



Living with Historic Buildings

A one-day symposium exploring current best practice
relating to the care and use of historic buildings

July 22nd 2022

Living with Historic Buildings is a one-day symposium exploring current best practice relating to the care and use of historic buildings. Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery and The Norwich Society have drawn together an expert panel of those working with a broad range of heritage sites.

We will explore strategic approaches to the care and use of such structures, repairs and conservation and the incorporation of contemporary architectural features. 'Living with Historic Buildings' is aimed at anyone interested in the historic built environment.

This event is part of *Norwich Castle: Royal Palace Reborn*, a major £13.5m project to transform the castle's iconic Norman Keep, supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Building Conservation Symposium: Living with Historic Buildings

Programme

July 22nd 2022

Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery

10.00 Registration with coffee and tea

10.30 **Spirit of Place**

Vanessa Trevelyan, Norwich Society – How to measure society

Brian Ayers, Academic Advisory Board, Royal Palace Reborn - Spirit of Place, the ICOMOS Norwich Accord, and Norwich Castle Keep

Reconciling the old and new

Peter Doll, Norwich Cathedral - The Refectory and Hostry Redevelopment at Norwich Cathedral

Erin Davidson, Feilden+Mawson - Working with historic buildings to create long-term value and minimise environmental impact

12.00 Panel Discussion

12.45 Lunch

13.45 Planning of conservation and use of historic buildings

James Parry, Norfolk Historic Buildings Trust - Waxham Great Barn: A Case Study

Gabriella Misuriello, The Churches Conservation Trust - Saving churches, supporting communities

Rowenna Wood, Purcell - Understanding Places to Inform their Conservation: Analysing Norwich Castle

14.50 Panel Discussion

15.15 Concluding Remarks



How to measure society

Vanessa Trevelyan, former Head of Norfolk Museums Service and Chair of the Norwich Society

In the early 20th century the understandable wish by local authorities to improve living and working conditions and make towns and cities fit for the modern age led to the destruction of many historic sites and buildings that would be valued today. The Norwich Society was set up in 1923 to

help protect key historic structures. This presentation looks at how the Norwich Society has helped us value Norwich's historic environment and encouraged contemporary buildings that will be the heritage of the future.

Vanessa Trevelyan

Vanessa Trevelyan has had a long career in the museum sector, starting as a museum assistant at the Victoria & Albert Museum in 1975 and retiring as Director of Norfolk Museums Service in 2013. During that time she was President of the Museums Association and chaired the Museums Association's Ethics Committee. She is now a trustee of the Food Museum in Stowmarket (previously the Museum of East Anglian Life), President of the Norfolk Costume and Textile Association, a founder member of the Friends of Kett's Heights, and a past Chair of the Norwich Society.



Spirit of Place, the ICOMOS Norwich Accord, and Norwich Castle Keep

Brian Ayers, former County Archaeologist for Norfolk and current Chair of the Academic Advisory Board for the *Norwich Castle: Royal Palace Reborn* project

In 2009, ICOMOS approved the *Norwich Accord*, a statement entitled *Finding the Spirit of Place: Conservation, Communities & Cultural Tourism*.

This set out nine principles articulating the relationship between conservation, communities and cultural tourism. It sought to offer a 'coherent statement of the 21st century cultural heritage conservation movement in the context of communities and cultural tourism; justification for cultural value(s) as one of the principal drivers for conservation and tourism destination management resulting in important recognisable community benefits'; and 'consideration of cultural tourism as a key contributor in capturing, sustaining, enhancing and presenting the Spirit of Place'.

Mindful that development of the *Norwich Castle: Royal Palace Reborn* project is intended to conserve the historic building, enhance its use with a range of communities, and benefit cultural tourism, this short paper will explore the principles of the Norwich Accord and the contribution that the project can make to the spirit of the place within which the Castle Keep sits.

Brian Ayers

Dr Brian Ayers, formerly the County Archaeologist for Norfolk, is an Honorary Senior Lecturer at the University of East Anglia. He is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London, and also of Scotland, and is a Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. He is currently working with three colleagues on the UEA Leverhulme Trust-funded project *Medieval Churches of Norwich*. He has published numerous papers, principally concerning urban archaeology, and is the author of an archaeological history of the city of Norwich. His book *The German Ocean: Medieval Europe around the North Sea* was published in 2016.



The Refectory and Hostry Redevelopment at Norwich Cathedral

The Revd. Dr Peter Doll, Canon Librarian at Norwich Cathedral

Like Norwich Castle's *Royal Palace Reborn*, the building of the Refectory and Hostry at Norwich Cathedral was a 'redevelopment' rather than a new creation, a restoration on the original foundations of buildings

integral to the life of Norwich Cathedral Priory before the Reformation. As such, they are representative not simply of the function of providing a welcome and a place to eat for our visitors, they are also an expression of the recovery of a Benedictine identity and ethos at the Cathedral.

In the last thirty years the Cathedral has increasingly looked to its Benedictine heritage as a means of focussing its mission and ministry to the church and the world, using the Rule of St Benedict to shape its common life. The three pillars of its life have been identified as worship (in the cathedral), hospitality (in the Refectory and Hostry), and learning. The last of these also formed a part of the Refectory development, with the provision of a new library reading room to house an expanded library.

Sir Michael Hopkins says of the buildings he designed, 'Hopkins Architects explored rebuilding the Hostry and Refectory on their original sites immediately outside the west and south cloister walls. Using these sites would enable the Cloister to fulfil its original role of providing a sheltered way linking the various aspects of cathedral life. Architecturally we wanted to reflect the form, volumes and materials of the original buildings without designing imaginary replicas; making it evident in the construction that we were building at the turn of the 21st century using contemporary engineering techniques and allowing the earlier work to read through distinctly and clearly.'

Peter Doll

The Revd Dr Peter Doll is Acting Dean and Canon Librarian of Norwich Cathedral. Born in Washington, D.C. and educated at Yale and Oxford Universities, he was ordained in 1995. Before coming to Norwich he has served as a parish priest and university chaplain, and he is the author and editor of various books and other publications in church history, liturgical architecture, and ecumenism.



Working with historic buildings to create long-term value and minimise environmental impact

Erin Davidson, Partner at Feilden+Mawson, Architects for the *Norwich Castle: Royal Palace Reborn* project

At Feilden+Mawson, acknowledged leaders in the adaptation and restoration of historic buildings, our skills are equally focused on design-led new build projects and insertion of new build schemes within and adjacent to some of the greatest heritage asset buildings in the country. We aim to create spaces that not only improve people's lives and are enjoyable to use, but that create long-term value, minimise environmental impact and optimise energy efficiency. By applying long-standing conservation principles such as a fabric first approach, and by restoring buildings in keeping these in use we reduce material expenditure and waste, and we reduce embodied energy in the industry by sourcing less new materials, and working with the historic fabric that already exists in a site.

We look forward to discussing this and much more at our presentation during the Symposium.

Erin Davidson

Erin, a partner at Feilden+Mawson, specialises in the refurbishment and restoration of listed buildings and new builds in a historic setting. She also leads and advises on the interior finishes of many her designs, providing clients with an architectural package that is thorough and well considered.



Waxham Great Barn: A Case Study

James Parry, Trustee of the Norfolk Historic Buildings Trust

Dating back to the late 16th century, Waxham Great Barn is in the care of the Norfolk Historic Buildings Trust, on lease from Norfolk County Council. Grade I listed and a Scheduled Ancient Monument,

it is the largest structure of its type in the county. The Trust's approach to the management of this iconic building was traditionally focused on maintaining it in a good state of repair and on facilitating limited visitor access. More recently however, attention has turned towards striking a more dynamic balance between these responsibilities and the need to increase the Barn's potential for income generation, essential to support the Trust's work. The presentation will look at the issues involved in helping to secure the Barn's future, which have included the introduction of various measures designed to improve its facilities and flexibility as a venue while not compromising its character and integrity. In this way the Trust is planning for a thriving wedding business to be developed further and for the Barn to be made more suitable and attractive for a wider range of year-round uses and different forms of public access.

James Parry

James Parry is a trustee and former chairman of the Norfolk Historic Buildings Trust. He has spent much of his career in conservation, firstly with English Heritage before joining the British Council and working in East Africa and the Middle East. He returned to the UK to do a Masters in Architecture and then worked at the National Trust for several years, devising access policies for historic houses. He is now a writer and consultant specialising in art, history and heritage. His books include *Orientalist Lives*, a study of Western artists depicting the Middle East, which won the American Publishers' Association Art History Award for 2019; a history of Sudeley Castle (2021); and an architectural account of the old city of Jeddah in Saudi Arabia (2022).



Saving churches, supporting communities

Gabriella Misuriello, Head of Conservation at the Churches Conservation Trust

Every intervention or lack of intervention is a decision. What drives those decisions and why? How are historic buildings contributing to the delivery of place-making strategies? What is currently recognised as the

contribution of old buildings to local identity?

Many years' experience and learning from caring for historic churches, alongside communities and volunteers, have inspired a deep rooted belief that all churches in the Churches Conservation Trust family and beyond, while buildings of national and sometimes international significance, are local treasures that add to the quality of life of the place where they stand. Local communities have taken care of these buildings for generations, adapted them and kept them safe. At the CCT we share our skills and our knowledge to support communities to continue to care for their buildings. When that link is lost or weakened, we believe it can be re-established, re-invigorated and the churches' community and social value re-discovered and amplified, by providing inspiration to create spaces that promote creativity, innovation, cohesion, enterprise, well-being, quiet reflection and refuge, or just to marvel at. After centuries, the churches continue to tell their unique stories, history and significance, and reveal the traditional skills and ingenuity that built them then, and conserve and save them today.

Gabriella Misuriello

Gabriella is a heritage and construction professional with over 25 years' experience in conservation and regeneration of the built environment. She qualified as a Building Engineer in Italy, researching urban regeneration and heritage conservation. After an international MSc in European Construction and private practice work on several prestigious conservation projects, she joined a specialist architectural practice in Oxford in 2000 before moving to the CCT in 2004 as Conservation Projects Manager. She has worked in all the CCT's regions, being responsible for prioritising repair liabilities and managing all aspects of capital projects. In 2017 she was appointed Head of Region, South East.

In 2019 Gabriella was appointed Head of Conservation. In her role she provides strategic management of the conservation team, leading the national repair priorities programme and overseeing the delivery of conservation consultancy projects, and ensures the effective management of the estate. Responsible for developing conservation related policy and guidance, she champions conservation within national and regional teams and provides technical advice to staff teams, community groups and volunteers.



Understanding Places to Inform their Conservation: Analysing Norwich Castle

Rowenna Malone, Heritage Consultant and Associate at Purcell

Norwich Castle spans nearly 1000 years of history and has had many uses as a defensive fortress, gaol, museum and art gallery and a registry office. The layers of history have left

their mark in the built fabric and unpicking these to understand what exists at the Castle was vital for planning both its ongoing conservation and use and also the major change of the current Keep project.

Alongside the building itself, there is a useful archive of historic drawings and photographs that reveal more of the Castle's development and help to interpret the built fabric that we see today. The work done to carry out a detailed assessment of the changes to convert the building into a museum by Edward Boardman and to prepare a Conservation Management Plan for Norwich Castle will form the basis for an exploration of the importance of understanding a historic place to inform its conservation.

Rowenna Malone

Rowenna is a Heritage Consultant and Associate at Purcell, where she provides research-based advice on the significance, conservation and adaptability of heritage assets. With a background in museums, Rowenna has prepared Conservation Management Plans for national and regional museums and art galleries including Norwich Castle, the National Gallery and National Portrait Gallery. She enjoys research and analysing buildings to understand what is important about them and using this understanding to provide guidance on future change.

Having a keen interest in overseas heritage, Rowenna is a founder trustee for the Commonwealth Heritage Forum and chairs the International Polar Heritage Committee's Subantarctic Island Working Group. Rowenna also guest lectures on significance for the Buildings History Masters programme at Cambridge University.



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