

It has been a busy year for SAVE with some fantastic victories, and some further challenges underway, not least for Liverpool's Lime Street, on which an entire run of buildings is presently under threat of demolition by the council, including the city's earliest purpose built cinema, the Futurist, 1912. It is in the World Heritage Site Buffer Zone and SAVE considers that it is imperative to preserve the street, and not replace it wholesale. We offered Liverpool Council mediation, but this offer was refused and we are therefore pressing ahead with Judicial Review proceedings.

SAVE has continued to spearhead the campaign for Wentworth Woodhouse: three years ago we created the Wentworth Woodhouse Preservation Trust that has raised £7m to acquire the house. Since it went on the market in autumn of this year, several bids have come forward and fallen through. It has been a frustrating process, to be overlooked for slightly higher bids, but we continue to impress upon the owners the importance of saving the house for the nation. Urgent repairs are necessary to safeguard the future of the house - the threats to the fabric of the house from dry rot and water ingress are all too real. SAVE believes this is the most important conservation battle taking place in the country today.

The year began with a bang when we secured a victory for the Welsh Streets. However Liverpool Council chose to appeal against the decision. As we go to press we are still waiting for confirmation of whether they are pursuing the appeal or not; meanwhile, the houses continue to deteriorate.

We enjoyed a wonderful party marking our 40th Anniversary in the autumn, with some of our closest supporters, in St Sepulchre's without Newgate. Thanks to help from a team of volunteers, and the SAVE team getting stuck in, the church was filled with flowers and music and it was a suitably triumphant evening.

This November we launched our alternative scheme for the Strand buildings, devised with architect John Burrell of Burrell Foley Fischer. This was possible thanks to generous donations from Michael Palin, author and alumnus of King's College Susan Hill, Selectaglaze, and many other public donations.

We are involved in a number of other cases up and down the country: Sheffield, Edinburgh and also Tottenham in London where the football club wishes to demolish a charming group of buildings on the high street. SAVE saved these buildings a few years ago and we are once again vigorously opposing their demolition. This year SAVE published its first Annual Review - this looks back on 40 years of campaigning but also gives detail on our work this year and our finances - this is an exercise we will repeat next year.

### **ONGOING CAMPAIGNS**

#### 152-158 Strand, London

Earlier this year SAVE led a successful campaign to save 152-158 Strand from demolition.

King's College were proposing the demolition of four Georgian and Victorian buildings and the façading of a fifth, replacing them with a single new building. With the initial support of Historic England, King's plans were approved by Westminster Council in April.

SAVE immediately launched a petition which quickly attracted over 10,000 signatures. At the same time it was taken up as a campaign in *The Evening Standard* and *The Times*. Following this Historic England revised their position, concluding that the proposals would cause harm to the Conservation Area. This prompted the newly appointed Secretary of State, Greg Clark, to call the application in for a public inquiry in May. Following this King's withdrew their application, committing to a redesign.

To feed into the debate SAVE and John Burrell of Burrell, Foley, Fischer Architects, prepared an alternative vision for the site, published in November.

#### THE FOUR THREATENED STRAND FRONTAGES BROUGHT BACK INTO USE



152-158 restored as part of SAVE's alternative proposals

SAVE's alternative – dubbed 'The King's Pavement' – would retain and restore the Strand buildings and see them brought back in to active use, linking one to another via a glass atrium attached to the rear. John Burrell analysed the site closely and rediscovered a vista between the Thames and the Strand through an archway that provided a view through to St Mary Le Strand, which was lost when the King's brutalist building was constructed in the 1970s. We propose reopening this, restoring the view, and pedestrianising this part of the Strand, thus rescuing St Mary Le Strand from the traffic island on which it currently sits. This will become increasingly important to King's as they have recently acquired Bush House and it will be necessary to create a piece of urban realm that connects all parts of their campus and is an embellishment to this part of London. We feel our plans go a long way towards achieving this.

The plans are available through our website. You can also make a suggested donation of  $\pounds 10$  to receive a hard copy, by sending a cheque to SAVE Britain's Heritage, earmarked for the Strand campaign.



A drawing showing how the buildings will be used. A glass atrium at the rear accommodates the differing floor levels

#### 45 and 51-79 Lime Street, Liverpool

In August this year, SAVE submitted strong objections to Liverpool Council regarding their plans to demolish at least ten buildings on Lime Street, the gateway to Liverpool and part of the World Heritage Site Buffer Zone. Liverpool Council plans to replace them with an eleven storey student accommodation block with retail space on the ground floor.



The proposals for Lime Street

Lime Street is the thoroughfare from the station that leads up to Liverpool Cathedral and into the Georgian area of the city. It has been left unrepaired and decaying for over two decades. SAVE recognizes the need to improve the area, but strongly condemns Liverpool's plans to demolish rather than repair. The Futurist Cinema, Liverpool's earliest purpose built cinema, constructed in 1912, is in the centre of the run of buildings threatened with demolition. It has a wonderful façade, faced with faience tiles. Marcus Binney said of it: "Built as the City Picture House in 1912 this is the incunabula of Cinema Architecture and must be saved."

The height of the proposed replacement building is at odds with World Heritage Site policy as laid out in the 2009 Supplementary Planning Guidance that recommends 3-7 storeys for the area, as it is at present.

The application site is bounded at either end by two listed pubs, and on the opposite side of Lime Street is the listed ABC Cinema. The Vines public house at the southern end of the site is a Grade II\* listed building of 1907, described by Pevsner as 'riotously baroque', whilst at the northern boundary the Crown Hotel is a Grade II listed art nouveau building with extravagant stucco panels proudly bearing the Walker's Brewery name. Within the vicinity of the site are several other listed buildings, including Lime Street Station, the Adelphi Hotel, the former North Western Hotel, and St George's Hall, the latter being Grade I listed, as well as the William Brown Conservation Area.

At eleven storeys the revised proposals will be visible from many locations, and are significantly out of scale with the existing and surrounding buildings. This is particularly noticeable in the west elevation, which includes both listed public houses, and the north elevation. The latter is one of the prominent views from Lime Street Station and St George's Hall, both situated within the William Brown Street World Heritage Site area.



The Futurist, Barry and Genesis Eveleigh

Following the granting of planning permission, SAVE applied for Judicial Review on the grounds that Liverpool Council failed to consult with either UNESCO or the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) regarding the impact on the World Heritage Site (WHS). We also offered the option of mediation to Liverpool Council, but they decided against it.

The present scheme is considered by objectors, who include Merseyside Civic Society, the Victorian Society, the Cinema and Theatres Association and respected local figures such as Florence Gerstein of Save Our City, as obtrusive, heavy, and inappropriate for such a historically important and carefully planned area of Liverpool.

SAVE is being represented by solicitor Susan Ring of Richard Buxton Environmental Law, and Richard Harwood QC of 39 Essex Street. We are waiting to hear if we have permission for Judicial Review, expected before Christmas. If successful, the case is likely to go to court in February. We are grateful to all those who contribute to our Fighting Fund, making it possible for us to take such cases to court.

## Wentworth Woodhouse, South Yorkshire



The east front of Wentworth Woodhouse, Country Life

SAVE's campaign for Wentworth Woodhouse, the most important historic building at risk in Britain today, continues in earnest.

For the past four years SAVE has been hard at work on a rescue package which would see the house acquired by the newly formed Wentworth Woodhouse Preservation Trust. The state rooms would be opened to the public, initially managed by the National Trust; the south wing would be converted into a number of residential units, with the possibility of a Landmark Trust style holiday let in the tower house; the north wing would be used as an events space, with its own internal courtyard and separate access; and the stables converted for small business units with some further residential.

Thanks to pledges from major charitable trusts and donations from members of the public SAVE has succeeded in raising  $\pounds$ 7m towards acquisition, a figure agreed with the current owners the Newbold family.

However, a setback occurred in November when it was announced that a sale had been agreed with the Lake House Group, a Hong Kong investment fund.

In another dramatic turn, it was then announced at the end of November that the Lake House Group would be withdrawing their offer. At the time of writing, SAVE and the WWPT are still trying to acquire the house. We consider that this is the only way of safeguarding this building at risk for the nation.

#### Old Royal High School, Edinburgh

At the start of the year proposals were unveiled for two large hotel wings to be placed either side of the former Royal High School (RHS) in Edinburgh, Thomas Hamilton's Greek Revival masterpiece that sits atop Calton Hill.

These wings were part of plans to convert the Category A listed building into a five star hotel, and would have seriously harmed and disrupted the delicate composition of Hamilton's building, which was designed as a monumental architectural statement, but which also succeeds in deferring to the natural beauty of Edinburgh's landscape.

Marcus Binney attended and spoke at a public meeting in support of Hamilton's building in February, and thanks to sustained campaigning and objections the plans were withdrawn.

Six months later, the developers returned with equally inappropriate proposals, with glass and copper clad wings looming behind and on both sides of the RHS. Not only would this affect RHS, but also the many surrounding listed buildings and assets on Calton Hill, and important views across the city and out beyond.



Vandesign via Flickr

SAVE wrote a stern objection letter, as did many others including Historic Scotland, The Edinburgh World Heritage Trust, The Cockburn Association and the AHSS. Crucially, the Royal High School Preservation Trust prepared an alternative proposal to restore and convert the building as a new home for St Mary's Music School. This is backed by the Dunard Fund and presents a viable alternative for the building, putting its conservation at the forefront of the proposals.

We are currently awaiting the planning committee's decision. It is unlikely however that, in the face of such strong opposition, the plans will be approved, and we remain hopeful a better scheme will be devised which respects this internationally important building.



The proposed new wings

#### Norton Folgate, London

Over the past year SAVE has been supporting the campaign led by the Spitalfields Trust to save Norton Folgate, a collection of nineteenth century warehouses

on the fringe of the City of London, currently under threat of demolition.

Much of the area has been revived by organic regeneration over the last 40 years, led by the work of the Spitalfields Trust, but the Norton Folgate buildings are currently vacant and have been for some time.

The development falls entirely within the Elder Street Conservation Area, and it is estimated that nearly 70 per cent of the buildings in the area will be demolished as part of these proposals, a staggering amount. What has been proposed is primarily a commercial scheme that makes a token nod to conservation, with large and bulky new buildings sitting on top of a few retained facades.

In contrast, the Spitalfields Trust has prepared an alternative scheme which shows how the buildings can be restored and reused, without the need for large scale demolition.



One image from the Spitalfields Trust's alternative vision

In July Tower Hamlets Planning Committee rejected the demolition plans, to the delight of SAVE and the many others who had voiced their objections.

British Land did not mount an appeal, but in September Mayor Boris Johnson called the scheme in, taking power away from the local authority.

This means the Mayor will now decide the outcome of the application, despite it being refused by Tower Hamlets. This does not bode well considering the Mayor's previous form – he has approved most applications he has called in during his two terms of office.

At the time of going to print it was announced that the developer was intending to amend the plans to retain two of the warehouse buildings, and a revised application is expected shortly. SAVE considers this to be not sufficient, and will be commenting on the revised proposals accordingly.

#### Bishopsgate Goodsyard, London

At the same time that Norton Folgate was called in, the Mayor also called in proposals for Bishopsgate Goodsyard, a massive scheme with towers ranging up to 40 storeys. Such a development will cause great harm to this area of London, overshadowing many Conservation Areas and setting a dangerous precedent for tall buildings on the City fringes.

SAVE objected to this scheme at the end of 2014, and we reconfirmed our objections early in 2015 when the scheme was revised in a minor way.

Due to the size of the site and the many issues to be considered neither Hackney nor Tower Hamlets reached a decision on the application, (although both had signalled their intention to refuse planning) and the Mayor has therefore called in the application so that he can decide it himself. As with Norton Folgate this does not bode well.



The development as viewed from the Elder Street Conservation Area

More information can be found on the More Light More Power website: <u>http://www.morelightmorepower.co.uk/</u>

#### **Retail Quarter, Sheffield**

SAVE has objected to an application to demolish several Victorian buildings in Sheffield, for replacement with a new retail quarter.

Proposed is a retail led scheme with buildings substantially larger in height and bulk than those which they replace. Some facades will be retained, but new development will rise above and behind them, affecting key views.

The development area is located within the City Centre Conservation Area, and many of the buildings that are to be demolished are noted as making a positive contribution to it. The site also forms the setting of several other heritage assets, including the Grade I listed Town Hall and Grade II listed City Hall, so it is essential that the proposals are sensitive to their surroundings.

SAVE's objection focuses on the loss of unlisted buildings and the removal of the historic street pattern from the Conservation Area, and the proposed designs of the replacement buildings. The site includes several surface level car parks so there is scope for some new build development and there need not be such large scale demolition.



Indicative view showing the massing of the new buildings

The development has a long and chequered history, with a previous scheme collapsing during the recession. A freedom of information request has revealed that since then the city council has spent over £43m on buying back leases and carrying out preparatory works for this new application

If Sheffield is to retain its unique identity it is important that its historic buildings are respected by new development. This current application fails to do so, and as such we have objected strongly. Historic England and the Victorian Society have also submitted strong representations to the council, and the application is expected to be decided in the coming months.



Part of the proposed development, with nondescript new buildings and an entirely new street layout

# Tottenham Hotspur's Stadium Redevelopment, London

Revised plans have been submitted for Tottenham Hotspur's stadium redevelopment, which includes the demolition of three charming locally listed buildings.

In 2009-10 SAVE led a campaign against similar proposals, and, with the support of Huw Thomas's alternative vision for the site and help from lawyer David Cooper, we succeeded in getting the proposals changed to save the locally listed buildings. A revised

planning application was submitted on this basis, and this was approved in 2011.



The Red House, a former coffee house

Now four years later Spurs have returned to their original brief which would see these buildings demolished.

Dating from the late nineteenth century, these are attractive buildings with considerable historic interest, closely associated with the football club. Noted as making a positive contribution to the Conservation Area all effort should be applied to retaining and restoring them.

SAVE has firmly objected, along with the Victorian Society, the Tottenham Civic Society, and Historic England, and the planning application is due to be decided in December.

It would be a great shame if they were demolished just to provide a larger landscaped area in front of the new stadium, when they could easily be reused and put to good use for fans of the club and the wider community.



The Tottenham and Edmonton Dispensary, 1910

#### Cressingham Gardens, London

Local residents in Lambeth have won a ringing victory against the council's plans to demolish their 306 homes at Cressingham Gardens.

Cressingham Gardens is a housing estate looking out over Brockwell Park, one of the finest of its type in south London, and the country. It was laid out in the 1970s under the well-regarded and renowned council architect Ted Hollamby, and is recognised as a notable surviving example of a high density, low rise social housing development of the post-war period.

Part of the success of the estate is that it is invisible behind the trees lining the edge of the park, yet its key design elements were heavily influenced by its proximity and topography, resulting in a relatively unique urban and open space coalesced into one, with the central open 'plateau' area of the estate leading directly into the park.



Cressingham Gardens

Lambeth Council wanted something bigger and was preparing to build c.464 homes in place of the existing 306, with the new block of flats rising above the tree tops and destroying the sense of *rus in urbe* (country in town).

Initially, the council offered five options ranging from complete retention to total demolition. Surprise surprise, before the consultation was complete (but when it was already evident that the local residents wanted to remain) the council opted for complete demolition. One brave resident Eva Bokrosova, supported by others, initiated Judicial Review proceedings against the council.

When the hearing took place the council tried to argue that it did not matter it had abandoned the consultation as it would have come to the same decision anyway. Thanks therefore to Mrs Justice Laing, who, in a splendid judgement, has quashed the council's decision, though they are seeking leave to appeal.

SAVE is delighted to have played a part in supporting the courageous residents against the might of the council. As so often, and as in the case of Liverpool, the opposition to the clearances is led by valiant women determined to stay in their much loved homes.

Historic England have declined a cogently-argued request to list the estate, although they have recommended that serious consideration be given to its inclusion within the Brockwell Park Conservation Area.

The best and simplest solution of affording Cressingham Gardens a level of protection from detrimental and insensitive redevelopment would be to extend the existing Brockwell Park Conservation Area to include the estate. Other groups of houses overlooking the park were included when the Conservation Area was designated in the 1980s but Ted Hollamby's estate was then too young to be considered for inclusion.

Planning authorities are required to review Conservation Areas from time to time and accepted good practice is a review cycle of every five years. SAVE are of the understanding that the Brockwell Park Conservation Area has not been reviewed in the past 15 years. As a result, SAVE has asked the council to carry out what we consider to be a very overdue review and on our behalf heritage consultant Esther Robinson Wild has compiled an excellent report on the Conservation Area, documenting how and why Cressingham Gardens should be included in an extended Conservation Area. We will keep the pressure up, meanwhile the residents are jubilant.

# The Western Morning News building, Plymouth

In the Spring SAVE received a request for support from the Twentieth Century Society (C20), who were applying to list Sir Nicholas Grimshaw's Western Morning News building.

Known locally as 'The Ship' because of its boat shaped prow, the owners, the Daily Mail and General Trust, had decided to demolish as they had failed to find an occupier for the building. Unlisted and not within a Conservation Area things didn't look promising for The Ship.

C20 submitted a listing application to Historic England which SAVE supported, along with Lord Rogers, Sir Michael Hopkins, and Sir Nicholas Grimshaw. Having been built as recently as 1993 it was essential to demonstrate that The Ship possessed exceptional qualities and would merit a Grade II\* listing.

To buy time, SAVE instructed Susan Ring of Richard Buxton Solicitors to write to the owners requesting they desist from demolition until the application was assessed. We also requested that an environmental impact assessment was carried out due to the size of the site, which held off the threat of demolition in the short term.

Carrying out a freedom of information request the owners learnt that Historic England were recommending the minister list The Ship at Grade II\*, but infuriatingly, this recommendation was submitted during purdah, and the Department for Culture Media and Sport were making no announcements until after the May election, by which time the building could have been demolished.



The Ship, Copyright Jo Reid & John Peck

We had an agonising wait for the listing announcement to be made, but before it was the Daily Mail and General Trust announced they had sold the building to Burrington Estates, who have plans to retain the building and use it as a business hub. This announcement was shortly followed by news that The Ship had been listed at Grade II\*, making it the youngest listed building in the country, claiming the title previously held by Lord Rogers' Lloyds of London building.



The Ship, Copyright Jo Reid and John Peck

### **BUILDINGS AT RISK**

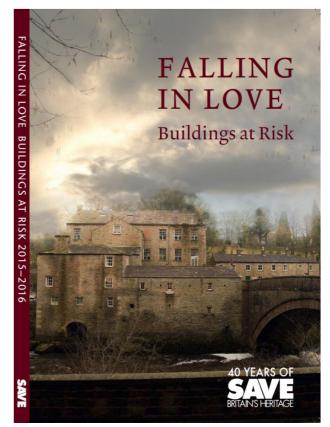
#### Falling in Love Launch

In June we launched our 2015/16 Buildings at Risk Catalogue *Falling in Love*, to a well attended gathering in The Gallery at Cowcross Street.

Liz Fuller, SAVE's Buildings at Risk Officer, who had compiled the catalogue over the previous nine months, talked through the 100 new additions to the register, taking examples from the wide range of building types covered, from modest town houses and country cottages to churches, libraries, and huge industrial complexes, all in need of new uses or new owners.

Mike Fox spoke about some of the success stories from previous at risk catalogues, and Marcus Binney and Clem Cecil provided an update about SAVE's casework.

Our thanks to everyone who came and celebrated the launch with us.



Above: Falling In Love: Buildings at Risk, 2015-16.

The catalogue received good press coverage, including features on ITV news and BBC radio, articles in many regional newspapers, and a major piece on *The Daily Mail* website, which was shared over 600 times.

The catalogue benefited enormously from the input of photographers Barry and Genesis Eveleigh who had travelled the length and breadth of the country and photographed almost all the buildings listed.

Copies are still available to purchase through our website or over the phone, priced at £15, or £13 for SAVE Friends and Saviours (+£2.50 p&p).

## Call for new entries for the Buildings at Risk register

Work has already begun on researching next year's buildings at risk catalogue, so please continue to send us possible entries for inclusion.

SAVE is looking for Grade II or unlisted vacant buildings of historical or architectural note which are at risk from dereliction/decay/vandalism, and in need of new owners or uses (they don't necessarily need to be for sale). We also want to hear about Grade I and II\* listed buildings at risk which are vacant and for sale. Our register covers England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

Please send details of potential entries together with a high-resolution picture - we cannot feature a building without a picture - to Liz Fuller, Buildings at Risk Officer on volunteer@savebritainsheritage.org.

### **EVENTS**

### SAVE's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary party

SAVE celebrated 40 years of campaigning at the frontline of conservation in 2015, and to commemorate the occasion we held a party bringing together many of our supporters, allies and friends from over the past four decades.

The evening was a triumphant affair, looking back at SAVE's many campaigns for buildings of all types and ages, from the modest terraced house to palatial country estates, and everything in between, as well as looking forward to the next forty years.



Speeches were given by those involved with SAVE past and present, including Marcus Binney and Clem Cecil, SAVE Trustees James Hall, Sir Simon Jenkins and John Harris, Kit Martin and former Secretary Adam Wilkinson.

Thanks to two generous donations of champagne we were able to treat our guests to some fizz, whilst supper was supplied by La Forchetta, an independent deli near SAVE's offices in Farringdon.

St Sepulchre's proved a fitting venue, as it was the first church to be opened by The Friends of The City Churches in 1994, an organisation founded by SAVE when the Templeman Commission threatened many churches in the Square Mile with closure. The Friends of The City Churches now thrives as an independent charity, ensuring many City churches are now open to the public and in active use. Its Chairman is Oliver Leigh Wood, a Trustee of SAVE.



Some 200 guests attended the evening, and helped ensure it was a great success and a memorable event. Thank you to everyone who came, especially our fantastic team of volunteers who worked tirelessly to set up for the evening, decorate the church, pour drinks, serve food, and sell publications.

Our big thanks also to St Sepulchre's and its staff who helped the evening go without a hitch, and to Barry and Genesis Eveleigh for taking photos of the evening. Their photographs of the party can be viewed here: http://www.eveleighphotography.net/p329431345

#### **Forthcoming Saviour event**

Our inaugural Saviour Symposium will be hosted by SAVE Trustee Dan Cruickshank in Spring next year. It is an opportunity for Saviours to hear in depth and up to date news on cases and campaigns from members of the SAVE team.

More information will follow in the New Year.

For information about becoming a Saviour please see below.

## SAVE NEWS

#### Office News

In October we welcomed Gary Davies as our new office manager, a newly created position overseeing the running of the SAVE office and providing support for the team. Gary has recently completed his doctorate in the study of urban history, and lectures at Nottingham Trent University in their history department.

Much of SAVE's work is supported by volunteers, so our thanks are always due to those who help. Alison Homewood has been providing fantastic support on a forthcoming publication on 'big saves', Nancy Arbuckle has been working on SAVE Europe's Heritage's Tbilisi project, and Alexander Greenall has been assisting with Castle House. Thanks must also go to Esther Robinson-Wild, Amy Smith, Catherine Townsend, Alice Yates, Matt Stockwell, and Helen Walasek for helping with our 40<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations.

#### Website

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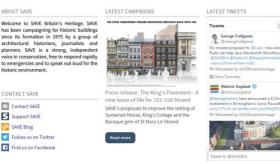
Follow us on Twitte Find us on Facebook

After many years without an update SAVE's website has finally been overhauled and redesigned, making it easier to navigate and compatible with mobile phones and tablets.

The homepage has been stripped back so that only the most recent news appears, and larger pictures are present throughout. This is particularly noticeable in the buildings at risk register, which previously only supported small images and failed to emphasise the beauty and quality of the buildings featured.



#### Campaigning for threatened historic buildings



The new homenage

Please visit www.savebritainsheritage.org to explore the new site, and please let us know if you spot any typos, dead links, or problems which need correcting.



Screengrab of the buildings at risk register, with larger pictures

#### Grants

SAVE is delighted to announce a £300,000 grant from The Monument Fund to contribute to our core costs over a period of three years. The grant will enable us to stabilise our finances for the future, allowing us to campaign for buildings for many more years to come. The grant demonstrates a huge vote of confidence in the organisation, and we are extremely grateful to The Monument Trust, one of our longest-standing supporters, for their ongoing commitment.

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THE · MONUMENT · TRUST
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SAVE would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the ongoing support from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, who has granted £27,000 per annum for three years. SAVE is now half way through the grant period, and is pleased to report on the tremendous difference the grant has made in helping with our core costs, ensuring we are able to continue offering advice and guidance to local campaigners, and champion Britain's endangered heritage.

#### Support SAVE

The great benefit of supporting SAVE with an annual subscription, either as a Friend or a Saviour, is the knowledge that your money is going straight into the front line of conservation work - take a look at our Annual Review to see exactly where your subscription goes!

Become a SAVE Friend for just £36 per year, or a Saviour for £250.

If you are new to SAVE and would like to support us, please fill in the enclosed subscription form, and post it back to the office. Alternatively call us on 020 7253 3500, or visit www.savebritainsheritage.org/support

If you are already a Friend, and would like to become a Saviour in time for the inaugural Saviour event next year, please call the office on the above number and we can amend your records.

#### Legacies

Leaving a gift in your will to SAVE is a wonderful way to ensure the charity keeps campaigning for another forty years. By including a gift in your will, large or small, you are helping to ensure that SAVE continues to work to protect Britain's heritage, ensuring your legacy lives on in the very fabric of British architecture.

Don't forget to include our charity number when writing your will. (269129)

#### **Fighting Fund**

This year SAVE announced the creation of a ring-fenced Fighting Fund, following a generous donation from a major donor. This fund is designed to cover the legal costs of Public Inquiries and Judicial Reviews, which are crucial in our toolkit for safeguarding endangered heritage.

Donating to the Fighting Fund is a tangible way to contribute to SAVE's core work and we invite you to support it.

To discuss your subscription, leaving a gift in your will, or supporting the Fighting Fund, please email Emily Lunn (<u>emily.lunn@savebritainsheritage.org</u>) or call 0207 253 3500

### **BOOK REVIEW**

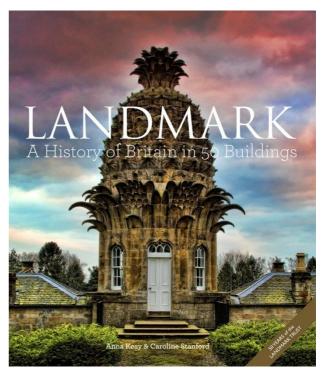
## Landmark: A History of Britain in 50 Buildings

#### Anna Keay and Caroline Stanford Published by Frances Lincoln Limited, 2015

Marking 50 years of the Landmark Trust in 2015, this is a bold undertaking, recounting not only the history of Landmark, but also a wider architectural and social history of Britain since 1250, as told through a selection of Landmark's properties.

Beginning with a short background to Landmark, the introduction considers the charity's foundation by Sir John Smith and his wife Christian in 1965, its methods and approaches, some of the major challenges faced and overcome, and the way it has developed and expanded into the organisation it is today.

The Smiths were dismayed at the high number of demolitions of historic buildings during the 1950s and 1960s. With a particular interest in vernacular and industrial architecture, and in modest sized buildings unsuitable for acquisition by organisations such as the National Trust, they founded Landmark in 1965 as a new organisation to save threatened buildings.



Lord Dunmore's folly, the Falkirk Pineapple, is one of Landmark's most iconic properties

The plan was simple – save buildings by finding suitable uses for them, with preservation and use to have parity of importance. From the outset holiday lets were the preferred end use. 50 years on the Smiths' creation has gone on to restore and rescue some 200 buildings, which are now enjoyed by over 50,000 people each year.

The real substance of the book however, are the 50 detailed case studies of their properties, which demonstrate Landmark's methods and approaches.

Grouped together in five chronological time periods, each case study gives first and foremost a detailed history of the building, its owners, and its evolution, before explaining Landmark's involvement. Each is beautifully illustrated with archival and recent imagery, and places the examples within a national context, adding to their individual histories.

Starting with Purton Green in Suffolk, a country manor house dating from 1250, the examples range from town houses to country estates, to follies and water towers, to lighthouses, train stations, hospitals, and many more in between.

Notable examples include Auchinleck House in Ayrshire, a grand Palladian villa of 1760; 'The Pineapple' in Falkirk, a 1770s folly of unique design (see cover image); and the Martello Tower in Suffolk, built to repel Napoleon but which now welcomes visitors from all over the world.

The book concludes with Astley Castle in Warwickshire, a ruined fifteenth century fortified manor house revived with delicate new insertions in 2012. More than any other this sums up the Landmark's unique approach to restoration and reuse - not being afraid to take on the most challenging of buildings, and attempting something that others within the conservation world might shy away from. Astley Castle deservedly won the 2013 Stirling Prize, making it the first conservation project to do so, and is witness to the success of the Landmark Trust.

'Good enough is not good enough' was one of the mottoes John Smith and his teams at Landmark lived by. *Landmark: A history of Britain in 50 buildings* is fitting testament to this, a tremendous publication, marking 50 years of dedication to historic buildings, their individual histories, and unique charms.

SAVE Friends can order *Landmark* at the discounted price of £20 including p&p (RRP: £25)

To order please telephone 01903 828503 or email <u>mailorders@lbsltd.co.uk</u> and quote the offer code **APG352.** 

## SAVE EUROPE'S HERITAGE

#### Tbilisi, Georgia

We have been making progress on our report on Tbilisi. Photographer Richard Davies, known for his work in Russia, particularly on wooden churches, made two trips to Tbilisi this year, in June and November to take pictures for the report. In June he was accompanied by Clem Cecil of SAVE, Henrietta Billings from the 20th Century Society, and Peter Nasmyth from the Tbilisi Heritage Group. As well as gathering material for the report, Clem and Henrietta gave a presentation about their campaigning work in the UK to a good audience at Tbilisi's Frontline Club.



The proposed Panorama Project, Tbilisi

The biggest threat facing Tbilisi today is the Panorama project that former Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili is proposing to build on the protected hillsides around the historic city. Tbilisi is an extraordinarily beautiful city, and its setting is integral to this beauty, and to its historic development. An overbearing project such as Panorama, which consists of two large towers and a third multistorey business centre would have the effect of sitting 'on top' of the historic city which is built in a bowl of hills.

SAVE opposes this vigorously, and in September this year we initiated a letter to the Georgian President, signed by a dozen leading conservation groups, both British and international. We continue to monitor the situation. The full text of the letter can be found on our website in the SAVE Europe's Heritage section.



**Tbilisi. Photo by Richard Davies** 

Work on the report continues. SAVE Europe's Heritage has pledged £3,500 towards the project and we are seeking match funding. Clem Cecil published an article in the RIBA Friends magazine this autumn about Tbilisi, with photographs by Richard Davies. It was the cover story and has helped raised awareness about threats to this extraordinary city. We aim to publish autumn 2016.



Interior of a privately owned house, showing one of Tbilisi's famous stairwells. Photo by Richard Davies

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