



AABC Spring Newsletter

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## Welcome

In this issue, you will find the date of our Conference, the 2023 Civic Trust AABC Conservation Award Winners and much more.

## 2023 Civic Trust AABC Conservation Awards

Established in 2014, Civic Trust AABC Conservation Awards winners demonstrate the highest historic building conservation standards. I have included details of this year's winners below.

If you'd like to view information on the winners in all the categories please [click here](#), or if you'd like a copy of the 2023 awards brochure [click here](#).

The 64th Civic Trust Awards ceremony was held on 31st March 2023 in the Marshall Building, London School of Economics and Political Science, the winner of the National Panels Special Award. Congratulations to the following 5 projects.

### Awards -

Projects which demonstrate the highest standards of historic building conservation, and make an outstanding contribution to the quality and appearance of the built environment.

**Lincoln Cathedral - Conservation Architect - Buttress**



Lincoln Cathedral is one of the finest, and largest, cathedrals in northern Europe. This added to its unique hilltop location, makes it one of the most visible buildings in the UK. The building is Grade I listed and is situated in a conservation area and much of the site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Since 2011 the Cathedral had been included in Historic England's Register of Heritage At Risk in recognition of the pressing conservation worked need to avoid further deterioration of the fabric over the next decade. In 2017, Lincoln Cathedral was successfully awarded a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant towards the £16 million 'Lincoln Cathedral Connected' to carry out significant restoration works to the first parts of the Cathedral experienced by visitors as well as to radically improve the Cathedral's setting and visitor experience with extensive landscape works, a new visitor centre including cafe, shop and exhibition spaces. The major programme of conservation and repairs to some of the Cathedral's most significant historic elements include the 'Gallery of Kings', a 14th-century carving of 11 life-sized statues of kings inserted within the central portico. Decorative stonework within the central niche and gable as well as the turrets, and two bishops' statues on either side of the West Front. The southern run of the 12th century Romanesque Frieze, which covers half of the West Front. The carvings are recognised as being of

international importance and had been covered since the 1980s for preservation due to the disintegration of the attached Gothic sculptures. The 14th-century Exchequergate Arch, which leads into the Cathedral close. The work delivered as part of the Lincoln Cathedral Connected project was the first-time work had been carried out on the arch since the late 1800s. Over the past five years, tours have been delivered to numerous parties including, English Heritage, the Churches Conservation Trust, the Institute of Historic Building Conservation, local authority conservation offices and employees from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The Cathedral's guides and volunteers have also been given tours and educated about the details of the work so that they can disseminate this knowledge to visitors to enhance their understanding and appreciation of the conservation work that has taken place.

Judges' Comments:

"Despite the scale, fastidious attention to detail at each step of the project has resulted in a joyful outcome."

### **Highly Commended -**

Projects which demonstrate the highest standards of historic building conservation, and make a significant contribution to the quality and appearance of the built environment.

**Boston Manor House - Conservation Architect - Purcell**



The Boston Manor House project has seen the rescue of an At Risk structure and its thrilling transformation into a new community asset. The project has involved the total restoration and conservation of the historic fabric, both interior and exterior, as well as the sensitive integration of new services and infrastructure, to allow the house to become an asset for everyone in the local community. Dating from 1620, it is a remarkable Grade I listed survivor of a Jacobean country manor house and has a long and varied history, with 300 years of private residents before being sold in 1922 and falling into a state of disrepair at the end of the 20th century. The decision was made to transform the former private residence into a public asset – all would be welcome to come and make use of the building and get involved. The project began in 2017 with an options appraisal to explore the potential and capacity for change within the sensitive historic building as well as lengthy consultation with local groups to better understand what the local community wanted and needed from their building. After this, the decision was made to secure the building's future in two ways: to repair the damaged fabric and restore the building to its former glory and to also bring the building back into use with new uses and functions enabled to take place. The project was delivered in two phases: the first phase saw the restoration of the historic 17th Century timber roof structure, completed in July 2020, delivered through a project funded by a Historic England Repair Grant for Heritage at Risk. The second phase was the Capital works which included the conservation and re-presentation of the House and Service Wing as well as the construction of the new lift and the refurbishment and fit out of the cafe, meeting rooms, WCs and visitor facilities. The Victorian service wing was transformed into lettable Maker Spaces for a local creative academy. Embracing the long history of the building, the decision was made to present the internal schemes to reflect a range of periods from Jacobean to Victorian, supported by evidential discoveries on site; visitors can now walk through the history of the house. The focus of the interior works has been to research and redisplay some of the rooms based on expert analysis of archaeological evidence hidden under layers of paint and

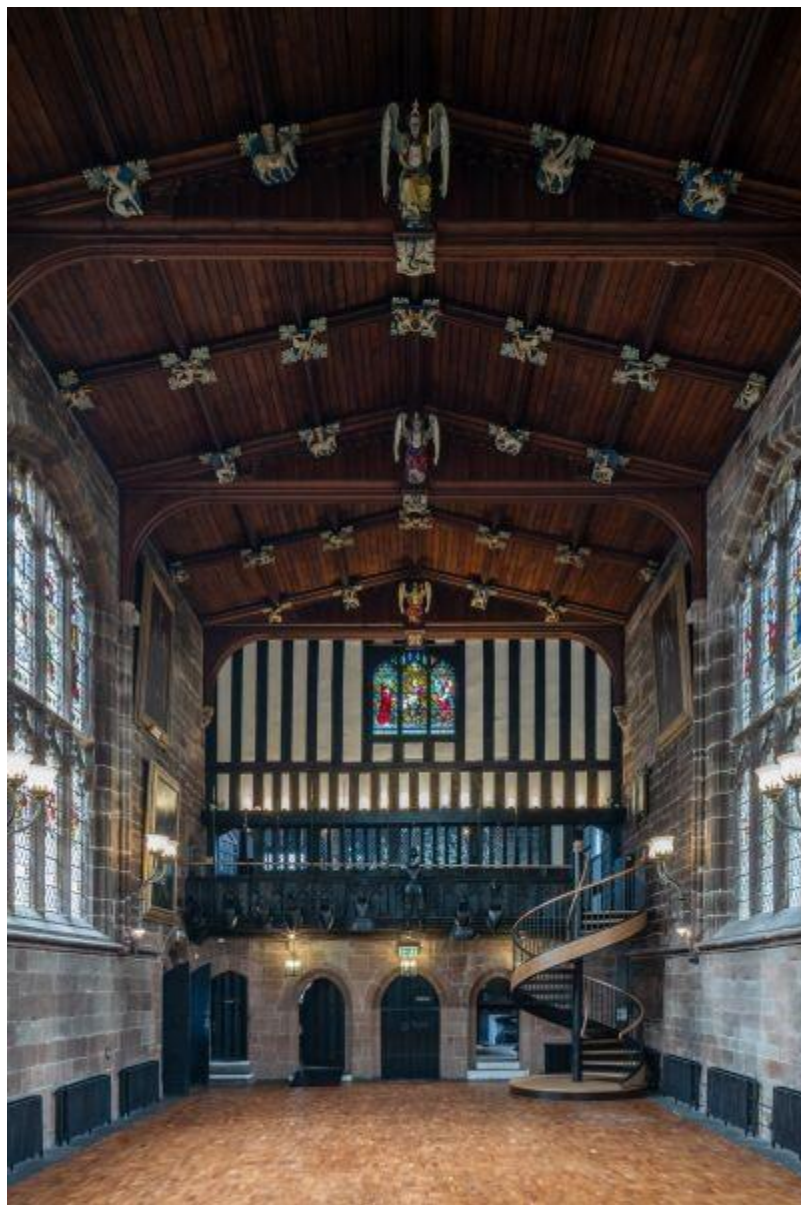


plasterboard, and, where none has survived, on contemporary sources to inform faithful reconstruction where documentary evidence is sparse. The historic rooms are to host school visits, tours and general visitors as well as being the venue for talks, performances, celebrations, and workshops designed and run collaboratively with local community groups.

Judges' Comments:

"Presentation of the interiors and the research and recording involved in presenting accurate representations of the building have allowed it to be brought back to life."

### St Mary's Guildhall - Conservation Architect - Oliver Architecture



St Mary's Guildhall in Coventry is almost 700 years old, one of the finest surviving medieval guildhalls in the country. Previously run by Coventry City Council and volunteers, the Grade I listed historic building was lacking in visitor experience, losing money and was in a state of disrepair. A feasibility study was conducted to find out how the building could be sympathetically restored and transformed into a commercially viable venue for corporate events, weddings, etc that Coombe Abbey would run on behalf of Coventry City Council. A Condition Survey was then undertaken, and a comprehensive report was produced, looking at the condition and historical importance of every room, ceiling, window, floor, fireplace, and even rainwater pipes, and raising concerns for the future and preservation of the building. Market research was also carried out to find how the local community could use the venue, and forecasting was conducted to identify how it could become profitable in the future. The feasibility study, statement and cost proposals were presented to Coventry City Council, who then understood how St Mary's could become a commercially viable venue. Historic England was also consulted from the outset to ensure any restoration would be carried out sympathetically, with preservation taking priority over commercial gain. The project has radically improved the Guildhall's overall visitor experience and increased footfall, encouraged overnight stays, and boosted the local economy. Accessibility throughout the venue has been a key priority, ensuring that all users can enjoy the best this medieval property has to offer. The building is flexible, allowing several events to be held simultaneously, in individual event spaces. The medieval kitchen is one of the few remaining in the UK. By removing a 1960s Formica kitchen, this has been fully restored for visitors to access and enjoy. Each element or room in the building has been sensitively restored and preserved, using historic and sustainable materials, such as oak and lime, that are less energy intensive than cement, as well as some modern interventions, such as a breathable floor insulated with recycled blown glass. Where possible, existing materials have been reused. Wi-Fi and electrics have been installed throughout, using exposed copper cables to maintain the look and feel of the property.

Judges' Comments:

"The works undertaken have greatly increased accessibility to the building. This has enhanced the understanding of the Guildhall and allows new areas of the building to be seen and experienced."

**The Brewhouse - Conservation Architect - Giles Quarme Architects Ltd**



The Broomhouse is believed to have been part of a much-altered range of the timber-framed mid-C16th courtyard houses that occupied the site before the construction of the adjacent Peterhouse Master's Lodge in 1725. The building remains tucked away behind the Lodge, to which it became an annexe and the adjacent Pembroke College Library. Glimpses of the Broomhouse can be made from the street through the forecourt of the Master's Lodge and the building generally contributes, albeit in a quiet and modest way, to the overall urban make-up and character of this corner of Cambridge. As a mostly working building, the Broomhouse has been much altered, extended and reduced in size throughout its history with sundry uses including brewing beer, storage and domestic. Many of these adaptations carried out to the building have been driven by necessity and practicalities, rather than aesthetic considerations. Because it has largely been in subsidiary use, the approach generally has been to patch, repair, and reuse, rather than rebuild. Indeed, new research has revealed that the roof, which has clear evidence of a previous life as a crown post, may be an amalgamation of timber frames brought from elsewhere, possibly a high-status domestic building from college land holdings. The building was then further altered and extended in the 18th Century and finally converted into the gardener's cottage and store in the 1930's, with partitions added and alterations made in cement, concrete and other inappropriate materials. Since then, the building has been redundant and neglected and required comprehensive repair and refurbishment to provide it with a secure future and new use. The project has created a venue for music, drama, and arts within the college and wider community, ensuring the spaces are as flexible as possible, whilst also complying with the highest standards for disabled and ambiently disabled access, fire, and sustainability, so that the building can fully facilitate both college and public use. This 'change of use' to educational and public use required an enhanced level of Building Control compliance that needed to be carefully balanced and integrated with the requirements of protecting and repairing the historic fabric. Central to the brief was the client stipulation that the project needed to preserve and enhance the unique historic character of the main first floor space, restoring it to a single open-plan room, whilst fully expressing the historic timbers internally.



#### Judges' Comments:

“Impressive presentation of the conserved interior against the modern interventions, demonstrating how old and new set against one another can aid our understanding of a building's development as well as enhancing our appreciation of the conservation undertaken.”

#### The Leaves of Southwell - Conservation Architect - Buttress



The fluid carvings of plants, animals and green men found within the Chapter House – known collectively as ‘The Leaves of Southwell’ – are of exceptional quality. Regarded as the best example of 13th century naturalistic carving in the United Kingdom, and indeed Europe, they are of significant global importance. Successive quinquennial inspections had drawn attention to the increasing problems with a 200-year-old choir roof. The slate has worn and slipped resulting in water egress. Further, the lead roof of the Chapter House leaked along with rising damp which, in addition to a lack of appropriate heating and environmental controls, had put the carvings at risk of deterioration. In 2019, the Cathedral was successfully awarded a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant to bring forward a project to conserve and protect the Leaves and make them more accessible and widely known to future generations. The wide-ranging project has involved carefully considered conservation and repair work to the Chapter House and Slype carvings as well as the stabilisation of the Chapter House's micro-climate. The 200-year-old main east roof of the Minster - which is adjacent to the Chapter House - has also been renewed to prevent future water ingress, and lighting has been introduced into the Chapter House for the first time together with underfloor heating



to create more welcoming visitor environment and more stable conditions to help with the conservation of the carvings. Accessibility has also sat at the heart of the project. A cantilever lifting platform has been installed and a new handrail has been fitted to allow visitors with mobility issues into the passageway leading to the Chapter House. Externally, new lighting has been installed at the exterior of the Minster to illuminate key features and make the western paths and main north porch much more useable and welcoming in dark or inclement weather. New interpretation material and been designed and signage across the site has drawn on new research to help raise awareness of the significance of the Leaves of Southwell and of their artistic merit and symbolism as well as help deepen understanding of other foliage carvings in the Cathedral and the masons who carved them. The Education Garden, which already offered a place of health and wellbeing, has been doubled in size enabling the growth of the plant species seen in the Chapter House. This has allowed the Cathedral to build on the success of a previous collaboration with The National Lottery Heritage Fund and, in addition, an outdoor classroom has been created to accommodate education activities for visiting school groups.

Judges' Comments:

"Innovative approaches to monitoring and analysing environmental conditions and the impact these have on material degradation offered a fascinating insight into the repair approaches adopted."

## 2024 Civic Trust Award Applications



The 2024 Application Round will open on Monday 5th June. Entries must be submitted online by 5 pm on Friday 21st July 2023. To apply [click here](#).

## Applicant Seminar

In April we held a lunchtime applicant seminar which 70 people attended and learned about eligibility criteria, what an applicant must demonstrate, the application process, how to put together their CPD, what work can be used for and what to include in a case study. A great Q&A session was held at the end and

we hope we managed to answer all the questions raised. From the feedback we have received it is clear we have demystified the application process and made it more accessible to people.

Thanks to all the members of the Management Team for giving up their time to run the seminar, presenting, answering questions and providing example sections of case studies that we could use.

Looking forward to more Architects joining the register and becoming Accredited in Building Conservation.

## Advertising Strategy

This year we have already advertised in The Building Conservation Directory, Context and The Civic Trust Awards Magazine. We will continue to advertise in the next 2 issues of Context and have plans to advertise in SPAB and Historic House for the rest of the year. Social Media is also being targeted this year with the appointment of a new Management Team member responsible for putting more content out on things such as Twitter and LinkedIn.

A creative design company has been engaged to refresh our advertising material to include the use of adverts on social media campaigns as well as new material for publications.

If you have any thoughts on our advertising strategy please [email Joanne](#).

## New Website

Work has started on a new AABC website and portal. We want to ensure the website reflects the ethos of the AABC and that the portal is brought into the 21st century. Over the coming months, work will continue behind the scenes to improve the functionality and effectiveness of both the website and portal bringing with it a streamlined process for both application and assessment whilst remaining rigorous and relevant. This will make it easier for people to apply, ensure the applications are correct, and get results to applicants quicker.

**Conference 3rd Oct 2023, 11am till 4pm, Headstone Manor**



This year the AABC conference will be held at Headstone Manor, Harrow. The day will start with the AABC AGM between 10 and 10:30 am and the main conference will start at 11 am.

We will include 3 lectures and a tour around the buildings from Buttress Architects who recently renovated the buildings.

Further details and booking information will be available soon.

**Henry Russell OBE MA (Cantab) DipBldgCons FRICS FSA IHBC  
FHEA  
Chartered Surveyor Retires from Board**



Thanks to Henry Russell, who is standing down as a board member of the AABC. Henry initiated and successfully established the first professional architectural conservation accreditation system (with Stephen Bond) for the RICS in 1992 and advised on setting up the Register for Architects now known as the AABC in 1998-9. He has since gone on to help numerous other organisations set up their own accreditation system as well.

Henry recognised the need to provide CPD with a practical training element and is a lecturer of Historic Environment at Reading University. He established a unique offer of architectural conservation modules available to a wide range of conservation specialists. He was also instrumental in the



publication of the principles of architectural conservation.

As well as volunteering for the AABC, Henry served for 10 years as chair of the Stained Glass Committee

The Management Team and Board would like to thank Henry for his time and service to the AABC and wish him well in his continuing endeavours.

## CPD and Events

We regularly list relevant CPD events and courses on our website. [Click here](#) for more details.

If you'd like to make us aware of any events or courses, [email Joanne](#) with the details.

## AABC New Members

Welcome to the following new members who have recently become accredited with the AABC.

Simon Smith

Tomas Gibbs



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