

**BRADFORD BUILDING PRESERVATION  
TRUST  
NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2003**



**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

It is ten years since Bradford Building Preservation Trust was set up and since then the Trust has developed a growing and varied workload. As well as appreciating your continued support, we welcome new members who would like to take an active part in helping to restore some of the area's threatened historic buildings. Membership fees are £15 per year or (£150 if you wish to be made a life member) and includes a twice-yearly newsletter. If you or someone you know would like to become involved in the work of the Trust please ring Derek O'Hearne (01274 620088) or complete the enclosed slip and send it to the Membership Secretary, Bradford Building Preservation Trust, c/o Horwath Clark Whitehill, Pelican House, 10 Currer Street, Bradford, BD1 4HP.

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**THE WORK OF THE TRUST**

Bradford Building Preservation Trust's objective is to restore unused and derelict historic buildings – listed or unlisted – in the Bradford area and where possible, return them to viable new uses. As a legacy of Bradford's rich history thousands of buildings, many associated with the wealthy Victorian textile industry, have become unsuitable for their original use. They range from grand houses and mills to small chapels, lodges and other buildings, all of which help to tell the story of Bradford's past and can still contribute to its present.

Today there are more than 300 listed buildings in the Bradford area on English Heritage's 'at risk' register as well as many unlisted but unused historic buildings that make their own valuable contribution to Bradford's heritage. All these buildings have been caught in a spiral of decline, deterioration and dereliction and something needs to be done to return them to their former glory. Restoring such buildings not only gives the fabric a new lease of life, but new functions which allow them to continue contributing both to the area's economy and its unique character.

The cost of repairing such buildings is often greater than their value when restored. A Building Preservation Trust can access grants and other funds that can be maximised to help to offset the costs. Bradford Building Preservation Trust covers the whole of the Bradford District and as a 'revolving' trust, uses proceeds from a previous scheme as capital to fund the next project.

**UPDATE ON CLIFFE CASTLE LODGE**

Cliff Castle and its Lodge in Keighley were designed by a locally born architect, George Smith, for the Butterfields, one of Keighley's principal textile families. In 1875, with its original 300 acres, Cliffe Castle cost £120,000 to create. Designed as a Tudor-style castle it had all the comforts available to a rich Victorian family. After the Second World War Sir Bracewell Smith, a former Lord Mayor of London bought the

castle and donated it to Keighley Borough Council who opened in 1959 as the town's museum, art gallery and park. In the 1970's with the loss of the park keeper, the Lodge's function ceased and over 20 years a slow process of decline (and latterly, vandalism) meant that the Lodge became a building at risk and the Trust became involved.



Architects Webb, Seager, Moorhouse designed the scheme to transform the derelict building into a new, accessible workplace. Bradford Council, Bradford Environmental Action Trust and money from the Heritage Lottery Fund provided the necessary financial support. The project was completed in May 2001 on schedule and on budget and in July 2001 the Trust and the new owner of the Lodge invited members to see the restored property. We hope that there will be a further opportunity to view the Lodge and discuss the project during the Heritage Open days 2003. (Please see below)

#### **ILKLEY CEMETERY: THE NORTH AND SOUTH CHAPELS**

In 1999 we reported that the Non-conformist and Anglican chapels at the entrance to Ilkley Cemetery were no longer required for conducting funeral services. Both chapels are listed Grade II and date from the 1880's, being built in sandstone and gritstone in a simplified Gothic style with some Romanesque detailing. The Trust bought the chapels from Bradford Council at a peppercorn rent and a scheme has been devised to lay on water and other services and make repairs to both buildings.



New uses for both chapels must also be appropriate to their location in the cemetery. The South Chapel is being leased as an archive and money from this combined with other grants and funding from the Trust will enable restoration works on both chapels. Listed Building Consent has been granted for the necessary repair works to both chapels and a tender has been accepted. However, bats are roosting in both chapels! These are a protected species so an expert has been brought in to advise on the best approach. Please see the paragraph on Heritage Open Day for a chance to view the chapels.

#### **ILKLEY CEMETERY GRAVESTONES**

Ilkley Civic Society and Bradford Building Preservation Trust are working jointly to find a more suitable setting for the many gravestones that used to surround All Saints Parish Church. At present they are stacked in a corner of Ilkley Cemetery. Permission to carry out the scheme has been sought from Bradford MDC's

Cemeteries officer and local organisations have also been asked to write letters of support. It will be necessary to prepare a bid for grant aid to undertake the delicate task of moving the stones to a more fitting resting place around the two cemetery chapels and it is hoped that the work will begin after the refurbishment work to the two chapels is completed.

### **WHITE WELLS, ILKLEY**

There has been for some time concern over the condition and future of this small but important Georgian Bath House which has been falling into disrepair. White Wells was Britain's first hydropathic spa and in 1859, during the publication of his book 'Origin of the Species', Charles Darwin came to the Wells in order to take the waters. A public meeting was recently held in Ilkley Town Hall on the future of White Wells and Bradford Council are continuing to repair and preserve this unique historic building for future generations to enjoy.

BBPT has offered the Civic Society help and advice where needed. Derek O'Hearne and Steve Bateman of the BBPT were recently invited to address the Civic Society on this matter and have been made honorary members of the Society. It is hoped that it will not be too long before visitors to the White Wells can see it fully restored.

### **TAKE PART IN 'HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2003'.**

Heritage Open Days give public access to buildings that are otherwise private or which usually charge admission. Funded and supported by English Heritage and coordinated by the Civic Trust, they were established in 1994 as the English component of European Heritage Days. The Open Days promote interest in our local and national heritage and particularly in historic buildings and have been described as Britain's most popular cultural event. The dates for your diary are 12-15 September.

This year the Trust has been asked to participate and we are hoping to arrange to open Cliffe Castle Lodge and provide a further opportunity to visit Cliffe Castle Lodge for members of the Trust who did not manage to attend the opening. Ilkley North Cemetery Chapel will be open to visitors as part of a heritage walk on Sunday 14 September. Ilkley Civic Society are leading the walk which will start at the Central Car Park, central pavement at 2.00pm. The walk will last about two hours and go through the artisan's town of Ilkley and into Ilkley Cemetery.

### **OTHER NEW PROJECTS**

Bradford MDC have offered the Trust four additional cemetery chapels, all of which are of local historic interest, are no longer required for their original purpose and are in urgent need of restoration and repair. The chapel at Bowling is listed grade II, but the other chapels - at Charlestown (Baildon), Uttley, and Bingley are not listed, nor are they in conservation areas. This means that there is little financial aid available to assist in their restoration. Once the chapels are repaired therefore, it is important that they are given appropriate new uses and become economically viable. The Trust is hoping to be successful in a grant application from the Architectural Heritage Fund with regard to the listed chapel at Bowling and will also undertake a formal assessment of its potential for re-use.

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Trust will hold its A G M at Ilkley Town Hall on Wednesday 24 September beginning at 4.30pm. We hope as many members as possible will attend.

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Chairman: Derek O'Hearne  
THE BRADFORD BUILDING PRESERVATION TRUST, C/O COMMERCE COURT,  
CHALLENGE WAY, BRADFORD, W. YORKS, BD4 8NW.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

### **Subscriptions are due from all members at the beginning of September.**

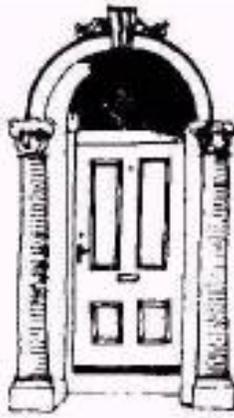
As a charitable trust we can apply for tax relief on membership subscriptions. This allows us to use funds to their full potential in our work to preserve buildings of local and national interest. If you are able to help in this way, when you complete the enclosed slip at the end of the newsletter, please sign the appropriate section and enclose it with your membership subscription of £15 per member (or £150.00 for life membership).

Cheques should be made payable to BRADFORD BUILDING PRESERVATION TRUST and returned to **The Membership Secretary, Bradford Building Preservation Trust, c/o Horwath Clark Whitehill, Pelican House, 10 Currer Street, Bradford, BD1 4HP.** Thank you for your help.

### **New Members**

You may know of someone who would like to join the BBPT and support us in our work of restoring and finding viable new uses for some of Bradford's historic buildings. If so, please give them a copy of the enclosed form to complete and send to the address above along with a subscription of £15 for each new member.

If you would like to become more actively involved in the Trust, Please ring Derek O'Hearne on 01274 620088



**BRADFORD  
BUILDING  
PRESERVATION  
TRUST**

I enclose a cheque for £ ..... being my subscription for the Bradford Building Preservation Trust for the year 2003/4 (or £150 for life membership).

Name.....

Address.....

..... Post Code.....

Contact Telephone number .....

I am a member of Bradford Building preservation Trust and a tax-payer. I would like my subscription to be used to claim tax-relief.

Signed..... Date .....

(Your details will remain confidential and will not be sent to any other organisation)

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**The Membership Secretary, Bradford Building Preservation Trust c/o Horwath  
Clark Whitehill, Pelican House, 10 Currer Street, Bradford, BD1 4HP.**