



This free newsletter is brought to you with the support of Luke Hughes, a specialist furniture design studio who have worked with places of worship for over thirty years. For more on their work, including stacking pews and liturgical furniture, visit www.lukehughes.co.uk.

HISTORIC RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS ALLIANCE (HRBA) FEBRUARY 2018 E-NEWSLETTER

Please continue to let us know what is happening to help secure the future of historic religious buildings, so we can share it with others. **The deadline for information to go in the next e-newsletter is Friday 23 February 2018.** Please email: hrbeditor@theheritagealliance.org.uk

We rely on other parties for much of the content and wording of these items. Mistakes and misunderstandings can occur, and if you wish to use any items, you should always check the accuracy and current position with the original source.

Please pass on this e-newsletter, and mention it to others. Anyone can sign up to receive their own copy – free – at our website www.hrballiance.org.uk

Please don't forget, we are on Twitter, and do daily up dates or re-tweets! If you haven't joined up with our Twitter yet - please do @hrballiance <https://twitter.com/hrballiance>

HRBA

1. Welcome to our new voluntary policy officer

HRBA welcomes our new policy officer, Charlotte Dodgeon. Her role will be to read policy documents and consultations from a variety of sources including government and consider how and whether HRBA should respond.

EVENTS

2. Places of Worship in Britain and Ireland 1990–2020 (Oxford) 2–4 February 2018

Last in an annual series of chronologically arranged weekends at Rewley House on Places of Worship in Britain and Ireland. Starting in the 1990s, when members of many of the more recently arrived faiths and Christian denominations began to build permanent, purpose-designed, places of worship, contributors will discuss the proliferation of buildings, discussing their distinctive features, and the ways in which they are used for worship. An overall picture will emerge of how religious diversity is reflected in physical reality and in the contemporary landscape. <https://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses/places-of-worship-in-britain-and-ireland-1990-2020?code=O17P104HCR>

3. Inspired Conference: Heritage Interpretation for Places of Worship on 27th February 2018, Durham Cathedral

Inspired will explore practical ways to use the heritage of your church to engage and inspire people, to tell relevant stories for today, to support mission and to improve churches' overall sustainability. It will partly use the example of Durham Cathedral's recently opened 'Open Treasure' exhibition, but will also draw on experience and practice from parish churches in the North East. <https://www.durhamcathedral.co.uk/whatson/inspired-conference>

4. Interpreting Medieval Monuments: Iconography and Meaning: one-day conference in London, Saturday 17 March 2018

The Church Monuments Society is holding this one-day conference in the London School of Economics, New Academic

Building, 54 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London. The speakers will be Sally Badham, Jessica Barker, Brian & Moira Gittos, Nicola Jennings, Andrew Murray, and Sophie Oosterwijk. <http://www.churchmonumentsociety.org/cms%20events.html>

5. Ecclesiological Society AGM and Lecture on 12th April in Central London

As this will be Trevor Cooper's last meeting as Chair of the Society, he has been invited to give the lecture; he will be talking about 'the future of our rural churches'. <http://ecclsoc.org/events/>

6. Stained Glass Museum Study Weekend 19 – 22 April 2018

This study weekend will take place in Suffolk, from Thursday 19 April to Sunday 22 April. Details <http://vidimus.org/blogs/news/the-stained-glass-museum-study-weekend-2018-suffolk/>

NEWS

Items in this section are for information only, and probably do not require any action

7. Government Re-shuffle – January 2018

As you will have heard, Matt Hancock is the new Secretary of State for the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. You can read a profile here <https://www.gov.uk/government/people/matthew-hancock>
Sadly, after his very encouraging appearances at the Heritage Alliance's Heritage and HRBA's Big Update – only last month – we have lost John Glen (he's gone over to the HMT as Economic Secretary). In his place, Michael Ellis was appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport on 9 January 2018. See the full list here of DCMS here <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-digital-culture-media-sport>

8. Churches bells are to be protected in planning rules from noise complaints.

Church bells are to win protection under new planning rules to stop people who move into towns and villages forcing councils to silence them. It came up as a Commons Written Answer.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-29/116503/>

The intention is that this will be covered in a revised draft of the National Planning Policy Framework due to be published early in 2018.

Read more here <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2018/01/19/exclusive-peal-england-church-bells-protected-planning-rules/>

9. National Audit Office report looks at falling National Lottery income for good causes

It reviews the trends in total National Lottery sales and income for good causes, focusing on the six distributors with the largest share of National Lottery income including the Heritage Lottery Fund.

<https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Investigation-National-Lottery-funding-for-good-causes-.pdf>

10. Allchurches Trust tops £15m Grants total

Allchurches Trust, one of the UK's largest grant-makers, announced today (Friday 19th January) that over the course of 2017 it gave grants totalling £15.6 million, its largest sum ever, to 1,324 churches, charities and communities across the UK and Ireland. This included £2 million of grants to Methodist churches and causes from the Trust's newly established Methodist Fund.

<http://bit.ly/2EXQBSi>

11. Church of England to consider 'communion' with Methodists

Proposals to be debated at the Church of England's General Synod in February would redefine the relationship between the two Churches

<http://www.thetablet.co.uk/news/8434/church-of-england-to-consider-communion-with-methodists>

12. Stained Glass Watercolours by Florence Elsie Matley Moore (1900 – 1985)

At the end of 2009 the Historic England Archive acquired a small collection of original artworks by the artist Elsie Matley Moore. These full size accurate copies of medieval stained glass windows were created during the Second World War to assist the National Buildings Record with their attempts to record heritage sites at risk from enemy action.

<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/archive/new/matley-moore/>

13. Willesden Cemetery awarded £1.7m HLF grant to open as public heritage site

The United Synagogue (US) has been awarded a £1.7m National Lottery grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to open Willesden Jewish Cemetery as a place of heritage for the public.

Money raised by National Lottery players will go towards Willesden Jewish Cemetery "House of Life", helping to create greater public access at one of London's most remarkable cemeteries and to engage new visitors with the stories of people buried there since Victorian times.

<https://www.theus.org.uk/houseoflife>

OF INTEREST

Items in this section may lead to action on your part

14. TAYLOR REVIEW

The report of the Taylor review into the Sustainability of Churches and Cathedrals was published 20 December 2017. The review looked only at Church of England buildings, and at its heart lies the belief that reliance on external funding can be eventually be reduced by increased community use of the buildings, on which it made a number of recommendations, including a two or three year pilot scheme. HRBA has been working with the places of worship sector and will be providing a response to DCMS shortly. See our website for more details - <http://www.hrballiance.org.uk/consultations-2/cofe-buildings-sustainability/>

15. HLF online consultation on Strategic Funding Framework for 2019-2024 due to launch in January

The consultation will provide the opportunity to share your thoughts on HLF's strategic direction and proposals. The findings will help HLF to set their priorities for how they should use National Lottery Good Causes income for the period from 2019 to 2024. HRBA will be considering how to respond and will set up a page on its website in due course.

<http://surveys.comres.co.uk/wix/p1863259654.aspx?>

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16. Consultation on Wildlife Licencing Changes

Natural England is inviting views about the way we fund the wildlife licence service in the future. The aim is to ensure this service offers value for money for licence applicants and the taxpayer and achieves good outcomes for wildlife.

Currently you already need a wildlife licence from Natural England if you plan to disturb or remove wildlife or damage habitats. This obviously applies to Bats.

The consultation itself is not very onerous – there are only three main questions – do you agree with the concept of charging, the proposed charging structure and the proposed exemptions? We would suggest it is worth responding and supporting the exemption for listed buildings and to prevent serious damage to property. The closing date is 5th February 2018.

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/natural-england/wildlife-licence-charges/>

17. European Commission proposals on VAT rates published

The Charity Tax group has summarised the EU's proposed changes to VAT.

In addition to keeping a standard VAT rate of minimum 15% the European Commission has proposed that Member States be now able to put in place:

- two separate reduced rates of between 5% and the standard rate chosen by the Member State
- one exemption from VAT (or 'zero rate')
- one reduced rate set at between 0% and the reduced rates

These legislative proposals will now be submitted to the European Parliament and the European Economic and Social Committee for consultation and to the Council for adoption. The feedback period will be open until 15 March 2018.

https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/business/vat/action-plan-vat/proposal-vat-rates_en

18. Report on Cathedrals and their communities

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has published (December 2017) Cathedrals and their communities: a report on the diverse roles of cathedrals in modern England. It summarises the findings from the tour of all 42 Church of England cathedrals undertaken by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth as Minister for Faith at DCLG. It makes no formal recommendations but concludes with three 'suggestions' on charging, using spare space and sharing excellent ideas.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/671081/Cathedrals_and_their_communities.pdf

19. New ideas to secure England's cathedrals for the future

A paper published on 17th January from the Church of England's Cathedrals Working Group sets out new ideas on how cathedrals could be governed and funded. The working group was set up by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York after a small number of cathedrals highlighted challenges in governance and management. A consultation on the proposals was

also opened. Closing date 28th February 2018.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/news/new-ideas-secure-englands-cathedrals-future>

20. Norwich Historic Churches Trust has set up the Centre for Parish Church Studies

It will offer events on all aspects of parish churches – historical, social, archaeological, architectural, and liturgical – on both a local and national basis. The events will take the form of day- and weekend-schools, weekly courses, tours, and practical sessions. <http://www.nhct-norwich.org/cpcs/>

21. Heavenly church cafes

Some of the best church cafes are highlighted in this month's theme on ExploreChurches

<https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/explore-churches/heavenly-church-cafes>

22. A brief introduction to Quakers

On the Historic England website along with some wonderful photographs of listed Meeting Houses from across England.

<https://heritagecalling.com/2017/12/21/a-brief-introduction-to-quakers/>

23. Plan an event for B'nai B'rith European Days of Jewish Culture and Heritage (EDJCH) 2018

EDJCH will run on Sunday 2nd September and again on Sunday 7th – Sunday 14th October. B'nai B'rith is happy to feature events on any of these dates. The theme for 2018 is 'Storytelling'. Complete a registration form by 2nd March 2018. More information from Lydia@wavelengthpr.com

<http://bnaibrithuk.org/heritage-days/>

24. Churches Conservation Trust's Regeneration Team published annual report

It provides an overview of past year activity, programme impact and an introduction to their consultancy service.

<https://www.visitchurches.org.uk/what-we-do/regeneration-and-communities.html>

RESOURCES AND COURSES

25. Launch of £5million Anniversary Fund

In celebration of their 60th anniversary, the Garfield Weston Foundation has launched a new one-off fund of £5million to support **Capital projects to provide new or improved facilities for local communities across the UK**. The Fund will close for applications on 30th June 2018 and places of worship are specifically mentioned as eligible organisations. You can find the guidelines on our anniversary website where there is a specific section on the fund -

<https://anniversary.garfieldweston.org>

26. Grants Available to Tackle Key Challenges in Coalfield Communities

Not-for-profit groups and organisations working in the most deprived coalfield communities in the North East, North West, the Midlands, Yorkshire and Kent are invited to apply for grants from the Coalfields Community Investment Programme.

<https://www.coalfields-regen.org.uk/what-we-do/division-missing/coalfields-community-investment-programme-ccip-funding-support/>

27. Waste Recycling Environmental (WREN) – FCC Community Action Fund

Max. Value: £ 100,000

Grants for environmental and community-based projects in areas of England within 10 miles of a Waste Recycling Group landfill sites. Projects must provide, maintain or improve a public park or other public amenity. www.wren.org.uk/

COMPETITIONS AND AWARDS

28. A Reminder: There's still time to enter a project for the SPAB's John Betjeman Award 2018

The Award celebrates excellence in conservation and repair projects at places of worship of any faith in England and Wales (and including the Isle of Man); and recognises the highest standards of craftsmanship used in carrying out those projects.

Information about how to enter and the judging criteria can be downloaded, along with an entry form, from the SPAB website, at: <https://www.spab.org.uk/about-us/awards/john-betjeman-award>

The closing date for entries is 20th February

SPAB have just launched their new website featuring a Knowledge Base filled with technical information, including new guidance on planning and legislation. <https://www.spab.org.uk/>

PUBLICATIONS

None this month

VACANCIES

Paid

29. Historic Church Buildings Support Officer, Diocese of Ely

The Diocese of Ely, with support from Historic England and the Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust, is seeking to appoint a full time Historic Church Buildings Support Officer to work with the diocese's historic churches in Cambridgeshire and West Norfolk. The role will focus on the challenges of maintaining and repairing historic church buildings, many of them listed at Grade I, in contexts ranging from urban and suburban Cambridge and Peterborough, through the diocese's diverse complement of market towns, to the sometimes remote churches of the Fens. Enthusiasm, commitment and excellent communication skills will be vital attributes for all candidates. Full job description and details about how to apply <http://www.elydiocese.org/about/vacancies>

Closing date for applications: noon on 9 February 2018

30. Churches Conservation Trust: Regeneration Manager

12 Months Fixed Term Contract (with a possibility of extension)

Full Time - 36 hours

Location - Leeds, Cambridge or London, with regular travel across England

Salary - £29,833 - £35,664 per annum plus London Weighting £3,326 per annum

CCT is looking for a pro-active Regeneration Manager to join their expanding Regeneration Team. You will lead and manage a programme of regeneration and consultancy projects and manage future growth within the Regeneration Team. You'll have experience of delivering major new use projects involving historic buildings, and in involving a range of stakeholders and communities in their long term care.

To apply, please download a job description and application pack from: <http://www.visitchurches.org.uk/jobs>

Closing Date: Monday 12 February 2018 – 12 noon

Interview date: Monday 26 February 2018

Voluntary

31. Highgate Cemetery is looking for two new trustees

Voluntary role, but reasonable expenses will be paid

Location: Highgate, North London

They are particularly interested in candidates who have skills and experience in finance and/or estate management, although those with other relevant skills are also encouraged to apply. Please see the role descriptions on the website.

Closing date for applications Friday 23 February 2018

<https://highgatecemetery.org/news>

The deadline for information to go in the next e-newsletter is Friday 23 February 2018 though earlier submissions are encouraged! Please email: hrbeditor@theheritagealliance.org.uk

Janice Gooch

HRBA Newsletter Editor
2 February 2018

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