



**BTT Members,**

**The BTT Board hope you will find this newsletter useful and informative.**

**If you wish to comment or include something in the publication, please contact the Chair on [p.riddington@outlook.com](mailto:p.riddington@outlook.com)**

**Or the Secretary on [gayerynsardbtt@gmail.com](mailto:gayerynsardbtt@gmail.com)**

**The Board values your feedback and contributions.**

## **Chair's Comments**

**Newsletter No 3**

**February 2020**

Welcome to the third of our occasional newsletters. There's little from me but John Popham explains how our support has helped the West Suffolk College put together the first conservation-based building technology course for such young trainees in the UK. John's contribution to achieving this cannot be overstated.

There is also an update about 11 High Baxter Street from Paul Rynsard, who has taken on the onerous task of project managing the delivery of our proposals. Paul particularly explains where we have got to with planning permissions and fund raising.

You should have had a letter which explains this, along with rather formal documents which we had to do to satisfy legal requirements, we rather hope they don't put off folks wanting to help out and get involved by investing.

Enjoy.

## **11 High Baxter Street**

### **Members' Loans**

Hopefully, members will have received a letter from BTT Treasurer Paul Tatum explaining the first steps in the process required to raise the funds required for this project.

The Board hope that members who can will participate in the offer and help us start this exciting project. We do hope you don't find the official nature of the documents too daunting. We have to comply with the Financial Services Act which requires such a level of formality. It is intended to safeguard everyone, not to put folks off!

If you require any help or assistance or a further understanding of our programme and works planned for the house, please contact Paul Rynsard our Project Manager who will happy to go over the details on the phone or pop in and see you at a time to suit you.

Paul's contact details are 07831 105062 (mobile), 01284 753066 or email [paulrynsard@gmail.com](mailto:paulrynsard@gmail.com)

## Progress so far . . .

January will see us submit planning permission and listed building consent applications to West Suffolk Council. Whitworth's the Architects, assisted by the Trust's working group, have completed the required designs and we have drafted the heritage statement. If you want to post a positive comment on the applications, the documents will be available on the



West Suffolk Planning Portal:  
<https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/vieworcommentonplanningapplications.cfm>

The application process should not take more than a couple of months. We will use this time to start putting together suitable contractors and the packages of work starting with the ground works, external elevations, roofs etc, subject of course to funding. Meanwhile, we have arranged for temporary lighting and power so we can see round the house safely. The rear garden has been cleared of evasive plants and this gives us a better idea of the possible configuration of a future garden plan.

We have had a meeting with the District Council's energy expert on how best to approach heating the house in a sustainable way. This includes vastly improving insulation and exploring fossil fuel alternatives. We are intending the house refurbishment will provide an exemplar for Listed properties and achieving sustainability.

*Paul Rynsard*

## Join the BTT BOARD . . .

The BTT Board has three vacancies which need to be filled as soon as possible.

- As the Board proceeds with its projects, the knowledge and expertise of someone from the legal profession is increasingly required.
- A person with computer skills to ensure that members' details are kept up to date and processed regularly is needed to fulfil the post of Membership Secretary.
- Finally, the BTT Board is looking for someone to liaise between the Board and West Suffolk College. This post requires interaction with staff and students and a knowledge of building/conservation skills would be a bonus.

If you, or anyone you know, would like to join the Board, please contact Peter Riddington, the Chair, on [p.riddington@outlook.com](mailto:p.riddington@outlook.com)

Peter will be pleased to discuss further details and involvement.



### **BTEC Level 3 Course**

#### **Construction and Conservation in the Built Environment (CCBE Course)**

#### **THE FIRST BUILDING CONSERVATION COURSE OF ITS TYPE IN ENGLAND**

Since 2012, BTT has been working with West Suffolk College (WSC) on historic building conservation training for construction students at the college. For some years the Trust provided a free lecture course covering the main historic building conservation trades and awarded annual scholarships for selected students at BTEC 2 & 3 levels.

Eighteen months ago it was decided to change from lectures to practical training for construction students as this was found to be of more interest and use to them. This has also led to a review of the scholarships that had up to then been awarded to selected students each year thereby giving them practical experience.

The course, which is currently being taken by the BTEC Level 3 construction students at the College includes the following conservation elements for the current academic year:

- An introduction to the historical

development of buildings in East Anglia, with special reference to Bury St Edmunds. Tour of buildings in Bury provided by West Suffolk Council.

- Oak framing – training day in Reydon Woods.
- Wattle and daub and lime plastering - training day at Orchard Barn.
- Stone and flint.
- Brickwork - visit to Bulmer Brick & Tile Co and training in bricklaying with lime mortar.
- Conserving sliding sash and other window types - training provided by Ventrolla.
- Archaeology – site overview and lecture provided by Britannia Archaeology.

In place of the BTT Scholarship the Trust will be making an annual Achievement in Building Conservation Award to the student on the CCBE course, judged jointly by BTT and WSC to be outstanding. The winner will receive an engraved tool of his/her trade, a certificate, and a £100 cash prize to help with their studies.

BTT wishes to thank its course financial sponsors and also the organisations named above that have voluntarily provided training. We would be unable to run the course without their help.

Why is the course of such significance? This is the first course of its type in England. No other BTEC Level 2 or 3 course provides mandatory conservation

training as part of its standard trade teaching – normally students have to opt for the specialization.

In Bury St Edmunds, for example, it is estimated that some 40% of all building work involves historic (pre1919) buildings. At a time when so many tradespeople with these skills have retired, it is essential to ensure continuity if these important buildings are to continue to be properly maintained.

*John Popham*