



SOMERSET BUILDING *Preservation Trust*

NEWSLETTER

October 2018

Dear Members

The highlight of the last six months was undoubtedly the Trust's 30th birthday celebration held at Crowcombe Court on a gloriously sunny day in July. It was good to see so many members, as well as past and present trustees, joining in this joyful milestone event.

During the past 30 years the Trust has played a major role in rescuing historic buildings all over the county and bringing them back into useful life, as a valuable facility for the local community.

The Trust is extremely grateful to all those who have worked so hard over the years to achieve this – and to our members for their continuing support. The county would be much the poorer without their commitment.

We are continuing to play a crucial role in the revival of many historic buildings in Somerset and to advise local groups aiming to save the built heritage of the county.

As you will see below we have also announced the winners of the 2018 William Stansell Awards which aim to highlight the positive contribution that well designed and conserved buildings make to their surroundings. I am delighted by the continued success of this award scheme which we introduced in 2000. All the entries this year were of a very high standard. I congratulate all those who have won awards or have been commended.

Russell Lillford
Chairman



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US

A surprise element to our 30th birthday celebration was a cake baked in the shape of the Temple of Harmony by our treasurer Ann Manders who has played a significant role in the restoration of Halswell Park.

Seen here cutting the cake are our former secretary Erica Adams and long serving trustee John Brunsdon, watched by chairman Russell Lillford.



IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF IRESON

During the past 12 months we seem to have been following in the footsteps of the renowned architect and potter Nathaniel Ireson of Wincanton.

Ireson is believed to have played a role in the design of Barford Park, Spaxton, which we visited last year, and both the houses we have toured this year, Shanks House at Cucklington, near Wincanton, and Crowcombe Court, the venue for our 30th birthday celebration.

So, it was appropriate that our birthday event included an illustrated talk on Ireson given by Peter Fitzgerald, the foremost expert on his life and work, and his wife Sarah Fitzgerald on his Wincanton Delft Pottery.



Members tour the gardens during the visit to Shanks House at Cucklington, near Wincanton

David Keynon, who owns Crowcombe Court with his wife Kate, telling members about the history of the house and its restoration before an excellent tea.



WILLIAM STANSELL AWARDS 2018

The William Stansell Historic Building Awards, which recognise exceptionally high standards of design and craftsmanship in the county, are presented every two years.

This year's competition attracted 25 entries which the judges split into four categories. The six award winners were -



Drinks before the award ceremony

Conservation

***Jordan's Shell Aviary, Horton, near Ilminster**

Churches

***St John's Church, Staplegrove, Taunton**

Public Buildings

***Somerset Rural Life Museum, Glastonbury**

***Cedars Hall, Wells Cathedral School**

Residential

***Manor Farm, Tellisford near Bath**

***The Rib, Wells**

The following projects were commended by the judges -

St Peter's Church, South Barrow;

Church House, Crowcombe;

St Mary's Church, Bridgwater;

Threshings/Maltings, Key Farm, Yeovil;

The Old Parish Church, Long Load ;

Honeywick, Lower Hadspen, Castle Cary;

Watchet Visitor Centre & Boat Museum

The Awards, which were launched in 2000, are sponsored by Taunfield Ltd, in memory of William Stansell, who was chairman of an old established Somerset building firm and whose great love was the conservation and repair of historic buildings. The aim of the scheme is to raise the standard of design and construction and highlight the positive contribution that well designed and conserved buildings make to their surroundings.

The prizes were presented by William Stansell's grandson James Holyday, Director of Summerfield Developments (SW) Ltd, who is also a trustee of the SBPT.



The Rib, Wells



St John's Church, Staplegrove

FOCUS ON BUILDINGS AT RISK

Members will be pleased to hear that the owner of the 16th century Cothelstone Gatehouse, which is on Historic England's List of Buildings at Risk, has appointed an adviser to find possible sources of funding for the repair and restoration of the Grade 11* building.

Progress on saving this splendid historic building is slow but hopefully, we will be able to pass on some good news very soon.



NOT TO BE MISSED

The Annual General Meeting of the SBPT will be held on -
**Tuesday October 23rd at Dunster Tithe Barn, Priory Green,
Dunster (TA24 6RD) starting at 12 noon.**

The Tithe Barn was one of the Trust's early restoration projects and this occasion will give members the opportunity to see the success of the building 10 years on.

The meeting will be followed by a sandwich lunch and guided tours of the historic barn, the ancient Dovecote and the nearby Priory Church of St George, which dates back to 1097, although the present Grade 1 listed building is predominantly 15th century. These should finish by 2.30pm.

While attendance at the meeting is free, if you wish to stay for the lunch and tours there is a £10 per person contribution. Booking by October 17th with payment, is essential.

For further details please contact our secretary Jane Boyd-Brent by email - secretary@sbpt.info or ring 07968 083741