

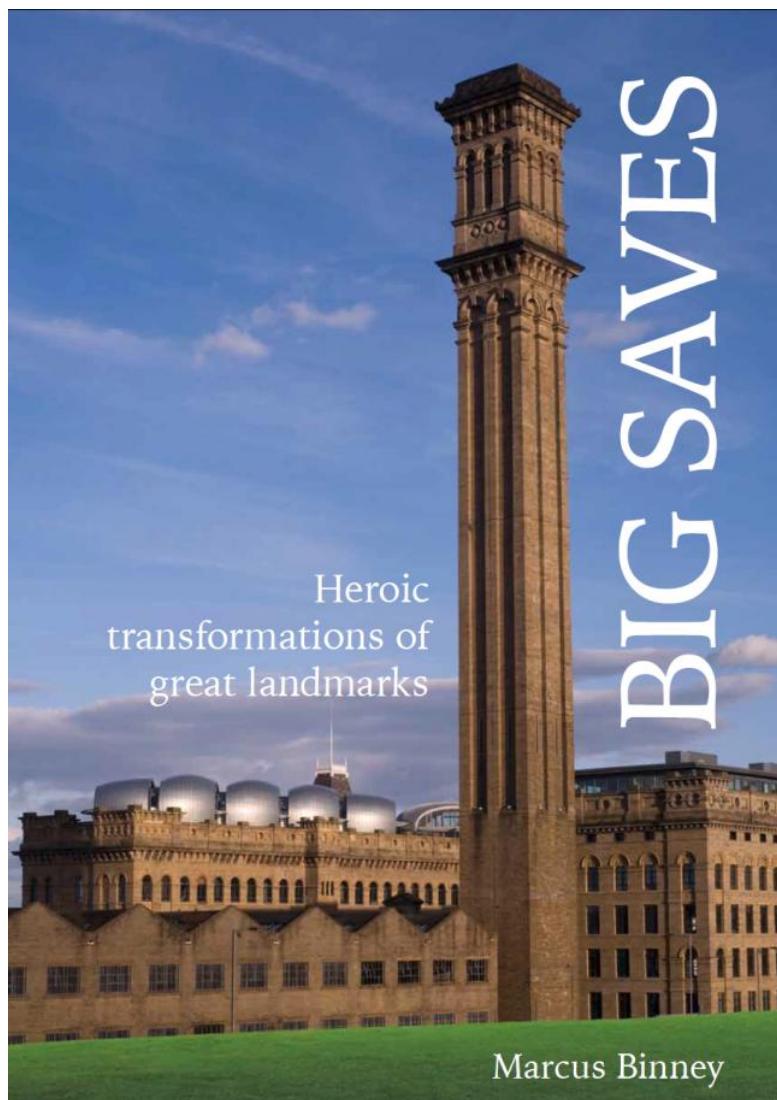
SAVE BRITAIN'S HERITAGE

6 May 2016

Press release: SAVE publishes *Big Saves: Heroic transformations of great landmarks*

Pre-order your copy now from [SAVE's website](#)

SAVE's latest publication shows how Britain has led the way in breathing new life into great historic buildings, from naval dockyards to textile mills, grand hotels to hospitals, town halls to power stations, and many more.



The cover of *The Big Saves*.

Lister Mills in Bradford was transformed by David Morley Architects, with the addition of striking zinc covered penthouses.

Marcus Binney tells the stories of these rescues in over 50 detailed case studies, many of them the direct or indirect result of campaigns and projects launched and commissioned by SAVE.

These are buildings which half a century ago would rarely have survived. Their revival is a creative process showing that all over Britain and beyond, historic buildings can be beacons of new life in both booming and declining economies.

Once repaired and transformed, sometimes after years of decay, they provide places to work, live and visit. More than this they are powerful regeneration projects in places which need investment.

The book is a blueprint for action showing how to save an architectural marvel, and the many examples featured can be an inspiration to everyone who cherishes a local landmark.

***Big Saves* is due to be launched on 1 June 2016. It can be pre-ordered via [SAVE's website](#) and is priced at £25 (£20 for SAVE [friends](#)) plus £2.50 postage.**

Review copies are available both in electronic form and as hard copies.

Marcus Binney, Executive President of SAVE said: "*Big Saves* chronicles 40 years of campaigning to show how new life can be breathed into great landmarks. Victorian covered markets, mighty mills, warehouses and factories, naval dockyards and military barracks, hospitals and town halls fall out of use but need not be pensioners on the State. With the help of imaginative architects and enterprising developers they can become good investments and earn their keep for years to come."



Warley Hospital in Brentford has been transformed by City & Country, a family run development company. At Warley the introduction of expansive lawns and flowerbeds shows off the handsome buildings to great effect.



Billingsgate Market, London

Our report SAVE Billingsgate was published in July 1980; three months earlier Michael Heseltine had listed the former fish market to the fury of the City Corporation, which had been granted permission to demolish it.

Billingsgate is located on the Tower of the River Thames looking downstream to Tower Bridge. But in 1980, the City Corporation was relocating the market to the Isle of Dogs and considered the sale of the riverbank site for the redevelopment essential to cover its costs. The market's annual turnover was £7 million. In our report we put forward an alternative plan which would provide the market with a new purpose, opening up views over one of the most scenic parts of the riverfront in London. By proposing a market building on the adjoining foreshore park, it is possible not only to cover the costs of repairing and adapting the market, but to create a much-needed community hub. We held meetings over the entire site - it was a bold statement that proved to be completely correct.

Though Old Billingsgate Fish Market had been demolished by the Heseltine Judds, the City Corporation's new owners were anxious. The Corporation saw no merit in the building at all. When Heseltine listed the building the outcry had been immediate and fierce. As the press conference had eight days earlier, a committee of traders and residents claimed the listing had put 'the future employment of about 200 who worked there in jeopardy', so *The Times* reported the same day. On reflection it may well have been the future of the famous British fishing industry that was under threat.

Most popular of all was the icy shanty Billingsgate would collapse when the cold sets in and the harbourside becomes a vast white wasteland. London's giant iceberg meets? ran the headline in *The London Evening News Magazine* on 26th March 1980, this story was presented without any evidence or logic, appealing to all over the world. The article to Keith Bugg contained: '32,700 square feet of deep freeze, plus an estimated 20,000 square feet of permanent, built upon layer upon chilling layer over the centuries, has now joined the equally remarkable in importance the snowing iron column and soaring gilded nave of this great temple to the capital's fishing trade.' There was more in the stentorous vein: 'when the iceberg melts, run!

theory, Billingsgate will rotted like a house of cards. First the walls will crack, then the pillars will lean at a crazy angle and finally, the roof will crash 40 feet onto the concourse below.'

A cold store expert was quoted saying brickwork deeply permeated by frost was like 'iceberg, which looks good until it's destroyed. Once the thing melts, the thing turns to mush.' As if the ice theory was not good enough there was another hardly less convincing argument from the *Evening News*: 'The Corporation's Yes, 1979. Although the present Billingsgate Market is less than a hundred years old, the corrotive effects of fish juice means it has to be rebuilt.'

SAVE argued that Billingsgate because we were convinced that a sensible proposal for reuse would work economically. If we could prove this restoration scheme in the City of London would work, while development values were high, it would add argument for saving even higher, as it creates an over the Country.

SAVE



This image of the 1920 D&P open air Billingsgate Market in November the City Corporation moved away from demolition and issued a detailed planning permission instead on the basis of a SAVE project.

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Billingsgate Fish Market, London, where SAVE fought a long battle to save the market buildings. Working with Ian Ritchie and Alan Stanton of Chrysalis Architects, SAVE produced an alternative scheme, which was broadly adopted by the City Corporation

CHAPTER 10 - POWER STATIONS

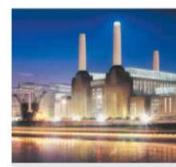


Battersea Power Station, London

The removal of the upper two cooling towers between the chimneys and the main building leaves the impression that Battersea Power Station has been decapitated. In fact the huge gap between the remaining columns is the original design and the two twin halls were an after-thought resulting their ragged and irregular shape.

In 1973, SAVE was run by the BBC with terrible news: 'Battersea Power Station is being demolished - should it be saved?' was the question. Yes, was my resounding answer. At the studio, before we went live, the interviewer told me he had been driving a Glassvegan Fiat 126p and had stopped to look at the Power Station saying 'there's one of London's great architectural monuments'. There was a long pause before his companion replied, 'You're taking the piss.'

He was not alone. Several months later I was told by an enterprising lady who had rescued a Cornish farmhouse 'this is perverse preservation.' But when *The Times Diary* jokingly asked me what I thought to go to bed with the most practical solution for its future, the response was overwhelming, prompting the Diary to opine, 'One thing is certain: Londoners love Battersea Power Station.' [Now 27]

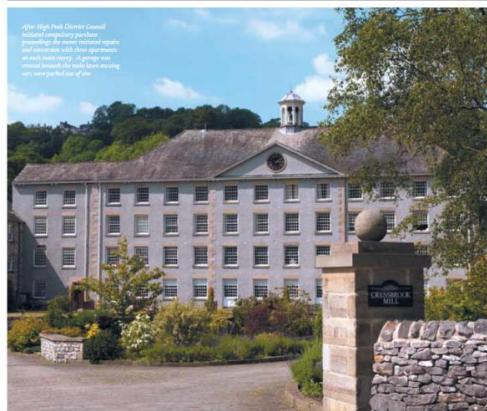


The Power Station from the river. This shows the new vertical windows in the rebuilt west wall.

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SAVE obtained the first planning permission for leisure and sports use at Battersea Power Station in 1982. After many setbacks Giles Gilbert Scott's masterpiece is now on course to be revitalised as apartments, offices, and retail spaces.

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Cressbrook Mill,
Derbyshire

Situated deep in the Peak District National Park, this former mill stands in a wonderfully romantic location. After years of steady decay, the owner of the stone-cutting business based within it has transformed it into apartments.

Even before, Cressbrook remained the most idyllic of English, thatched-roofed preposterous and its access position beside the River Wye looking south down Monsal Dale. In 1842 John Belton Rogerian purchased the former mill's lease. A tall limestone spire. A glorious Vale far down beneath the rocks. Where peace and bliss might, undisturbed repose. And man forgoes the names of sin and hate.'

Hire John Baker, a hortier and entrepreneur

converted a distillery for peppermint, lavender and other aromatic herbs that grew or found locally. He erected the first Cressbrook Mill building about 1755 but was destroyed by fire.

A new mill was then built and taken over by the great Sir Richard Arkwright, one of the greatest inventors of all time. Arkwright died in 1792. Cressbrook Mill changed hands again and in 1815, William Newton, Arkwright's former agent, erected the present impressive 12-bay Georgian mill.

Newton's son and his wife converted his workshop and apartment. A narrative written by a Mrs. Sterndale who visited Cressbrook Mill in 1823 described conditions as 'superior'. "The master's manner of work and their excellent retainers are highly and judiciously arranged, the former always exceeding that which ought to be exacted from those that stand at the head of their trade age. Their food is of the best quality and



For years this landmark Palladian
mill stood derelict and open to the elements.

ample dispersed and they have eight hours uninterrupted sleep in comfortable beds and airy rooms."

The main mill has a pedimented centre with clock face on both sides. The even ranks of windows are topped with valances and the gables above the first and second floor and three bay ones on the first and upper floors echoing Palladian practice. The small pattern of the glazing adds further liveliness, completed by a very pretty arched cupola on the roof.

In SAVING'S 1990 report Bright Future: The re-use of Industrial Buildings the architect Francis Machin showed two alternative schemes for conversion. The first was for a hotel using the generous flow of water to form a series of baths in the mill's original refectory hall – as How Thomas did in SAVING's contemporary scheme for Peninsular Barracks – with formal planting of lawns and topiary. A second scheme proposed that the mill's 13 two-storey

houses be demolished and replaced by a very pretty arched cupola on the roof.

purchase order on the mill. The council was so concerned about its state that the building was inspected weekly. Mike Lee, the Conservation Officer, told The Times on January 2: "We have recently carried out urgent works to stabilise the roof and walls. No gutters and eaves were breaking down the ledges and washing the mortar out of the walls threatening the stonework with collapse."

In the end, the CPO did not proceed as local residents, owners of the stone cottages behind, demanded that something be instated a rescue. His architect was Smith and Roper of Bakewell. Richard Smith, one of the partners, explains: "The mill was structurally unstable. We had to take it with its original block work and in nine cases convert that also to fit the fair separation between the new houses. We created apartments; three on each main floor, with open plan kitchens and living rooms. Cast iron railings were removed.

Sinking a car park beneath the lawn and terrace preserved the mill's unique setting,

cars were not parked in front of the mill.

The work was finished by 2005 and the

apartments sold quickly, though above and below, Cressbrook Mill has remained on life,

as has done a local landmark as when it was

first built.

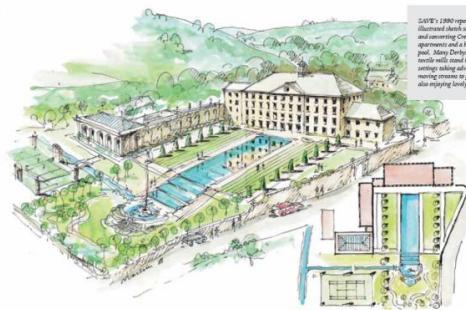
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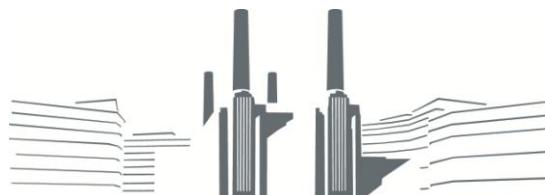
SAVING'S 1990 report Bright Future:
Proposed short scheme for reusing
and conserving Cressbrook Mill as both
spacious apartments and offices.
Many Derbyshire and Yorkshire
circular wells stand in beautiful valley
settings. This is one of the few
surviving streams to provide power
for developing early mills.



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Cressbrook Mill in Derbyshire was transformed into apartments after years of decay. It featured in SAVING's 1990 report Bright Future: The re-use of industrial buildings, where architect Francis Machin drew up an alternative scheme for conversion.

David Morley Architects



BATTERSEA
POWER STATION



Urban Space Management

CITY &
COUNTRY

Note to editors:

1. For more information please contact Mike Fox, Deputy Director at SAVE on 0207 253 3500 or office@savebritainsheritage.org
2. *Big Saves* features major cases from across the UK, including London, Birmingham, Liverpool, Portsmouth, Plymouth, Bradford, Bristol, Exeter, Harrogate, Norfolk and Derbyshire, as well as international cases from Spain, China, Germany and the United States of America
3. *Big Saves* has been sponsored by David Morley Architects, whose work at Lister Mills in Bradford is included in the book, as well as being featured on the front cover. Sponsorship has also been received from Urban Space Management, Battersea Power Station, and City & Country. SAVE is very grateful to all our sponsors, as well as all those who have helped with research and pictures.
4. SAVE Britain's Heritage has been campaigning for historic buildings since its formation in 1975 by a group of architectural historians, writers, journalists and planners. It is a strong, independent voice in conservation, free to respond rapidly to emergencies and to speak out loud for the historic built environment.

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