

Conservation

bulletin

Sporting Heritage



Nothing binds people like their shared legacy of sport. But the needs of modern audiences and players are constantly changing. How, then, do we sustain sporting memories for the future?

The crowd no longer roars at Arsenal's old Highbury stadium, but its memory remains imprinted in Allies and Morrison's redevelopment of the site. The listed stands have been transformed into residential apartments and the sacred turf into a garden square precisely mirroring the footprint of the original pitch. © Dennis Gilbert

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Editorial: *Repositories of Memory*

Historic sporting venues can link people to places in a uniquely powerful way – but statutory designation is not necessarily the best way to protect this vital component of our cultural heritage.

As a lifelong football supporter, and a member of the Designation Department at English Heritage for 14 years, the challenges of protecting and celebrating our sporting heritage have fascinated and frustrated me in equal measure. How many of our football stadiums, for example – iconic sites recognisable by fans across the world – are designated? By their very nature arenas are dynamic places that have constantly to respond to the changing safety, financial and sporting demands of their owners, audiences and players. This means that original fabric and historic features are easily lost, with very little time for reflection. Indeed, Wembley Stadium, rich in the history of our national sporting achievements, and listed at Grade II, was entirely rebuilt to expand its capacity and provide much better facilities (see Velluet, p 23). And what a new stadium it is, with Foster and Partners' 317m-wide arch rising high above the skyline of west London. Of the two cup finals I was lucky enough to attend at Wembley, the second, in the new stadium, certainly afforded me a far superior view of the action while relishing the atmosphere.

The narrow focus of listing, with its concentration on special architectural and historic interest, doesn't allow us to recognise the huge value of sporting sites as repositories of shared memories, the emotional connection that spectators and participants have with particular places and traditions. The main trigger for a recent listing request for Old Trafford, the home of Manchester United, arguably the most famous football club in the world, was the mistaken belief that the listing would ensure that the name of the ground could never be changed, as so many others have been recently to reflect the contributions of commercial sponsors. Indeed, the information that listing would lead to a careful consideration of expansion plans for the stadium led to a rapid cooling of enthusiasm for the idea.

Yet despite these issues, public interest and affection for sporting sites, both large-scale stadiums like Lords cricket ground (Tennant pp 7–9), and smaller, more intimate venues such as the Cleveland Pools in Bath (East, pp 29–30) or Southampton's Old Bowling Green (Hornby, pp 32–3), continues to grow. Let us not forget that the first winner of the TV programme *Restoration* was the extraordinary Victoria Baths in Manchester, where a sustained campaign of restoration and research has led to much more than a reinvigorated swimming baths (Wright pp 26–7).

In this Olympic year, it is also heartening to see that it is not only the eye-catching centrepieces in Stratford that have been so carefully considered, but also the infrastructure and spaces around them (Averley pp 34–6). Indeed, the relationship between sporting sites and their surroundings is a key element of their atmosphere and character – the development of Anfield, home of Liverpool FC, and the surrounding terraces of local housing is a key exemplar of this (Done and Titterington pp 24–5).

And finally we have a demonstration that in some cases designation really can make a difference. The redevelopment of the stands at Highbury as apartments would not even have been considered as an option had the Binnie East Stand not been listed at Grade II (Morrison pp 21–3). The successful scheme proves that by recognising and sensitively highlighting the context of the site – the pitch, on which so many glorious footballing feats took place, is now a residential London square unlike any other – the spirit of the place lives on, even though the football club itself is down the road.

Gemma Abercrombie

Head of Designation Casework and Programmes, English Heritage

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Playing the Game

The legacy of sport matters to people. But which is more important: the hallowed turf or the intangible memories?

For more than a hundred years sport has lain at the heart of English popular culture. Whether on the playing field, the race course or in the swimming pool, its traditions run deep and its memories provide a vital link between people and their shared past. It is therefore strange, as Jason Wood (pp 3–5) and Simon Inglis (pp 5–7) explain, that England's rich heritage of sport has received so little attention in terms either of research or conservation.

In this opening section we look at some of the ways in which sporting history has imprinted itself not only on the physical landscape but also the less tangible cultural traditions of its players and audiences. Sometimes the legacy is encapsulated in an enclosed and private environment like Lords cricket ground (Tennant, pp 7–9) or the temperance billiard halls of 19th-century London and Manchester (Inglis, pp 14–15) but it can also extend with more complicated consequences across a whole landscape (Gates, pp 9–10) or even, as Philip Davies shows (pp 11–12), an Empire.

While some sporting activities involve a complicated infrastructure of specially built tracks and stadiums (Harwood, pp 17–18) others require no more than the wild countryside as their venue, as in the case of mountaineering and fell-walking in the Lake District (Kenyon, pp 13–14) or an artfully modified version of the natural environment of the kind evolved over more than 400 years to meet the needs of competitive golf (White, pp 15–17).

Sport, heritage and identity

Jason Wood

Director, Heritage Consultancy Services

In my first year at secondary school I won an essay competition. The title was intriguing and, as it turned out, prophetic. It read: 'Imagine you are an archaeologist in the year 3000. Describe and interpret your discoveries resulting from the excavation of Anfield Football Ground in Liverpool'.

It is at times like this when you wish your parents had kept all your school work. I do, however, dimly recall that the Anfield excavation revealed an enclosure of concrete terraces and turnstiles. The conclusion reached was that the building was an open-air prison (the turnstiles only permitting entry one way) and, to judge from the graffiti, the inmates had taken to worshipping a God named Shankly.

Fast forward 40 years to June 2010, and a meeting to explore the heritage implications of the decision to redevelop the site of Anfield when Liverpool's proposed new stadium across the road in Stanley Park is completed (see Done and Titterton pp 24–5). I am sitting in 5-star luxury in one of the executive boxes in the Centenary Stand, staring incredulously at a wall poster on which some corporate sponsor has contrived to misspell the name Shankly. A quote from another famous manager, Brian Clough, springs to mind:

A lot of people are coming to games who wouldn't know Stanley Matthews from Bernard Matthews. The stands are full of people who can't tell you anything about the game unless it happened after 1990. They're either so conceited or so stupid that they believe football was invented just five minutes before they became interested in it.
(Hamilton 2007, 197)

This opinion holds true for most football clubs. They simply do not 'do history'; do not 'do old'. Their focus is on the here and now, with an unimpeded view to the future – the next game, the next win, the next balance sheet. Rarely do they engage with the past, and when they do it is a past fore-shortened, with Year Zero being the creation of the Premier League: 'Way back in 1992 ... in the depths of history', as one BBC Radio 5 Live commentator recently put it.

Way back in 1992 saw my first venture into writing on sports heritage. It was in the form of a letter to *The Guardian*. It concerned the fate of some of Britain's historic football grounds in the wake of recommendations for all-seater stadiums and argued that they were as relevant to the study of early modern society and culture as hotels, theatres, cinemas and railway stations, which seemed better served by statutory designation. Nobody in the heritage sector was listening, and some popular football landmarks continued to disappear without a nod of recognition below housing estates, retail parks and supermarkets, presumably to await discovery by archaeologists in the year 3000.

It was not until a meeting in September 2001 that I was finally able to persuade English Heritage to commission a pilot study on various aspects of the history and heritage of sport. The pilot area was

to be Manchester, the driver being the Commonwealth Games due to be held in the city in 2002 (*Conservation Bulletin* 43, 9–13).

As an archaeologist, I first approached the heritage of sport from a conservation management perspective. The Manchester study showed that a balanced approach to the wide range of values and benefits that flow from sports heritage required more than understanding and respecting special historical, architectural and landscape significance. It must also include celebration of the local customs, traditions and routines that people associate with such places, recognising their importance as repositories of public memory (Wood 2005).

At this time I began to initiate discussions with DCMS, which was after all responsible for sport and for heritage, and therefore joined-up government. I firmly believed that sports heritage offered a dynamic focus for public engagement that chimed well with the delivery of a number of key government priorities across the social and cultural spectrum (regeneration, education, healthy living, tourism), especially in the build-up to the London Olympics in 2012. Sport doubtless had the potential to attract new audiences to heritage, particularly young people and others who may feel excluded from traditional ideas about heritage. Frustratingly, all of these efforts came to nothing.

Likewise, although the Manchester pilot did spawn the excellent *Played in Britain* series (see Inglis pp 5–7) the original concept was never rolled out across the country as had been hoped.

Consequently, sport continues to linger below the heritage radar and the sector's responses to redevelopment of some historic venues have been inadequate, belated or inconsistent. Today, the scale of loss and change is unprecedented. Controversial closure and disposal of sports facilities by public and private bodies continues unabashed and with too little regard for their heritage values.

To further explore these themes I co-organised a series of seminars on the public representation of sport in museums and heritage sites. Run between 2006 and 2008, they were funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council in association with De Montfort University's International Centre for Sports History and Culture and the National Football Museum. The resulting dialogue between different interest groups highlighted the synergies between sport, history, heritage and museology and will hopefully help to shape coherent policy and practice in this area (Hill, Moore and Wood, forthcoming).

In subsequent research I have tried to focus attention on the mutually reinforcing role of sport, heritage and identity in the place-making agenda. These themes are particularly acute in football and my current work explores how the tangible and



The statue of Bill Shankly standing outside Liverpool FC's museum entrance in the Kop Stand was commissioned by Carlsberg (then the club's main sponsors) in 1997. Created by sculptor Tom Murphy, who numbers a statue of John Lennon among his public works, it depicts the manager with arms defiantly outstretched. 'He made the people happy' reads the inscription, and his memory and legacy continue to do so to this day.
© Jason Wood

A housing estate now occupies the site of Middlesbrough FC's historic home at Ayresome Park. Neville Gabie's commemorative art project involved the incorporation of artworks in and around the new houses as symbolic allusions to the former ground. Here, a bronze football marks one of the penalty spots. A neighbouring resident and friend of the player Paul Gascoigne was always worried that Gazza might take a kick at the ball when he was the worse for wear.

© Neville Gabie



intangible heritage are marked and celebrated at former football grounds like Ayresome Park in Middlesbrough (Wood and Gabie 2011). Exploring people's emotional attachment to these cherished locations, and the different ways in which this attachment is expressed, constitute the most pertinent components of this research.

There have been a number of false starts in mobilising the sports heritage agenda. Opportunities have been missed for improving integration of management and conservation action in the historic sports environment; missed too in terms of innovative community participation through the Cultural Olympiad. The articles that follow, however, are a timely reminder that curiosity and challenge in this field are now firmly up and running. ■

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Charting the heritage of a nation at play

Simon Inglis

Played in Britain series editor

When English Heritage first turned its attention to sport ten years ago, the nation's sporting infrastructure was in the throes of a sweeping modernisation programme.

Starting with football – following the Bradford fire in 1985, which consigned dozens of historic grandstands to the scrapheap, and the Hillsborough disaster four years later, which triggered a stadium rebuilding programme unseen since the 1890s – hardly any of our major sports were left untouched.

Wembley and Twickenham were completely rebuilt, as was most of the All England Tennis Club at Wimbledon. Lord's, The Oval and a succession of other county cricket grounds were similarly upgraded, while at a local authority level, a steady flow of lottery funding allowed the construction of a new generation of leisure centres, most replacing pre-war public baths.

Small wonder, therefore, that when researchers started work on behalf of English Heritage in 2001, the most common reaction was, 'You're too late!'

As Jason Wood has alluded (Wood, pp 3–5), this process began as part of a pilot study into sporting heritage in Manchester, commissioned by English Heritage's North West Region in the run-up to the 2002 Commonwealth Games.

Any expectation that sport's governing bodies would engage in the study were soon dashed. But if we were powerless to influence policy-makers, the pilot study confirmed that there was an urgent need to maintain the momentum.

So it was that the baton was passed to English Heritage Publications, who in 2004 launched the natural corollary to the Manchester pilot study, the *Played in Britain* series, using a format based on the already established *Informed Conservation* series.

As the series now approaches the publication of its thirteenth title, *Played in London* (see pp 40–1), what have been its main achievements?

First, our prime intent has been to draw up a sort of Domesday Book of historic sports-capes and sports-related buildings. The existing



Rivals from the Up'ards and Down'ards teams fight for possession at the annual Shrovetide football game in Ashbourne, Derbyshire. Once there were hundreds of these matches. Now only 15 survive. Played in Britain author Hugh Hornby was able to find extraordinary similarities between them all, linking centuries-old traditions from Cornwall to the Orkneys, and in the process demonstrating how, for all their seeming anarchy, the games are actually highly self-regulated, with a whole set of unwritten rules and conventions.

© Peter Holme

listings helped, even if we considered some to be rather eccentric choices. But most of all we have been assisted by extensive fieldwork, by sports historians and by amateur enthusiasts. Indeed, the goodwill that this ongoing exercise has generated cannot be underestimated, and has, we feel sure, enhanced English Heritage's reputation in areas where before it had no links or common ground. Our helpers really cared about their sports, and showed it in their efforts.

As a result, *Played in Britain* researchers have on numerous occasions been able to offer English Heritage (and Historic Scotland) what we believe to be reliable and sensible advice on the listing of buildings so far overlooked or under-appreciated. This began with the listing in March 2006 of the former Manchester Grammar School pavilion in Salford (built in 1899 and featured in *Played in Manchester*), and there are currently six buildings in London under consideration (see p 41). In this respect, the shift in emphasis to asset management enshrined in PPS5 was of great help. Beforehand, very few sports clubs wanted their building to be listed. Now at least they see some value in the process.

Our second objective has been to disseminate our findings in an accessible format, designed for an audience who may not otherwise be engaged in history.

Janet Smith's work on lidos, for example (published in *Liquid Assets*, 2005), greatly expanded upon two earlier reports by SAVE Britain's Heritage (*Taking the Plunge*, 1982) and The Thirties Society (*Farewell My Lido*, 1991), and gained extensive

media coverage, including spreads in the *Daily Mail* and *Sunday Express*, as well as in most of the broadsheets. Tracey Emin's foreword to the book also helped to bring the subject to a wider audience, leading in March 2006 to our staging of the *Reviving Lidos* conference, the first time that campaigners from all over the country had gathered to share experiences.

Two lidos derelict at that time, London Fields and Uxbridge, have since been re-opened, and a third, at Charlton, is expected to follow suit this summer. After three reprints, meanwhile, *Liquid Assets* has sold out.

An even greater task was to compile a database of historic indoor pools, and, for the first time, to evaluate them within the context of a fully researched historical narrative. In this endeavour *Played in Britain* had luck on its side. In September 2003 Manchester's Victoria Baths won the public vote in the BBC's *Restoration* programme. Suddenly the plight of dozens of threatened Victorian and Edwardian baths came to the fore, as did the medical officer of the Great Britain swimming team. For years, it transpired, Dr Ian Gordon had been building up an extensive archive on historic baths, but lacked the wherewithal to put his findings to public use. *Great Lengths*, the culmination of his lifetime's work, was published in 2009.

In a similar vein, when Hugh Hornby, a former curator at the National Football Museum, came forward with a proposal to study all 15 of the surviving festival football games played in Britain – such as the Shrovetide game in Ashbourne – it was

Played in Liverpool author Ray Physick had always wondered if there were any remnants of the famous Liverpool Stadium, scene of many an epic boxing match between 1932 and 1985. Then a tip-off from a barber in Anfield led him to a garage down by the docks, where Physick found this, the foundation stone, lovingly preserved by the son of a former boxer. With *Played in Britain's* help, the stone is now on display in the new Museum of Liverpool.

© Simon Inglis



on the understanding that he would not only watch but play in them too, in order to describe how they work from a participant's perspective. No one had ever done this before, nor attempted a national overview.

Both Hornby's book, *Uppies and Downies* (2008) and Arthur Taylor's *Played at the Pub* (2009), which won the Katherine Briggs Folklore Award in 2010, illustrate how sporting heritage is often rooted in traditional practices, rather than in association with any purpose-built structures, grounds, clubs or organisations. At Ashbourne, for example, the 'goals' are two mills, separated by three miles of town and country.

Some of our own goals, it must be conceded, have yet to be fulfilled. One is to make the case that certain sportscapes should be considered for inclusion on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens. An example is the Old Bowling Green in Southampton, reputed to date back to the late 13th century. It has no buildings of merit, and is no great beauty. But as an open space of considerable antiquity it is otherwise without statutory protection (see Hornby, pp 32).

Our call for one former football or rugby terrace to be preserved has also gone unheeded.

As to the long-term value of *Played in Britain*, early on we adopted as our mission statement the words of Joseph Strutt, whose seminal work, *The Sports and Pastimes of the People of England*, published in 1801, starts with the proposition that: 'In order to form a just estimation of the character of any particular people, it is absolutely necessary to investigate the sports and pastimes most generally prevalent among them.'

Our modest hope is that 200 years from now, the *Played in Britain* series will prove as illuminating and instructive as Strutt's work appears today. ■

For a full list of *Played in Britain* publications see:
www.playedinbritain.co.uk

Lord's: the home of cricket

Ivo Tennant

Cricket writer

No game is more redolent of history than cricket. Wondrous names, gargantuan feats and, from time to time, the most nostalgic of anniversaries. One such falls in 2014, the bicentenary of Thomas Lord's relocation of his own ground for a second time to its present site in St John's Wood, north London. All because of a decree by Parliament, which only goes to show that sport is never free of politics.

Lord's is often described as the home of cricket. This is no glib phrase. Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) ran the game until the 1960s and, in the sense it controls the Laws of Cricket, still does. Many among the 18,000 membership would wish that it had never ceded control to the International Cricket Council, or, in terms of the domestic game in the UK, the England and Wales Cricket Board.

Every Test cricketer wishes to play at Lord's. For an Australian, in particular, to score a century there is an achievement unsurpassed in his life. There are traditions and there are traditions and then there is Lord's. The Long Room, with the members (average age 57, which only adds to the venerability of the setting) peering at the flannelled contingent who pass the oil paintings depicting W G Grace, Sir Donald Bradman and the splendid pomposity of the founders of I Zingari, is the finest room in any sports stadium.

Not, it should swiftly be added, that Lord's is really a stadium. It remains a cricket ground and will do so whatever takes place in the form of a redevelopment. The centrepiece is the listed Victorian Pavilion, built in 1898–9 at a cost of £21,000, flanked by evocative stands: Warner, Allen, Tavern, Grand Stand, Mound Stand, Compton and Edrich. Familiar cricketing names and lauded buildings. The latest and most futuristic is the Media Centre (1998–9). It has a commanding view of the pavilion, but the fact that it is totally enclosed by glass save for one small window in the Test Match Special commentary box, means that journalists within are divorced from the action and the sound of leather on willow. The spectacle that unfurls before them is akin to a giant cinema screen.

If cricketers want to play at Lord's, cricket followers, of course, want to visit it. This is why the venue has a head start over every other ground in the country, even if some of these might be better appointed in terms of amenities. The waiting list for membership of MCC, which still has a social cachet, is a long one – 18 years is the average length



Built in 1889–90, Thomas Verity's Grade II* Lord's Pavilion is the home of cricket. In the players' dressing rooms honours boards commemorate all the centuries scored in Test matches on the Lord's ground and all instances of a bowler's taking five wickets in a Test innings and ten wickets in a Test match.

Sarah Williams © Marylebone Cricket Club

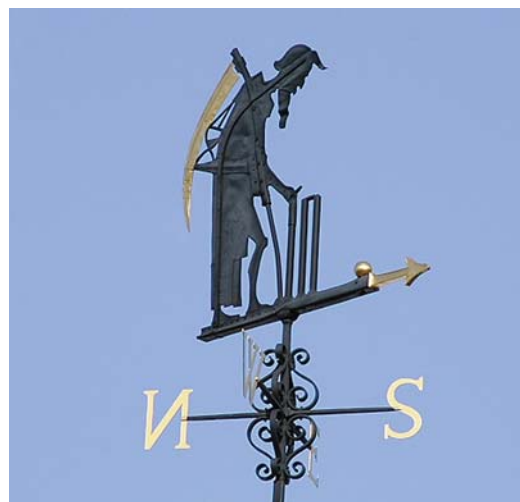
of time from application to becoming elected. And the popular image of the elderly member nodding off after a few gin and tonics is not altogether apocryphal. At the start of the season, the greetings in the Writing Room adjacent to the Long Room can be sombre, for Old Father Time, the most evocative of all the features on the ground, inevitably has lifted a few bails during the long winter.

Lord's, rather like the running of MCC, possesses a complex character. It is metropolitan, yet not of London. It is a cricket ground, but houses one of the most famous real tennis courts in the world, a clerk of the works department, a printing press, bars, a museum, a private club with its own library, committee rooms and secretariats of the England and Wales Cricket Board and Middlesex

County Cricket Club, who are tenants on the ground, as well as MCC.

Still, there is nothing to compare with the actual watching of cricket. Preferably a spring morning at Lord's following the long winter, even if the traditional opening match is now played in the United Arab Emirates to ensure it goes ahead at all. Nor is there anything so alluring as the aroma of newly cut grass from the groundsman's mower wafting up to the middle tier of the pavilion, the best viewpoint on the ground.

The custodians of Lord's, MCC's main committee, number 20 individuals supplemented by three trustees. They comprise a mix of city businessmen, former players and high-ranking lawyers. Few could quibble with their choice of



The spirit of Lord's. This 1.98m-tall weathervane of Old Father Time was given to the MCC in 1926 by the architect of the Grand Stand, Sir Herbert Baker. Damaged in the Blitz and later struck by lightning, Old Father Time was permanently relocated to the Mound Stand in 1996.

Clare Skinner © Marylebone Cricket Club

Designed by Future Systems and the winner of the 1999 Stirling Prize for Architecture, the J P Morgan Media Centre at Lord's was the first all-aluminium, semi-monocoque building in the world. Sarah Williams © Marylebone Cricket Club

architects and the unpaid hours expended by those who run the numerous sub-committees. The president, who is in office for a year, has a titular but influential role.

There have been numerous turbulent times in MCC's history, an inevitability given the club was founded in 1787. 'Bodyline' and the D'Oliveira affair are revisited periodically, generally not to the club's credit. Now, there is an upheaval of a different kind. The 'Vision for Lord's' was devised as a way to expand the facilities and, in particular, the Nursery End, the practice ground and adjacent buildings beneath which run disused railway tunnels that could be developed to raise money for the rebuilding of the older stands.

In 2009, plans and images were drawn up that were given the tacit approval of Boris Johnson, the Mayor of London. A £400m project, incorporating the building of flats inside the perimeter wall down Wellington Road, was backed by MCC's development sub-committee. After much hesitation, agonising and disagreement, the main committee, led by the chairman and treasurer who expressed caution, decided to opt in 2011 for low-key piecemeal work on the stands.

Lord's will never be as big as Melbourne. It will never lie in the lee of such a commanding landscape as Table Mountain at Newlands or Adelaide's predominant cathedral. Yet historically, traditionally and atmospherically, it cannot be equalled and certainly not surpassed. To perambulate the ground is to walk with cricket's past, present and future. ■

Newmarket: a tale of two towns

Natalie Gates

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Newmarket lies at the end of the East Anglian chalk ridge, a continuation of the Chilterns. Its sparsely populated landscape is crossed and dominated by four ancient but still-undated linear dykes, of which the Devil's Ditch is the most spectacular. More than 11km long, this scheduled monument straddles the prehistoric Icknield Way and is up to 32feet (10m) high from the bottom of its ditch to the top of its bank.

It was the Stuart kings who initially shaped the town as a centre for horse-racing. James I built the first grandstand on Newmarket Heath and racing was quickly resumed after the Interregnum. The original July Course to the south of Devil's Ditch is still used, as the name suggests, for summer racing. However, in the spring and autumn jockeys could be blinded by the sun. The town's second course,

the Rowley Mile, named after Charles II's favourite horse *Old Rowley*, was therefore laid out to the north of the Ditch but on a different orientation. As a result, the Ditch became a prime grandstand, particularly for the July Course.

Royal patronage is also reflected in the development of the town. James I acquired a hunting seat there, and his son, Charles I, built a palace that was destroyed after his execution in 1649. In 1661 Charles II bought an existing Newmarket house and enlarged it to create another palace, parts of which can be seen in the lower two storeys of the Grade II* Palace House. The remnants include the King's bedroom, from which the visitor can see across the road to the Grade II house reputedly built for Nell Gwynne so that she could be quickly summoned to the King's bedchamber.



Palace House, Newmarket (Grade II*): royal patronage underlay Newmarket's development as a centre of horse racing.

Natalie Gates © English Heritage

The nearby Grade II Palace House Stables were used continually from the 17th century until 1985, but since then have remained empty. However, the National Horse Racing Museum, itself based in the Grade II 19th-century Subscription Rooms on the High Street, plans to relocate and expand into these historically important premises, which are now owned by the local council. Newmarket was also the original home of the Jockey Club. Though their headquarters moved to London in the 1960s,



Newmarket Heath, a landscape shaped for horse-racing: *Gimcrack* with a trainer, a stable-lad, and a jockey painted by George Stubbs in 1765. Detail.

Source: Wikimedia Commons

their gated site on the High Street (Grade II) is still referred to by locals as ‘The Jockey Club’.

A horse-walk to the west of the High Street still allows animals to move safely through the town to the heath, where more than 80kms of turf gallops and canters are managed by the Jockey Club. Given that training is over by midday, there is plenty of time left for dog-walking and kite flying by locals.

At least ten further sets of stables and accompanying houses are listed, many of them still in their original use. Numerous other 19th-century buildings, on and just off the High Street, allude by name to their former racing links, while newer stables radiate out from Newmarket along roads to nearby villages. In addition, Newmarket is home to the British Racing School, Tattersalls bloodstock auctioneers, and the National Stud. Many of these are housed in unlisted but locally significant buildings, which have collectively helped to shape the character of the town.

Newmarket’s racing history is not just about buildings. Just as important are the stories of its races and winners. The oldest surviving horse race in the world, the Town Plate, has been run since 1666, while The July was the only racecourse which remained open during the two World Wars, running all the British Classics including Doncaster’s St Ledger and the Epsom Derby and Oaks as well as Newmarket’s own 1,000 and 2,000 Guineas. It was the first to introduce the Tote (1929), to have a photo-finish camera (1949) and to use starting stalls (1969). Famous winners have included Nijinsky, ridden by Lester Piggott in the 1970 2,000 Guineas, while Frankie Dettori has won the 1,000 Guineas no fewer than three times and the 2,000 Guineas twice.

Horse-racing money has provided Newmarket with a rich legacy of historic buildings. But it is a tale of two towns – the local market town and the

international racing capital – in an uneasy symbiotic relationship. Today, the superficial glamour of racing hides harsh economic realities that place both racing and Newmarket’s heritage and viability at risk through redundancy and neglect. While some buildings have managed to adapt to the changing needs of the sport, others have decayed through lack of alternative use or opportunistic owners. And yet, racing has also ensured that the heath has been kept to turf and not turned to the arable farming that surrounds the town, providing an oasis of grassland on the edge of the intensively cultivated Fenland.

The division between town and racing – most visibly seen on race days – means that racing heritage is tolerated not necessarily celebrated. In part this is because it is not simply Newmarket’s past, but is shaping its present and future. Perhaps the main reason is that it is a complex landscape which is difficult for both town and racing people to appreciate in its entirety as a landscape owing to its disparate elements, especially when it is a continually evolving working environment. Its exclusive nature has created barriers and, as a town in gentle decline, Newmarket has failed to benefit from the sport that shaped it, surrounds it, and weaves through it. Whether the redevelopment of Palace House Stables will break this cycle remains to be seen. ■

Newmarket and the racecourse are profiled in the English Heritage-funded Shape East podcast, audio tour and map of Devil’s Ditch:

http://www.shape-east.org.uk/tours/Devil's_Ditch_Podcast.html

A Newmarket Heritage Trail is available from the local authority: http://www.forest-heath.gov.uk/downloads/file/1203/newmarket_trail

Playing the game – sport and Empire

Philip Davies

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At its height the British Empire was the largest the world had ever seen, and it enabled Britain to craft the modern world in its own image. Today, across the globe this potent legacy still permeates many areas of life – perhaps nowhere more so than in sport. Sport was the glue that bound the Empire together as a family of nations with common shared values.

Wherever the British went, they took their games with them. In the process they codified and regulated a whole range of sports for universal adoption, and then, all too often, proceeded to lose them. For many the British Empire was a form of outdoor relief where they could indulge their passion for sport with abandon.

Equestrian prowess was highly regarded – not least for its military benefits. Alongside the church and the club, the racecourse is the defining hallmark of the British imperial city. In Bridgetown, Barbados, the track at Garrison Savannah runs across the military parade ground surrounded by an impressive battery of cannon. In Simla, the course at Annandale is on a high Himalayan plateau with a vertiginous drop, over which over-zealous riders and horses occasionally plummeted. But the grandest, from Calcutta to Melbourne, occupy positions of real prominence, their elegant grandstands and clubhouses surrounded by arenas of manicured lawns enclosed by white-painted rails.

Hunting was transposed from England with all its trappings. The Calpe Hunt in Gibraltar was one

of the smartest, while the Montreal was founded in the heart of French Canada as early as 1824. High on the North West Frontier of Pakistan the Peshawar Vale Hunt, resplendent in hunting pink, pursued the jackal rather than the fox in an area now plagued by the Taliban.

Pigsticking was popular from the earliest days of the East India Company, but polo was the ‘Sport of Kings’. Spread across Asia from Persia, it was taken up and popularised by the British. In 1862 the Calcutta Polo Club was established, from where the sport was taken to England by army officers and then across the world. Similarly, golf, which had been popular in Scotland for centuries, was taken to the colonies by Scots soldiers and immigrants during the 18th and 19th centuries. The Royal Calcutta Golf Club was established in 1829. Sixty years later there were clubs in Ireland, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, Singapore and India – the highest in the world at Gulmarg 8,700ft up in the Himalayas.

Underpinned by the twin concepts of fair play and team spirit, organised team games were among Britain’s greatest gifts to the world. In the mid-19th century Charles Kingsley wrote:

Through sport boys can acquire virtues which no book can give them. Not merely daring and endurance, but ... temper, self-restraint, fairness, honour, unenvying approbation of another’s success ... which stands a man in good stead when he goes forth into the world.

Soccer, a ‘gentleman’s game played by hooligans’, was exported across the world and enjoyed by all classes. Today English clubs are global brands. Rugby, a ‘game for hooligans played by gentlemen’, was adopted rapidly across Europe. In Fiji and Samoa it was taken up with gusto as a more convivial alternative to cannibalism.

Wherever expatriates gathered together in clubs and pavilions across the world, sport was never far behind. At the Ootacamund Club (Snooty Ooty) in 1882 the first official set of rules was drafted for snooker, which Colonel Sir Neville Chamberlain had devised seven years previously in the officers’ mess in Jabalpur. Wherever there was a space flat enough, tennis and badminton courts were levelled in the dirt. Rather aptly it was across the tennis court of the District Commissioner’s bungalow in Kohima that the British inflicted such a shattering defeat on the Japanese in June 1944 that it turned the tide of the Second World War in the Far East. Sport and war were always closely intertwined in

The Garrison Savannah has been the home of horse racing in Barbados since 1845. First used by British army officers, the course is today the historic home of the Barbados Turf Club.

© Terry Dunn
(Flickr Commons)





The Members' Pavilion at Sydney Cricket Ground in Australia, built in 1886 in a style that would have been familiar across the British Empire.

© Vijay Chennupati (Flickr Commons)

the British psyche. In the 19th century the strategic stand-off with Russia was called 'The Great Game'.

But if there was one sport that defined and bound the Empire and Commonwealth together and which transcended racial and class divides, it was cricket. With its measured rhythms and balance between individual heroics and team spirit, it became a metaphor for the British Empire itself. From the West Indies to New Zealand and from South Africa to India, the sound of leather on willow brought people together in sport. In Papua it was played with 59-a-side. With its principle of fair play, cricket goes to the very heart of the British character. Its argot has become part of common parlance – 'to be knocked for six' or 'to play with a straight bat'. Baden Powell likened the siege of Mafeking to a cricket match.

Embedded in the perimeter walls of Lord's Cricket Ground – the spiritual home of the game – is a fine stone cartouche (1934) by Gilbert Bayes, *Play Up. Play Up and Play the Game* taken from Henry Newbolt's famous poem *Vitae Lampada* (The Lamp of Life), which extols the morally uplifting virtues of sport and stoical forbearance even *in extremis*:

The sand of the desert is sodden red –
Red with the wreck of the square that broke,
... But the voice of a schoolboy rallies the ranks:
'Play up! Play up! And play the game!'

For the British it was not the winning or losing that mattered, but how you conducted yourself in life:

For when the One Great Scorer comes
To mark against your name,
He writes – not that you won or lost –
But how you played the Game
Henry Grantland Rice, *Alumnus Football*

Echoes of Empire: The Architecture and Monuments of the British Empire and Commonwealth by Philip Davies will be published in 2014.



Play up! Play up! And play the game! Gilbert Bayes's 1934 bas-relief plaque at Lord's cricket ground celebrates the uplifting virtues not only of cricket but football, tennis, golf and rowing. © Philip Davies

Stop the clock – town or gown?

The Great Court Run is a Trinity College (Cambridge) tradition in which the students attempt to run around the quadrangle within the time it takes the college clock to strike twelve. The course is approximately 370 metres long and the clock takes between 43 and 44.5 seconds to chime, dependent on the winding. The first student to complete the course was David Burghley in 1927 (43.1 seconds), later 400m hurdles champion at the 1928 Olympics games in Amsterdam. The only other successful student was Sam Dobin in 2007 (42.1 seconds).

I can remember listening to local radio as Seb Coe beat Steve Cram, but not the clock, back in 1988 in their own famous one-off version of the race. The run was also immortalised in *Chariots of Fire*, the film about the 1924 Paris Olympics. Not even filmed at Trinity, the movie mixed truth with a heavy dose of artistic licence – as a Gonville and Caius student, Harold Abrahams (see Spencer p 33) would not have been eligible to take part.

The run is, of course, an exclusive institutional memory which, partly through the design of the building, bars outsiders and reinforces the separation of ‘town’ and ‘gown’. The beautiful Grade I-listed quad is formed primarily from buildings of two earlier colleges, Michaelhouse and King’s Hall (Trinity was founded by Henry VIII in 1546). Despite this the race has transcended barriers, in part owing to the allure of its difficulty and a mythology elevated by popular culture. For the general public, it is one of two things that define Trinity College. The other is Isaac Newton’s apple tree, but that is another story ...

Natalie Gates *Policy Adviser (East of England), English Heritage*



© Trinity College Photographic Society

The mountaineering heritage of the Lake District

Ron Kenyon
Trustee, Mountain Heritage Trust

The Lake District has a very diverse infrastructure and walking and climbing has for long been one of its main activities. Wordsworth, Coleridge, Southey and their literary friends were drawn to the area to connect with nature as well as each other. John Ruskin wrote about social justice, nature and art while living there – his home at Brantwood became an important meeting place for many with ideas to shape the future. Other individuals contributed too, such as Canon Rawnsley from Keswick, one of the co-founders of the National Trust.

Compared to the Alps and the Himalaya the Lakeland Fells are small. The valley of Wasdale, with the Wastwater Hotel at its head nestling below Scafell Pike, as well as Great Gable and Pillar, is a magical place. It drew many in the late 1800s as a base from which to explore the local gullies and

craggs. For many this was training for higher mountains further afield, but challenges here there were plenty. Those taking part would mainly have been professionals such as doctors and lawyers and the discussions around the evening-meal table would probably have ranged from the day’s activities to what was happening in the outside world.

Most of the early routes were in the gullies and crevices of the crags, but in 1884 Walter Parry Haskett-Smith moved out of these gullies and climbed the prominent pinnacle of Napes Needle, an iconic lump of rock on the side of Great Gable. This was said to be the birth of British rock climbing – as opposed to gully scrambling. The climbers then started to develop the rock faces in a way that has continued to the present day. As equipment improved, routes once thought impossible were climbed by new generations of climbers. There are now thousands of climbing routes throughout the Lake District, which draw climbers of all abilities to test themselves.

During the late 1800s the new art of photogra-



Eagle's Nest Ridge Direct on Great Gable – a route first climbed in 1892 by Godfrey Solly. At the time it was thought too dangerous to publicise but with modern equipment it is a popular but quite airy route.

© Abraham Photographic

phy was broadening people's knowledge of the outside world. Climbing and mountaineering were no exception. In Keswick two brothers, George and Ashley Abraham, were keen climbers, but were also interested in the family business of photography. They recorded rock climbs, including many first ascents, not only in the Lake District but also Wales, Scotland and the Alps. Persistent despite their heavy and bulky equipment, they took many iconic photographs that helped to attract more people to the mountains. These photographs are still sought after and used for illustration today.

Mountaineering and rock climbing were originally the preserve of the professional middle class, but by the middle of the 20th century a broader range of working people began to participate, travelling from the conurbations of Lancashire and Yorkshire to the Lake District and Wales by car, train and bus. Rambling and fell walking also became more popular in the wake of the ground-breaking trespasses, especially on the moors of Derbyshire and the Pennines, to obtain access to areas of land

previously kept closed by private landowners.

Early climbing clubs included the Alpine Club (1857), the Fell and Rock Climbing Club (1906) and the Climbers Club (1898), with further groups being formed over later years, together encouraging climbers and walkers to go on organised meets in mountain areas or more informal trips.

The now legendary Alfred Wainwright made his first forays to the Lake District from his home in Blackburn in the 1930s before taking up the post of Borough Treasurer in Kendal to be closer to his beloved fells. He was keen on documenting his walks in words and pen drawings, which led him to create a set of seven guides to walks in the Lake District. Covering all the main fells in intricate detail and followed by further guides and books of drawings, these have helped to entice many thousands of people to the Lakes to 'do the Wainwrights'.

For more than 150 years the Lake District has drawn people for the excitement of its climbing and the pleasures of fell walking – traditions now so loved and deep-rooted that they should survive long into the future. ■

Temperance billiard halls

Simon Inglis

Played in Britain series editor

Sporting fads come and go, usually without leaving much of an architectural legacy. Not the billiards craze, however. Apart from a string of lavishly fitted saloons built within 'gin palaces', most dating from the 1890s, the single largest group of surviving billiard halls are those of the Temperance Billiard Halls Company. Between 1906 and 1928 this company constructed at least 29 halls, possibly as many as 40, of which 7 instantly recognisable examples survive in the Manchester area, plus 9 in London. Five are listed.

The earliest is on Cheetham Hill Road, Manchester (now an Asian supermarket), where the company's first in-house architect, Norman Evans, adopted an eclectic style, freely mixing elements of Edwardian Baroque with Art Nouveau. A year later, on Manchester Road, Chorlton (now, ironically, a Wetherspoon's pub), Evans became more playful, offsetting the barrel roof with a decorated domed pavilion entrance. He repeated this at his first London hall, on Clapham High Street (now an architect's office). Stained glass added to its charm. Dormer windows allowed light to flood in. The intention was to create a light, airy and welcoming environment for respectable workers. Until the

Now ironically a pub, this former Temperance Billiard Hall in Chorlton, Manchester, designed by company architect Norman Evans in 1906, illustrates how playful architecture and extensive glazing was used to provide a counter-attraction to pubs.

© Nigel Corrie, English Heritage



boom ended in the 1930s, the formula proved extremely successful.

Two other listed halls in London are on Lewisham High Street (c 1909, recently vacated) and Fulham Palace Road (c 1910, now The Temperance pub). The fifth, by Evans's successor, T R Somerford, and dating from c 1912, is on King's Road, Chelsea, forming the centrepiece of a shopping arcade, with the former billiard hall (now a shop) to the rear. Similar layouts are on Wilmslow Road, Manchester (where the hall is now an Indian restaurant) and Coldharbour Lane, Brixton (now subdivided into retail units and offices). The Fulham and King's Road halls retain their original green decorative tiling.

Only one of the halls is still used for snooker, on Bolton Street, Bury. But as a body of work they are a delight, and at Played in Britain we are determined that no other surviving examples should go unrecorded. ■

Woods and greens, and golf landscapes – a drive for recognition

Jenifer White, *English Heritage*
and Ken Moodie, *EIGCA*

For conservation colleagues, 'golf course' usually means the challenge of integrating new development in a historic landscape. What we rarely get is a chance to consider the significance of golf courses as historic designed landscapes in their own right.

Golf is popular. There are almost 900,000 golf-club members in England and many hundreds of thousands more people play golf regularly.¹ Golf courses have become distinctive landscapes enjoyed and much loved by players and spectators and, for

championship courses, TV viewers too. The BBC estimated that 620,000,000 households in 195 countries watched the 2010 Ryder Cup. Golf is set to return as an Olympic sport in 2016 after a 112-year absence.

Golf has played an increasing part in shaping the English landscape during the last 130 years with historic parks often providing the setting for golf courses. Some 1 in 12 registered parks and gardens now includes a golf course; and in Scotland Gleneagles is designated for its historic importance. These landscapes often include listed buildings and scheduled monuments too. Clubs are interested in their history but books published to mark milestones such as centenaries have rarely analysed the historic design value of the landscapes. This is gradually changing; and new societies have emerged to celebrate architects such as Colt and MacKenzie.

At the heart of the game is the challenge of the natural environment, which relates to golf's medieval origins on the Scottish coastal links. As in other designed landscapes, the player is led through a sequence of walks and vistas during a round of 9 or 18 holes. Great golf-course design integrates each hole with the wider landscape and respects the *genius loci* of the site so that every course is unique. Golf courses also come in many shapes and forms, from championship layouts to private members' courses, resort or hotel courses, municipal courses and shorter 9-hole and par-3 or pitch-and-putt venues.

The early courses in England involved little or no land shaping and relied on the ingenuity of the course designer to use the site's topography and existing features like trees, ditches, banks, rock outcrops and walls. Constructed greens and teeing



grounds, and the addition of sand bunkers to provide golfing challenge, started to appear towards the end of the 19th century. By the turn of the 20th century, golf design was rapidly evolving into an art form of carefully planned and executed layouts. During the next 30 ‘Golden Age’ years architects started to design naturalistic features and routes of play that enhanced the strategic nature of the game.

Some of the early golf courses are captured in



Golf is first recorded at Blackheath in 1608 and the club’s records date from 1787. The course is a key representative of the early game and its Scottish roots (www.royalblackheath.com/our_history). The clubhouse is a Grade I-listed 1664 house designed by Hugh May.

Damian Grady © English Heritage

Birkdale is associated with many important championships and two Ryder Cup competitions. The course was designed by G Lowe and remodelled in 1932 by F G Hawtree.

Peter Williams © English Heritage

the Register of Parks and Gardens as features within a wider designated landscape. For example, between 1904 and 1945 the Royal Family developed a golf course for their own recreation within the Osborne parkland and this course is still being played today. Blackpool’s Stanley Park includes a Colt and Mackenzie course as part of its 1922 design – golf courses had come to be seen as useful sources of revenue for public parks.

Golf course design after the Second World War was influenced by televised American courses with their large-scale, rounded features and photogenic lakes. Irrigation and green construction became more sophisticated enabling high-quality and consistent playing conditions to be achieved in most environments. The country-house park, along with its lake and mansion as the ‘19th hole’, provided a ready-made mature landscape to meet the growing demand for golf. Hawtree, Hamilton Stutt and MacKenzie Ross are notable designers of this period. During the boom period of the 1980s and early 1990s, however, many courses were laid out by property developers and golf professionals, resulting in a proliferation of poor courses, many of which have since been remodelled.

The European Institute of Golf Course Architects (EIGCA), set up in the 1970s to promote the profession and design standards, is also a champion of golf course design history. In a recent report² it explored how courses could be selected as representative of layout style, types of site and notable designers, or for their association with significant historic figures or events.

Golf courses, like other historic parks, are often vulnerable to change. The game continues to evolve and courses adapted to test players as they

and their equipment improves. The business of golf shifts too. More intensive use generates conservation challenges and development beyond the course can affect its setting, character and playability. There is a growing awareness amongst architects, players and clubs of the importance of protecting England's golfing heritage and the need for these heritage values to be considered in planning applications.³ ■

- 1 www.englishgolfunion.org/documents/England_Golf_Impact_Report.pdf
- 2 <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/content/publications/docs/eigaabridgedreport.pdf>
- 3 www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/advice/advice-by-topic/parks-and-gardens/golf/

The modern sports centre

Elain Harwood

Senior Architectural Investigator, English Heritage

Indoor swimming baths date back to the Baths and Washhouses Act of 1849, but indoor provision for a range of 'dry sports', rather than a simple gymnasium, is more recent.

Whereas the King George V Fund was established in 1936–7 to create or improve public parks, the George VI Foundation, which commemorated his successor, promoted facilities for young people. Among the projects it supported was the National Recreation Centre, built in 1960–4 for athletic training as part of the regeneration of Crystal Palace Park by the London County Council (LCC). The

Duke of Edinburgh, as chairman of the Foundation, made the first rough sketch in 1953 for a hall combining a pool, dry sports and a restaurant. At that time the only models for multi-purpose facilities were in Scandinavia, and Leslie Martin at the LCC recruited a special design team, headed by Norman Engleback, which later worked on the Hayward Gallery. The swimming and dry sports facilities were placed back-to-back, separated by an 'A'-frame structure that supported banks of seating and a cantilevered roof. Half the building was given over to swimming, the rest housed a sports arena over a gymnasium and cricket school. The result was a tall, square pavilion appropriate to its grand setting.

In 1960 the Wolfenden Report revealed a shortage of sports facilities and the Albemarle Report for the Central Council for Physical Recreation proposed sports halls in an early recognition that a new generation of affluent teenagers needed something to do. Their first reward was Harlow's Sportcentre, a voluntary project of 1960–4 run by local people with the help of the district council, and designed for free by Frederick Gibberd, Gerard Goalen and John Graham. Further centres followed at Basingstoke, Birmingham and Bracknell. In response to a government report in 1964 recommending that school sports facilities be opened to the public, Nottinghamshire County Council built comprehensive schools at Bingham, Carlton, Chilwell and elsewhere with large sports halls for use by the public in the evenings, constructed using the county's prefabricated CLASP system.

More ambitious sports facilities were built at universities using government funding designated for examination halls. That at Hull University was

Billingham ice rink (1967): a soaring structure based on steel arches and braced wire stays held permanently in tension.
James O Davies
© English Heritage





The Oasis, Swindon: the 'leisure pool' aimed to teach people to swim in amiable surroundings with plastic domes and palm trees.

James O Davies © English Heritage

begun by Peter Womersley in 1963–5, in ridged and battered concrete. Liverpool University's sports centre, built by Denys Lasdun and Stefan Kuszell in 1963–7, has a still-tougher profile, containing a sports hall and pool, and a climbing wall. More elegant is the sports pavilion built by Gerald Beech in 1961–2 on the university's sports field at Allerton, with its three levels of glazed cafés and bars.

The Albemarle Report recommended building sports centres in London, Stoke and Newcastle upon Tyne, and the latter was commissioned from Williamson Faulkner Brown and Partners. The Lightfoot Centre was a timber shell dome inspired by Buckminster Fuller and Pier Luigi Nervi. At 200 feet (61m) it was the broadest in Europe when built in 1964, and was originally clad in glass-reinforced polyester to make it translucent. Still more radical was the 'Edinburgh Dome' erected for Malvern Girls' College by Michael Godwin with John Faber in 1977, using a system devised by the architect-inventor, Dante Bini, whereby liquid cement was poured on to a neoprene membrane that was then inflated.

The North-East was the first English region to have a regional sports council and director for recreation, which coincided with technical innovations that pushed its facilities to the forefront. Billingham was among Britain's wealthiest local authorities, thanks to business rates income from ICI, until in 1968 it was absorbed into the County Borough of Teesside. Arguing that there were economies of scale, the council blew its reserves on a new town centre by Elder, Lester and Partners,

the facilities of which included a sports hall, pool, bowling green, squash courts and an ice rink, plus a theatre and shopping centre. Most dramatic is the rink's arched roof, a soaring structure based on steel arches and braced wire stays held permanently in tension. Councillor Harry L Davies proclaimed the Billingham Forum a 'one stop centre for administration, shopping, leisure and culture', a model for integrating sport into our towns and our daily lives still rarely found elsewhere.

Post-war sports centres and swimming pools are a fast-disappearing part of our sports heritage. The 'leisure pool' aimed to teach people to swim in amiable surroundings with plastic domes and palm trees, and was again strong in the North East, but has gone out of fashion; today, that at Swindon by Peter Sargent of Gillinson Barnett and Partners is a lone survivor. More traditional pools are the victims of changes in requirements for competition swimming. Chlorine is a major hazard for both concrete and steel, while plastic decomposes in sunshine. Dry sports centres have proved more adaptable, save at Harlow, a victim of land redevelopment; Zumba fits well into a badminton hall. Billingham was refurbished in 2009 and Crystal Palace in 2010, the latter extremely sensitively in line with its Grade II* status. ■

More on post-war swimming baths and sports centres can be found in Elaine Harwood's forthcoming book, Space, Hope and Brutalism, English Architecture 1945–75, with photographs by James O Davies, to be published by Yale University Press.

Sustaining Memory

Conserving the significance of sporting places is not just about preservation. It can also be about encapsulating old memories in new uses.

Compared with other kinds of historic asset relatively few sporting venues have been the subject of statutory designation. In part that is because their utilitarian design and the constantly evolving needs of their sports makes permanent protection inappropriate. However, as Lynn Pearson (pp 19–21) and Hugh Hornby (pp 32–3) show it may also reflect a lack of authoritative research into their broader historical and cultural significance.

When it comes to sustaining sporting heritage some of the greatest challenges are posed by the biggest and most iconic venues. At Highbury Square the powerful memories of Arsenal's old Highbury stadium have been carried forward in the design of the housing development that replaces it (see Morrison, pp 21–3), while in Liverpool it is the historic Stanley Park that will provide the link between the old Anfield stadium and its relocated successor (Done and Titterton pp 23–4).

Elsewhere the business case for bringing historic sporting facilities back to useful life can afford to give much greater priority to preserving all or part of the original fabric, as at Manchester's glorious Victoria Baths (Wright, pp 26–7) or the rare Georgian Cleveland Pools in Bath (East, pp 29–30).

A rather different but very effective approach involves the special kind of designation afforded to locally valued recreational spaces through the George V and Elizabeth II jubilee playing fields programmes (Moore-Gwyn, p 31), while in London English Heritage's blue plaques scheme has provided another useful way of celebrating earlier sporting achievement (Spencer, p 33).

From the pavilion end: cricket's architectural heritage

Lynn Pearson

Independent scholar

The image of a thatched cricket pavilion on the village green has come to epitomise a certain type of Arcadian, sporting Englishness. Yet the reality of cricket's architectural history is more complex and hitherto little discussed, despite the huge amount of cricket literature available. Cricket's built heritage includes grandstands and scoreboxes as well as smaller elements such as gateways, sightcreens, turnstiles, statues and memorials, but the cricket pavilion itself is at the heart of the game's architectural, social and cultural significance.

In the early years of the sport, matches were played on common land, on innkeepers' grounds and even on beaches. Once clubs acquired or hired their own grounds, they could charge spectators for entrance and establish their own facilities in the form of a pavilion. It could include changing rooms; a room to eat, drink and socialise; an external clock; possibly a scorebox and scoreboard; somewhere for the players to shelter from sun and rain, and to view the pitch – very often a balcony, or a verandah in smaller pavilions; and larger pavilions might provide tiered spectator accommodation. Changes in technology (power, heating, water supply) would affect design over time, as, eventually, would planning legislation. All these elements applied abroad just as well as at home, and the spread of cricket, and thus its architecture, throughout the British Empire and beyond is a fascinating aspect of the sport's architectural history.

There are fewer than 30 listed cricket pavilions in England. The majority of these are dedicated cricket pavilions, but there are also multi-function structures that cater for several sports and buildings converted to house pavilions. The two oldest remaining examples are at the Sevenoaks Vine ground in Kent, where the core of the current structure dates from 1850, and at Rugby School, where the Green Pavilion (1851) survives more nearly as built. Most of the earliest pavilions have long since gone, but photographic and other evidence suggests that not all resembled picturesque cottages. Some adopted a more industrial style, with large windows taking up much of the front façade, and others – with similarities to horse racing grandstands – comprised two storeys, pavilion accommodation below and an open banked viewing area above.

Pavilions of architectural interest were built largely by educational bodies – from schools and colleges to universities and services establishments – and cricket clubs themselves, although good examples can also be found at public parks, works playing fields and country-house grounds. Well-known architects were often involved with these prestigious pavilions, for instance T G Jackson at The Parks in Oxford (1880), Reginald Blomfield at Haileybury School (1885) and Richard Creed at the Westminster School ground in 1889. All three architects designed several other cricket pavilions.

Wealthy cricket-loving patrons funded lavish pavilions in public parks, at their works grounds



and on their estates. The municipal facilities at Clarence Park (1894) in St Albans included a pavilion; the park and its buildings were funded by Sir John Maple, of Maple's furniture store, whose favourite sport was cricket. Similarly, John Bamford, owner of the Leighton Ironworks in Uttoxeter and a great cricket enthusiast, laid out Oldfields Sports Ground for his workers, including its elaborate half-timbered pavilion of 1904. Some clubs made use of their own members when a new pavilion design was required; for instance Sunderland Cricket Club's 1899 pavilion at Ashbrooke and its 1930 extension were both designed by architect/club members. Less fortunate clubs had to make do with prefabricated structures, of which there was a wide range. Most were relatively small ironwork or wooden structures, although Boulton and Paul of Norwich offered an elaborate two-storey pavilion with a balcony and tower, costing £198 in 1898. Many of these prefabricated pavilions were exported, particularly to the British Empire, during the late 19th and early 20th centuries when the game was expanding abroad.

Neo-Tudor half-timbered continued as the style of choice up to the 1950s, a typical example being Blackpool Cricket Club's pavilion in Stanley Park (1925), although a few neo-Georgian and even art-deco pavilions can also be found. An instance of the latter is the curious 1932 pavilion at the Blue Circle Sports Ground in Hope, Derbyshire, made from the firm's own product Snowcrete. The 1960s saw the introduction of practical but even now unpopular modernist pavilions, their long, low lines ideally suited to providing ample

The 1886 Grade II-listed pavilion by Richard Creed at the former Essex County Cricket Ground in Leyton; he also designed Westminster School's pavilion. © Lynn Pearson

accommodation for spectators and especially players watching the game. Along with their predecessors, pavilions of this era are already being altered to keep up with changing requirements regarding access and improvement, notably the all-important – to clubs' finances – bar. The understandable wish for better facilities has contributed to the poor survival rate of older pavilions, along with their vulnerability to vandalism, which has resulted in new-build pavilions with the appearance of fortified sheds.

Financial and social pressures have encouraged present-day cricket clubs to involve the wider community. New-build pavilions tend to be firstly a community facility – a village hall, a meeting place – and only secondarily concerned with the sport itself. The significance of urban cricket grounds to their local communities as valuable open spaces was illustrated by the successful battle during 2003–6 to save Jesmond Cricket Ground in Newcastle from redevelopment. The newly formed Newcastle Cricket Club now invites a great degree of community participation, involving functions such as beer festivals and heritage open days at the ground. This is a far cry from the years when pavilions could be seen as symbols of separation, whether it was members from non-members, men from women or amateurs from professionals.

In the 21st century, new buildings at major county grounds are often large in scale and multi-



The striking 1963 pavilion (by L J Couves & Partners) at Jesmond Cricket Ground, Newcastle upon Tyne, now home to Newcastle Cricket Club. © Lynn Pearson

functional, like *The Point* (2010) at Old Trafford, a £12 million development designed by BDP. We have probably seen the end of the traditional cricket pavilion at the larger grounds, which also have to cope with the needs of the modern televised game. But however practical these modern grounds are, at smaller clubs it is still the traditional vernacular style that is the first choice for a new pavilion. This trend is exemplified by the thatched pavilion (itself an occasional star in *Midsomer Murders*) put up in 1990–1 on Sir Paul Getty's cricket ground at Wormsley Park in Buckinghamshire; its few modern tweaks include balcony railings in the form of cricket bats.

Just as interesting as the development of English cricket architecture is the evolution of pavilion architecture abroad, and the effects on English pavilion design of cricketers returning from abroad, having seen the game played in a different climate and cultural background. The small-scale English style of prefabricated pavilion was sold around the world, but many large and ornate pavilions were built in the southern hemisphere that deserve further investigation, as these structures took pavilion architecture well beyond its English roots. But that is a story for another day. ■

Highbury Square

Graham Morrison

Allies and Morrison Architects

When a building is no longer needed for the purpose for which it was built, its existence is threatened. If its very construction was moulded around that use, its survival would seem unlikely. If, in addition, its location is in an area of high land values, its prospects will indeed look bleak. That was the prognosis that faced Arsenal's Highbury stadium in 2000 and without the protection of its listing, it would surely have been demolished.

Founded in 1886, Arsenal moved to their Highbury site in 1913. Their first stadium, designed by Archibald Leitch, was a single covered stand with three banks of unroofed terracing. This was largely replaced in the 1930s by the new east and west stands that remain today. The more utilitarian west stand by C W Ferrier was opened in 1932 and this was followed in 1936 by the art-deco-styled east stand on Avenell Road, again by Ferrier but with some crucial help from Major William Binnie. It is this east stand that was listed Grade II in 1997.

The 1990 Taylor report that followed the 1989 Hillsborough disaster spelt the end for the stadium at Highbury. Its standing capacity of 60,000 was reduced to less than 40,000 when seating was introduced and, constrained by residential streets, there was no land for expansion so the club had to move to survive. The demolition of the three unlisted stands and a three-storey residential development



Highbury Square: the preserved art-deco façade of the 1936 Grade II-listed Avenell Road stand provides a crucial link between the old Arsenal football ground and the new residential square that replaces it. © Dennis Gilbert

was proposed but that left the problem of what to do with the listed Avenell Road stand. This issue triggered the involvement of Allies and Morrison.

Facing change, such purpose-built 20th-century buildings start with disadvantages and, in this case, there were three. First, protection afforded to the building by its listing related to the fabric rather

than its context. Preserving the east stand without the pitch would have left the building without a relevant setting. Second, such very particular 20th-century buildings are only fit for the use for which they were made. Converting them is invariably problematic. And third, because their conversion is difficult, it is often expensive and potentially uneconomic.

An idea was needed that overcame these inherent difficulties while also avoiding financial loss. That idea came in our first meeting. The main advantage of the listed building to a new development, it seemed, was its scale. Within such a settled residential area, there would be no plausible argument for such height without the pre-existence of the stands themselves. The problem of converting the listed stand had to be solved and, if there was a workable solution, it could surely be applied to the equally dominant though unlisted west stand. The more recent north and south stands could then be replaced by similarly scaled apartment buildings, leaving the space that was the pitch – that essential element of the listed building’s context – unchanged.

The preservation of a building cannot maintain the intangible assets it used to support – the roar of the crowd, the elation of winning a match and the disappointment of losing. That tribal involvement in the game evaporates as soon the event is over; a stadium without a game is like a theatre without a play. All that is left is the emptiness of the stands, the anticipation of the next game and the hallowed quality of the turf. When the final game is over,



The hallowed turf may have gone, but Highbury Square’s new 70m by 100m internal garden carries forward the memory of the old Arsenal pitch.

© Dennis Gilbert

even these echoes fade into history and, to retain a sense of place, a new significance must be found. At Highbury, it was the scale of the place, its fabric and the very fact that so many significant events are retained in a collective memory. What was needed to sustain this memory was a compatible typology that fitted well with the form that remained.

In the case of Arsenal's Highbury stadium, that new typology is the London residential square. A space that is private to the residents but which nevertheless links one part of the city with another – Avenell Road and Highbury Hill. During the design process, the re-use of the stadium buildings – an issue of fabric – was likened to converting the Colosseum, but just as significant, the retention of the space was likened to the urban memory of the Roman Circus of Piazza Navona. The project com-

pleted in 2009, however, is most like the medieval occupation of the Roman stadium at Arles, now emptied of its additions, or the stadium at Lucca, where the plan is almost intact but in which apartments still occupy the form of the stands.

At Arsenal's Highbury stadium, the art-deco qualities of the Avenell Road stand have been preserved, as have the thirteen 4-metre bays of the stand's structure and the representations of its primary levels that face the pitch. The most significant act of conservation, however, was not the preservation of the fabric with the provision of 725 new homes, but the retention of the space – now a new 70m by 100m pitch-size garden by Christopher Bradley-Hole. It was this that provided the logical context for the newly converted stands within the familiar London typology of a residential square. ■

Wembley Stadium – the loss of the much-valued twin-towers

The demolition of Maxwell Ayrton and Owen Williams's original Wembley Stadium in 2002–3 marked the end of the long-running debate about the future of its iconic towers – long-familiar landmarks on the skyline of north-west London. Despite its role as England's national stadium and its central place in the history of British sport across the years since its completion in 1923, the stadium was not listed until 1976, and then merited a mere, four-line listing description.

English Heritage was persuaded at a critical stage in pre-application discussions in late 1999 that there was a sound case in principle for the demolition and reconstruction of the stadium in its entirety. The original stadium had been extensively altered over the years – indeed it was only in 1963 that the already-extended canopies were deepened to provide cover for the majority of spectators and in 1996 that it was further altered to provide all-seat provision. In addition and importantly, the capacity, alignment and geometry of any new state-of-the-art stadium and the constraints of the site – in particular the proximity of the cutting carrying the Marylebone to Birmingham mainline railway and the adjacent road to the south – precluded the retention of the 'twin-towers' in their original positions. Investigation soon demonstrated that the extraordinarily delicate construction of the seemingly massive reinforced-concrete structures rendered their relocation wholly impractical.

While the new stadium is outstanding, the generously landscaped setting for which English Heritage staff had also hoped has not materialised.

Paul Velluet, RIBA, IHBC

Assistant Regional Director (London), English Heritage, 1991–2004



© English Heritage



Dedication to place: Anfield

Stephen Done, *Curator, Liverpool FC*

Andrea Titterington, *Regeneration Director, Liverpool FC*

Anfield, the home of Liverpool Football Club, is no ordinary sports venue. The stadium is synonymous with Liverpool. Not just a repository of the Club's history, it is also a mecca for its millions of supporters worldwide. What began as the Saint Domingo Methodist Chapel's Football Association team in 1878, playing in Stanley Park, became Everton Football Club (EFC). When asked to leave the park, EFC was invited by John Houlding, a wealthy and ambitious local brewer, to use a piece of land he had leased between Anfield Road and Walton Breck Road. But within a year EFC fell out with Houlding and built Goodison Park, on the other side of Stanley Park. Houlding's immediate response in 1892 was to form a new club to take over the tenancy of Anfield and Liverpool Football Club was born.

Anfield's spartan facilities of the 1880s, upgraded in 1894 and 1903, were substantially rebuilt to the designs of Archibald Leitch in 1906. Leitch's work included a new Main Stand, the re-erection of its predecessor on the opposite Kemlyn Road side of the ground, and the creation of the famous south terrace or Spion Kop. Anfield's Main Stand was Leitch's first in reinforced concrete, and probably

Liverpool FC's historic stadium surrounded by the terraced homes of the club's loyal supporters – a shared heritage of sport and community.

© Liverpool Football Club

the first in Britain, elements of which still exist. The stadium emerged simultaneously with the surrounding streets of predominantly two- and three-storey terraced houses, rows of small shops and many corner pubs for the people who would become the first supporters of Houlding's football club. The area is a microcosm of the townscape of working-class Victorian suburbia and in 2008 was celebrated in the English Heritage book, *Ordinary Landscapes, Special Places: Anfield, Breckfield and the Growth of Liverpool's Suburbs*, sponsored by LFC.

Redevelopments to the stadium took place throughout the 20th century, especially following the Hillsborough disaster when 96 Liverpool fans were killed during the avoidable crush at Sheffield Wednesday's stadium on the 15 April 1989. On Anfield Road, beside the Shankly Gates, is the Hillsborough Memorial. It records the names of the 96 fans who died, the darkest day in the Club's history. The continuing grief experienced by thousands is expressed at the memorial, where a living flame is surrounded by floral and other tributes laid before it on a daily basis by visitors from around the world.



The Isla Gladstone Conservatory (Grade II listed, 1870), recently restored with the support of Liverpool FC as part of the regeneration of the city's historic Stanley Park.

© Liverpool Football Club

The 1990s saw the Kemlyn Road stand replaced by the Centenary Stand (1992), the construction of a new Kop Stand (1994), and a new Anfield Road Stand (1997). Despite so much redevelopment, Anfield as a place is known globally as the home of Liverpool Football Club. Indeed post is delivered there from all over the world without the need for any other address.

Today, Anfield retains several buildings and other features in and around the stadium that reflect the celebrated, and sometimes tragic, history of Liverpool FC. Worth mentioning is Stanley House, 73 Anfield Road, built as the private home for the aforementioned John Houlding in 1876. This large villa is one of the best preserved, externally, of what was once an elegant row of such houses overlooking Stanley Park to the rear. The remainder of the housing surrounding the stadium is currently in limbo. The residents' own housing strategy was being implemented under the last government's Housing Market Renewal initiative and progress was being made in replacing the least reusable homes with new terraced housing incorporating gardens and off-street parking and restoring most other street terraces. However, the credit crunch and cancellation of this programme has stalled progress.

For the past 12 years, LFC has been integral to

the regeneration that has taken place in Anfield, working in partnership with Liverpool City Council and local residents. It has assisted in the delivery of an Anfield Breckfield Regeneration Strategy that is leading to new community facilities, new and improved schools, as well as the housing master plan. Most significantly, it has contributed £9 million to the restoration of Stanley Park and the Isla Gladstone Conservatory to their former glory.

The park project was precipitated by the Club's desire to build a new stadium at the eastern end of Stanley Park, where the St Domingo's team first played. By working with English Heritage and local residents on the positive overall regeneration impact of its plans, LFC obtained planning permission for the new stadium and is considering its options. Despite the delays in construction plans, the club's role in the overall realisation of the local regeneration strategy has been emblematic of its commitment to the area. This includes an extensive community programme improving health, education and employment prospects in one of the poorest parts of the UK. Liverpool Football Club is dedicated to Anfield, to its heritage and its people. 'You'll Never Walk Alone.' ■

Victoria Baths – saving Britain’s swimming heritage

Gill Wright

Project Manager, Victoria Baths Trust

Manchester’s Victoria Baths is known to many as the building that won BBC Two’s first *Restoration* series in 2003. Its amazing decorative terracotta, stained-glass windows, mosaic floors and tiled interiors couldn’t fail to impress. But, perhaps just as importantly, its classic layout with original poolside changing cubicles still intact struck a chord with very many viewers, most of whom would have learnt to swim in such a pool. And around the country these pools have been disappearing. *Restoration* raised awareness that we have neglected this key part of our social history – and the public responded. Victoria Baths did not just win the *Restoration* vote, it won by a huge margin, demonstrating very clearly that people DO care about old swimming pools, and the sporting heritage that they represent.

The apparent quick-fix TV success was not the magic wand viewers might have expected and



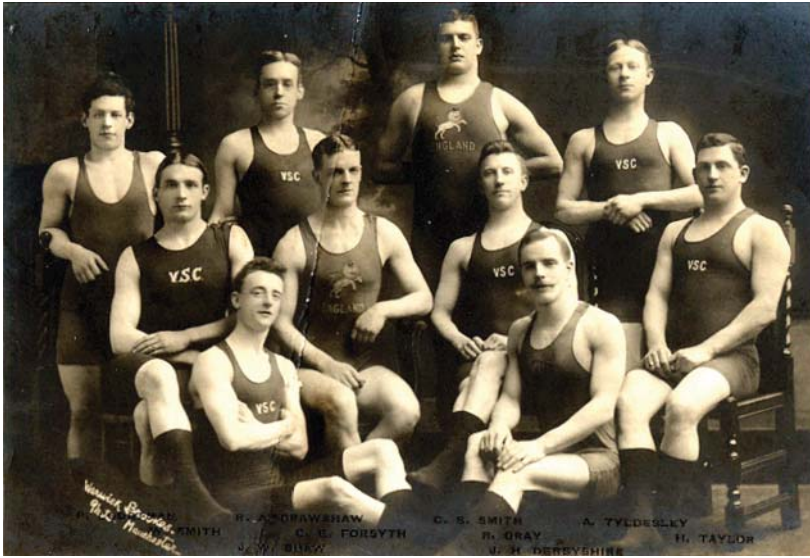
Victoria Baths exterior with Restoration Phase 1 completed, 2008. Photo: Jon Parker Lee

hoped for, but it was nevertheless the most significant milestone to date in the long haul to preserve this remarkable example of municipal swimming pool architecture. Victoria Baths had been closed in 1993 and although urgent work had been carried out in 2002, thanks to the support of English Heritage, the Trust had three unsuccessful major lottery bids under its belt. The *Restoration* win secured £3m of support from the Heritage Lottery Fund and enabled the first phase of major renovation work to take place, completing comprehensive external repairs to the front block of the building and structural repairs to the Turkish baths suite.

Much of what has been achieved at Victoria Baths has been the result of voluntary effort. Alongside the fund-raising, campaigning and restoration work, the Trust and the Friends have, step by step, cleared out and cleaned up this large building. As a result we have been able to provide more and more public access to its three pool halls, Turkish baths suite, wash bath areas, Superintendent’s flat, boiler and water treatment rooms and extensive basements. Victoria Baths is now established as a heritage visitor attraction and arts venue and each year moves closer to being financially self-sufficient. Even in times of recession, there seems to be no end to the number of people who want to visit or use Victoria Baths. It makes a great family day out, a memorable group tour destination, and is also very popular with artists, arts organisations and as a wedding venue.

But the current operation is small scale compared to the building’s potential and the aspirations of the Trust and the Friends. The aim remains to fully restore the building with at least one pool and the Turkish baths back in public use. This will require several multi-million-pound stages of restoration work and, more importantly, sound financial justification. Does Britain as a nation value its sporting heritage this highly? The Trust believes that we do – and that it is the link with the virtual history held at Victoria Baths that will justify further public investment.

The Trust began collecting items relating to the history of Victoria Baths because it wanted to better understand the building and its use over the years, to inform the restoration process. An equally important driving force, though, was the public’s desire to share their stories; the memories, documents, photographs and objects that linked their lives to Victoria Baths. Visitors and others were pleased to find people who valued their memorabilia – volunteers who could set their anecdote or swimming certificate in its context, in the wider story of Manchester’s swimming and social history.



Manchester Victoria Water Polo Team, 1908, including Rob Derbyshire, front right. Postcard image courtesy of Ian Gordon

The Trust also holds the items that were left behind when Victoria Baths closed – an eclectic mixture ranging from spare light bulbs, white wellington boots and carbolic soap to tickets for the ‘Use of SINK’ and the minute books of the South Manchester Swimming Club. With assistance from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Trust has collated and catalogued a formal archival collection – the Victoria Baths History Archive – which now holds more than 4,000 items relating to the Victoria Baths, the wider history of the baths and wash-houses of Manchester and the history of swimming generally. Other than the library held by the Amateur Swimming Association in Loughborough, we know of no other collection of this nature in Britain.

It is an under-appreciated fact that Britain led the world in the development of competitive swimming in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. And while they may no longer be household names, we in Manchester have a great legacy of our own swimming heroes – too many to list, but I have picked out Rob Derbyshire who lived at Victoria Baths, where his father was the superintendent. Rob was the first Briton to swim 100 yards in less than a minute and represented Britain in four Olympic Games from 1900 to 1912 as a swimmer and water polo player.

Swimming history is not just about the ‘greats’. It is a rich tapestry of stories, waiting to be told: stories of learning to swim, leisure swimming, social changes and sporting achievements. To be properly celebrated, that history needs to be displayed and interpreted, not hidden away in an archive or library.

What better way to do this than in a magnificent period building such as Victoria Baths, where you can almost feel the history oozing out of the walls, and then re-live the experience by swimming and relaxing in period style?

A visit to Victoria Baths in 2012 will give you a great taste for sporting history – a glimpse of what we hope are even greater things to come if we can achieve our ambition to become Britain’s living, working museum of swimming. ■

To find out more about the work of the Victoria Baths Trust or to plan a visit go to <http://www.victoriabaths.org.uk>

HLF and sporting heritage

Melissa Strauss

Policy Advisor, Participation and Learning, Heritage Lottery Fund

Since 1994, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has supported just about every popular sport in the UK, from football, rugby, cricket and tennis to boxing, bowling, curling and rowing. Projects have also explored very local traditions, like the annual Easter game of bottle kicking played with a barrel of beer between the Leicestershire villages of Hal-laton and Medbourne.

The UK has a proud sporting history, not least for the invention of games now enjoyed all over the world. Sport also plays a huge part in many people’s everyday lives and personal histories, whether they engage with it as participants or as followers. Tapping into this wide appeal can attract new audiences to heritage, making what the sector has to offer more relevant to a broader range of people. By investing in sporting heritage HLF is supporting an important part of the UK’s history and identity, as well as ensuring our funding reaches the widest possible cross-section of the population.

In recent years we have funded the conservation of historic sporting sites and facilities, including Brockwell Lido and the Victoria Baths, Manchester. We have also supported the restoration of the UK’s last-surviving pilot gigs by the Newquay Rowing Club, where work with young people and volunteers has allowed knowledge of traditional boat-building skills to be passed on to a new generation.

However, the real focus of most of the projects we fund is the stories and memories behind the people, places and events that make up our sporting heritage. Many have explored and recorded the history of local clubs, from Crystal Palace and

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Middlesborough Football Clubs, to the Warrington Wolves and the Bradford Bulls. They draw on the memories of local communities, fans and players, often linked to their stadiums and grounds. Projects on the Wakefield Wildcats' Belle Vue Stadium and Doncaster Rugby League's old ground, Tattersfield, are documenting sites that are being demolished, enabling this heritage to be displayed in their new homes.

The potential to engage communities and young people through sporting heritage is clear. 'From Coal to Goal' brings different generations in Rotherham's old mining communities together to explore the link between work and leisure, while West Ham and Plaistow's '1912–2012' project focused on school sports, a subject within most people's personal experience. For 'Cricket Roots', young people researched the lives and achievements of overseas cricketers who had played for Kent County Cricket Club throughout its history. The diversity of communities also lay at the heart of a project in which volunteers explored and recorded the history of British Deaf Tennis, the results of which were given to the Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum.

As London 2012 approaches, HLF-funded projects have increasingly been linked to the history of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Three Shropshire-based initiatives are drawing on the area's connection with William Penny-Brookes and the modern Olympic movement. They include the redevelopment of Much Wenlock Museum, as well

as a community festival on the original site and an exploration of this history by young people. Other projects are looking at earlier Olympics held in London, as well as making links with their own local areas. For example, 'White City, Black Country' involves young and older people in researching the role of the Black Country in the 1908 and 1948 Games, the latter popularly known as the 'Austerity Olympics'.

There is also a lot of interest in documenting the future heritage of 2012 and the new Olympic site. Hackney Museum's 'Mapping the Change' project is recording changes as Hackney hosts one of Europe's largest construction sites in advance of the Games. Two other projects are focused on 'High Street 2012' and the route from Central London to the Olympic Park. The first of these is supporting regeneration, while in the second the Building Exploratory is helping people to learn about the route's heritage. More broadly, Archives for London is creating a 'Winning Endeavours' website archive that will bring together words and images relating to London's Olympic history.

While the 2012 Games have galvanised interest in sporting heritage and the UK's Olympic history, this is not a subject confined to this year. The HLF has always supported projects related to historic sporting sites and collections, the stories of sporting heroes and clubs, and the memories of fans. To find out more about our funding and our support for sporting heritage go to www.hlf.org.uk ■



Repairing one of the Newquay Rowing Club's three surviving pilot gigs, the oldest of which dates back to 1812.

© Heritage Lottery Fund

Traces of defiance and local pride – the boat race at Ely

Apart from the first race, at Henley-upon-Thames in 1829, all the official Oxford–Cambridge boat races have been rowed in London. Although these were suspended during the Second World War, the undeterred students held a series of ‘unofficial’ Boat Races, all but one on the Thames. In 1944, the crews took to the water on the Great Ouse at Ely, with Oxford achieving a 2:1 lead in the series.

Little remains of this wartime defiance, when local people rallied on the banks of the Ouse to cheer on Cambridge (of course). The Old Boat House (now a restaurant) still looks out across the water in Ely itself, and the observant can find the Portland stone start and half-mile markers further downstream. The historic legacy of this event is in knowledge and memories not bricks and mortar. So, with the 60th anniversary approaching, a group of local people sought to gather the pictures, people and places that were left and lay a commemorative plaque in the adjacent Jubilee Gardens.

Ely remains part of the boat race as most of Cambridge’s water training takes place from their Ely rather than Cambridge boat house. So, the boat race crews of tomorrow train in the metaphorical wake of their wartime predecessors.

The local website about the 1944 Boat Race is at <http://www.digian.com/diamond44/website/index.cfm>

Natalie Gates, Policy Adviser (East of England), English Heritage



David Grech © English Heritage

Cleveland Pools

Penny East

The Prince’s Regeneration Trust

Cleveland Pools in Bath is the only surviving Georgian lido in the UK. These fantastic outside pools were built in 1815 and provided an essential public amenity for the people of Bath and beyond. Listed Grade II*, they have been closed as a swimming pool since the 1980s.

The Cleveland Pools Steering Group is made up of The Prince’s Regeneration Trust, English Heritage, Bath & North East Somerset Council and the local trust – the Cleveland Pools Trust. Together they are working to find the funding and local support necessary to save the site, restore it and re-open it for residents and visitors alike. The project needs £3 million in funding.

The Baths were built on land owned by the Duke of Cleveland and sit on the south bank of the River Avon. They were one of the earliest examples of a ‘subscription pool’ – built with private money for public use. In the *Bath Chronicle* on the 20 July 1815 an advertisement asked gentlemen to become involved with the plan to build an outside pool. The great and the good of Bath developed the

Baths and this model of development was copied across the country.

The Reverend Race Godfrey acquired the lease in 1827 for the Baths and the adjacent building plot and successfully ran them until the 1860s. He spent a considerable sum of money on refurbishments, including the provision of a walled Ladies pool – it offered the ‘spring fed, perpetually running showers’ and was opened in 1827.

The Baths remained in private ownership until 1898 promoting swimming as a health activity and providing lessons for local residents. Bath Corporation took them over in 1900 and they proved popular well into the 1960s. During the 1970s, public funds were directed to the newly opened Sports Centre and despite private attempts to carry out works from 1982 onwards, the Baths were closed in 1984.

Cleveland Baths is a Georgian gem and the shape of the pools and its relationship with the crescent of buildings is still apparent. At the centre of the site is the caretaker’s cottage with attached changing rooms in the form of a miniature Georgian crescent flanking the swimming pool. The shape of the pools is very close to the original.

The main pool was the first pool to be



Cleveland Pools, Bath: a rare survival of Georgian outdoor recreational amenity that is now a worthy candidate for restoration to its former glory. © Prince's Regeneration Trust

constructed on the site, originally fed from the river, and is 41m x 9.17m, with an average depth of 1.8m. The pool retains its original curved footprint, echoed by the curve of the crescent. The upper pool is 15m x 6m with an average depth of 1m. It is likely to have been originally fed by natural springs. It is a similar construction to the main pool with rendered brick walls and concrete floor, edged with terracotta blocks.

The site has been left abandoned for the last three decades and it has unfortunately suffered a great deal from decay and neglect. The buildings, though still intact and with many original features surviving, have been badly vandalised. The pools have become overgrown with weeds.

Outdoor swimming has experienced a revival in recent times and the successful restoration would not only save this piece of sporting heritage but would make it fit for its original purpose. There is nothing quite like it in Bath – it is beautiful and unique as a sporting and leisure facility and extremely valuable as telling a narrative of Bath's social history.

The project will involve sympathetic repairs to the historic buildings. The central cottage will retain residential use on the first floor, and provide activity space on the ground floor. The changing cubicles will retain their simple character, apart from two that will have showers facilities installed with minimum intervention to the stonework. The Ladies Pool with its dressing rooms will be conserved as it stands, to become a heritage and education centre, with free-standing furniture and display equipment.

The work would conserve the historic swimming pool and original buildings, and restore the

primary purpose of outdoor swimming. The opportunity to swim in the oldest pool in the UK is genuinely unique and would promote and encourage swimming among the local community. The Pools could be developed to meet modern requirements without damaging the architectural and historic significance of the site and without detracting from the visitors' experience of the heritage.

Visitors will be able to appreciate the history of the Baths in an environment where concern has been given to ecological considerations. These will include the use of biological water treatment, sympathetic use of the river, careful planning with regard to the natural environment including wildlife habitats and the use of alternative energy sources. The site contains no unique ecological habitats that must be preserved, but the river corridor is an important feature in the local ecology and must be protected. Care will be taken to minimise the loss of natural habitat and to enhance it with the renovation of the trees and shrubs.

The visitor experience will be enhanced by learning about the site's history through exhibition displays and audio-visual material in addition to the availability of volunteer guides. On a wider basis the educational programme will include a portable exhibition to support consultation and discussion with differing communities including schools – to ensure the project is inclusive and has participation at its heart.

Cleveland Pools is a precious piece of sporting heritage that has the potential to provide residents and visitors with a beautiful and unique place to swim, relax and learn about the heritage of this world-renowned Georgian city. ■

Jubilee playing fields

Alison Moore-Gwyn

Chief Executive, Fields in Trust



Lords, Wimbledon, Wembley and Twickenham all evoke the importance of recreational and sporting heritage in this country. But that heritage is not limited to these national iconic spaces. In towns and cities across England the local football pitch, park, bowling green or playground plays a role that goes well beyond providing space for the activities they field.



Outdoor recreational spaces are at the heart of communities and research shows that they play a vital part in addressing anti-social behaviour, isolation and social cohesion. This is in addition to the more obvious benefits that regular participation in physical activity brings in terms of active, healthy lifestyles. However, continuing pressure on land for development means that this recreational heritage is often under threat.



Celebrating Fields in Trust across the decades – from King George V to Queen Elizabeth II.

Fields in Trust – founded in 1925 as the National Playing Fields Association by King George V – has played a crucial role in ensuring the preservation of outdoor spaces for use by communities, both now and in the future. After more than 85 years the need for our work remains as pressing as ever. The pressure to build on or develop playing fields ebbs and flows in line with the economic climate. Sadly, recreational sites are often an attractive canvas for a development and, in straitened times, offer quick-fix solutions to local authorities facing cash-flow problems.

Between 1925 and 2010 the charity has given legal protection to 1,287 sites, and part of this stable are the King George V Fields. This memorial programme began in 1936 following the death of the organisation's founder and resulted in the designation of 471 King George V Fields across the UK – all



The wheel-chair accessible Aspal Close nature reserve in Suffolk is one of the 2012 recreational spaces being protected as part of the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge.

© Fields in Trust

of which remain protected and in existence today.

The protection afforded to King George V Fields and the many other sites under our care has been vital in preserving the recreational heritage of England. Without this legal protection many important community spaces would have been lost over the years to all kinds of development and the people they serve made the poorer for it.

Fields in Trust is currently engaged in its most ambitious programme to date, one that will have a positive impact on the recreational landscape of England for generations to come. The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge, led by The Duke of Cambridge, aims to protect 2,012 outdoor recreational spaces to mark the great events of 2012: the Diamond Jubilee of our Patron, Her Majesty the Queen, and the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

We saw the combination of these two great events as a fantastic opportunity to build on all the previous work of Fields in Trust. Creating a tangible and permanent legacy that could benefit communities at grassroots level all across the country is a hugely exciting prospect and the support that we have received from The Duke of Cambridge has been pivotal in helping us toward achieving our goal.

Local authorities and town and parish councils are being asked to nominate outdoor recreational spaces to be protected as Queen Elizabeth II Fields in their area. As well as gaining legal protection through Fields in Trust, each site will receive a commemorative plaque to signify its new status. Queen Elizabeth II Fields then have the opportunity to apply for a range of improvement funds from us, Sport England and the SITA Trust.

More than 1,100 sites have already been nominated, all of which are being encouraged to celebrate the events of 2012 and their newly protected status by hosting 'Have a Field' events over the summer. A special Have A Field Day Toolkit, produced in conjunction with our principal partner Asda, gives helpful advice on planning a community day. The sites holding these events will then also receive a pack of banners, flags, bunting, badges, footballs, yo-yos and much, much more to help ensure their day is a great success.

With the spaces we already protect and the new Queen Elizabeth II Fields network, Fields in Trust is creating the most wonderful living legacy for future generations to enjoy. ■

To find out more visit www.fieldsintrust.org or www.qe2fields.com

Green aspects: preserving the heritage of bowls

Hugh Hornby

Independent historian and writer

Bowled Over, to be published as part of the English Heritage series of books, *Played in Britain*, will be a survey of the unique way in which the various games of bowls – flat, crown green, and even indoor – fit into the fabric of Britain. Bowls is an under-researched sport, considering its popularity among all classes of society over the last 700 years. Around 500,000 people are regular players. Its vocabulary, of bias and rubs, has seeped into the literature of Shakespeare and many others; its image, of white-clad pensioners trundling away in suburbia, is so familiar as to be a cliché. Yet its greens, its stones and bricks, have been all too often obliterated in the name of progress, with scarcely a thought.

Over the last few years, I have been travelling widely, visiting hundreds of the oldest, quirkiest and most important sites connected with what is one of our most venerable, pure sports. There is hardly a corner of the British Isles where bowls does not have a presence, yet it is easy to overlook a sport which slots so neatly, and quietly, into our landscape. This book will attempt to assess and record what is most significant among its surviving landscapes, architecture, art and ephemera.

For example, the Southampton Old Bowling Green club occupies a piece of ground first documented in 1299, next to God's House Tower. Other greens of great antiquity can be found at Chesterfield, Hereford and Painswick. The Elizabethan and Stuart eras saw bowls taken up by the monarchy and aristocracy. Greens were laid at royal palaces, like Hampton Court, and at grand houses, such as Berkeley Castle and Haddon Hall. In the 18th century, scores of pubs added a bowling green to their



range of attractions, and the connection between bowls, drinking and gambling remains strong to this day in the crown green code of Northern England and the Midlands.

As with many other sports, the Victorian era transformed bowls. The first boom was in Scotland, where Glasgow solicitor, William Mitchell, wrote the rules that became the basis of the flat green code now played all over the world. Large numbers of these clubs, especially in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Ayrshire and Lanarkshire, remain. They form one of the most significant clusters of historic sporting sites in Britain. A wave of English clubs followed in the later 19th and early 20th centuries.

In assessing the need for preservation, policy-formers have found it difficult to argue a case for bowls' sites. Grass is always green and the vast majority of buildings are utilitarian and haphazard. Many rather charming 19th-century pavilions are now hidden behind or within later extensions. Flat roofs and pebble-dash abound. Most currently listed bowls' sites are not designated in their own right but simply because they happen to be associated with much larger and grander structures, the game itself marked only by a wall or other fragment of its former presence. There is virtually no protection of anything established post-1800.

Bowls is particularly vulnerable to the pressures of modern land use, as it is so easy to turn its level swards, unencumbered by buildings, into housing plots. One of the perverse quirks of the current planning system is that many local authority development plans exclude town and city bowling greens from the protection offered to larger open spaces and consider them instead as potential infill sites. Here, at the heart of built-up areas, are they not actually more deserving of protection by virtue of being precious oases of green?

Recent months have seen the beginnings of a campaign, led by Barrow-in-Furness MP John

The Waterloo in Blackpool, most famous venue of the crown green bowls' code, has recently been turned down for listing by English Heritage. Its significance as the site of the most prestigious competition in the crown green calendar, first held in 1907, and also as the only stadium venue in the sport, was not deemed sufficient to counterbalance the basic nature of its covered stands and open terrace, and the unremarkable architecture of the adjoining pub.

© Peter Holme

Southampton has a good claim to the oldest bowling green in the world. Every year, a Knight's Ceremony is held. The ordinary member who is the first to score seven points by bowling closest to a jack wins a silver medal and joins the Knighthood. This event dates back to 1776.

Nigel Corrie © English Heritage

Sue Pottle unveils the English Heritage plaque to her father, the Olympic athlete Harold Abrahams, in May 2007.

Nigel Corrie © English Heritage

Woodcock. He introduced a Private Member's Bill in the House of Commons in 2011, which aired the debate and called for a tightening of the criteria needed for local authority planning committees to approve the development of bowling greens. Thousands of bowling greens have been lost since the sport first took root. It is to be hoped that the current economic situation does not accelerate the rate of loss still further. ■

Sporting blue plaques

Howard Spencer

Blue Plaques Historian, English Heritage

London's blue plaques scheme has been running since 1866, and has been in the hands of English Heritage since 1986. Sport has long been an under-represented area of endeavour: nearly a hundred years elapsed before the first sporting celebrity was commemorated. Perhaps inevitably it was the cricketer W G Grace (1848–1915) – the first superstar of mass spectator sport.

The plaque scheme is largely driven by public suggestion, but where clear imbalances exist a proactive approach is adopted. In the early 2000s English Heritage staff began to work in partnership with the Sports Council (later Sport England) to identify suitable sporting figures for commemoration in London. Among the fruits of this work was the plaque to Harold Abrahams (1899–1978), the runner whose exploits were etched into national consciousness by the film *Chariots of Fire* (1981).

The inter-war, semi-detached house in Golders Green selected for commemoration was Abrahams's home at the time that he won that famous gold medal in the Paris Olympics of 1924. Although the house has been altered since, it nonetheless remains much as he would have then known it. This insistence on architectural authenticity and on a compelling and thoroughly researched link between building and person are pillars of the scheme, and underpin its effectiveness as a tool for heritage protection.

As well as marking particular buildings, plaques can signpost wider associations. A good example commemorates the three times Olympic gold-winning oarsman Jack Beresford (1899–1977). It marks the address in Chiswick at which he lived at the time of his Olympic exploits – important not just for itself but in its proximity to the River Thames, on which Beresford honed his skills with the Thames Rowing Club, which hosted the unveiling in 2005.



Particular challenges are involved in researching plaques to sporting champions; it is common for significant figures to lack even a basic biography. This can make the initial identification of possible addresses a real challenge, though recent developments in the digitisation of sources such as electoral registers and phone books has made 'scoping' such cases more feasible.

Sport is an arena in which talent will out, regardless of an individual's background. It is not surprising, therefore, to find a significant overlap with other marginalised histories, such as those of economically and socially disadvantaged groups, and of immigrant communities in particular. Harold Abrahams came from a Polish-Jewish family and Beresford's ancestry was Polish: his finest moment came beating a German team in the double sculls gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics – in front of Hitler.

Further sporting plaques are planned for this Olympic year, including one to the tennis champion Fred Perry – one of Britain's few true world-beaters – and another to Scipio Africanus 'Sam' Mussabini, the pioneering athletics coach. These will join the twenty-odd existing plaques to sporting heroes, details of which will be published on the English Heritage website.

It is hoped that each and every sporting plaque will engage people who would not otherwise be readily touched by the work of English Heritage, and encourage their support for wider conservation aims. ■

Olympic Legacies

The London Olympics will soon be a memory – so what will they bequeath to the tangible and intangible heritage of the future?

After seven years in the planning, the 2012 London Olympics will soon join their 1908 and 1948 predecessors in the annals of British sporting history. Of those earlier events little now survives beyond memories – the 1908 White City stadium was demolished in 1989 and its Wembley successor in 2003. So how much of what has been constructed for this year's games will survive the test of time and become the valued heritage of the future? As Joanna Averley argues (below) the prospects for London's Olympic buildings look far brighter than those of most other recent host cities.

Elsewhere the 2012 Olympics have been the catalyst for the refurbishment of older sporting buildings to new and adapted uses, as in the case of the Crystal Palace National Recreation Centre (Woods, pp 37–8) or the German Gymnasium at the heart of London's King's Cross redevelopment (Madelin p 39). They are also the occasion for us to be reminded that one of the inspirations for the modern Olympic movement still flourishes in the heart of rural Shropshire (Cromarty, p 38). Finally Simon Inglis previews the latest volume in the *Played in Britain* series – a celebration of the extraordinary wealth of historic sporting tradition to which London is already home.

The 2012 London Olympics: what will shine brightly once the flame goes out?

Joanna Averley

Chief Executive, LandAid and former Deputy CEO, CABA

The scene is set, the tickets are nearly all sold, the buildings are finished and the troupes of dancers are practising for the opening ceremony. The greatest show on earth is about to hit town. When we look back in 2050 will we still value the fabric that hosted what the world watched on its TV screens in 2012?

A little bit of planning history will be a useful start. London is the only city to have hosted the modern Olympic games three times (in 1908, 1948 and 2012). The last occasion was in the post-war austerity of 1948, when they were staged without building a single new venue. The 1948 games also coincided with the implementation of the London County Council's *Greater London Plan 1946–1949*. This document includes a beautifully simple and

powerful map of the villages and neighbourhoods of London. It is familiar to Londoners today. But look east along the line of the Thames and you see the plan is coloured black with no circles of identifiable community.

Travelling through the Olympic site in 2005 made sense of this portrayal. While there were some notable industries, many of which continue to trade at new relocated sites, a tour of the venue was quite an adventure. The land, railways and 8.35 km of waterways created a disconnected and inaccessible labyrinth of forgotten spaces and contaminating uses – some of which you were not sure were legal. A trip along the canal was no pleasure cruise.

This brings us to the first and most important Olympic achievement – the transformation of a large tract of city from the back alley of London into its front door – the place that will welcome the world. In combination with the Westfield Shopping Centre at Stratford, the Olympic Park is already a new London destination full of economic vitality.

Once the games are over the process of transformation needs to go on creating economically attractive and successful spaces and buildings for Londoners, all centred on a successful and much-loved park. The first steps to making this happen are already in place. Unlike Sydney, which put on a great show but had no plan about what to do after the flame was extinguished, London has consistently been planning the 'legacy'.

But it's not enough to think only about the structures that are left standing. Large venues, public spaces and development sites need to be managed and marketed to meet their potential and fund future investments. Communities also need to take ownership of this new part of the city, which is why a new Mayoral Development Corporation will work with local government to make sure that the Olympic Village and park do not become un-loved white elephants.

Much of the second aspect of the legacy will go unnoticed and unseen this summer – the above and below-ground engineering that has brought derelict and contaminated land and waterways back into positive use. Early visits were to a small boy's paradise where diggers and dump trucks washed, shifted and moulded the earth (2.3 million cubic metres of it); where waterways were dredged and



The Olympic Park from the air: a legacy of urban regeneration and green space for the people of east London.

Damian Grady
© English Heritage

where major power lines were under-grounded. All this heavy lifting was complemented by ferocious attention to environmental detail – 4000 newts and 300 common lizards were relocated to new homes while more than 95% of the construction waste was recycled.

Third on my list of legacies are the waterways and parkland that have been created. From the urban-scaled spaces in the south, criss-crossed by stylish new bridges, to the open meadows to the north, the 100-hectare Queen Elizabeth Park will play a vital role in the life of the communities that surround it. The pleasure in seeing new grasslands, wildflower meadows and open riverbanks will stand the test of time. Most vitally the park and its new bridges, roads and public transport will reconnect this once-forgotten place to its immediate neighbours, London and beyond.

Finally, there are the new buildings that will remain after 2012. I mention them last for the simple reason that they have tended to attract all the attention (and deservedly to some degree), although they are in reality just pieces of the much bigger jigsaw of legacies already described. The buildings that will be standing in 2050 are likely to

have a mixed future. Some will look as they do today, some will change subtly over time as they adapt to new uses, some are yet to be built.

The 11 residential blocks providing 2818 new homes in the Olympic Village were intended to serve as an exemplar in medium-rise London living. Although each block had a different architect, they were designed as a set with the result that the anticipated variations on a theme have perhaps ended up just a bit too subtle.

Of the five venues that will be permanent facilities for the park, it is easy to assume that the stadium will rest in the psyche for longest and that the award-winning Zaha Hadid aquatics centre will be recognised as the most daring of buildings. The symbolism of the façade of the handball arena by Make is also worth noting. Rather than creating a sealed box, into which no one can see, the building provides a viewing window for passers-by to watch and engage with sport in an informal way. But perhaps the most impressive is the Velodrome, designed by Hopkins Architects. It is a building truly fit for 2012: not only exceptionally elegant, it has also been built with great care when it comes to the environment and its ongoing use in a 21st-century age of austerity.



The Olympic Velodrome by Hopkins Architects: the functional elegance of this building fits the mood of the times and has the potential to become part of the sporting heritage of the future. Anthony Charlton © London 2012

Returning to the theme of engineering, the infrastructure across the Olympic site has also been designed with the expanding needs of the future in mind. These could be background buildings, but in fact they are each gems in their own right: a water-treatment centre and pumping station by John Lyall Architects, the energy centre by John McAslan & Partners or the sub-station by Nord Architects – all designed with elegance but also with some playfulness and even beauty. Whether through the use of lattice, permeable brickwork or the imprinted drawings of the pumps and pistons from Joseph Bazalgette's celebrated Victorian sewer, which crosses the park, they are all reminders that some of the best built heritage in London is not in the ceremonial spaces but in the places we inhabit and pass through every day of our lives.

That will be the true sign of a successful legacy: the Olympic Park becoming a part of the London fabric, which can support and be enjoyed by local residents and Londoners alike. ■



Imprinted into the walls of the Pumping Station are drawings from Joseph Bazalgette's celebrated Victorian sewer system, which runs near by.

© Rob Scott

Crystal Palace and London's sporting heritage

Malcolm Woods

Historic Buildings & Areas Adviser (London Region), English Heritage

When the Crystal Palace was re-opened in Sydenham in 1836 it became the focus of what was one of the greatest of urban Victorian parks, laid out under the direction of the designer of the Palace itself, Sir Joseph Paxton. The Palace burned down in 1936 but the park is still with us and now designated as a Grade II* heritage asset, albeit in a condition that led English Heritage to include it in its Heritage At Risk Register in 2009.

The park's decline began to accelerate with the loss of the Palace and after being requisitioned in the Second World War it suffered the indignity of becoming a dumping ground for 385,000 tons of bomb rubble and a base for dismantling military vehicles. However, a competition was launched in 1945 for the design of new buildings in the park and although the complete masterplan was never fully executed, it did lead to the construction of the building known as the National Recreation Centre (NRC). A substantial and, in its time, innovative building that houses facilities for both wet and dry sports, it too is a Grade II* designated heritage asset.

The NRC building – and the associated athletics stadium – is part of the park's rich sporting history. Its cricket ground, established in 1857, was home to W G Grace's London County Cricket Club; the Football Association Cup was contested here between 1895 and 1914; the first rugby match between England and New Zealand was held at Crystal Palace in 1905 (The All Blacks won 15–0); a motor-racing circuit was established in 1937 with

the final race being held in 1972; a banked cycle track was established in one of the former great fountain basins in 1896 and an athletics track in the other in 1920 (the current athletics stadium has hosted the athletics London Grand Prix since 1999); and the NRC houses one of only a handful of 50m swimming pools in London.

Despite this rich sporting heritage, the NRC was threatened with closure in 2004 when Sport England chose not to renew its lease of the site from the owners, the London Borough of Bromley. The imminent closure of such a significant sporting facility posed a threat to the credibility of London's bid to stage the 2012 Olympic Games and the London Development Agency's (LDA) announcement that it would take on the site's lease was warmly welcomed.

It was the LDA that commissioned a comprehensive masterplan for the park – the third since the end of the Second World War – from the Munich-based landscape architects, Latz and Partner, which gained planning permission after a lengthy public inquiry in 2009. Among other initiatives, this masterplan proposed the conversion of the NRC for dry sports use only and the construction of a new multi-use sports centre embedded into the land alongside the athletics stadium. Whether these proposals materialise, however, is now open to question following the government's abolition of the LDA on 31 March 2012.

So what of Crystal Palace and its sporting future in this Olympic year? While none of the events of either the Olympic or Paralympic games is to be held at Crystal Palace, some 200 athletes from the Brazilian Olympic Team will use the facilities at Crystal Palace for preparation and training. However, the opening of the Olympic stadium at

Designed in 1953–4 but not opened until 1964, the National Recreation Centre at Crystal Palace is now designated as a Grade II* listed building. Despite significant recent investment in the facilities, the long-term uses of the building may be subject to significant changes.

Malcolm Woods
© English Heritage



Stratford must raise question marks about the future of the Athletics Grand Prix meeting at Crystal Palace. In the meantime, Crystal Palace Football Club unveiled plans in January 2011 to return to its spiritual home – the club was formed by workers at The Crystal Palace in 1905 – although how this might sit with the park’s designated status will doubtless be the subject of continued debate. ■

The Wenlock Olympian Society

Helen Cromarty

Wenlock Olympian Society

The modern open international Olympics claim many sources of inspiration for their inauguration in 1896. Principal amongst these were the annual games of the Wenlock Olympian Society (WOS) and their founder, William Penny Brookes. In 1890, Baron Pierre de Coubertin visited Much Wenlock to discuss physical education with Brookes and his committee, but he left with the blueprint for an Olympic revival.

Brookes was a doctor and surgeon for the ancient Wenlock borough (made up of Madeley, Broseley and Much Wenlock districts), and served as a magistrate there for over 40 years. He was also an entrepreneur: with his brother Andrew and several like-minded individuals he set up two local railway companies and the gas company.

In both his medical and civic work, Brookes saw at first hand the grinding poverty and effects of alcohol which were part of everyday life in a poor rural area such as Wenlock. Agriculture, quarrying and forestry were the major avenues of work for those lucky enough to be employed. His patients were his people and Brookes sought to promote the balance of a healthy mind in a healthy body – through his annual Wenlock Olympian Games where prizes were awarded to people of ‘every grade’ for skill in sport, the arts and industry.

The first Wenlock Olympian Games were a two-day event held October 1850 on Much Wenlock’s race course. It wasn’t the ideal location as the uneven ground sloped. However, it was already an established sporting venue, and it had a grandstand. The preferential seating was important as Brookes needed to attract the gentry to ensure his games were taken seriously.

In 1858 the Games moved to the Windmill Field, which from this date became their permanent home. The ground is large and level, and Windmill Hill rises at the back, running from north to east to form a natural viewing area for the ordinary spectator. The view is now obscured by trees, including

some of the many fine specimens Brookes and his WOS planted to commemorate people and events.

Kwik Cricket, bowls and the start and finish triathlon and road race continue to be held on the Gaskell Field, but 2012 will see most events at the much-expanded 126th Wenlock Olympian Games take place on five other sites across Shropshire. The 21 disciplines require 11 non-consecutive days to complete the programme. The ‘industry’ aspect of the Games has been dropped entirely, and ‘live arts’ now holds competitions in music, creative writing and dance. These are held in March over four non-consecutive days at the Much Wenlock Leisure Centre and William Brookes School.

Staging the Games is an awesome task and WOS relies on the goodwill of many volunteers. Each event complies with its respective national governing body and is organised by a recognised sports club or arts organisation, or an individual with expertise in the appropriate field. All WOS’s activities – the annual Games, its educational activities and archival work – are funded through the generosity of patrons, sponsors and donors. WOS itself is volunteer-run and consists of an executive who are also the trustees, and a general committee. While acknowledging its role as a significant part of the Olympic family, its long-term aims are to retain its independence, preserve its heritage and adhere to the aims of its founder, William Penny Brookes. ■

To find out more about the Wenlock Olympian Games, visit www.wenlock-olympian-society.org.uk



T Sabin of Coventry, winner of the Wenlock Olympian Games bicycle races in 1877 and 1878. © Wenlock Olympian Society



Above: William Penny Brookes, founder of the Wenlock Olympian Society and one of the influences behind the modern Olympic movement. © Wenlock Olympian Society

The German Gymnasium

Roger Madelin CBE

Joint CEO, Argent Group

Argent is lucky enough to be developing the 27 hectares of former railway lands between and to the north of London's King's Cross and St Pancras Stations. The new development will incorporate some 20 historic buildings and structures among its 50 new buildings.

One of the most prominent heritage buildings, sitting between the Grade I-listed railway stations, is the Grade II German Gymnasium. It has an important Olympic history.

Built in 1865–6, it was designed by Edward Gruning and commissioned by Ernst Ravenstein, the founder and head of the German Gymnastic Society. The first of its kind in London, the building was designed to accommodate the increasingly popular style of German gymnastics. Although financed by the German community in London, the society soon had many more English and other nationalities among its members than Germans. It was open to all and 'even' women were allowed to exercise in the building.

The building's claim to 'Olympic' fame is that it was the venue for gymnastics, fencing, wrestling and boxing for the third day of the first National Olympian Association Games (NOA) in 1866.

Although Olympian-style game events had taken place in England for some years, the Wenlock Olympian Games probably being the most famous (see Cromarty, p 38), these first NOA Games are considered by many as the real impetus to the rebirth of the International Modern Olympics. The NOA Games were the idea mainly of William Penny Brookes (who founded the Wenlock Games in 1850), John Hulley and Ernst Ravenstein.

The rebirth of the Modern Olympics is rightly credited to the Frenchman Pierre Coubertin, but beforehand he had spent a considerable amount of time in Britain, watching, helping and learning from the Wenlock Games and the NOA Games. Coubertin and William Brookes had discussed, debated and worked 'up the idea' of forming an International Olympic Committee (IOC). Sadly Brookes died some four months before the 1896 Athens Games and although in some articles Coubertin credits him with much of the impetus for the Modern International Olympics, his name progressively disappears from later accounts.

What does the future hold for the German Gym?

Use of the building as a gym ended in the early 20th century, when a mezzanine floor was installed as part of its conversion for office use. Three years ago the removal of the mezzanine revealed the building's amazing laminated timber roof beams, still with the original hooks for hanging ropes. Since then we have been using the gym as a public information and marketing suite for our development. Now, however, we are handing it over to the global manufacturing company GE, who intend to use it as an Ecomagination Centre for the duration of the 2012 games as part of their role as an International Olympic Committee sponsor.

After they leave we intend to sensitively convert the gym into 'one of the best station restaurant café bars in the world'. Why not? We are, after all, between two of the best stations in the world! In the process we plan to remove more of the mezzanine floor allowing an even better appreciation of the original building's use. Maybe rope-swinging waiters and waitresses (of course) will serve the customers showing off some of their gymnastic skills! ■



The German Gym – one of the venues for the first National Olympian Association Games in 1866.

Source: Argent PLC

The German Gym is now part of the vibrant redevelopment of the area between London's King's Cross and St Pancras Stations.

© John Sturrock



Played in London – charting the heritage of the capital at play

Simon Inglis

Played in Britain series editor

Scheduled for publication in November, *Played in London* is the sixth urban study in the *Played in Britain* series. Compared with earlier studies on Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool, Glasgow and Tyne & Wear, the sheer scale of the capital and its rich store of historic sporting locations present a formidable challenge. Whereas in the earlier studies the *Played in Britain* team needed to deal with three, four or five local authorities at most, London's 32 boroughs across four counties have required a herculean trawl through local archives (not always easy when library services are being savagely cut).

Funding from the Historic Environment Enabling Programme (HEEP) has helped smooth the way, supplemented by sponsorship from Populous, architects of the new Wembley Stadium, the Emirates Stadium, the Centre Court at Wimbledon and the Olympic Stadium at Stratford. Having three experienced English Heritage photographers on hand, Nigel Corrie and Derek Kendall on the ground plus Damian Grady in the air, has also been a bonus.

London's sporting heritage has a depth almost certainly unmatched anywhere in the world. It is the only city ever to have staged three modern Olympiads, and has more professional football clubs (14) than anywhere other than Buenos Aires. One of the book's chief aims is to identify themes specific to the capital. Among those chosen are the River Thames and its 60 or so boathouses, the cluster of sports venues in the Lee Valley (which now includes the Olympic Park), and the proliferation of company sports grounds in south London, particularly those relating to the financial services industry. Surprisingly, given the pressure on land use, London also has a network of 106 golf clubs, the oldest of which, the Royal Blackheath, is itself the oldest in the world. It also happens to occupy a building that is Grade I listed.

Profusely illustrated with detailed maps, *Played in London* promises to be the most ambitious offering yet from the *Played in Britain* series. Capital sport guaranteed. ■



Pupils from Westminster School (in the pink) and Charterhouse contest the longest-running fixture known in Association Football, first played in 1863. Laid out for the school in 1810, the Vincent Square playing fields originally formed part of an area known as Tuttle, or Tothill Fields, where sport has been played since at least the 17th century. A petition dated 1659 in the archives of Westminster Abbey begs the Governors of Westminster College and the Free School to impose severe penalties on those horsemen who abused the fields, who dumped their night soil there and left dead horses unburied, because in doing so 'the gentry were hindered from meeting for their recreations at bowls, goffe and stowball'.

© Simon Inglis



Mapping is a vital part of *Played in Britain's* work. This map from *Played in London* shows the clusters of boathouses lining the Thames between Putney and Mortlake – the so-called Championship Course, where Oxford and Cambridge have raced since 1845. A marks the start, B the first mile marker and D the finishing point, just before Chiswick Bridge. The course makes for a fascinating riverside walk, with several interesting boathouses to enjoy along the way. The oldest is that of the London Rowing Club (number 13), dating back to 1871, while at number 25 is the Grade II-listed University of London boathouse, a striking modernist structure opened in 1936. The complete *Played in London* survey of the Thames stretches from Erith in the east to Hampton Court in the west. © Mark Fenton, English Heritage



It is thanks to sport that London districts like Wembley, Twickenham and Chelsea are known throughout the world. One particularly well-known suburb is Wimbledon, home to the All England Tennis Club, which moved to its current site in 1922 and has, ever since, been engaged in a rolling programme of improvements. The latest of these has seen the reconstruction of the Centre Court to accommodate a sliding fabric roof. Wimbledon is the only remaining Grand Slam tournament to be played on turf. This image, taken for *Played in London* by English Heritage's Aerial Survey team, shows just how restricted and awkward the Wimbledon site is; yet one more example of how English sport has always placed tradition before convenience. © Damian Grady, English Heritage



Every summer since 1715 a select group of newly qualified Watermen has raced on the Thames for the honour of wearing the Doggetts Coat and Badge, an event that is believed to be the oldest, continually contested race in the world. The following November the winner is paraded in his new finery at a Livery Dinner held at the Fishmongers' Hall, London Bridge, as seen here in 2010. Thomas Doggett was an Irish comic actor who endowed the race in honour of George I's accession to the throne. Hence each badge bears the Hanoverian white horse and the word 'Liberty'. The course for the race runs from London Bridge to Cadogan Pier, Chelsea, a distance of more than four miles. The current record is 23 minutes 22 seconds, recorded by Bob Prentice in 1973, seen here in the darker coat. Next to him is the 2010 winner, Daniel Arnold. In Doggett's time there were around 2,000 Watermen working on the river. The current total is fewer than 600, although conversely, rowing on the Thames is more popular than ever, largely thanks to the river's improved water quality, the reduction in commercial traffic and the inspiring achievements of Great Britain's rowing crews in the Olympic Games.

© Derek Kendall, English Heritage

London Sporting Buildings

Following on from the research for *Played in London* English Heritage will shortly begin to assess half a dozen or so key buildings in Greater London which may merit inclusion on the statutory list because of their architectural and/or historic interest. This will include buildings and structures representative of a number of different sports. It is intended that this London project will be completed in 2012 to complement both the publication of the *Played in London* book and also to tap into the heightened interest in all matters sporting in this Olympic year.

For further information please contact Veronica Fiorato (Designation Team Leader – South) at veronica.fiorato@english.heritage.org.uk

News from English Heritage

New Works in Historic Places of Worship

This revised and extended edition of the 2003 publication is aimed at everyone responsible for making decisions about historic places of worship. It sets out the principles that English Heritage applies when considering proposals for the alteration or extension of such buildings, including new illustrations and sections on flooring, energy efficiency, renewable energy generation and the introduction of works of art. A hard-copy version of the guidance will be published once it has been further amended to take account of the new National Planning Policy Framework but in the meantime it can be downloaded from www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/new-work-in-historic-places-of-worship. If you cannot access it on line please contact our Customer Services Department, tel: 0870 333 1181; fax: 01793 414926; textphone: 0800 015 0516.

Contact: diana.evans@english-heritage.org.uk



National Heritage Protection Plan (NHPP)

English Heritage wants to encourage and empower as wide a range of people as possible to care for the historic environment. To ensure that our work under the NHPP takes this into account, we have carried out an Equality Impact Assessment and confirmed the key actions we need to take. They include consulting with experts on aspects of history currently under-represented in our understanding of the historic environment and identifying thematic terms which English Heritage can use to make its digital records more accessible to researchers interested in the history of women, disabled people, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, minority ethnic groups and minority faith groups. This consultation will take place in May

2012 and the results will be published over the summer.

The Impact Assessment is published on our website at <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/national-heritage-protection-plan/other-nhpp-docs/>. If you have comments or suggestions about how it could be further improved, please contact nhpp@english-heritage.org.uk
Contact: rachel.hasted@english-heritage.org.uk

Heritage Counts 2011 research findings

Heritage Counts 2011 showed how local communities are working with the public sector to promote the understanding and care of the historic environment. However, research also highlighted how they need better support and advice. This issue chimes strongly with the rise of localism, and is particularly important given reductions in local-authority historic-environment staff.

A new online guide (www.heritagecounts.org.uk/local-checklist) to help local groups widen and strengthen community involvement in heritage issues is being supported by a nationwide road show in which groups are invited to discuss the issues that are important to them.

Heritage Counts 2012 will focus on resilience. Research into heritage organisations that have already made themselves more resilient to the current economic climate will draw out recommendations for other organisations looking for ways to adapt. To mark 10 years of *Heritage Counts* we will also be taking an in-depth look at some of the key indicator trends over that time. For more information see www.heritagecounts.org.uk

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Setting of Heritage Assets

This new document sets out advice on managing change within the settings of archaeological sites and historic buildings, areas and landscapes. It is intended to assist implementation of the recently launched National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and will provide the basis for advice by English Heritage both when it responds to consultations and when it assesses the implications of development proposals on its own historic estate. It will also assist other individuals and organisations involved with managing development in the setting of heritage assets.

The NPPF confirms that proposals that preserve elements of the setting and make a positive contribution to the overall significance of the asset

should be treated favourably. Carefully weighing the impacts of proposals on significance will therefore become a fundamental part of the planning process. English Heritage intends to revise its advice in the light of significant planning decisions and developing professional practice.

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National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The National Planning Policy Framework was published on 27 March 2012 (see also *Legal Developments*, p46). It replaces all the previous Planning Policy Statements, including *PPS 5*. Its central theme is the 'presumption in favour of sustainable development', which is elaborated in 12 core land-use planning principles that will in future underpin both plan-making and decision-taking. Matters relevant to the historic environment are scattered throughout the document but it is the section on Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment that specifically supersedes *PPS 5* and which continues to advocate a significance-led approach to decision-taking.

During the summer English Heritage will be providing training courses on the NPPF around the country to supplement explanatory material available on its website. The latter will include comparisons of the new NPPF historic environment policies with their *PPS 5* predecessors and a review of additional policies not previously covered.

In the coming months the status of the existing underpinning *PPS 5 Practice Guide* will also become clearer. At the time of writing it has still not been withdrawn and therefore continues to provide useful advice on the application of planning policies affecting the historic environment.

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Update on World Heritage matters

ICOMOS/UNESCO missions have now visited Liverpool, primarily to examine the impact of the proposed Liverpool Waters development, and London to consider the effectiveness of the protection of the Tower of London and Westminster World Heritage Sites (WHS).

At Liverpool, the mission considered that the Outstanding Universal Value of Liverpool Maritime Mercantile City would be irreversibly damaged if the development went ahead. The City Council are minded to grant consent for the proposals but have to refer it to the Secretary of State for CLG to consider call-in because English

Heritage has maintained its opposition to the proposals.

In London, many improvements to the protection of London WHS could be shown since the last ICOMOS/UNESCO mission in 2006, most recently by the publication of the Mayor of London's Supplementary Planning Guidance on World Heritage Sites (Guidance on Settings) and LondonView Management Framework.

The UK government has now submitted State of Conservation Reports in response to the missions (http://www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/historic_environment/4168.aspx). Both Liverpool and London will be considered by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee at its meeting in late June, as will proposals for a major supermarket development at Hayle and for the resumption of mining, both within the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site.

Contact: christopher.young@english-heritage.org.uk

West Dean College



Between June and November 2012, West Dean College will be offering the following courses in its English Heritage-validated Building Conservation Masterclasses programme:

11–14 June Managing Wildlife on Historic Monuments

18–21 June Masonry Cleaning

3–6 September Conservation and Repair of Stone Masonry

10–13 September Conservation of Concrete

24–27 September Structural Repair of Historic Buildings

8–11 October Conservation and Repair of Timber

5–8 November Mortars for Repair and Conservation

Non-residential fee £497; fully inclusive residential from £632

Concrete and Structural Repair also incur a cover charge

(10% discount to English Heritage employees)

For more information please contact Liz Campbell at West Dean College, West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0QZ.

tel: 01243 818219 or

e-mail: cpd@westdean.org.uk

website: www.westdean.org.uk/college and click on CPD

Archives and Collections

News and Events

National Heritage Collections

English Heritage is responsible for a series of national collections relating to the historic environment – buildings, artefacts and archives. Assembled over a century on behalf of the nation, these collections comprise 420 historic sites, 500,000 artefacts and 12 million photographs and other archive items. Ensuring that we continue to look after these collections in challenging financial times is vital, and requires innovative and imaginative approaches. As a result you will notice some changes in how we organise ourselves and some exciting progress in the services and resources we offer.

English Heritage Archive

One consequence is that the invaluable work of the National Monuments Record has been fully integrated into the rest of English Heritage Collections, with the result that we have decided to stop using the NMR name.

Instead, the photographic and other archive collections housed in Swindon will now be known simply as the **English Heritage Archive**. Our research and enquiry services continue (contact Archive Services: email archive@english-heritage.org.uk or telephone 01793 414600) and we are undertaking an ambitious programme of digitisation to make more of these amazing collections available online.

All our websites are still available and, as before, data are continually being added to the website, www.englishheritagearchives.org.uk, which has online descriptions of more than 1 million historical photographs and documents.

The Heritage Data Teams are now part of the new Heritage Protection and Planning Group, where they will be continuing to provide access to national historic environment datasets, support the development of local Historic Environment Records and set and maintain data standards.

Despite these internal changes it remains business as usual, with your usual contacts.

The White City stadium built for the 1908 London Olympic Games and able to seat 68,000 spectators. Here in use for greyhound racing in October 1929, it also hosted speedway and a match in the 1966 World Cup tournament before finally being demolished in 1985.

© English Heritage

Historic aerial photographs online

Britain from Above (www.britainfromabove.org.uk) is a new website that provides free access to the Aerofilms Collection, the largest and most significant archive of air photographs of Britain taken between the First and Second World Wars.

Launched in June 2012, the website is a joint venture between English Heritage and the Royal Commissions on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales and Scotland, and is being made possible by a Heritage Lottery Fund grant.

By the time the project is complete in 2014 nearly 100,000 photographs will be available online. Users of the collection are also being asked to expand on the catalogue data by adding facts and sharing memories about the places shown in the images.

As well as events such as the 1924 British Empire Exhibition and the mass observation of the 1927 total solar eclipse, the first 10,000 online images include aerial records of some of Britain's most important and historic sporting venues. Alongside the images of the 1922 Epsom Derby and 1925 Wembley Cup Final shown below, they include the 1923 Royal Henley Regatta, the 1921 Wimbledon tennis championships and the second Ashes test match held at Lords in June 1921.



Portico

Portico (www.english-heritage.org.uk/portico) is another new website, this time designed to provide in-depth information on every English Heritage property. Intended as a resource for specialist and non-specialist alike, it is already among the most visited areas of our website.

The pilot phase was launched in 2011 with full entries on 13 major properties including Wroxeter Roman City, Kenilworth Castle and Charles Darwin's home at Down House. It also includes summary information on a further 220 lesser-known sites ranging from Dunster Yarn Market (Somerset) to Castle Acre castle (Norfolk)

After user-testing, we have made some changes to make Portico even easier to use as a gateway to the vast resources of information held by English Heritage and beyond. New entries to be uploaded by summer 2012 include Wellington Arch, which was reopened in May 2012 after a major refurbishment, and Harmondsworth Barn, bought by English Heritage earlier this year.

Wrest Park Artefacts Store

English Heritage is responsible for a substantial archive of artefacts from monuments and historic sites in its care. To reduce leased storage costs, more than 160,000 archaeological objects and architectural fragments are being transferred to a refurbished post-war building at Wrest Park and to rooms at Fort Brockhurst in Gosport. Both locations are on the English Heritage estate, so save on rental costs and also offer greater scope to develop education and public access.

The Wrest store will also house the unique London Architectural Studies Collection (ASC) made up of fixtures and fittings from demolished houses across London, an enormously valuable resource for understanding the construction and style of 17th, 18th and 19th-century interiors. The majority of the collection will be available online via the English Heritage website 'collections online' page from October 2012. The Wrest Store will be open to researchers, visitors and school groups from June 2013.



Services and on-line resources

The English Heritage Archive collections comprise around 12 million items relating to England's historic environment, 70% of which are photographs dating from the 1850s to the present day, as well as reports, drawings, and plans.

To find out more go to:

www.english-heritage.org.uk/archive

or contact: Archive Services, The English Heritage Archive, The Engine House, Fire Fly Avenue, Swindon SN2 2EH

tel: 01793 414600, fax: 01793 414606 or email: archive@english-heritage.org.uk

English Heritage Archives

www.englishheritagearchives.org.uk

The Archive Catalogue includes descriptions of more than 1 million photographs and documents

Portico

www.english-heritage.org.uk/portico

In-depth histories of English Heritage sites

Heritage Gateway

www.heritagegateway.org.uk

National and local records for England's historic sites and buildings

PastScape

www.pastscape.org.uk

England's archaeological and architectural heritage

Heritage Explorer

www.heritageexplorer.org.uk

Images for learning, resources for teachers

The following **Designated Datasets** held by English Heritage are available for download via the English Heritage website, www.english-heritage.org.uk. The data are suitable for use in a Geographic Information System:

- Listed buildings
- Scheduled monuments
- Registered parks and gardens
- Registered battlefields
- World Heritage Sites
- Protected wreck sites

Timber yards beside the Hackney Cut Navigation at Bow in East London, 1924. Located close to the present-day site of the Olympic stadium, this former industrial landscape lies at the heart of the 2012 Olympic Park (see p 35) © English Heritage

Legal Developments

The National Planning Policy Framework

Mike Harlow, *Legal Director, English Heritage*

The National Planning Policy Framework (or the NPPF) is a triumph of drafting. Whether you like what it says or not, you've got to admire the professionalism of those who have managed to reduce national planning policy to an amount that can be kept in the head of one person. Suddenly we can all know what all the policies say and not just be expert in one area. And that is why for the first time I think I now know what sustainable development means for planning.

Of course, I always knew what sustainability meant in theory. A former boss gave the most pungent analogy: 'toilet notices that say please leave this in the condition you would hope to find it – they are asking for sustainable toilet use', he said. So for heritage, it means: please leave this listed building or conservation area in the state you would wish your children to find it, and that may be in better condition than it is in now.

But life isn't only about heritage. There's the need to provide jobs, housing, energy, roads and food – and to ensure that future generations can have these essentials too. How do we resolve all these potentially competing demands?

Previous policy didn't try very hard. All planning concerns expressed themselves as being important; there was little attempt to resolve relative importance; but some issues seemed to be labelled as 'sustainability' concerns and others seemed more distant from the concept. So you ended up with strange arguments that, for example, vast new speculative development was sustainable because it used thermally efficient windows. They may make a contribution, but what about the other impacts, and the missed opportunities to reuse existing buildings?

Well, the NPPF doesn't provide all the answers, but it is admirably crystalline in one respect. It is now unarguable as to what sustainable development should be trying to achieve. All the policies within the document from paragraphs 18 to 219 define what is genuinely sustainable development. Breach any of those policies and you are not proposing sustainable development.

What seemed a rather dramatic proposal within the consultation draft – the presumption in favour of sustainable development – is now perfectly logical. In short, the development needs of an area should be met by local plans and decision-making unless to do so would be an infringement of the NPPF policies (so says paragraph 14) because to infringe the NPPF is to propose something unsustainable by definition.

As for the detailed heritage policies, the NPPF offers little change from PPS5. The objective is to conserve heritage assets for the quality of life they bring to this and future generations. But this may sometimes conflict with other objectives such as renewable energy provision through wind turbines. So what then? Well, the NPPF does not provide an easy way out for any of us. It requires a balancing judgment in which designated heritage assets, along with National Parks and AONBs, are given 'great weight' – the highest sense of priority in the document.

But what's more challenging and most vital is the requirement to seek progress in all aspects of sustainability. Paragraph 8 says 'to achieve sustainable development, economic, social and environmental gains should be sought jointly and simultaneously through the planning system. The planning system should play an active role in guiding development to sustainable solutions.'

Sustainability as a concept has now fully matured. It is not just a trendy thing to claim for a building simply because the roof will be lagged with wool. It is a test of all-important aspects of the proposed design. A building may be achingly cool for its 'green' technology, but if it does not also seek to harmonise with the historic environment then it is failing the objective of the NPPF.

Some heritage professionals feared that the timing of the NPPF, in the trough of the worst of economic downturns, would leave heritage protection lessened; cast aside as a luxury we could no longer readily afford. Government stuck to a promise not to change the level of protection, but better than that, it put it into a coherent whole policy on sustainable development that seeks to minimise conflict and achieve improvements.

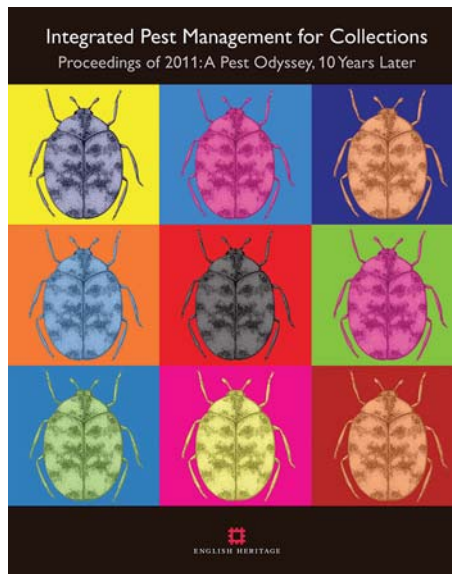
That the document is so lucid is a delight, but that heritage is well considered is hardly a surprise. Arguably in these difficult times we need the perspective on life that the past gives us more than ever before. And how can we ever deny future generations their heritage?

English Heritage has produced an online narrated guide to the NPPF and Duncan McCallum, the Government Advice Director, and I will be giving talks across the country. Details on the HELM website. Keep up-to-date with practice under the NPPF as it develops by following @EHLegalDirector on Twitter. ■

New Publications from English Heritage

Integrated Pest Management for Collections Proceedings of 2011: A Pest Odyssey, 10 Years Later

Edited by Peter Winsor et al



Mass international travel, climate change and other factors contribute to the spread of new pests, and the pests themselves are constantly seeking out weaknesses in our defences. An understanding of the threats they pose to collections and the necessity for a systematic approach to combat them is now firmly embedded in the work of collection care practitioners.

2011: A Pest Odyssey, 10 Years Later describes how integrated pest management (IPM) has been adopted by institutions around the world, and highlights the many lessons learned along the way. Principal among these is never to become complacent and tied down to routine processes. Another is the need to ensure colleagues understand and are involved with the process of pest management. It is also important to appreciate the wider implications of any pest control-activity, for example the effect of chemical treatments on DNA.

Coming out of the second Pest Odyssey conference, this book will promote wider understanding and implementation of IPM as an integral part of any collection management programme.

PUBLICATION DATE: March 2012

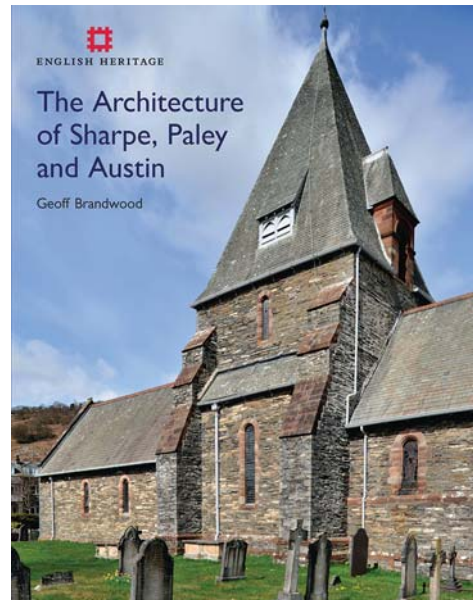
PRICE: £55.00

ISBN: 978 1 84802 114 3

Hardback, 232pp; 178 illus

The Architecture of Sharpe, Paley & Austin

Geoff Brandwood



One of England's greatest Victorian architectural practices was based in the relatively quiet town of Lancaster. It was founded, at the start of the Victorian Gothic Revival, by the multi-talented Edmund Sharpe – architect, engineer, businessman, politician and winner of the Royal Institute of British Architect's Royal Gold Medal.

E G Paley developed the practice and took on in 1867 the man who elevated it to greatness – Hubert Austin, described as an architect of genius by Pevsner. The firm established a national reputation, especially for its many fine churches, which are imbued with the spirit of the Arts & Crafts movement.

The practice was extraordinarily prolific and took on commissions for almost every imaginable building type – country houses, railways, schools, factories, an asylum and commercial premises in addition to the churches.

This richly illustrated book explores not only the firm's buildings but also a fascinating web of family and professional interconnections. Its approach will appeal to architectural historians, students of the architecture of the Victorian and Edwardian eras and social historians.

PUBLICATION DATE: June 2012

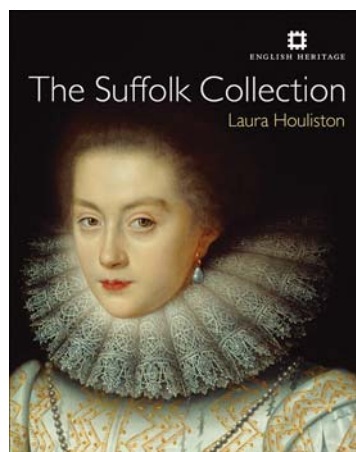
PRICE: £50.00

ISBN: 978 1 84802 049 8

Hardback, 272pp; 330 illus

The Suffolk Collection

Laura Houlston



This book tells the story of a collection of paintings that belonged to the earls of Suffolk and Berkshire prior to being gifted to the nation in 1974.

Now curated in English Heritage's Kenwood House, the paintings date from the late 16th century to the late 19th century and are made up of family portraits, royal portraits and old masters.

This lavishly illustrated book includes full catalogue entries for all the items in the collection. It also explores the identities of the sitters, considers the artists, their context, the society and family history at the different times, as well as discussing in detail the costume represented and the physical condition of the paintings. Together, the chapters provide a fascinating insight into the collection and its history.

PUBLICATION DATE: March 2012

PRICE: £50.00

ISBN: 978 | 84802 080 |

Paperback, 352pp; 300 illus

SPECIAL OFFER

Until 30 September 2012 all of the titles featured above can be obtained free of postage, through English Heritage Postal Sales at the address below (please quote CONBULL 68).

Publications may be ordered from English Heritage Publishing Mail Order Sales, c/o Central Books, 99 Wallis Road, London E9 5LN. tel: 0845 458 9910; email: eh@centralbooks.com. Please quote the appropriate ISBN and make all cheques payable in sterling to Central Books. Publications may also be ordered from www.english-heritageshop.org.uk Prices and postage charges may differ on the website



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The English Seaside (2nd edition)

Peter Williams

There is a powerful sense of place at the seaside. You know what to expect. Fishing villages usually have a pier, boats, lobster pots, and masses of seagulls while resort towns have esplanades, piers, grand hotels and gardens.

There is something about the seaside that brings out the beating heart of John Bull in the English: doggedly erecting our wind-breaks to capture every vestige of a watery sun; wrestling with deckchairs; accepting that 'sand' in 'sandwich' means just that! But we still love it and nowhere else can match its myriad charms and eccentricities.

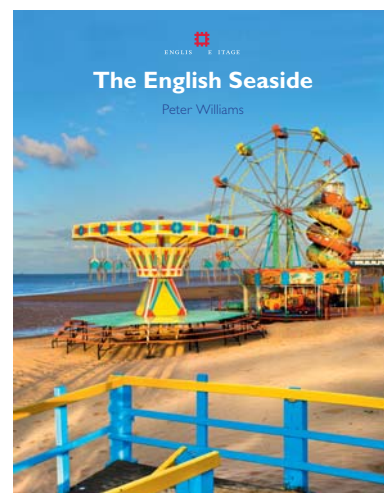
For too long the English seaside has suffered from a bad press, accused of being tatty, cold grey and windswept. Peter Williams's evocative photographs in this fully revised edition of his acclaimed book will make you want to rediscover what a fantastic place the seaside is – full of character, charm and 'Englishness'.

PUBLICATION DATE: July 2012

PRICE: £12.99

ISBN: 978 | 84802 125 9

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