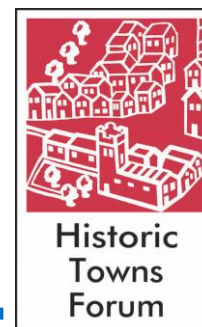


**Our Patron:**

*His Royal Highness  
The Prince of Wales*



# May Newsletter

## Director's Message

I sit and write this edition's blog trackside, at Caird Park Stadium, in Dundee. I'm here to support the British Cycling Endurance League at the invitation of a friend, and thought it would be a marvellous opportunity to have a mooch around some of our historic Scottish settlements – something I don't get as much of a chance to do as I would like. Passing Lindisfarne on the way into Scotland added a haunting touch of the Anglo-Saxon, while walking up to Arthur's Seat and viewing Edinburgh from its heights topped off a beautiful afternoon exploring the old streets of the town. Driving over the Firth of Forth and seeing the incredible industrial architecture both in terms of our heritage (the feat of railway engineering on the right) and our new built heritage for the future (the bridge across the water being constructed on the left) I couldn't help but be struck by the irony of political analogy and how different things may now be in the North. Driving through the far north of England into Scotland on Friday made me wonder if the North really would join in a new union with Scotland. These are interesting and untested times for us – and as with all change there are related concerns and regrets, but change, as we have always known in the heritage sector, is something we are good at. As a nation we are robust, adaptable and resilient, and we are the same as a sector. We should have no wish to resist change, but rather to embrace it and to make it into the change we want to see. Localism has really shaped and changed planning policy – in more cases than anticipated for the better – and whatever may now face us in terms of planning and our historic built environment, we should firm in the knowledge and the confidence that will see us continue to shape the places in which we want to live while ensuring our heritage survives along with our collective spirit.

And as usual, the Historic Towns Forum and our close partner ASHTAV will do our best to keep you informed and up to date on policy and legislation with our range of innovative and informative dissemination events. We continue our season with our **Annual Legislation Update** event in London on [27 May](#) with legal partners Bircham Dyson Bell, followed by our **Transport Debate Panel** at Oxford University on [June 11](#), which leads into our sustainable traffic and travel event, **Greening the Historic Environment**, on [August 13](#). Following these we have now added [Heritage Tourism and the Regeneration of the Seaside Town – 24 September – WHITBY](#), [Retail, tourism and infrastructure in historic towns – 28 October – WINCHESTER](#) and our [Annual Conference: Whose Placemaking is it Anyway? – November](#).

I do hope you will join us, and continue to join the debate.



Historic Towns Forum, Kellogg College, 60-62 Banbury Rd, Oxford, OX26PN  
T: 01865 612033 E: [htf@kellogg.ox.ac.uk](mailto:htf@kellogg.ox.ac.uk) W: [www.historictownsforum.org](http://www.historictownsforum.org)

## Latest news

### General and local elections

Local elections were held for 279 councils: 194 districts, 49 unitaries and 36 metropolitan districts. In addition there were elections for 6 mayors. The Conservative victory in the national election was reflected in the local voting, with the addition of 30 more authorities.

The national election turnout was 61.1%; the highest for 18 years. By far the highest turnout was in Scotland where it was 71.1%, whereas in some parts of England it was just over 40%. The Scottish National Party took 56 of the 59 seats in Scotland.

Key appointments in the new Conservative cabinet include:

- Greg Clark as Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government
- John Whittingdale as Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport
- Sajid Javid as Business Secretary
- Amber Rudd as Energy and Climate Change Secretary.

It remains to be seen what changes there will be made to Government policies in relation to planning, although we should have some idea of this by the time of our [Annual Legislation Update](#) on 27 May. There are likely to be challenges to the Government's commitment to HS2 (and possibly HS3), and we anticipate more advocates for protection of the Green Belt; Eric Pickles had shown some respect for Green Belt and AONB land in recent appeal decisions. It is unlikely that there will be any change in the priority given to new house building. The appointment of Amber Rudd as Energy and Climate Change Secretary has been welcomed by environmental groups, including Friends of the Earth. She will need to respond to the decision of the Supreme Court, days before the election, ordering the Government to take action to reduce air pollution (see below). Climate change and the environment were not treated as high priorities by any of the political parties in the pre-election arguments. Even the Green Party focused on social and economic policies. The SNP will seek to have some influence at Westminster and the outcome of the contentious matter of further devolution may well have a knock on effect on devolution of powers to English regions.

[Search election details here](#)

### Supreme Court orders Government to reduce air pollution

The Supreme Court has ordered the UK Government to make plans for reducing air pollution, which has been in breach of EU limits for years. In a unanimous decision the court ordered the Government to submit plans to the European Commission no later than 31 December 2015. This follows recent periods when air pollution has been exceptionally high in areas of the country affected by prolonged high pressure and east or south easterly air flows, although many towns and cities persistently suffer high levels of pollution, at least partly as a result in the increase in use of diesel vehicles. [Read more](#)



### Place-Making Awards 2014

1. The Prince's Trust Place-Making awards for 2014 were announced on 31<sup>st</sup> March. Awards were made under various categories and included:
2. Porth Teigr, Cardiff for Promoting Economic Growth
3. Little Kelham for Sustainability
4. Coastal Space for Regeneration
5. Melbourn Hub for Community-Led Place-Making
6. Kirkstall Forge for Mixed Use Development
7. Gunmakers Wharf for Best Housing Scheme
8. Sheaf Valley Park, Sheffield for Design Excellence
9. Middleport Pottery for Best Use of Heritage in Place-Making

[Read more](#)

### Planning appeal delays

The planning inspectorate has confirmed that staff shortages have led to delays of up to 10 weeks to validate planning appeal decisions. For some categories of appeal this means that decisions can take up to 12 months. [Read more](#)

### Survey shows public support for heritage

A survey carried out by Historic England shows how much English people value the historic environment. Two thirds of people polled said that they cared about their local heritage and thirty eight per cent had taken action to protect a listed building or place from damaging change. The most commonly-valued places were country houses and castles. [Read more](#)

### Historic Environment Wales

The Welsh Government has introduced the Historic Environment (Wales) Bill providing new measures for the protection and sustainable management of the Welsh historic environment. [Read more](#)



The HTF is supported by



## Events and Seminars

### Forthcoming Historic Towns Events – online now!

#### Historic Built Environment Seminars – free events!

##### Kellogg College, 60-62 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 6PN

The Historic Towns Forum, the Association of Small Historic Towns and Villages, and Kellogg College are pleased to continue their series of Historic Built Environment Seminars, addressing current and contentious topics within the historic built environment, fostering academic dialogue, professional practice, and providing an arena in which the public, private, civic and academic sectors can engage in heated and healthy debate about all aspects of the topic in hand. The seminar series will be accompanied by published proceedings each following year. Do join us!

#### 2015: Planning for the Historic Environment

**11 June** Panel debate, on *Transport solutions in growth areas – is heritage a help or hindrance?*

**19 November** Jon Rowland, *Jon Rowland Urban Design*, on *Planning for growth – historic towns and the Greenbelt issue*

**Venue:** Mawby Room, Kellogg College, 60-62 Banbury Road, Oxford, OX2 6PN

**Time:** 7.00pm for drinks and nibbles; seminars start at 7.30pm sharp

**Finish:** 9.00pm

**These are free events.** Register at [Register here](#), email [Noël.James@kellogg.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Noël.James@kellogg.ox.ac.uk) or phone 07947 521567. See you there!

#### Annual Legislation Update – 27 May – London

##### Bircham Dyson Bell, 50 Broadway, SW1 0HB

Our Annual legislation update will again be held at the offices of HTF Partner, Bircham Dyson Bell. With planning changes continuing apace, and in the aftermath of the general election, this event will provide an update on everything those working in the Historic Built Environment need to know. The full programme is now online.

[Book here](#)

This event is likely to be oversubscribed so please do [register now](#)



The HTF is supported by



## **Greening the Historic Environment – sustainability, travel and historic towns – 13 August – London**

**Kellogg College, 60-62 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 6PN**

Transport has been a perennial issue for those working in historic towns – Park & Ride, narrow streets, transport emissions and the green agenda are as topical now as always. Join us, and speakers from the Office for Low Emission Vehicles, the British Parking Association, Worcester City Council and many others as we debate the issues and look for 21<sup>st</sup> century solutions. The full programme is now online.

[Book here](#)

## **Heritage Tourism and the Regeneration of the Seaside Town – 24 September – WHITBY**

**Sneaton Castle – Joint event with People Landscape and Cultural Environment**

With the new Coastal Revival Fund in place to help kick start the revival of at-risk coastal heritage, there has never been a better time to revisit the issues facing economic rejuvenation in our historic seaside settlements. This one-day conference, in collaboration with our partner organisation PLACE, will focus on issues and solutions surrounding retail, tourism, local economy and the unique selling point of our coastal and seaside heritage.

[Book here](#)

## **Retail, tourism and infrastructure in historic towns – 28 October – WINCHESTER**

**In conjunction with Winchester Council**

This event follows on from the issues covered in our successful Poulton retail event last year. We will be looking at the unique heritage tourism offer of our historic towns and settlements and how growth and infrastructure can impact on this.

The full programme will be online shortly. [Book here](#)

## **Annual Conference: Whose Placemaking is it Anyway? – November tbc – LONDON**

**Bircham Dyson Bell, 50 Broadway, SW1 0HB – in conjunction with Museum of London Archaeology**

This event will be held with HTF partners MOLA, and will consider practical and theoretical notions of place ownership in terms of archaeology, concepts of urban physical space and how this can define and decide placemaking. In particular we will look at 'edgelands', use of space and habitation of marginal urban areas, how these fit into our ideas of what and who makes a place, how various uses may or may not be as valid as others, and how contemporary archaeological perspectives and practices, as well as other approaches, can be better used throughout the industry. [Register your interest here](#)



The HTF is supported by



## Other Events

### URBED 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events

As part of the celebration of their 40th anniversary, URBED are organising a series of events around the country to revisit some of their key projects. There are seven events in total details of which can be found at [Read more](#)

### IHBC Annual School

The Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC) annual school for 2015 will be held in Norwich from 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> June. The school is intended for practitioners and those interested in all aspects of the historic environment and conservation.

[Read more](#)

## FUNDING

### Esmee Fairbairn Funding Strategy

The Esmee Fairbairn Foundation has published its new 5 year funding strategy. The Foundation provides grant funding for work in four main sectors-Arts, Children and Young People, Environment and Social Change. Its aims are to:

- Unlock and enable potential
- Back the unorthodox and unfashionable
- Build collective networks
- Catalyse system change.

Part of the new funding strategy is a Single Funding Platform which it describes as “a tools in a toolbox approach so that any applicant can be offered the right package of grant-making, social investment and capacity support. [Read more](#)

### Funding for rural historic building conservation

Natural England, the department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and the Forestry Commission have announced that grants of up to 80% of the cost of conservation works to historic buildings in the countryside will be available under the Countryside Stewardship scheme. The funding will be available for works to:

- Non- residential buildings built with traditional materials
- Ornamental or architecturally designed buildings
- “Transitional buildings” that show the introduction of modern materials, but are otherwise in traditional materials, style and function
- Buildings of historic significance
- Unconverted historic buildings used in ways for which they were not originally designed. [More](#)



## Consultations

**The Department for Communities and Local Government** - Compulsory Purchase - deadline 09 June 2015.  
[Read more](#)

**Historic England** - Enhanced Advisory Services Consultation - deadline 08 May 2015. [Read more](#)

## Publications and Toolkits

### New CDM Regulations

The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 came into force on 6<sup>th</sup> April, replacing the 2007 regulations.

[Read more](#)

### Planning Portal recommends apps for planners

The Government's Planning Portal has issued updated advice about smartphone and tablet apps useful for planners. The new list includes a recently issued Pocket Guide to Planning.

[Read more](#)

### Slow progress with Local Plans

A report by Nathaniel Litchfield and Partners has reviewed progress in production and approval of Local Plans since the introduction of the National Planning Policy Framework in 2012. The report finds that in key respects the Framework is working but that progress in getting plans approved remains slow and on average it is taking 5 months longer for plans to be found sound after submission, the principle reason being housing.

[Read more](#)

### Starter Homes Design

The Government has issued an initial set of starter homes design exemplars put together by the new Design Advisory Panel.

[Read more](#)

### National Trust in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

The National Trust has published its strategy for the future in a document titled "Playing Our Part" which sets out the challenges, ambition and strategy for the Trust in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

[Read more](#)





### **Neighbourhood Planning Assistance**

Planning Aid England has produced a suite of resources to help community groups preparing a neighbourhood plan. It includes guides, templates and videos on:

- Project planning
- Resourcing
- Engaging with developers and landowners
- Developing a vision and objectives
- Writing planning policies

[Read more](#)

### **New Community Design Award launched – CHANGE TEXT AS OUT OF DATE**

Civic Voice has launched a new National Community Design Award. Nominations can only be made by local communities and could be for:

- New buildings
- Historic buildings that have been reused or refurbished
- Public realm schemes such as street works, conservation area improvements, parks, improvements and enhancements to the civic realm.

Nominations for the 2015 awards closed on 31 March.

[Read more](#)

### **Community Economic Development Programme**

A Community Economic Development Programme has been launched by the My Community organisation to help local community groups and organisations who want to take a lead in shaping their economies for the benefit of local communities. Examples of what might be included are:

- Strategies to promote local spending
- Exploring the possibility of a rural broadband cooperative
- Working with key organisations to promote community led housing.

[Read more](#)



The HTF is supported by





## POSTS



### **Regeneration Project Officer - Heritage**

**Grade: PO4**

**£37,476 - £40,218 per annum**

**Fixed term - 2 years (with a possibility of extension)**

**Ref: HDD/5336**

Haringey has ambitious plans for housing, retail and commercial growth in both Tottenham and Wood Green over the coming decade. Regeneration in Tottenham will be guided by the Strategic Regeneration Framework and the emerging Tottenham Area Action Plan.

This will be complemented by investment of the recently secured grant of almost £1.5million from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) Programme. The funding will be spent on recapturing the character of original High Road facades in the North Tottenham Conservation Area during the coming four years.

Work will include repairing the exteriors of the Victorian buildings and restoring historic architectural features, in accordance with a recently adopted Conservation Area Management Plan. The heritage led regeneration scheme will reflect Tottenham's unique character, boost the local economy, generate a sense of pride, and secure the area's future.

### **About the role**

The role of regeneration projects officer will be specifically responsible for delivering the Tottenham High Road Historic Corridor (North), THI project. This will include tendering for and managing specialist consultants, leading the partnership group, managing the budget, reporting progress to funding bodies and monitoring and evaluation. You may also have the opportunity to input into other projects of a similar nature as and when they arise.



Historic Towns Forum, Kellogg College, 60-62 Banbury Rd, Oxford, OX26PN  
T: 01865 612033 E: [htf@kellogg.ox.ac.uk](mailto:htf@kellogg.ox.ac.uk) W: [www.historictownsforum.org](http://www.historictownsforum.org)

The post is located in the Housing Investment and Sites team within the Council's Regeneration Service and will involve close liaison with the Tottenham Programme and the Planning Service. This is a two year fixed term post with the possibility of extension to four years.

### About you

You will be an experienced project manager, with practical experience of implementing grant funded physical regeneration schemes in a historic environment. You will have an understanding of business, particularly the retail trade and the economic benefits of regeneration in a high street context would be a benefit. Your strengths will include being an innovative and creative self-starter with the ability to manage an intense workload, and a good networker, able to enthuse and influence people.

### How to Apply

To apply please go to <http://jobs.haringey.gov.uk/Jobs.aspx> where you can complete your application online. You can access the internet for free at all of Haringey's libraries.

**Closing date: 31 May 2015**

### About us

The Historic Towns Forum (HTF) has been supporting professionals and other members working in the historic built environment since 1987. [Why not become a Member?](#) Special events' discounts and other benefits are available for members.

### HTF membership

We invite professionals working in the historic built environment to join the membership. If you would like to enjoy the benefits such as discounts to our topical events and the chance to network with our Local Authority, Corporate, Private and Individual members, as well as with Agencies, Civic Societies, Community Groups and Sponsors, please visit this [link to our website](#) to join.

If you would prefer no longer to receive these emails please email [htf@kellogg.ox.ac.uk](mailto:htf@kellogg.ox.ac.uk) including 'unsubscribe' in the subject line.

Sent from: Historic Towns Forum, 60-62 Banbury Road, Oxford, OX14 1PN, T: 01865 61203

Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook!](#)



Historic Towns Forum, Kellogg College, 60-62 Banbury Rd, Oxford, OX26PN  
T: 01865 612033    E: [htf@kellogg.ox.ac.uk](mailto:htf@kellogg.ox.ac.uk)    W: [www.historictownsforum.org](http://www.historictownsforum.org)