NEW LIFE FOR OLD BUILDINGS

Supported by the National Trust

East of England Historic Environment Forum

Heritage Trust Network
A future for all our pasts

01/05/2019 Ickworth House

10:30 – 16:00

Are you a charity or social enterprise interested in saving heritage at risk in the East of England? Share your experiences and learn with like-minded people.

WHAT IS THE EVENT?
A day school organised by the East of England Historic Environment Forum and HTN.

WHO SHOULD COME?
Community-led organisations and others thinking of taking on a historic building for the long term. The day school is open to all, of any experience level.

WHAT TO EXPECT?
The day focuses on the question: What are the possibilities and practicalities for small trusts and similar organisations of owning and maintaining a historic building? Enjoy talks, workshopping and a site tour covering the possibilities and practicalities of finding sustainable new uses, getting the business plan right and the organisation fit for purpose, and planning for long-term maintenance and management.

OUTCOMES:
- Improved understanding of heritage projects
- Better forward planning for new and existing projects
- Better connections with projects in your area
- Awareness of new ideas and approaches across the sector

“Give yourself that time outside of the office to have ideas!”
10:00-10:30 Coffee and Registration

10:30-10:40 Welcome to the day school and Ickworth

10:40-11:00 What could we use the building for?
This session will cover options appraisals and feasibility studies, and where help and funding can be obtained to carry out these tasks. This session is delivered by the Architectural Heritage Fund.

11:00 – 11:15 Case study: New uses for old churches.
Redundant churches are among the most difficult old buildings to adapt to new purposes. The Norwich Historic Churches Trust, which cares for 18 churches, explains the wide range of new uses its churches have been put to.

11:15-11:35 How can we adapt our building to a new purpose?
Adapting an old building to a new purpose can be challenging and must be done sensitively if we are to preserve the historic interest and significance of the building. This session, delivered by the Royal Institute of British Architects, explores the creative role of conservation architects, together with practicalities such as obtaining listed building consent.

This 15th century guildhall has been imaginatively adapted as a community venue hosting a wide range of events, with its own interactive museum, small shop and library. The Fitchingfield Guildhall Trust will tell us how it was done.

11:45-12:00 Coffee break

12:00-12:20 Getting the business plan right.
So we’ve found a new purpose for our building and have worked out how we can adapt it, but will the business plan stack up in the long term? This session is about developing effective business plans, including financing the proposed business, and is delivered by the Heritage Trust Network.

12:20-12:30 Case studies: St George’s Theatre, the South-East Tower and other inspiration from Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust
Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust is one of the most dynamic building preservation trusts in the east of England, and has helped to find economically viable new uses for some very diverse types of historic buildings. Darren Barker, director of the trust, will tell the story.

12:30-13:30 Lunch and ‘surgeries’.
During lunch participating organisations will staff tables where conference participants can ask specific questions, pick up literature, and find out more about how the organisations can help with advice, practical support and (in some cases) grant assistance.
AGENDA

Taking on a building and the responsibility for running a business may mean setting up a new organisation or making significant changes to the governance and structure of an existing organisation. It may also involve bringing in new skills and developing partnerships. This session is about how to achieve the necessary organisational change, and where advice and funding can be obtained. The session is delivered by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

13:50-14:00 Case study: Bawdsey Radar.
This case study will follow the story from the setting up of the Bawdsey Radar Group in 2003, its transition to a trust in 2008, to the opening of a unique heritage attraction in 2017. The Bawdsey Radar Trust will describe their journey and the organisational challenges faced and overcome.

14:00-14:20 The long-term management of historic buildings.
This session is about planning for sustainability from the outset, and will explain such tools as conservation plans and management & maintenance plans. The session will be delivered by the National Trust who of course have unparalleled experience of the long-term management of historic buildings.

14:20-14:30 Case study: Hedingham Castle.
This case study will describe how an extraordinarily well-preserved Norman keep has been sensitively adapted to meet the demands of a 21st-century wedding and events venue, and the challenges of managing and maintaining a medieval building.
The session will be delivered by the owner, Jason Lindsay, representing Historic Houses.

14.30-15.30: Workshop and Summing up.
Stimulated by real examples of buildings on the Historic England Heritage at Risk register, participants will work in groups to consider possible new uses for the buildings, how they might be sensitively adapted to new uses, and what implications running the buildings might have for an organisation taking them on. This will be followed by a ‘reveal’ of some of the uses and alterations that have been worked up for the buildings. The workshop, delivered by Historic England, will draw together the various strands from the day, and end with a general question & answer session.
RAISING THE ROOF
15:30-16:00

‘Ickworth Uncovered’ is a huge conservation project which will secure Ickworth’s future for generations to come. The day school will end with a visit to the project, led by the National Trust.

- cost: £5 million
- scale: 42 tonnes of slate
- size: 100 metres in circumference

The East of England Historic Environment Forum is a collaboration of bodies with shared interests in protecting and promoting the historic environment, including the Architectural Heritage Fund, the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers, the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England, Heritage Trust Network, Historic England, Historic Houses, the Institute for Historic Building Conservation, the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the National Trust and the Royal Institute of British Architects.

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Cost: £10 (plus eventbrite booking fee)
Lunch provided

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