased to see SPAB Ireland firmly established with charitable registration in the Republic and a second successful working party. SPAB Ireland also took its place in the new governance structure of the SPAB, approved in October 2018. This elevated members of all committees, sections and the chairs of regional groups to 'Guardian' status. In the coming year, elections will be broadened to allow SPAB members to stand for places on a range of committees. The board of trustees will be freshly constituted from 2020.

*Matthew Slocombe, SPAB director*



RIGHT  
HamptonCourt:  
SPAB Scholars and Fellows  
at Hampton Court Palace  
CREDIT: GRAHAM PRICE

# Hands-on learning

## We love Eastbury project: 100 years of protection and preservation

In July the SPAB took the working party just a few miles from Spitalfields HQ to Eastbury Manor, a Grade-I listed Elizabethan house in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham (LBDD). The working party was part of a wider celebration to mark the 100th anniversary of Eastbury's rescue from demolition and its acquisition for the nation in 1918.

In the early 20th century, the SPAB, the National Trust and LBDD worked together to build a sustainable future for the building and in 2018, the SPAB and LBDD re-connected to celebrate this heritage story.

The SPAB returned to carry out essential repairs, as it had done in the 1920s and 1930s, as part of the annual working party. SPAB staff were joined by around 50 volunteers for a week's worth of conservation activities that included brickwork repairs, limewashing and renewing broken panes in the leaded lights on the east side of the building.

Connecting with the community is a vital part of the working party so we opened the site to local residents for a day of learning and craft making. The SPAB also welcomed pupils from Eastbury Primary School who came along to learn about the building's history and to try clay tile and wooden peg making.

As part of the project the SPAB also collaborated on a new permanent exhibition and film for visitors. Led by the LBDD Heritage Services, the exhibition focused on the SPAB's pioneering architect William Weir (1865–1950), who was instrumental in saving Eastbury.



ABOVE

Limewashing at the SPAB working party at Eastbury Manor  
CREDIT: RALPH HODGSON

BELOW LEFT

Volunteers repairing the garden wall at Eastbury

BELOW RIGHT

Images from the permanent exhibition about the history of Eastbury Manor.  
CREDIT: SARA CHAPMAN



This project was funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. We would like to thank the lottery players for their support.

## Guerrilla Working Parties

2018 was the year the SPAB took its conservation approach on the road and mobilised small teams of volunteers to save two 'at risk' buildings: a Grade II\*-listed medieval cob farmhouse in Devon and cottage in Norwell, Nottinghamshire.

The remote farmhouse came to the SPAB's attention as casework in late 2017. In January 2018 a 22-strong group of SPAB volunteers and staff assembled to carry out essential work to prevent the building's collapse. Over one weekend the SPAB team made the building weather tight and were also able to head off the worst structural threats to prevent further damage. The farmhouse had not been inhabited since 2009 and we were there with the permission of executors. Due to the SPAB's investigations into the importance of this building it has now been placed on Historic England's 'at risk' register. The SPAB will continue to work with Historic England to help this building.

In September the SPAB deployed a small team to Auld Cottage in Nottinghamshire. The modest timber-framed building had not been occupied since the 1960s. Its earliest timber has been dendro-dated to 1512 and when erected it was probably a simple agricultural building. A small, but keen, group of specialists and varied volunteers propped up the walls and the first floor, and fixed the leaking roof.

## SPAB Ireland Working Party

The event took place during Irish Heritage Week (19-21 August) at a majestic 17th century plantation fort called An Cabhail Mhór, which is Irish for 'The Great Ruin'. Over three days, we welcomed over 70 participants from all over Ireland and the UK. The work focused on repointing and consolidating masonry walls, all using hot-mixed lime mortar, with soft capping demonstrations also. The workshops

were led by 2016 SPAB Fellow Eoin Madigan, with the help of SPAB Scholars Conor Meehan and Oliver Wilson, and stonemason and dry-stone waller, Ken Curran.

Locals and heritage lovers from further afield were invited to explore the site which sits on private land and is normally inaccessible to the public. Several traditional craftspeople gave demonstrations including a thatcher, a tin smith, a timber framer, a stone carver. A horologist (watchmaker) also came to discuss his unique skills. It was a wonderful weekend of conservation and SPAB Ireland look forward to another successful event in 2019.

BELOW

Carpenter John Russell showing primary school pupils how to make wooden pegs at the Eastbury working party.  
CREDIT: RALPH HODGSON

BELOW LEFT

Volunteers at the Devon farmhouse.  
CREDIT: SILAS WALSH



## Old House Show

Nearly 3000 visitors came to the SPAB's first ever *Old House Show* at the Old Royal Naval College (ORNC), Greenwich on 7–8 September. Showcasing the best in practical conservation, the two-day event attracted building professionals, homeowners, enthusiasts and those interested in developing a career in the heritage sector.

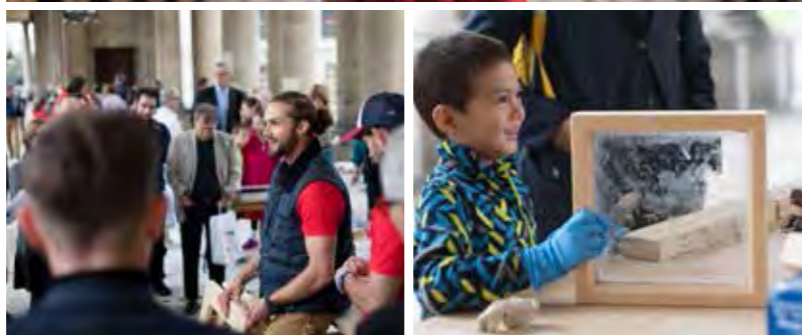
Visitors were able to book advice surgeries with our experts to learn more about issues affecting their building. SPAB caseworkers and technical advisors were on hand to offer support and guidance on planning, building and structural issues.

The lectures in the spectacular ORNC Chapel drew more than 2300 visitors over the two days, with Loyd Grossman's keynote address *Why Heritage Matters* on Friday morning drawing a crowd of 300. Crafts specialists stationed along the ORNC's colonnade gave demonstrations of stone masonry, carpentry, brick-laying and stained glass and attracted over 750 people.

The *Old House Show* was an ambitious experiment, designed to showcase all our activities and to bring the collaborative, lively feel of the SPAB working parties indoors. As well as sharing building conservation best practice, another major aim was to raise awareness of the SPAB. Through our advertising campaign the SPAB reached over 3 million people; there was a 37% increase in web traffic in the lead up to and after the event; and a significant increase in social media interactions. The SPAB will continue to measure the impact of the *Old House Show* into 2019.



Pictures from the *Old House Show*, Old Royal Naval College (ORNC), Greenwich on 7–8 September.  
CREDIT: RALPH HODGSON



## Scholars and Fellows

The Scholarship, aimed at surveyors, architects and engineers, and the Fellowship, for craftspeople working with historic buildings, are unique educational programmes that nurture those at a crucial stage in their careers. With a hands-on emphasis these programmes encourage individuals to develop their own building conservation ideas and skills during a nine-month tour of the UK and further afield.

This year, the Fellows were Ross Buckley, a metal worker from the Isle of Wight; Nazar Dmiuterko, a stonemason from London; and Gary Holliday, a stonemason from Durham.

Nazar says of his Fellowship experience:

*"The Fellowship has given me everything I have been looking for and much more. Learning will never stop for me nor will rediscovering old techniques to guide me in making the right decisions. It has been the best year of my career."*

This year's Scholars were Pam Dziwulska, an architect from New Zealand; George Hodgson, an architect from London; and Matt Loosely, an architect from Suffolk.

Pam Dziwulska says of her Scholarship experience: *"The Scholarship has connected me with two important aspects of architecture — the craft of building and the science of building. From ancient archaeological sites to the medieval period to contemporary interventions in new design, I have learned a lot from seeing this variety of buildings and have greater confidence as an architect in specifying and designing."*



Scholars and Fellows at the Fellowship Presentation at Lambeth Palace  
CREDIT: GRAHAM PRICE



SPAB Fellows by dry stone wall after repair  
CREDIT: SPAB



Scholar Pam Dziwulska brick rubbing at Hampton Court Palace  
CREDIT: GRAHAM PRICE

The Fellowship was generously supported by:

- Ashley Family Foundation
- Carpenters' Company Charitable Trust
- The Churches Conservation Trust
- The Drake Trust
- Francis Coales Charitable Foundation
- Historic England
- Historic Environment Scotland
- The William Morris Craft Fellowship Trust
- Anonymous

The Scholarship was generously supported by:

- Cathedral Architects Association
- Dance Scholarship Trust
- Drake Trust
- Fenton Arts Trust
- The John Vickers Charitable Trust
- Patrick Plunket Memorial Trust
- Wheler Foundation
- Ernest Cook Trust

SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS



“We really enjoyed the show and it was lovely to be amongst like-minded people, passionate about old buildings.”  
OLD HOUSE SHOW ATTENDEE

FELLOWS



SCHOLARS



£86,821  
COST

3000  
ATTENDEES  
IN TOTAL

27  
STANDS

763  
ATTENDEES  
AT THE  
CRAFT DEMOS

2363  
ATTENDEES  
TO LECTURES



70  
MEMBERS  
SIGNED  
UP OVER  
TWO DAYS

132  
PEOPLE SPOKEN  
TO AT ADVICE  
SURGERIES

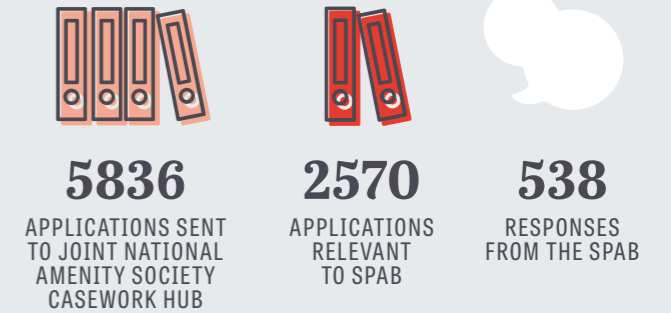
—  
**THE OLD HOUSE SHOW**  
—  
AT THE  
OLD ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE,  
GREENWICH

3,186,481  
PEOPLE REACHED  
THROUGH ADVERTISING

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS



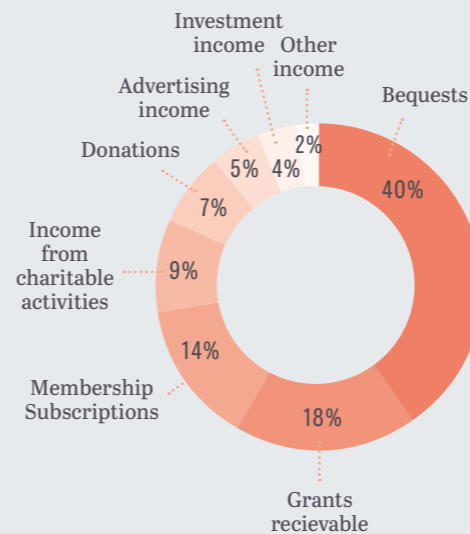
CASEWORK



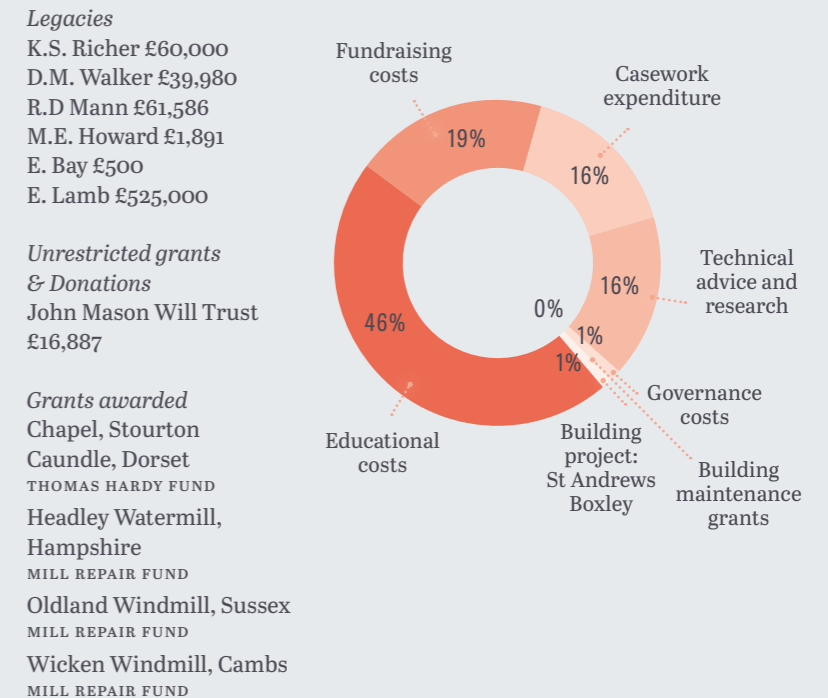
SPAB IN NUMBERS

SPAB IN NUMBERS

INCOME



EXPENDITURE



WORKING PARTIES



**TECHNICAL  
ADVICE LINE**  
**792**  
ENQUIRIES

The most popular enquiries in 2018 were damp; mortars, plasters and renders; and repairs.



**4**  
WORKING PARTIES

**158**  
VOLUNTEERS

1  
EVENING  
EVENT

4  
LECTURES



363  
LEARNERS

12  
COURSES

“Impressed by the standard of talks and knowledge. Beautifully hosted — with excellent catering.”  
DELEGATE, 2018 OLD HOUSE ECO COURSE

## Campaigning

At Owston Ferry in Lincolnshire we fought against the destruction of a 17th century cottage. While a listed building application for demolition was under consideration, the building was summarily demolished as a 'dangerous structure'. The SPAB brought its concerns to the Secretary of State, Historic England and the local media. The case illustrates the need for continuing vigilance and campaigning.

A further challenging case was Whitechapel Bell Foundry in London. The foundry was one of England's longest-running businesses, but closure and sale in late 2017 created a crisis about the site's future. During 2018 the SPAB was involved in pre-application discussions with a new owner who wished to convert the majority of the site to a hotel while retaining low key bell-making and craft uses in other parts. The conversion scheme was carefully prepared and presented but would leave foundry work as a very minor

function. In parallel, we discussed an alternative proposal, by a trust, aimed to allow uses closer to the original. A decision is expected in 2019.

Every year we deal with large numbers of consultations relating to churches and cathedrals across the country. One that particularly stood out was Holy Trinity in Coventry, a magnificent Grade I listed church with a dramatic medieval Last Judgement painting. We strongly objected to a range of proposals that would have had a significant impact on the beautiful interior of the church. However, the church has since been in contact to discuss ways in which the scheme could be adapted to minimise their impact.

The SPAB likes to be involved in early discussion and to offer helpful, constructive advice. Even better is to offer practical help. At Poverty Cottage in Worcestershire, we helped resolve a listing oversight by proposing the protection of this unlisted structure. The cottage's new status as a Grade II-listed building will mean its future is more assured.

Casework in Wales saw applications from across the country, many ambitious, but often harmful reordering schemes that sought to bring new facilities and 'flexibility' to historic churches. In 2018, the range in the quality of submissions has raised deep concerns resulting in a number of objections. To address this, the SPAB will be developing closer relationships with each diocese in Wales to encourage consultations with the SPAB at an earlier stage in the design process.

July 2018 also saw the revision of the National Planning Policy Framework for England. The SPAB urged amendment of a range of points within the draft and secured some valuable changes which should help historic environment protection.

With special thanks to Historic England for part-funding SPAB casework.



LEFT

Poverty Cottage: South elevation with typical Herefordshire box-framing to the east elevation

## Awards and events

### Awards

2018 welcomed a particularly strong field of entries for the SPAB's open awards. *The Death Reawakened Project* to stabilise and conserve medieval wall paintings at the Guild Chapel of the Holy Cross in Stratford upon Avon took the John Betjeman Award for conservation. A thoughtful and sensitive scheme by Chris Hamill of Cambridge University to develop a craft training centre within Armagh Gaol emerged the clear winner from an impressive shortlist in year's Philip Webb Award design competition for early-career architects.

John Sell CBE, architect, SPAB Guardian and former Executive Vice President of Europa Nostra received the Esher Award. The Gwyn Watkins Award for outstanding personal contribution to craft training and support of the Fellowship was given posthumously to craftsman David Linford, one of the scheme's original founders, and to conservation builder Anthony Goode, an inspirational teacher, mentor and host, both of whom sadly died in 2018. The Queen Mother Medal was awarded to another of the Fellowship's instigators, architect John Bucknall, in recognition of his enduring advocacy of traditional building skills.

Giulia Pannocchia, a recent graduate of Venice University, was the first recipient of the Gloria e Marco (GeM) Award established by Peregrine Bryant Architects with the SPAB, in memory of Gloria Trevisan and Marco Gottardi who tragically lost their lives at Grenfell Tower. The GeM bursary enabled Giulia to travel to the UK for a programme of structured study, including spending time with the SPAB's Scholars. The

Award was formally launched in June with an event hosted by the Landmark Trust at its Villa Saraceno in the Veneto.

### Events

Highlights of a busy courses and events programme included our technical seminar on roofing, and major day conference on new work in historic contexts, opened by Iain Boyd and Roger Hunt, co-authors of the SPAB/RIBA book *New Design for Old Buildings*, and featuring perspectives from a number of high-profile architects.



BELOW

Philip Webb Award winner and the winning scheme for Armagh Gaol from Chris Hamill.

CREDIT: CHRIS HAMIL

# Our expertise

The SPAB's technical expertise is central to our work to protect old buildings. Informed by our respected conservation approach, our technical knowledge has been accumulated over many years from practical experience and is continuously refined through the activities of our technical panel and research. A survey of the technical information that we provide was undertaken in 2018. It reinforced the value our members and others place on the expert advice we give and offered useful insights that will help us focus our activities and ways of disseminating information.

In 2018, we launched a new generation of technical guides aimed at providing authoritative and practical references on the care and repair of old buildings. These technical advice notes are free to download and print from our website. Titles published during the year were: *Control of Dampness*; *Slating in South-West England*; *Vernacular Slating in the East Midlands*; and *Gypsum Plaster Floors*. The technical advice notes complement our online knowledge base and will be expanded during 2019.

A forum on Horsham stone slating led by the chairman of our technical panel was also a highlight of 2018. This event was convened to bring together a range of interested parties to discuss how we might overcome the challenges posed by the declining availability of Horsham stone slate as a traditional roofing material. The conclusions of the forum discussion are contained in our conference report on our website.

OUR EXPERTISE



ABOVE  
Horsham slate conference report available for free from the SPAB website.

LEFT  
Technical advice notes available for free download from the SPAB website.  
CREDIT: SPAB



LEFT  
Horsham slate and clay tiles  
CREDIT: SPAB

# SPAB sections

**SPAB Ireland**  
SPAB Ireland had a busy 2018. A *Caring for Ruins* workshop kicked off the year's events, organised in conjunction with the Building Limes Forum Ireland (BLFI) which involved hot-mixed lime workshops and soft-capping workshops. Sketching workshops, a walking tour and a fundraising table quiz were some of the year's events, along with talks on vernacular buildings of Co. Wicklow and on Irish cottages. An online campaign for *Irish Maintenance Week* in November helped to spread the message about the importance of preventative maintenance.

**SPAB Scotland**  
In 2018 SPAB Scotland established connections with other Scottish heritage organisations, took part in various events and ran its own tours. One of the most successful events was a visit to see excellent repair work in progress at the Burns Monument in Ayrshire. We held a highly enjoyable lecture in Stirling for our AGM in March looking at what makes a successful intervention into a historic site. As part of *Edinburgh Doors Open Day* SPAB Fellow Heather Griffiths gave stone carving demonstrations and guided enthusiastic budding masons.

RIGHT TOP  
SPAB Scotland: Heather Griffiths and Edinburgh Open Doors day visitor  
CREDIT: JESSICA HUNNISETT

RIGHT  
SPAB Ireland: A watercolour painted during SPAB Ireland's December building sketching workshop  
CREDIT: SPAB IRELAND

RIGHT  
SPAB Mills Sections: Members at 'The wonders of Huntingdonshire' meeting  
CREDIT: MILDRED COOKSON

**Mills Section**  
2018 saw two very successful day meetings, *Celebrating our European milling heritage* and *The wonders of Huntingdonshire*. We held a popular new course focusing on small hydro power for watermills as well as running two courses on practical flour milling. A new technical leaflet on the repair of waterwheels and a suppliers list for millwrights were issued, and we collaborated with the Environment Agency to produce tailored guidance for watermill owners.  
The Section was able to offer grants from the *Mill Repair Fund* to Oldland and Wicken windmills and Headley watermill. We also had notable successes with our casework.



SPAB SECTIONS





# Our committees

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Peter Burman  
Mildred Cookson  
Gillian Darley  
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Nichola Tasker\*  
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CO-CHAIR  
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Hugh Conway Morris  
Mildred Cookson  
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Chloe Granger  
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Ben Newman  
Simon Sadinsky  
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John Bucknall  
CORRESPONDING MEMBER ONLY  
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EX-OFFICIO MEMBER

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Dearbhail Keating  
Torquil McNeillage  
Joe Orsi  
Maya Polenz  
Tim Ratcliffe  
Dr Caroline Rye  
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Roisin Beirne  
Aideen Herron  
Deirdre Keeley  
Jessica Lange  
Eoin Madigan  
Ronan Maguire  
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Frances Murphy  
Gabrielle Ryan  
David Saunders

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CHAIR\*  
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Niamh Elliott  
Tom Hay  
Jessica Hunnisett  
Jamie McNamara  
William Napier  
Sandra Purves  
Lucy Stewart\*  
Caroline Webster

\*Part of the year