

Dear Members

This year will see the 30th anniversary of the formation of the Somerset Building Preservation Trust. As you will be aware during the past three decades the Trust has been involved in numerous projects to repair at-risk historic buildings and bring them back to life, ensuring they will be enjoyed by future generations.

None of this could have been achieved, of course, without the considerable help of our partners, the local authorities, our funders and, most importantly, our members. Thank for your continued support.

We are planning an event at Crowcombe Court during July to celebrate this important milestone, details of which are included in this Newsletter. I look forward to seeing you there and at our forthcoming visit to the superb award-winning Shanks House. An experience not to be missed.

Russell Lillford
Chairman

Book Now ...

Our next members' visit – on Friday May 11 - will be to Shanks House at Cucklington near Wincanton, BA9 9QL, a superbly restored historic mansion set in an unspoilt rural setting.



The present owners bought the property in 2012 and set about restoring it to its former glory.

Following the completion of the project, Shanks won the Georgian Group Award for the best restoration of a country house in 2015 and the William Stansell Award in 2016.

Our tour of the house and gardens will begin at 10.30am and afterwards at 1pm there will be a hot finger buffet lunch with teas and coffees at Hunter's Lodge Inn, Leigh Common, Wincanton, BA9 8LD (about 15 mins drive away)

www.hunterslodgeinn.com.

Numbers are strictly limited to 40 members so if you don't want to miss this rare opportunity to visit this splendid property please contact the secretary asap. The price for this tour and lunch is £12.

Crowcombe Court

The venue for our 30th anniversary celebration is the magnificent Crowcombe Court TA4 4AD – just off the A358 Taunton to Minehead road.

The event, on Wednesday July 25 will include a tour of the house, tea and a talk by guest lecturer Peter Fitzgerald on the builder, architect and potter Nathaniel Ireson who built Crowcombe Court and also Stourhead.

Crowcombe Court was built for Thomas Carew by 1739 and remained in the family until the 1960s. Following a number of incarnations, by a series of owners, it has been saved and restored to its former glory over the past 17 years.

The sumptuous interior house contains fine examples of Palladian style plasterwork throughout and also holds a number of significant items of furniture and paintings.



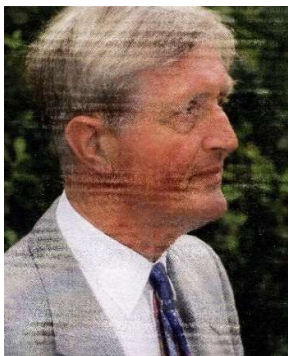
FOR YOUR DIARY: SBPT 30th Anniversary Visit, Talk and Tea.

Date: Wednesday 25 July

Time: 1300 - 1700

Cost: £15 each

Again, there is a strict limit of 50 members. So early booking is advised.



It was with great sadness that trustees learned of the death of our former treasurer David Miller last November.

David joined SBPT following his retirement after a very successful career in the Royal Navy. He was the Trust secretary for many years up to 2000 before taking over as the treasurer until 2012.

David was a good friend and supporter of the work of the SBPT and will be greatly missed.

Update.....Update.....Update.....Update.....Update.....Update.....

Bishop's Barn, Wells

Following a very encouraging meeting with potential users entitled Building a Barn for the Future, the Trust is helping to put together an application for a development phase grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. This is expected to be submitted in June.

Baily's Building, Glastonbury

The Trust is working with local groups, including the Beckery Island Renovation Trust, to identify possible users for these important Grade 11 listed industrial buildings that date back to the 19th century and formerly housed a tannery and glove factory. BIRT aims to regenerate the buildings for the benefit of the local community by providing workshops and studio spaces in addition to a learning and display facility. SBPT is supporting an application to the Architectural Heritage Fund and HLF to fund a Viability Appraisal.

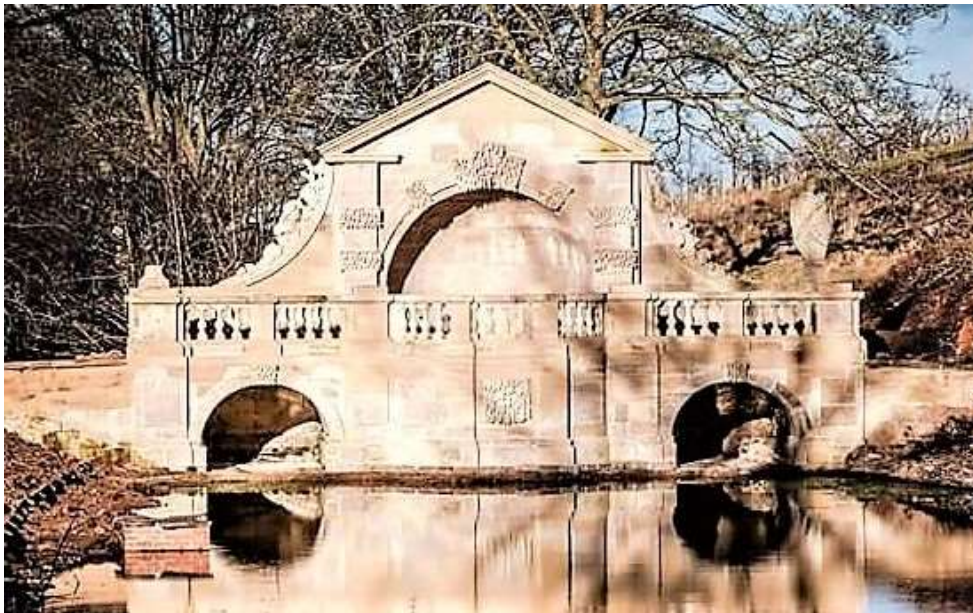
Rural Life Museum, Glastonbury

The refurbishment of the RLM, which was project managed by SBPT, was the winner of the best educational building in the Somerset Building Control Excellence Awards and was also highly commended in the best inclusive category. Chris Poolman of Ken Biggs, the builders, won the best Site Manager Award.

Halswell House and Park, Goathurst

Most of the scaffolding has now been removed revealing just how much work has been done to the Tudor manor with the windows, guttering and facias having been completed. There will be a number of open days during the summer when the public can see the progress on this painstaking restoration. Details can be obtained from the Haswell House website.

Works to the Bath Stone Bridge were largely completed in the autumn, including all of the main stone works by Orchard Stonemasons and the replacement rococo carving on the left-hand side by Tom Waugh. Completion of the works, including restoration of the pond and landscaping are well underway. They have been somewhat hampered by the wet weather with machinery unable to access parts of the site but are set to resume.



A recent photo of the Bath Stone bridge

Photo courtesy of Clayton Jane.

Update.....Update.....Update.....Update.....Update.....Update.....

Buildings at Risk

Work is continuing behind the scenes to try to secure the long-term future of two very important Grade 1 listed buildings, No 9 Fore Street, Chard, and the Gate House at Cothelstone House, near Bishops Lydeard, although progress is frustratingly slow. Both of these at-risk historic buildings have featured in previous issues of this Newsletter. The trust will actively pursue both these cases in 2018

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The William Stansell Awards

If any members know of any building projects carried out in Somerset in the past two years that might qualify for one of these highly prestigious awards please contact the secretary urgently.

The awards recognise outstanding examples of building design and conservation. Judges will be looking at new buildings in historic settings as well as projects involving the alteration, conversion or repair of historic buildings. The only stipulation is that the work must have been completed within the past two years - between January 2016 and December 2017.

The closing date for entries is 4 May 2018 with judging taking place during the summer. The award winners will be announced in the autumn.

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A Gentle Reminder....

Membership fees for 2018 are now due so if you have not yet paid it would be appreciated if you would send a cheque for £10 to the SBPT Secretary Jane St John Webster at 14 Creedwell Orchard, Milverton, Taunton, TA4 1JY, secretary@sbpt.info. Better still you could make an annual standing order for 1st January each year.