

CUPOLA

TYNE & WEAR Building Preservation Trust NEWSLETTER Issue 3 WINTER 2018



Through the fireplace...*

Hello and a very warm welcome to members and supporters to this third issue of our newsletter, Cupola.

As we surge on into 2018 you find us building on our programme of events to involve and entertain you - more on that below. Meantime, victorious in our struggle with dust, we now face a fresh challenge with a railway winding mechanism. On other fronts, we are getting to grips with a relic of Primitive Methodism in Weardale and undertaking urgent works to a terrace of listed buildings in Sunderland. We've welcomed a new member to the team and seen a craftsman become an angel. You really do see it all in the heritage sector.

Enjoy reading about it, thank you for your kind support and we look forward to seeing you at a members' event soon.

Yours, **Martin Hulse, Trust Manager.**

Back to the Wall Volunteer's Viewpoint

This month we hear from Ged Parker, committee member of the Tyne and Wear Heritage Forum. The Forum is an important group member of the Trust, with its own ranks lending valuable, much needed support to Trust activities.

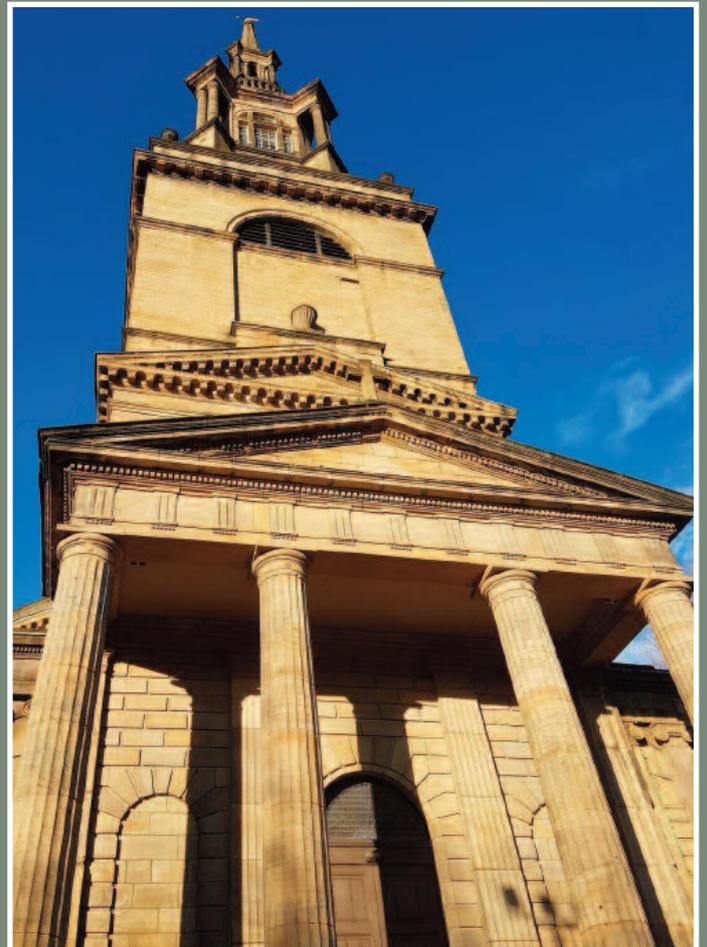
The Forum is an alliance of key heritage bodies and individuals active within the North-East of England. At a time of restricted public funding for protection and preservation of heritage, the Forum seeks to make a tangible and significant impact on the regional environment to the benefit of those who live and work here, and businesses which are based here.

We have enjoyed a long and close relationship with TWBPT given our aims are very much aligned to theirs and in particular, our committee and members are keen to engage with and support TWBPT and its membership on all levels across its activities.

Given TWBPT's ambition to grow and engage with its membership, we have joined in attending the members' coffee mornings, the most recent of which took place at the end of January. The excellent turn out was treated to a very warm welcome - on a cold January morning - coffee at Alderman Fenwick's House during which Martin and his team delivered an extremely informative update on Trust projects along with a Q & A to which consultants from the technical team contributed.

Then followed a tour of All Saint's Church, a stunning building at the foot of Pilgrim Street. The Trust is working with owner Newcastle City Council on feasibility and provides a very revealing snapshot of the challenges typically faced by building preservation trusts, often overlooked by many. Namely, the beauty and grandeur of a building doesn't necessarily mean a sustainable use can be easily found for it.

All in all an informative and congenial couple of hours spent in the company of like minded people from all walks of life. Whether you are part of a heritage organisation or group, or simply have an interest in old buildings, I can recommend joining TWBPT highly. I'm very much looking forward to catching up with everybody again at the forthcoming tour of St Hilda's in March.



Inside: Project updates | Out on the Tiles | Events | Competition

*Random though it seems, this title is very apt. Our home, Alderman Fenwick's House, is in fact two houses joined together. You pass from one to the other at various levels through short passageways cut through some of the original chimney flues. And so telling colleagues you're popping "through the fireplace," means you are popping next door.

St Hilda's Pit Head, South Shields

You may well recall our last report left us grappling with the unexpected presence of lead dust in the building. While dust and restoration projects go hand in hand, lead dust is highly toxic deeming the site unsafe, and all restoration works had to stop while it was removed by a specialist contractor certified to deal with it.

There aren't many such contractors around, so we were extremely lucky to find an excellent one locally. Harpers' work is now complete, both on time and on budget, so the good news is restoration has restarted and is progressing well to a revised timeline.

Now to the really good news. We are delighted to introduce Fiona Tobin who joins the Trust team to deliver the Activity Plan, which will run alongside the project and be pivotal to it. Fiona brings a wealth of experience to the team and has already made great strides in meeting and engaging local groups. She has also written and submitted bids to key funders, as well as starting discussions with a number of social enterprises who are interested in occupying the finished building.

So after a tricky start, thanks to Harpers and Fiona, the future is looking very bright indeed.



Westgate Chapel

During the 18th and 19th centuries, Westgate was Weardale's main centre of worship for what is known as Primitive Methodism. The Grade II listed Westgate Chapel was completed in 1871 and is of considerable architectural importance as it retains intact its original victorian interior, including beautiful curved wooden pews, gallery supported by cast iron columns of Corinthian design and at its heart, the original organ, built by Nelson and Co – a local firm of national repute.

So a real jewel then, it is owned by Historic Chapels Trust and Historic England has asked us to work with them to help explore viability for the building moving forward. The good news so far is, with funding support secured from Weardale Area Action Partnership and Architectural Heritage Fund, we have been able to appoint an architect to explore a number of options.

There is a lot of local passion behind this project and that has helped things to move quickly, so we look forward to sharing more news on this next time.



170-175 High St West, Sunderland

Our last update left us at the start of discussions with a key funder and Sunderland City Council to get consolidation works underway as quickly as possible as the terrible state of the buildings dictates real urgency here. The good news is that with discussions expediently completed, work is now underway. And not a moment too soon.

Now to the big news. The Trust's recent bid to be part of a major European heritage project has just been accepted. European Horizon 2020 will see Heritage Labs delivered in six European cities. Each lab will focus on a specific heritage project with the owners or custodians of the project receiving significant funding to deliver it.

The six cities are: Rome, Budapest, Warsaw, Berlin, Lisbon and Sunderland, where the Trust will be partnered by Newcastle University in delivering a lab



Blackfell Hauler House, Blackfell, Bowes Railway

Built in 1913 Blackfell Hauler House is one of the few surviving elements of the historic Bowes Railway, which once played a prominent role transporting coal from the Durham Coalfields to the Tyne for shipping world wide.

**PROJECT
UPDATE**

Broadly speaking, hauler houses contained large steam powered winding mechanisms, which used ropes to haul coal trains up the steep inclines of the Bowes Railway as they headed towards the Tyne, and lower them back down them again on their return journey to the pits.

Following closure of the railway in 1970, the now redundant hauler house became the target of sustained vandalism and the resulting dereliction saw the building fall into a state of virtual collapse by 2013 when the Trust stepped in.

Following a two year restoration we returned the building to use as an artisan workshop in 2015 and last year saw us turn our attention to the hauler house workings which survive outside the preserved building.

We have secured a grant from Historic England which will allow us to restore the principle elements of the winding works, the exciting prospect being, this could well mark the beginning of a wider project which will see the rope hauled railway function again one day.



Out on the tiles (or bricks)...

In this issue Kenny Brunskill talks about how a keen eye for brickwork and a head for heights combined to make him an angel.

Built in the early 19th century, the bottle kilns at Corbridge are scheduled monuments, originally forming part of the Walker's Pottery, which produced bricks, roof ridge tiles and chimney pots, among many other items. The kilns are two of only 44 surviving in Britain, with most located in the south of the country.

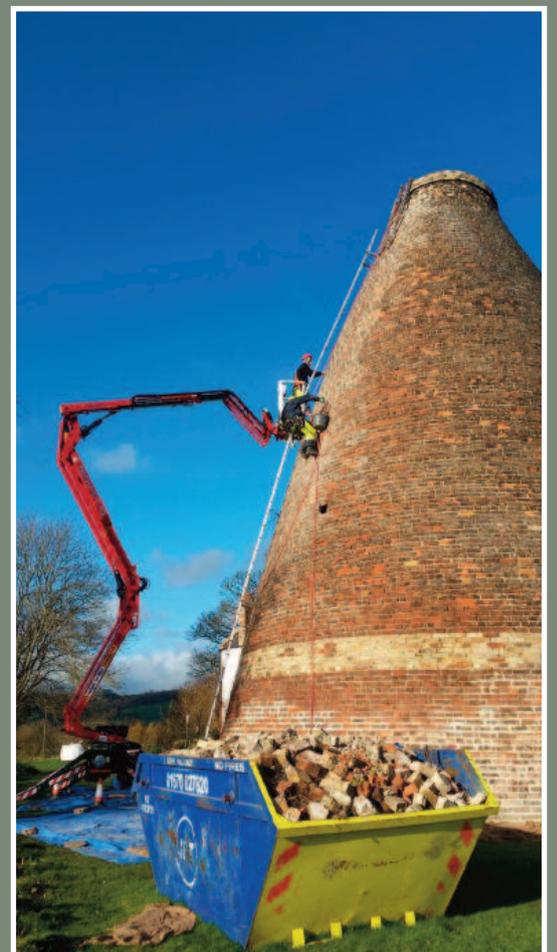
Despite being a well-known local landmark, the condition of the kilns had deteriorated severely over the years, finding their way onto Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register.

Tyne and Wear Building Preservation Trust took on the project to manage works to see them consolidated and removed from the register, in the course of which they procured my employers, Stone Technical Services to carry out the repairs to the brickwork.

As the approach taken involved using ropes and spider cranes for access, rather than the costlier scaffolding option, I was brought in to lead the project having been involved in many projects working at height over my time at Stone, including St Paul's Cathedral and Lumley Castle.

Replacing and repointing delicate old brickwork, while working at height in a harness in various weathers does require dexterity, certainly, not to say patience, but it was very rewarding work and the end result- seeing these wonderful structures saved and removed from the At Risk Register- was worth it.

And then to see the work recognised with a Historic England Angel Award for best craftsman was a surprise. A good one. Although speaking with a stone mason's eye, the real angels here are the kilns themselves.



Events

15 MARCH - HARD HAT TOUR OF ST HILDA'S PIT HEAD IN SOUTH SHIELDS. Starts at 11am.

10 MAY - "STAITHS, STEAMERS AND TEEMERS" - MEMBERS TOUR OF DUNSTON STAITHS. Starts at 10.30am

To book your place at any of these please email kari@twbpt.org.uk



Competition Time

With each newsletter we're giving you the opportunity to win a prize! To enter, all you need do is answer this question:

Blackfell Hauler House sits on which historic railway?

Please email your answers to kari@twbpt.org.uk. First correct one drawn out of the hat wins. Remember, the answer is somewhere in the issue.

Sector News

Landmark Trust has produced a series of podcasts about its key projects. A very interesting and informative listen. You can find them at www.landmarktrust.org.uk



Meantime, a refreshing tweet by the Garfield Weston Foundation, which serves as excellent advice to those approaching funders in general:

"If the Foundation has an overriding message for potential beneficiaries it is this: bring us the projects you believe are important, not what you think we will support. It's about what matters to you, not what matters to us."

Guy Weston, Chair.

Membership Form

You can support us by becoming a member of the Trust. The future of the Trust depends on a strong membership base to ensure our work is integrated within the community where we operate. Membership of the Trust will help to strengthen our charitable credentials and will provide you with the knowledge that you are helping to make a difference to heritage in Tyne & Wear.

Please complete and return to the Trust office with a cheque for your annual subscription of £24.00 payable to 'Tyne & Wear Building Preservation Trust Ltd'. Otherwise a Standing Order or Bank transfer can be arranged to our bank account number 00161309, sort code 309355.

You can also join on-line at www.twbpt.org.uk

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| Title | Name |
| Address | |
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| Post Code | |
| Telephone Number | Email address |

Payment form (please circle): Cash / Cheque / Standing Order / Bank Transfer

Gift Aid Declaration (UK Taxpayers Only)

I would like the Tyne & Wear Building Preservation Trust to reclaim the tax on any qualifying donations made by me until further notice. I confirm that I have paid an amount of UK income or capital gains tax equal to any tax reclaimed. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify.

Signature _____ Date _____