

SAVE BRITAIN'S HERITAGE

Newsletter – July 2007

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We have delayed for a short while sending our summer newsletter in the hope that we could report to SAVE Friends good news in our campaign to save Dumfries House for the nation. In addition, the small SAVE team has continued to work extremely hard fighting other major conservation battles, as detailed below.

As ever, we are very grateful for the huge voluntary efforts of Friends of SAVE, which includes practical help, giving of expertise, but help in the office is always particularly welcome. If any Friend reading this has time to volunteer then please do contact us.

Dumfries House, Ayrshire



Dumfries House is principally the product of Robert Adam family, a beautiful classical house in an idyllic setting – both the house and park are listed at Grade A. It is also the product of Thomas Chippendale, and the finest Scottish cabinet makers of the time: Alexander Peter, Francis Brodie and William Mathie. The Chippendale furniture is the best complete collection of his furniture from the “Director” period (the “Director” was in effect a sales catalogue), and the Scottish furniture the most important in the world – it is all superbly documented. The house, its contents and estate represent the Scottish Enlightenment at its most creative and together form a group of international importance.

The Marquis of Bute – better known as John Bute – took the decision to focus his energies on the family seat at Mount Stuart on the Isle of Bute, itself a very important gothic house by Sir Robert Rowand Anderson (dating from 1877), and therefore to dispose of Dumfries House and its contents in its entirety. The National Trust for Scotland was given the opportunity to take on the house and collection and came close to sealing a deal two years ago, but for reasons that are not entirely clear this deal failed at the last minute.

The proposed sale was a disaster in the making – a collection of huge international significance faced being broken up and dispersed across the globe

Cometh the eleventh hour, cometh SAVE. SAVE’s President Marcus Binney and veteran country house rescuer Kit Martin were able to visit the house and the estate in January and came up with the idea of making use of home farm, gate lodges, coach house and laundry as holiday lets, in effect acting as an endowment for the house and collection. The house itself contains a number of self-contained units which might also be used for holiday lets or study weekends, while the principal rooms of the house would be opened to the public.

At about this time, SAVE was approached by two Ayrshire residents – Mark Gibson and James Knox, both long concerned at the fate of Dumfries House. Mark is a surveyor who has rescued the neighbouring Craigengillan estate (restoring some of the finest belle époque interiors in the process), using its revitalisation as a catalyst for regeneration in neighbouring Dalmellington. SAVE commissioned him to put together a business plan for the Dumfries scheme, with support gratefully received from the Pilgrim Trust and the Georgian Group. The plan showed how the revitalisation of Dumfries House and the estate might benefit neighbouring Cumnock, birthplace of Keir Hardie, which has suffered badly since the collapse of the coal mining industry. James Knox, as managing director of the Art Newspaper, has played an invaluable role in the campaign linking London, Edinburgh and Ayrshire and stirring the pot in each area.

Our initial target was £25million based on figures from Savills for the house and land and what had to be guesstimates for the contents. As soon as the sales were announced we were able to go public with our campaign, and within two weeks had pulled together £7million in pledges, consisting of **£1million from the Garfield Weston Foundation, £2m from the Art Fund, and £4m from the Monument Trust**. In Scotland, Jennifer Bute worked tirelessly in raising support.

SAVE asked the Scottish Executive for £5million-£10million, but the timing couldn’t have been worse, immediately after the May elections and with the Scottish National Party, entirely new to Government, taking over. Had the campaign been a little later or the elections a little earlier this might have played to our advantage, but the Executive was not in a position to make a rapid decision, even with the offer of £5million matched funding from an anonymous donor. (How come

raising millions of pounds is relatively straightforward yet trying to pull together the annual budget to run SAVE is always a challenge?).

An application for £7million was lodged with the National Heritage Memorial Fund, the sister body of the Heritage Lottery Fund. We felt this was especially appropriate as the NHMF came into existence as a result of the debacle over another SAVE case, Mentmore – one of the Rothschild prodigy houses, which was offered complete with its contents to the nation in 1977 for £2million. The Government of the day turned down this offer and yet ended up spending that much alone on a few select pieces for museums.

As the campaign for Dumfries House evolved it became clear that these figures were on the low side. However, confidentiality agreements prevented us from accessing the valuations used by the National Trust for Scotland. £40million turned out to be a more accurate figure.

Deadlines for deals passed, yet this became the campaign that wouldn't die – it became clear that John Bute was willing to “accept realistic pre-sale offers” beyond the end of May, even though the dates for the auction were July 12th and 13th (the catalogues are masterpieces in their own right).

Donations of all sizes towards the campaign have been received from a range of individuals, to all of whom we wish to express our heartfelt gratitude.

The pieces of the jigsaw started to fall into place – during the fundraising various developers had approached us wanting use our credibility as a reason for developing the estate. Why couldn't we do this ourselves (albeit on a much smaller scale)? The enterprising James Perkins who has recently purchased Aynho Park kindly took the time to visit and offer his opinion on what could be done. Soon enough, an approach was received from the office of a major benefactor, who also happens to be possibly the most sensitive developer in the land, the Duke of Rothesay. The idea was to take out a loan to cover the gap in funding, and develop a piece of land close to Cumnock not previously included in the sale to help cover this, while fundraising for the rest (SAVE had been considering this course of action itself but felt distinctly uneasy at the prospect of taking on such a huge loan). This proved to be the necessary catalyst to give the NHMF confidence in our scheme, and the Scottish Executive also stepped forward, all officially on the 27th June (although there had been a few nervous days beforehand).

The house will be opened to the public next year.

The Duke of Rothesay is of course HRH The Prince of Wales and we are hugely indebted to him for taking on the risk of a multimillion pound guarantee, in effect buying the time to finish raising the funds for the house, collection and estate.

This is both a massively important victory and an affirmation of SAVE's continuing relevance – as with

Tyntesfield, without SAVE this enormously important collection would have gone the way of so many others such as Mentmore, Pitchford, Stoeksay and Thoresby

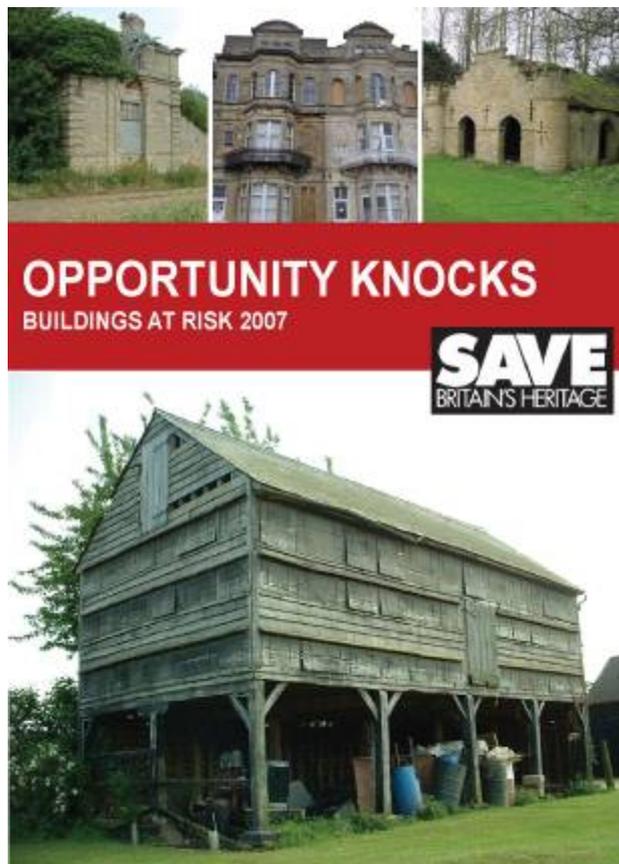
Marcus Binney writes “Our fundraising efforts met many rebuffs but those who helped, helped enormously, above all the Monument Trust and its Chairman Stewart Grimshaw, whose continuing support and interest kept hope alive in many dark moments. A big thank you to all at the Art Fund which put in the heroic first £2million pledge – the two Davids (Verey and Barrie) and Paul Zuckerman, the Treasurer; and Andrew Macdonald, the deputy director; and ended up with the mammoth task of being the body to acquire Dumfries House before it is transferred to the Prince's new trust. Special thanks to Georgina Naylor for giving the initial crucial £4500 to commission the business plan, and to Robert Bargery of the Georgian Group for supporting this with a further £2500, and at the other end of the scale, to the trustees and staff of the NHMF for speedily processing our (successful) application for a £7million grant, notably to Liz Forgan, Carol Souter, Eilish McGuinness and Bob Bewley. Thanks to Kit Martin for his crucial role in visiting Dumfries House with me and within two hours working out the strategy for opening the house and creating holiday apartments to provide an income, to Mark Gibson for his tireless work, not only on the SAVE business plan but on identifying the land at Cumnock for what my wife Anne immediately christened Thistlebury, to James Knox, our tireless co-conspirator, to David Walker who recognised the transcending importance and value of Dumfries House who recognised the transcending importance and value of Dumfries House, to Viscount Norries for key support in Ayrshire, to Michael Hitchon of Kyle and Carrick Civic Society who recruited signatures and rallied support in and around Cumnock, to James Miller at Sotheby's, to John Murray, Martin Drury, Merlin Waterson, and Fiona Reynolds for help and encouragement, to Dr Manon Williams at the Prince of Wales's office and Sir Michael Peat who put together the final deal with dazzling brilliance and speed, to Charles Cator at Christies for helping open the way for the SAVE rescue plan and to Edward Manisty in helping conclude the deal, and most important to John Bute for remaining open to a bit till a time when the clock in any other negotiation of this kind would be deemed well past midnight. Above all thanks to HRH The Prince of Wales, whose courage and decisiveness in this great matter is a fantastic boost to all who fight to preserve our constantly endangered heritage”

Buildings at Risk 2007

At the beginning of May SAVE was very pleased to launch its 18th annual Buildings at Risk catalogue in a new-look, colour format, entitled *Opportunity Knocks*. This year's research involved making contact with as many of the approximately 400 local authorities in England and Wales as possible and led to an alarming new array of mainly Grade II listed buildings at risk.

It was encouraging to come into contact with countless dedicated officers with a can-do, impassioned attitude, who were only too happy to provide us with carefully

compiled visual and written information. However, the many problems in the field were startlingly clear. Lack of time and resources together with the feeling of being almost totally marginalised by other sections of a given planning department were constant themes.



The stunning publication features nearly 130 buildings of all types from all over England and Wales. All-colour double-page spreads have been devoted to some of the decaying heritage that can be found in many of our cities including Bristol, Liverpool and Plymouth.

Our buildings at risk research also picked up on the many chapels that are standing derelict. Sumptuous examples include the Philips Park Cemetery Chapel in Manchester and the Hartshill Cemetery Chapel in Stoke-on-Trent. The sad line-up of abandoned rural properties also leaves much to be desired. Councils are often struggling to use their enforcement powers because owners quite literally disappear. Also problematic are well-intentioned and often approved renovation plans that come to nothing, leaving the building to suffer as a result.

This year, as in previous editions SAVE has been delighted to include some insightful contributions from those who have first-hand experience of historic buildings at risk and their successful restoration. Birmingham Conservation Officer, Andrew Rudge, conservation builder Gervase Webb of Horgan and Webb, together with husband and wife team Karen and Francis Shaw (of recent Channel 4 'Grand Designs' fame), all take time to share their views.

The SAVE Buildings at Risk Register and Catalogue are currently the only methods to find out about some of the many thousands of buildings that do not have Grade I or II * listing that lie unloved and forgotten across the country. SAVE hopes that this year's colourful and eclectic edition will inspire determined professionals and enthused conservation novices alike.

The publication is priced at £12.00 and £10.00 for Friends of SAVE.

To order a copy of *OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS: The 2007 Buildings at Risk Catalogue* please send a cheque or credit card order to the SAVE Office.

This report represents Buildings at Risk officer David Plaisant's swansong for SAVE – he is heading off to the RIBA to work in its public affairs department. We would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his hard work and commitment over the last year and wish him well in his future.

Middlesex Guildhall, London

In the last newsletter we reported on the proposals to place the new UK Supreme Court within the Grade II* listed Middlesex Guildhall on Parliament Square, one of the finest gothic revival buildings of the twentieth century, with spectacular interiors designed by the leading sculptors and cabinet makers of the day. Shortly after this we launched our report *The Guildhall Testimonial*, which is available from SAVE for £5 (£4 for Friends).

The proposals for the UK Supreme Court would see this furniture ripped out and replaced with modern designs, while one of the three principal court rooms would lose its floor to create a triple height library, and its rear wall would be replaced with a glass sheet facing the building's entrance.

To get an idea of what is proposed, have a look at the Government's web site

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/whatwedo/supremecourt.htm>

In spite of the massive damage the proposals would inflict on the building, and a superb letter writing campaign by SAVE's friends (one of whom proposed to apply to ruin his Grade II* listed building in a similar manner to test the system), Westminster City Council passed the application.

SAVE took this decision to a judicial review, with our solicitor David Cooper and QC Joe Harper leading the charge on the basis that the decision ran counter to national policy on listed buildings as well as local policy (which makes it clear that when altering listed buildings, the applicant should be seeking to reinstate lost features rather than rip out original work).

Mr Justice Collins gave his judgement on the spot – that it was in the national interest to have the Supreme Court in that location, and that this national interest over-rode listed buildings law. He promised us a transcript of the

judgement by the end of the week – however we only received it two weeks later, shortly before your Secretary was due to give evidence before the House of Commons Constitutional Affairs Committee. This was a worrying judgement with potentially wider implications.

In the meantime SAVE and the Friends of Middlesex Guildhall held, at very short notice, an evening at the Guildhall for members of the judiciary and conservation professionals and other interested individuals. The turnout was excellent, and the issues were debated in Court three, with the DCA's architects giving their reasoning. The debate proved that the existing layout works tremendously well.



Condemned? The interior of court 3 at Middlesex Guildhall

The oral evidence session with the Constitutional Affairs Committee was an interesting affair, with its chair Alan Beith seeming to steer the questioning towards the possibility of a compromise, if one were possible. SAVE and the Victorian Society's Kathryn Ferry made it clear that a compromise would be possible if the architect's brief was radically changed – but also drove home the points that the current proposals would probably prove to be inadequate after five years or so, leaving the building needlessly vandalised.

Lord Falconer, the Lord Chancellor arrived to give evidence to the committee after SAVE and the Victorian Society, and having missed our contribution then sallied forth, directly contradicting our submission and claiming that the proposals were the best conservation-based solution. Quite how he gets away with it is unclear. He was in no mood to compromise. The session was reported on Radio 4's *Yesterday in Parliament*.

Our only hope now is that the plan fades away with Lord Falconer, who has been replaced by Jack Straw as Justice Minister. There are alternative locations available such as County Hall, or the wing of Somerset House shortly to be vacated by Inland Revenue, or even a new building, which would probably cost less than the entire Middlesex Guildhall project (including the cost of relocating court business to Isleworth and extending the buildings there) – which now appears to be spiralling up, according to one source, to £100million (the original cost was £32million). £50million for a new building is small beer compared to the cost of a new Assembly building, a

big tent in east London or some temporary sports facilities for 2012.

Our legal action on the Guildhall was supported by a number of individuals, all of whom we would like to thank for their generosity, time and energy in running with the case.

The General Market buildings at Smithfield

The Smithfield Market circus rolls on. The last few months have seen the developer, Thornfield, put forward its third set of plan for the demolition and redevelopment of the General Market at Smithfield, but this time with the difference that the Grade II "Red House" cold store (1898) and the Annex building (1886) are to be included in the plans, in a façade retention scheme which would make even those completely desensitised to historic buildings and good architecture cringe. Oh and the proposed replacement building for the General Market is 'only' seven stories high, covered in spots with an odd angular glass roof. We can only assume that the plan is to make the previous plans look architecturally sane by comparison.

SAVE sees this third application for the site as an attempt to effectively bully ourselves, English Heritage, and even the City of London (who ostensibly support the proposals) into letting the plans through. However, thanks to sustained pressure from our lawyer, David Cooper, this third set of plans has been called in for consideration at a public inquiry. For a short while this left us with the prospect of two major inquiries into proposals for the same site (the second application having been called in last year), and given that three months had been booked in the diary for the first inquiry, the prospect of another was not welcome. We called for the inquiries to be conjoined and delayed.

Instead, Thornfield pulled its second set of plans, and consequently cancelled the inquiry (due to start in June), much to the annoyance of everyone, and a new inquiry is set to start in November. We asked Thornfield's lawyers for a donation towards the amount of time we've spent messing around with their pointless planning applications over the last couple of years, but for some strange reason they declined our offer.

We are currently preparing for the new inquiry and have a range of wonderful experts giving their time for free, in spite of the rather gruelling nature of modern public inquiries. Along with English Heritage we hope to put up a very solid defence of the buildings and conservation area, while showing that it is possible to repair and re-use them in a manner which complements the wider area while making a profit

In the meantime, Thornfield is still attempting to delist the "Red House" cold store, having served papers on the Secretary of State. SAVE has rebutted a great deal of the meat of the application, which even being charitable can only be described as speculative.

In **Winchester** Thornfield's appallingly oversized Friargate scheme, which will be as high as the cathedral parapets, made it through the planning process through what appears to be sleight of hand, but might yet be called in for a public inquiry. We understand that Thornfield is also currently demolishing parts of **Bury**, Lancs, in a scheme called "The Rock".

Corbridge Crescent

London, like many towns in the UK, is full of architectural delight in the most unexpected places, and so a bleary-eyed early morning weekend run by your Secretary along the Regent's Canal, from Islington down to Limehouse, resulted in a near miss with the canal out of surprise at finding a couple of bow-fronted Georgian houses rammed in between a gas holder, a coachworks and a railway (and of course the canal) about a mile east of Islington. Further investigation (all hail Google Earth) revealed this to be Corbridge Crescent.



These late Georgian houses are the only remaining part of a wider development, based around a lost oval. Not surprisingly, they are unlisted, but are very characterful and tell us much about the development of the area. Their gritty, contrasting setting only amplifies their charm. The buildings are easily repairable and consequently have the potential to form the base for a new development, working with the existing fabric and providing a sense of place while retaining the amazing contrasts with well-designed new development.

Instead there is a set of proposals to demolish the houses (and the surrounding coach works) and replace them with a building that takes the gasholder as its measure. This neglects to take into account that the gasholder is most of the time a latticework frame (and an elegant, sculptural Victorian one at that) rather than a solid building, and ignores the lesson of much of the development alongside this canal and others throughout the country – high blocks close to the water usually have the effect of turning the canal into a minor water feature rather than that which makes the site attractive to developers in the first place. The best canal side developments are usually between two and six storeys high, taking into account their context. Ten storeys is greedy.

Pathfinder

The straws in the wind indicate that the Government's dreaded housing market renewal policy, also known as Pathfinder, is facing a radical change of direction in the face of vigorous opposition from locals on the ground, and, at a national level, SAVE. Demolition is no longer the favoured method of dealing with the abandonment of houses and areas, at least as far as central Government is concerned. However, on the ground the bulldozers are still active – the message hasn't quite made its way down.

What is needed are clear alternatives to the proposal to demolish 50,000 or so houses (down from the original suggestion of 400,000). SAVE suggests the following:

1. Gradually release empty houses to small scale developers and individuals:

The careful release of buildings from central authority in a manner which will not upset the housing market will start to build confidence in areas as the buildings are repaired and occupied, while the use of local tradespeople and suppliers will pump money back into the local economy rather than focussing it in the hands of the large-scale developers.

2. Mothball and maintain:

Those houses not to be released immediately should be carefully mothballed and maintained to ensure that future repair costs are kept to a minimum. A condition of any pathfinder funds spent on repair should be long term, regular planned maintenance

3. Adapt and rethink the existing forms of housing:

Terraced houses are highly adaptable and can be extended backwards or sideways by knocking together.

4. Think small and target the worst houses:

Let a thousand flowers bloom – small-scale projects targeting the worst houses in an area rather than disruptive block or entire area repairs are better ways of lifting confidence in an area.

5. Acknowledge that some areas and some streets do not need intervention:

There are streets and communities which would rather be left alone to their own devices than suffer any form of intervention. Their wishes should be respected – it is not for civil servants and politicians in a democracy to dictate to the citizens, rather it is the other way around.

6. Harness the energy:

Local groups and street associations are already working in Pathfinder areas to oppose demolition and improve their areas, strengthening community spirit. This energy should be harnessed not fought.

7. Adopt a multi-agency approach:

Local schools, faith groups, social services and others should all be included to assure a holistic approach to areas, not just one focussed on housing, is taken.

8. Undo the damage:

Many of the towns affected by demolition have suffered in the past from ill-considered demolitions. New development should be focussed on undoing the damage of the past and stitching towns and cities back together, spreading the success of town centres outward, in the process providing amenities for the communities

9. Use the spaces wisely:

In stitching back the townscape consider how the spaces can be used to the benefit of the community as well as in providing a variety of housing in an area.

10. Break the stranglehold of the large house builders:

In towns such as Liverpool the council has a deal whereby it is obliged to give first choice on any land disposals to a major house builder. Is this really a healthy state of affairs, building more houses in areas where there are allegedly already too many? The construction industry may be our nation's largest industry but that should not allow ministers to give it free rein

11. Remind the Registered Social Landlords of their origins:

RSLs came about in the 1970s and 80s in response to demolitions, often formed by residents' groups looking for alternatives to demolition. As some of the key players in the Pathfinder demolitions, these RSLs must look long and hard at themselves and consider whether they are developers or responsible landlords.

12. Change the Housing Corporation's targets:

Currently refurbishment of empty buildings does not count towards housing association targets, whereas demolition and rebuild does.

13. Start to solve the structural difficulties in the economy:

The economy currently focuses on the south-east of England. Better communications with the rest of the country, opening up these areas to employers currently based in the south east would help solve some of the problems surrounding these areas. Upgrades to the west coast main line railway services are starting to help – Manchester and Liverpool are only two hours away from London, but there are more improvements to be made.

14. A level VAT playing field:

VAT represents a 17.5% tax on repair of old buildings in Pathfinder areas, whereas demolition and rebuild is in effect subsidised by government through new infrastructure to the tune of £65,000 per house.

Belper and Milford, Derbyshire

Your Secretary was invited to give a talk to the Belper Civic forum a little earlier in the year and took the opportunity to have a look at the issues affecting the historic centre of Belper and the neighbouring village of Milford – which are very different in character and in the nature of the problems they face. Both owe their prosperity to the fast flowing River Derwent which provided the power for their mills, but whereas Belper developed into a sizable town, Milford remained essentially a village.



Milford with terraces following the contours discernable (above), and from the other side of the valley (below)



Milford has lost its mill while Belper retains the majority of its main mill complex, yet both retain much of their mill housing, in a remarkable variety of forms – in Belper there are beautiful stone terraces and rare semi-detached back-to-backs. The geography is not as extreme as Milford, which clings to the steep-sided valley, forming a natural amphitheatre much like Bradford on Avon, only more, intimate, and with an empty space on the valley floor where the mill once stood. This dictates the form of the housing, which follows the contours, with back-to-backs taking advantage of this – on the upside of the hill two houses on two storeys backing on to three houses on three storeys on the downside of the hill.



New build in Milford – nearly but not quite right for the place

These houses are all well lived in and loved, but Milford is becoming a dormitory – it has lost its last useful shop. However, the space on the valley floor has been targeted by developers. One development has already gone ahead, of terraced housing with frankly odd details – such as half pediments atop bays – and very little reference to the wonderful sense of place. Another is proposed – for five storeys in the place of the old mill. Residents are up in arms and rightly so – the development will radically change the appearance of the village while giving it not one new facility.



A “cluster” of four back-to-backs (Bakewell & Partners)

The train journey from Derby to Belper is wonderfully picturesque and for rail enthusiasts amongst you takes in a number of fine Stephenson bridges and cuttings, with Belper station sitting in one of these, although the bridge beside the station was replaced in the 1980s with a small supermarket on a concrete deck – one of the few rude interruptions in the urban fabric of the town’s historic centre – the other being the traffic on the A6. This may not be the case for long, though. Tesco is a’comin’.

The proposal is for a hypermarket on the site of an old Thorntons’ chocolate factory – there are a handful of interesting and reusable buildings on the site, and access to it would be created by knocking down a lovely eighteenth century office building. The proposals would also involve a relief road and a new library. While this might on the surface be welcome, it is fool’s gold. At the southern end of the town, the most wonderful historic school has just been emptied and needs a new use. The existing library does its job quite well in a nineteenth century house – which would become empty and at risk under these proposals. Mr Tesco needs to think more carefully about how his proposals might properly benefit the town rather than hoping bungs such as this might do the trick – the opportunities for some inspired urban thinking are great - for instance it could provide links through to the old high street and help revitalise it while easing congestion along it.

This wider question of over-sized developments in small towns is a vexatious one which keeps on popping up – since out-of-town shopping developments are no longer allowed, the attention of the shop builders has refocused on town centres. While this might present some superb opportunities to undo the damage caused by some of the town centre redevelopments of the 1960s and 70s, in other cases such as those highlighted in this and previous

newsletters it can lead to excessively large and damaging developments.

Farnham

The theme of oversized town centre redevelopments continues. Farnham in Surrey has managed to fend off the worst excesses of the last 150 years, and has retained a strong Georgian character, with its 1980s shopping centre, Lion and Lamb Yard being a rather fun and effective exercise in the local vernacular, encouraging smaller local shops.

Sainsburys and Crest Nicholson are, however, attempting to change all this with a large shopping, cinema and residential development at the heart of the town, with a couple of acres’ of underground parking in an already congested small town. The development would be significantly higher than the rest of the town and would have a marked effect on its historic character. Farnham has an old and well-respected conservation group, which has helped the town retain its character – indeed the fact that the town had managed to remain a great place to live as a result of this retention of character was noted in the “Urban Renaissance” report of the late 1990s.

A part of the problem must be that the local authority, Waverley Borough Council, simply is not used to dealing with large developers, who with their teams of highly-paid development focussed lawyers must leave local authority legal teams in a bit of a fix. Officers possibly face chief executives keen on being able to show on their CVs that they have attracted millions of pounds of investment in their last position.

The Farnham case was interesting not only as it encapsulated all the usual issues very neatly but also because it showed how the media works. SAVE wrote to the local authority objecting to the plans (which would have involved the demolition of a number of decent and serviceable historic buildings) and copied this to the local campaigners, telling them (as we usually do) that they could use the letter as they pleased. The letter was reported in the local paper and practically reprinted verbatim. This then led to the case being picked up by a sharp-eyed journalist at the Guardian, which then led to the Today Programme on Radio 4 running with the story (at 7am on a Saturday – your Secretary can assure you that no matter how nice Mr Humphries is, this is still rather early to be talking sense).

Developments such as this and Thornfield’s scheme in Winchester could, with the right client, the right brief and the right architect, offer the chance to correct the mistakes of the past – as with the Bullring in Birmingham, putting back historic street patterns (which importantly worked, linking the areas of the town together) wiped out in previous comprehensive redevelopments.

Dreamland, Margate and Pleasureland, Southport

After the farcical non-listing and unduly hasty destruction of the 1938 Cyclone Rollercoaster in Southport (one of a handful of surviving timber historic rollercoasters in the UK, see last Newsletter), the Save Dreamland campaign (Newsletter April 2003) has stepped in – with the proposal for a heritage amusement park. This would be based around the Grade II listed Scenic Railway coaster at Margate (part destroyed by fire in 1949 and timber replaced by that from Lowestoft pier) and the 1935 listed Dreamland Cinema. They have managed to get hold of parts of most of the remaining historic attractions at Pleasureland (many also refused listing on disputable grounds) before its owner, Sefton Council, flattened them, including a c1920s Caterpillar (which may in fact be older), the 1960 Wild Mouse coaster, and the working parts and boats of the River Caves, which dates back to 1908.

Sadly, it seems the 1948 Crooked House (Haunted Inn) cannot be dismantled - it is the oldest of three remaining in the country and, denied listing, its immediate future is probably as landfill. Pictures and Pleasureland history are available on <http://www.southportcyclone.com/>

Some of you are probably scratching your heads and wondering why this is important. The current revival of seaside towns is hugely welcome but it is being accompanied by attempts, often misplaced, to update the attractions without realising that kitsch charm is very much a part of the delight of the place. The absurd upshot (as in so many cases) is that the new development devalues that on which it seeks to capitalise. As a result, many of the parks, historic structures and machines that have terrified and delighted generations of visitors are vanishing to the extent that shortly only a handful of historic seaside amusement parks with vintage attractions in the UK will remain – Yarmouth, Blackpool, and the now closed Dreamland, Margate. There are currently only two listed amusement park rides/structures in the country – Margate's Scenic Railway (itself at risk) and the waterchute in a park in Hull.

For these reasons the Dreamland Trust initiative is especially welcome and we offer Nick Laister and the Save Dreamland Campaign our very strongest support for the scheme. A future SAVE outing beckons...

For further details of the campaign to save Dreamland and the historic rides see <http://www.joylandbooks.com/scenicrailway/>

Rushmere House, Belfast

Meanwhile in the Malone conservation area of Belfast, locals have waged a highly effective campaign against proposals to enlarge the one bad building in the area. The conservation area is characterised by large Victorian villas in generous plots, many of which are listed in recognition of their high quality and intactness. The area has remained largely unchanged apart from the loss of two houses and their replacement with a two-storey

office block in a nondescript 1970s style – passers-by are sheltered from it by dense foliage. Proposals came forward to put an extra storey and extension on the building. SAVE was contacted by the local campaign group and lent its weight to the cause, pointing out the utter absurdity of doing more damage to an area rather than seeking to ameliorate the worst effects of past development. Sense was eventually seen and the planning division rejected the application much to the relief of all.

May Street Presbyterian Church, Belfast

Such is the desperation of some to make money from development that they will go to the most extraordinary lengths to create development sites. The proposals for the 1829 handsome Greek Revival May Street Presbyterian Church in Belfast are a case in point and would normally be filed under “b” for barking mad. It would appear that the church was proposing to sell its air rights to a developer, which proposed building over and around the church, in effect sticking a tall office block atop an important listed building. The proposals have been fought off: Belfast isn't exactly desperately short of development space.



Glaze Be! May Street Church proposals by Barnabus Ventures

Out of Government:

The Heritage White Paper

The Heritage White Paper represents a once in a generation chance to reform the system for the protection of the built heritage. What it proposes is not a radical change, rather a series of alterations that might cover the *perceived* deficiencies in the current system, but which equally might create more problems than they solve. SAVE's response is outlined here:

The main themes appear to be making the system for designation and protection more accessible and open,

and also to make it faster by cutting red tape. However it is a simple fact that the system requires the considered input of experts to ensure that the cultural importance and relevance of the buildings is retained. Checks and measures are unavoidable.

What the paper does not acknowledge is that protection is not a tie that binds or constrains development, given the relatively small numbers of individually protected buildings, instead it gives pause for thought before development. The vast majority of listed building and conservation area consent applications are granted permission by local authorities following consultation with experts within the local authority and expert bodies. While this might be a slightly slower process than a normal grant of planning permission it is only right that local authority officers work with applicants to produce applications that are acceptable in listed buildings terms – for if this element of the process were to be skipped over in order to speed up the application process, there would in all probability be more refusals to grant listed building consent or, worse, a drop in the standards applied to listed buildings and conservation areas, resulting in unacceptable damage to the historic and architectural interest of buildings and areas.

An unclear direction

There are an unfortunate number of statements in the white paper which raise rather more questions than they answer – there is talk of making the system more responsive, but to what? The white paper is apparently responding to a public call for change – a call that at SAVE, a grass-roots organisation, we have not heard.

There are other statements that seem to be tilting at windmills, such as “if we seek to prevent all change, the heritage protection system quickly becomes devalued and unworkable”: no one has ever sought to prevent all change and it is wrong that government should paint a picture of the sector in this way, however accidental. It only fuels suspicions that the heritage sector is being set up as an easy target for future cuts. Statements such as “there is a wider community interest in ensuring that the right historic assets are protected in the right way” are unclear in their meaning – for example some developers might say the precise opposite in some cases to concerned locals – thereby creating more conflict and more delay rather than less.

It highlights a series of worthy aims (such as improving the system by raising the profile of the historic environment, promoting a more joined-up approach and increasing capacity at a local level) but there is very little substance to explain how this will actually happen and be maintained, other than through one-off initiatives – more meat is needed on the bones. Indeed a joint foreword by the relevant Secretaries of State might have been a good starting point for a joined up approach: as a part of the every day life of the nation the historic environment touches on so many different areas.

The existing system and the need for change

The sector is constantly asked to bring forth statistics to justify the importance of heritage, yet in this white paper

the evidence base does not exist beyond the anecdotal. This is not helped by ambiguous language used, such as stating that the system “is something designed to meet the needs of professionals rather than users” – with no explanation of who the “users” are – individuals? Developers?

This theme continues with the white paper acknowledging strong public support for heritage designation but then continues by saying that people want to see improvements without clarifying who wants to see what. This sort of anecdotal hide-and-seek does not help in understanding the motivations for change and consequently the potential or desired outcomes of the reforms.

There is discussion of the *perception* of the current system (as complicated) rather than the reality of it: surely then the answer is to address this perception rather than proposing a series of reforms which might result in a more complicated system. The paper never directly states that the current system is complicated – nor indeed does it produce a serious critique of the issues it is seeking to address. For example, how many developments have been held up by last minute listings in the last five years?

The white paper makes the point that it can be difficult to make decisions about what should be protected in isolation. This is in reality rarely the case – the existing body of listed buildings provides a whole gamut of precedents and most importantly provides the national context. A move to thematic listing as proposed removes that national context and focuses in on a type of buildings, viewing it in isolation – a self-defeating process.

Designation

It is positive that Government wants to engage with the public and initiate a debate on what we should be seeking to protect in the future but it is vital that (a) this process will be entirely transparent and (b) that this is only in relation to new listings, not to that which is already protected.

The discussion of a single set of simple national criteria for listing is in theory welcome, although these already exist in Planning Policy Guidance Note 15. (It is odd that there is no mention of the proposed changes to PPG15.) Attempts at defining these criteria thus far have been rather academic and appear to take little account of the fact that buildings change over time, that change is a part of the interest and the story buildings have to tell, and that if damaging, it can be undone.

The creation of detailed selection criteria for national and local designation is an enormous task and might lead a cynic to ask if this is a way of reducing listed building numbers, paving the way for moving some Grade II listed buildings to local designations. It might also prompt the less cynical to ask how on earth it would be possible to come up with criteria that can be applied for buildings of local interest across the board, given the most immense regional differences in buildings. Indeed

the question of whether there is really a need for regionality in listing has not been asked let alone answered.

Devolving responsibility for national designation to English Heritage raises the important question of the role of the Secretary of State: will the duty to list buildings of listable quality remain? If not, English Heritage effectively becomes judge, jury and executioner. If the organisation were wholly independent and free from the influence of other parties this would not be a problem – but the reality of the situation is different.

The proposal that in designating, the expert view – the architectural historical assessment of value – should be balanced by business, community and Government is of concern as there will undoubtedly be cases where pressure will be brought to bear on English Heritage by Government or business not to list. Listing must be about historic, architectural and cultural interest, and not about more fleeting issues such as the economics of a particular development at a particular moment in time.

Spot listing and the ability to rapidly list individual threatened buildings – overnight if necessary – must remain, as no matter how thorough surveys might be there will always be some buildings that are missed.

The original process of listing was by area, and some of these area lists have not been revisited for decades, meaning that there are many buildings deserving protection that remain unlisted. It is vital that the designation programme has both the capacity and ability to return to area based listing to ensure that there is fair representation in these areas. Scotland and Wales have resurveyed on an area basis, Northern Ireland is in the process of doing so. England should follow suit.

It is urgent that interim protection for buildings proposed for listing is rapidly introduced, if necessary before the white paper, as the present situation is entirely unsatisfactory, giving the owners of buildings that might be listed a chance to damage the interest of a building before listing. While it is only sensible that temporary protection will last to the end of the appeal date, it is unclear as to what deterrent there will be for causing damage in this period.

Appeals on designation

In order for the proposed system of appeals for and against listing to be fair and just it must be open to all, not just those with “an interest” – at present what constitutes “an interest” is entirely unclear and could preclude relevant expertise from being brought to bear.

It is important that the appeal covers thematic designations – SAVE is aware of one thematic survey (of airfields) that scandalously sat on Ministers’ desks for years before being sent back to English Heritage with the instruction to revise downward the array of listings proposed; and of another where another Government ministry pushed for downgradings to ease the sale of land. An open and transparent system should not allow this situation to arise in the first place.

While the idea of an independent appeals panel is good, the question of its constitution is vital – for buildings it should be manned with buildings experts (not though, developers’ stooges in private practice); for parks and gardens with parks and gardens experts, for archaeological sites with archaeologists. SAVE is aware of many unsatisfactory decisions on listing where a strong independent panel could make all the difference.

Conservation Areas

We were very surprised that a proposal for conservation areas that was not included in the wider consultation has found its way into the white paper, completely out of the blue. The proposal to include conservation areas as a tick box on the planning application form has been floating around for a long while and has never really been accepted – it is curious that Government should pick it up for this white paper.

When discussing conservation areas it is important that they are not treated as simply being of local importance in spite of being designated by local authorities – there are very many that are of regional, national and international importance, and the protection of their character is popular, culturally relevant and architecturally and historically important. The Secretary of State should retain the power to designate conservation areas in exceptional cases.

Over the last few years conservation areas have been left seriously under-protected by Government through a failure to act on the Shimizu decision (a daft high court decision which ruled that there is in effect no such thing as partial demolition, meaning that it can be argued that major alterations in conservation areas do not require consent), in spite of Ministerial promises and numerous opportunities. SAVE questions the motivations of including a controversial measure which has not been widely discussed as a part of these reforms, in the name of correcting the Shimizu mess.

There are very strong arguments for maintaining conservation area consent as a separate application as it forces applicants to think properly about the character and appearance of the conservation area and to thoroughly justify their proposals in this context. This does not however mean that it should not be brought within the planning system, it is more of a question of how this is done. It is essential that it does not become a tick box exercise. Furthermore it is important to ensure that there is no scope for a future administration to use this new position as a reason to downgrade the level of protection afforded to conservation areas. SAVE therefore strongly resists the proposal, in its current form, which on the surface appears to weaken the protection conservation area designation could and should be able to provide.

Certificates of Immunity from Listing

SAVE recognises that there is a role for certificates of immunity in giving owners of complicated operational sites such as factories the opportunity to alter their operations without undue interruption. However, more

recently certificates of immunity have been abused by owners seeking to demolish the buildings in question.

The proposals in the white paper would appear to formalise this abuse of the process without recognising that it is a perversion of the original intention of the certificates – they have been controversially used to give cover for the demolition of buildings of listable quality such as Scott’s magnificent Guinness factory at Park Royal, west London. This should never be the case – it opens the door to a whole range of further abuses, such as owners vandalising buildings on purpose and then applying for certificates of immunity.

Consulting relevant experts and interest groups on certificates of immunity would also place a great deal of pressure on under-resourced individuals, communities and organisations to put forward alternative arguments to those put forward for the certificate of immunity, frequently in our experience compiled and argued in an aggressive manner by well paid experts.

World Heritage Sites

The proposal for greater protection for World Heritage sites is to be welcomed. At present World Heritage Sites have no statutory protection yet recent cases have shown that there is a strong need for some formal recognition of their importance, and the value of their wider setting. Bringing controls into line with those associated with National Parks would be a positive step.

Local Designation

SAVE has longed called for some form of designation that recognises local landmarks and the importance of the “petit patrimoine” to local communities – indeed we have fought numerous cases where architecturally decent or historically interesting buildings, capable of economic reuse but not in conservation areas or listed, have been demolished as there simply was no protection available for them, much to the anger of the local communities.

Local lists, where backed up in local policy, do currently hold some weight and are a useful tool in helping applicants come forward with the right set of proposals in the first case, and are to be encouraged. They are also an excellent opportunity for inclusion and participation. Making demolition of locally listed buildings a form of development is to be welcomed.

Conclusions

The ultimate test of any piece of legislation in this field is whether it will do anything to materially improve the state of the built heritage. The white paper is a very mixed bag – many of the measures proposed potentially open the door to future abuse, others formalise rather than stop current abuse, while a handful strengthen protection in response to recent criticisms. On balance it is easy to come to the conclusion that the white paper fails the test of materially improving the state of the built heritage.

There does not appear to have been enough thought about the potential side effects of some of the proposals, which while no doubt motivated by a desire to improve

the current system could do just the opposite. Any downgrading of the existing levels of protection would be entirely unacceptable.

It is hard to see that the proposed system for designation will be any faster than the existing: no matter how good a system in theory, in practice it falls down if the resources are not there. This question applies across the board – to English Heritage, local authorities, voluntary groups and amenity societies – many of them are doing a great deal of work to keep the system going with the scarcest of resources. If perceived weaknesses in the existing system need correcting, carefully aimed increases in funding will make a difference.

SAVE is concerned that the search for speed in the system will be at the cost of the quality of the decisions that are made – a cost in our view that is unacceptable. A few weeks’ delay for careful consideration of plans to ensure the right decisions are made is better than the permanent loss of historic and architectural interest.

It is questionable as to whether a one-size-fits-all approach (principally to ancient monuments and listed buildings) is really the right one. The existing systems reflect their roots in entirely different disciplines, principally archaeology and architectural history – and the entirely different requirements applicable to each area – what is right for a Neolithic burial mound is rather different to what would be right for an arts and crafts house. There is therefore a practical logic in the way the system is currently organised.

It is of great concern that the evidential base for these changes is at present almost unknown to the sector or general public. The facts and figures upon which this white paper is built should be put in the public domain as should a cold, hard assessment of who will benefit most from the changes – surely it should be the public interest in the form of the historic environment.

Letchworth bungalows

While dealing with the delights of country houses, elaborate gothic court houses and so forth, SAVE’s sleeves remain firmly rolled up with no fear of dealing with the everyday heritage that forms the backdrop to the daily life of the majority of the population.

Letchworth Garden City remains a most wonderfully planned town with enough space to allow its population to breathe in its beautiful surrounds, illustrating how the principles of the Garden City movement remain relevant even today.

It was in the spirit of this movement that a small post-war extension was made on the side of the town, with a series of 60 semi-detached aluminium prefabricated bungalows. While this might not sound at first the most prepossessing proposition, the bungalows were carefully laid out in generous plots and wide streets along a ridge, giving splendid views out over the surrounding countryside. Ten of the houses are in private ownership,

the rest are rented, with the average tenancy being around 27 years. This is a settled community.



Wide verges, generous accommodation, rare buildings.

The estate used to be run by the local council but is now in the hands of a housing association, which has decided that in order to bring the houses up to the Government's "Decent Homes Standard" it has to demolish them, regardless of the residents' feelings, or importantly, their own research which shows that there is little wrong with the buildings. The arrogance of the housing association reflects that of the Pathfinders in the Midlands and North – perhaps revealing the chauffeur of that particular vehicle in the process.

The mostly elderly residents of the area are not confident to fight off the plan (which would massively increase the density of the area), in spite of the houses being in a conservation area. The interest of the houses lies in their relative completeness as a group and a type (all other versions around the country have been radically "improved" with brick cladding and slate roofs) and their joyous celebration of the simple through the use of common elements. While windows and doors have been replaced over time as might only be expected, interior layouts remain largely as they were, with generous halls, decent sized rooms and built-in closets reflecting careful design.

There are no driveways in the area meaning that there are wide grass verges planted with cherry trees, and original details such as street lights survive. That it is already a conservation area is something of a blessing, whether by accident or design, and gives hope that the plans that are starting to emerge can be fought off and the houses retained.

Housing associations must be aware of their responsibilities for both the physical and social fabric of areas – redevelopment can prove divisive in communities, as indeed it has done in a handful of the Pathfinder areas, and it certainly results in the destruction of informal social networks, precisely what the elderly and vulnerable who occupy this area are dependent upon for survival. There is simply too much emphasis at the moment on housing associations pulling in the loot to meet the "decent homes standard" with scant regard for how old buildings can be adapted and

communities kept intact. The Housing Corporation which governs associations must encourage a broader outlook in relation to the older housing stock and put forward examples of best practice rather than leaving associations to their own destructive devices.

Kings Cross: Culross and Stanley

These two tenement buildings, which sit in the Kings Cross Railwaylands conservation area, and one of which is listed (Stanley) are in the way of Argent St George's massive scheme for the railwaylands – the area between Kings Cross and St Pancras stations. Stanley North is in the way of a proposed road and Culross is in the way of a "desire line", a pedestrian (and possibly later on tram) route. Neither of these is necessary – the road can be routed around the building and the "desire line" could be routed through Culross – a long thin building – to create a real sense of drama.



The Culross building 1891-2, facing the bulldozer

The Kings Cross Railwaylands Group bravely took Camden Borough Council's decision to grant conservation area consent and listed building consent to court. Hats off to them too – both the buildings should have been retained as important parts of the remarkable railway heritage of the area and their potential contribution to the character of the area, providing a solid anchor for the new development's identity – as well as providing a variety in the housing stock provided by the new development.

However, the case failed and demolition is now underway – a utterly pointless waste.

2012 - Kings Yard

The Olympic machine's appetite is not limited to raiding the lottery for hundreds of millions of pounds, but also to gobbling up more of East London's historic built environment than it originally intended.

The latest bite is off a perfectly serviceable, historically and architecturally interesting and complete canalside early twentieth-century steam powered lozenge factory, with the most wonderful potential, to make way for the woodchip-fired power station. Sustainability? King's Yard is an important group of buildings, a rare surviving

example of a complete yard-based works, in this case manufacturing lozenges and sweets. The buildings are well designed and give a great deal of light to the interiors – they would easily convert into offices or living accommodation without the slightest difficulty. One of the buildings has a spectacular Belfast Truss Roof, which could be a real treat for visitors to the Olympic area.

The demolitions are entirely pointless (aren't most of them?) – there are plenty of other sites on which the proposed facility could be built without damaging the remarkable industrial heritage of the area. This industrial heritage should be fully embraced by the Olympic plans, imparting a real sense of place, rather than being wiped out. If the Olympics are a celebration of London and the area then London's built heritage, including its industrial heritage, should also be represented.

Originally these buildings were identified as “retained structures” in the legacy masterplan and it is of great concern that the Olympic Delivery Authority is able to change its mind in spite of what had previously been agreed – to date conservationists have laid off the Olympics on the grounds that the damage to the built environment might be quite limited but it is starting to appear that this may no longer be the case: this is a bad precedent – if buildings that were previously off-limits are now up for demolition there is little to reassure us that the built heritage is safeguarded.

The curious case of 221b Baker Street

What on earth does one do when the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, with her legal duty to list buildings of listable quality, offers in a letter to a national paper to list Sherlock Holmes' fictional home, 221b Baker Street? As of yet there has been no explanation from her as to how this meets the new criteria for listing. Either it's a pretty poor joke (given the number and quality of buildings that don't get listed) or her civil servants are a pretty poor joke (for not having seen this one coming). Either way, you can't win.

Conservation Plans – a national archive

For a number of years, applications to the Heritage Lottery Fund and English Heritage for grant aid for the repair of historic buildings have had to be accompanied by conservation plans, which illustrate a proper understanding of the building to be repaired, and many of the more sensitive members of the developer community now produce them as a matter of course when dealing with listed buildings.

Potentially these conservation plans are a most remarkable resource, pulling together research and information about the buildings from a wide range of sources, and including policies to guide change in the building. Many are indeed funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and English Heritage, and they are certainly not cheap.

So one assumes that these marvellous, publicly funded documents would make their way to a public archive where the public can access them and make use of their scholarship. Well, no. The Heritage Lottery Fund shoves them into deep storage and those English Heritage receive presumably remain on file. The National Monuments Record has apparently expressed no interest in them.

This is a dreadful waste – most end up only briefly in the public domain as part of planning applications. It cannot be beyond the realms of possibility that a small project could be put together to collect, collate, digitise and make these available online to the public, at minimal cost to the public purse – and surely representing more lasting value than deep storage.

The Bryant Index

Many odd requests find their way to SAVE not least of which came from a gentleman by the name of Michael Connelly. Mr Connelly, visiting from Canada, pitched up at the SAVE office and asked if we had any idea of where the country house index of the late Mr Gilbert E Bryant (of Bryant and May fame) might be. As a young man Mr Connelly had assisted Mr Bryant with his index. We sent him on a cross country chase which appears to have ended in the library at Arundel Castle, where the 140,000 index cards have been quite safely mothballed for the last 40 years. There awaits a mighty project....

Moscow Heritage at Crisis Point

The long-awaited Save Europe's Heritage joint report with MAPS (Moscow Architectural Preservation Society), *Moscow Heritage at Crisis Point* has finally cleared customs and landed in the office. Apart from being a visually stunning report, it highlights the threats to Moscow's wonderful and mostly unknown heritage (a heritage that really deserves to be more widely appreciated before it is lost). It contains a series of essays by a range of international and Russian experts in all aspects of this heritage. The report is available free from SAVE but **we do ask for donations towards its postage** (and if you are feeling generous, its publication) ISBN 0905 978 53 6, 128pp c230 pictures, mostly colour, English and Russian. Cheques payable to Save Europe's Heritage, at 70 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EJ

An Evening with Griff Rhys Jones

On the 11th of April, SAVE was very pleased to host an evening at the Cadogan Hall, London with comedian, producer and BBC 'Restoration' presenter Griff Rhys Jones. Friends of SAVE and guests were thoroughly entertained by Griff's whirlwind tour through a public and private career that has been so influenced by heritage and hands-on conservation. The audience heard Griff's enthralling account of the struggle to restore and re-open London's Hackney Empire. The speaker's passion, enthusiasm and often frustration with the subject matter was made very clear; an animate show filled with the panache, insight and humour we have come to expect from Griff kept everyone on the edge of their seats.

Commitment to restoration of the highest quality can, as it turned out, verge on the realms of the absurd. Griff's project to immaculately restore Trehily Farm in Pembrokeshire involved the entire reconstruction of the building's beautiful slate roof to exacting traditional specifications only for it to be proposed that it be wholly smothered in equally vernacular roof grouting. From the minutia of sourcing local materials to the schmoozing involved in high level fund-raising or the more philosophical implications of defending a nation's heritage, this year's SAVE talk was as informative as it was riveting.

Europa Nostra UK annual conference

We draw your attention to the UK annual conference of the UK branch of Europa Nostra, on the 15-18 September in Edinburgh This includes on the Monday an all day conference in association with the Royal Society of Edinburgh *The Grand Tour and its influence on architecture, artistic taste and patronage* – further information from Dr Lester Borley, at 4 Belford Place, Edinburgh, EH4 3DH

SAVE Britain's Heritage 1975-2005 on the road

Our anniversary exhibition, *30 Years of Campaigning: SAVE Britain's Heritage 1975-2005* is now open at Up Front until July 21st, a series of converted cow sheds just off the M6 in Cumbria, next door to Hutton-in-the-Forest. The exhibition charts the progress of SAVE over the last thirty two years and is accompanied by a series of architecture related drawings and paintings by artists Alex Creswell, Graham Byfield, Laurence Dawson, Hugh Cantlie, and a pair of lovely watercolours very kindly lent by HRH the Prince of Wales. We would encourage all Friends of SAVE in the vicinity or heading in that direction to stop off for a browse, a cup of tea and some of the excellent freshly cooked vegetarian grub that Up Front is renowned for alongside its art. We are grateful to Architects Plus of Carlisle for supporting the exhibition

Professor Curl brings us news of his latest tome *Victorian Architecture: Diversity and Invention* shedding light on the very great variety to be found in this most creative of ages. Spire Books 630pp, 52 colour and 473b/w illustrations, ISBN 978 1 904965 06 0

Donhead's Journal of Architectural Conservation: Vol 12 no 3

The splendid Donhead Publishing, which regularly produces beautiful tomes on all aspects of historic buildings, has paused for thought and produced a special volume focussing on where conservation is currently at, to borrow a little grammar – and is worth popping your nose into (along with their extremely tempting back catalogue). *Architectural Conservation: Issues and Developments* ed. Vincent Shacklock ISBN 978 1 873394 77 9

<http://www.donhead.com/>



Dumfries House (above) and the funding partners below – Fiona Hare of the Garfield Weston Foundation, Stuart Grimshaw of the Monument Trust, James Knox of the SAVE action group, John Bute, Mrs Hogel., HRH The Duke of Rothesay, Sir Michael Peat, Alex Salmond MSP, Adam Ingram MSP, Stephanie Young, Provost of East Ayrshire, David Verey of the Art Fund, SAVE's Marcus Binney and Fiona Lees, Chief Executive of East Ayrshire District Council



Full publications list and order form

Prices in brackets are for Friends of SAVE, latest publications in bold, numbers remaining in brackets if under 20

BEACONS OF LEARNING	£11.50	(£9.20)
BRIGHT FUTURE: THE REUSE OF INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS	£7.95	(£6.50)
CHATHAM HISTORIC DOCKYARD: ALIVE OR MOTHBALLED?	£4	(£3.20)
CHURCHES: A QUESTION OF CONVERSION	£9.95	(£8)
CITY CENTRE CARVE-UP (9)	£2	(£1.60)
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THIS MAGICAL HOUSE MUST BE SAVED INTACT!	£2.50	(£2)
UNION CHAPEL (1)	£2	(£1.60)
VICTORIAN JERSEY	£5	(£4)

Prices include postage & packing within the UK.

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