



SOMERSET BUILDING
Preservation Trust

NEWSLETTER

Dear Members

The trust will be marking a very special anniversary this year. It is 20 years since we launched our William Stansell Historic Building Awards. As members will know, the idea of these awards is to encourage the very highest standards in building design, construction and craftsmanship.

The awards are named after William Stansell, who was chairman of an old established building firm and whose great love was the conservation and repair of historic buildings. During his career, he worked on many of the region's best-known buildings including Bath Abbey and Wells Cathedral.

His family have very kindly sponsored the awards over the years and this year, to mark this special milestone, have increased their contribution. We are extremely grateful to them for their generous support and we are keener than ever to ensure we get an interesting range of entries.

So, if you know of anyone who has undertaken such a project in the past two years, please encourage them to look on our website or contact our secretary Jane for details of how to apply.

During the past six months we have enjoyed visits to two extremely interesting but very different historic houses – North Cadbury Court and Greenham Barton Manor, and it was good to see so many of you there.

We are always looking for properties that members might visit and we welcome any suggestions. However, like every other organisation at the present time, we are closely monitoring the advice given by the health professionals. We will keep you informed.

Russell Lillford
Chairman

Website

The best way to keep up to date with our activities is to go to our website www.sbpt.info .

The redesigned site is easy to navigate and gives access to a wide range of information, including past projects and research documents.

Please tell your friends and encourage them to join the Trust.

North Cadbury Court

With a history stretching back 700 years, North Cadbury Court provided a fascinating venue for our Annual General Meeting in October.

The Grade 1 house has had a rich and varied past. During the Second World War it housed a nursery that was evacuated from London, and later part of the building was loaned to the YMCA as part of the scheme to train under privileged city boys for a career in farming.

North Cadbury House is now a venue for weddings, family and corporate events and home to the Montgomery family whose farm produces a renowned Cheddar cheese that was greatly enjoyed by members at the buffet lunch.



*Our host and tour guide
Archie Montgomery*

Rare Georgian sunken bath, one of the many unusual historic features in North Cadbury Court.



Greenham Barton

A roaring log fire in the Great Hall provided a warm welcome to Greenham Barton Manor, a Grade 1 listed house tucked away off the A38, south of Wellington.

The manor, which dates back to the 13th century, was bought three years ago by Andy and Alison Hill who have lovingly restored the house and many of its original features.



A talk on the history of the Manor was given by archeologist Stuart Blaylock in the Great Hall.

Our visit concluded with a delicious tea in the beamed kitchen.



Temple of Harmony



The Temple during the final stages of restoration work.

Talks are taking place with a view to selling the Temple of Harmony on the Halswell Park Estate at Goathurst.

The 18th folly, a replica of the Temple of Fortuna Virilis in Rome, was designed by Thomas Prowse with features by Robert Adam.

SBPT stepped in to restore the Temple in 1996 after it had become derelict and was being used as a cattle shelter. It is currently leased to the Halswell Park Trust who open it to the public on Sunday afternoons in the summer.

Edward Strachan, who is meticulously restoring the adjoining Halswell House, has expressed an interest in acquiring the folly and securing its future as part of the wider historic estate.

The Trust is agreeable provided the public are allowed access to the building and the surrounding Mill Wood.

John Foden

As many members may be aware, former SBPT trustee John Foden died at the end of December after a short illness, just two days before his 93rd birthday.

John, who was formerly the deputy county architect for Somerset, took a very keen interest in the county's built-heritage. He was a member and past chairman of the Taunton Civic Society, and the Somerset Art Galleries Trust.

He joined the SBPT board in its early days and back in 2000 helped to set up the William Stansell Historic Building Awards.

