

## **CPRE Kent Historic Buildings Committee**

### **Chairman's Report, January 2018**

*(Presented to Kent History Federation's meeting on Friday 2 March 2018)*

During the past year, the committee has suffered the loss of our esteemed colleague and dear friend, Richard Filmer, who made such a valuable contribution over many years to the work of the committee and, more widely, to the built heritage of the Ashford district. We also learned recently of the death in 2017 of former committee member, Derek Abbott.

We were pleased to see the restoration of the Gravett Award for Architectural Drawing, in partnership with the Kent School of Architecture. The judges, chaired by Ptolemy Dean, made the award last June to Ottavia Profumo, a student at KSA. We are again working with KSA and Ptolemy Dean with a view to judging entries and presenting the award on 5<sup>th</sup> June this year. I am grateful to Graham Horner for his work on getting the award going again and to Clive Bowley and Stuart Page for taking part in the judging.

2017 saw the publication by CPRE Kent, after a rather long gestation period, of a booklet entitled "Looking after Heritage through the Planning System", drafted by branch staff with the assistance of several committee members. It has proved very useful in responding to heritage queries received by the branch and has attracted interest from other county branches.

During the year we have worked on many threats to the built heritage around the County and assisted the branch in responding to approaches from CPRE members and others. Some of the more significant cases on which we have intervened include: redevelopment proposals at Wye College; the proposed lorry park at Stanford; Hope All Saints Church on Romney Marsh; Prince's Parade at Hythe; and the Prima Windows site at Nonington. A number of current issues are on our agenda today. Our members continue to keep a close eye on emerging local plan policies affecting heritage.

In August, we enjoyed a fascinating visit to Mereworth Church and Mere House, led and hosted by Andrew Wells. We are very grateful to him and his family for allowing us to explore their family home and for their generous hospitality and to Michael Peters, for organising the visit.

We continue to aspire to a membership covering the whole County. During the year, we have welcomed Craig Webster as a new member who, with Clive Bowley, reinforces our coverage of Canterbury. We are pleased to be meeting for the first time today prospective committee members from Dover and Thanet, Shelley Morris and Peter Lorenzo. We have recently corresponded with the Sevenoaks district committee on a number of heritage matters and hope this may lead to their nominating a committee member. Sadly, Tim Reader is no longer able, due to poor health, to represent Maidstone on the committee and we send our good wishes to him.

I am grateful to the staff of the branch for supporting the committee and to all my fellow committee members for their support and dedicated work throughout the year. The committee could not function without our expert and tireless Secretary, Graham Horner. I thank him most warmly for all that he does to make our work effective.

**John Wotton**