



## **ECOVAST NEWSLETTER Supplement 31 December 2016**

Here are some things of interest that have appeared since ECOVAST Report 62 of November 2016.

President Valerie Carter will produce the Report in 2017 and will receive contributions of news from Sections and members.

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Much of my time will continue to be taken up as a Director/Trustee of the Whitchurch Silk Mill Trust in Hampshire. The Mill is owned by the Hampshire Buildings Preservation Trust, of which I am Trustee/Treasurer and Pam Moore is Company Secretary.

Phil Turner

### **Happy New Year**



*Whitchurch Silk Mill*

Whitchurch Silk Mill in Hampshire has received a confirmed grant of £1.7m from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for the Preserving the Fabric project, it was announced today. The project aims to regenerate the Grade II\* listed Georgian gem - the only working silk mill in Britain open to the public – and establish its financial sustainability.

Thanks to National Lottery players, the project will see urgent repairs to the Mill's bell tower, roof and wheelhouse and essential conservation to the late 19th and early 20th century winding, warping and weaving machinery carried out, so that the Mill can continue to weave silk. An educational programme and new exhibition and learning spaces are also planned to make the building more welcoming to the visiting public.

The building will also be made accessible to all by installing a lift to the middle and top floors. The shop building adjacent to the Mill will also be extended to relocate the café at street level to make the most of passing trade, while a new generation of weavers and tacklers will be trained to ensure the skills necessary to operate this working mill survive.

Whitchurch Silk Mill is a Grade II\* listed textile mill built in 1815 on the River Test in the small Hampshire town of Whitchurch. It was in continuous use until 1985, when it was saved from inappropriate development and refurbished.

It opened to the public in 1990 under the management of Whitchurch Silk Mill Trust. It is only one of four working silk mills in the country and the only one open to visitors, who can see silk being woven on historic machinery.

Stuart McLeod, Head of HLF South East said: "Thanks to National Lottery players, this fascinating story of silk weaving and water power on the banks of the River Test in Hampshire will be brought to life and preserved for all. Now, the team at the Mill will be able to achieve their vision to transform Whitchurch Silk Mill into a self-sustaining, living, industrial heritage site that weaves silk and enthral everyone who walks through its doors. We are delighted to support this worthwhile project."

*Source: Heritage Lottery Fund media release.*

Angus Fowler and German ECOVAST members have been very busy.

### **Report of the German Section ECOVAST December 2016 (further to that of October 2016)**

Although we were few the ECOVAST events in Marburg 21 – 24 October were in various ways successful, also helping and inspiring further developments locally.

Ivar Henckel and Olaf Linke made our presence with the Förderkreis Alte Kirchen and its partners the Förderkreis Alte Kirchen Berlin-Brandenburg and the Verband der Kirchbauvereine in Sachsen-Anhalt at Denkmal/the Monument Fair in Leipzig a great success, Ivar revising the leaflet of the German Section, producing an excellent poster for the FAK Marburg, Olaf printing out poster and other material, both helping set up the common stand, Olaf also helping to dismantle the stand at the end of the Monument Fair.

The German Section together with the Förderkreise Alte Kirchen Marburg and Berlin-Brandenburg and DenkmalWacht Brandenburg-Berlin was represented by Irmelin Küttner, Uwe Otzen, Michael Strecker and Angus Fowler at the annual December meeting of the German Forum Cultural Landscape organized by the Bund Heimat und Umwelt in Deutschland (Deutscher Heimatbund) major theme was the European Cultural Heritage Year (ECHY) 2018.

After an introduction by Prof. Hansjörg Köster (Niedersächsischer Heimatbund and University of Hanover) suggesting possible themes from a landscape point of view, there were excellent talks by Dirk Gotzmann of Civilscape on the Hericoast programm for coastal/maritime and river landscapes, Prof. Winfried Schenk (University of Bonn) on Cistercian formed landscapes as European Heritage and a very inspiring report by Pere Sala i Marti on the Landscape Observatory of Catalonia/Spain.

In the afternoon there was a more general discussion on ECHY 2018 on possible themes. The suggestion of "village churches" by the Förderkreise Alte Kirchen found considerable support, especially as local national and international organizations might be able to realise the suggestion. Irmelin Küttner stressed the importance of small towns.

Much will depend on organisations developing or using ongoing activities as part of the campaign, possible bundling/clustering activities under general themes as suggested by the European Commission or national organizers like the German National Committee for the Preservation of Historic Monuments/DNK (see below European Heritage Alliance)

Irmelin Küttner and Michael Strecker attended a conference in Storkow on the preservation of the cultural heritage in Brandenburg organised by a relatively new active organization.

The German Section has been asked to help preserve coastal landscape in the Bay of Wismar/Mecklenburg around the village of Hoben and may be able to recruit new members.

Irmelin Küttner will represent ECOVAST at the opening of an exhibition on railway stations in the Parliament of Brandenburg (in the reconstructed Prussian palace in Potsdam).

Angus Fowler attended a major conference on the European City/Town in Berlin, organised by the German Federal Ministry of Building. Green Week will be taking place in January in Berlin as usual.

### **European Heritage Alliance and Europa Nostra in Leipzig.**

Angus Fowler represented ECOVAST, also Future for Religious Heritage and informally Preventive Maintenance Organizations in Europe (Monument Watch etc., DenkmalWacht Brandenburg-Berlin) at the meetings of the European Heritage Alliance, Europa Nostra together with the German National Committee for the Preservation of Historic Monuments as guests of the Leipzig Fair in conjunction with the Leipzig Monument Fair/Denkmal. The main subject was the European Cultural Heritage Year ECHY 2018. Piet Jaspert of Europa Nostra was an excellent moderator.

Michel Magnier, responsible in the EU Directorate of Culture at Brussels, reported on the situation, that the EU had decided on the campaign, prompted in particular by Germany and the German National Committee. Funding which will probably not be great had not yet been decided. Magnier listed various themes being considered by the European Commission including industrial and religious heritage, unfortunately he did not mention either of these next day at the joint conference of Europa Nostra and the German National Committee.

In the contributions of the members of Heritage Alliance Mr. de Looz-Coorswarem of the European Historic Houses Association mentioned the importance of the countryside and cultural landscape,

A Fowler for ECOVAST small towns, particularly in the so-called Green Belt, also work on landscape and redundant rural buildings and their use, and on behalf of FRH and Monument Watch village churches and the importance of preventive maintenance, both subjects finding much support from the other participants. Piet Jaspert suggested to Michel Magnier that the principle of preventive maintenance should be pursued within the EU and that he would talk about this to Koenraad van Balen, UNESCO Chair for Preventive Maintenance at the University of Louvain/Leuven, Belgium.

Angus Fowler gave a talk at the Monument Exchange at Denkmal on new developments in the preventive maintenance movement in Europe which include foundation of inspection services at Stirling City Trust in Scotland and of Pro Monumenta in Slovakia.

#### **Other events:**

With the help of A. Fowler the German Foundation for the Preservation of Historic Monuments/ Deutsche Stiftung Denkmalschutz/ DSD organized a well-attended and inspiring meeting on preventive maintenance in Bonn on 27 October.

Besides impulses from the DSD and A.Fowler, there were excellent contributions by Monumentenwacht Gelderland, the Monumentendienst Weser-Ems in western Lower Saxony, the Thüringische Bauwerksinspektion/Denkmalhof Gernewitz and Denkmalwartung/Potsdam. The event was attended by George Allen (London) representing Maintain Our Heritage in England. A handbook on preventive maintenance by Jürgen Klemisch and published by the the Fronhofer Institut with the German Foundation has now been translated into English with the help of the National Trust.

A great success was the biannual conference with General Assembly of Future for Religious Heritage on the subject of pilgrimage and its various aspects 7-12 November in Vicenza in north Italy, attended by Michael Strecker on behalf of the Förderkreise Alte Kirchen Marburg and Berlin-Brandenburg.

On behalf of Monumentenwacht Noord-Brabant (and the preventive maintenance movement generally) Angus Fowler attended a high-powered workshop 14 – 17 November on the island Vilm, east of and very close to Rügen, organized by the German Federal Office for Nature protection for IUCN, ICOMOS, ICCROM and the World Heritage Centre in Paris, to discuss how the principle of sustainable development recently decided by UNESCO for World Heritage could be implemented. Various possibilities are open/available and will be pursued over the next years.

Angus Fowler attended a conference in Krakow/Poland 18-21 November 2016, organized by the Technical University there and particularly by Professor Jan Kurek, expert on wooden churches, on wooden architecture and gave a talk on wooden and timber-framed churches in western (but not northern) Europe. Shocking was the condition of the village Chocholow in southern Poland, which could have been a candidate as a village of outstanding importance and preservation for World Heritage, but has now been ruined by too much money and complete lack of local building and conservation regulations (democracy seems to be understood as anarchy – to do what one likes with one's property with no social obligation at all). There seemed to be general unrest and lack of organisation of NGOs regarding wooden architecture in Poland, perhaps symptomatic for the lack of activity or communication of the Polish Section of ECOVAST. In the other hand there was an excellent report by the Romanian organization Pro Patrimonio and its work for wooden churches in Oltania/southern Romania.

#### **Future event:**

Changes/International conference on innovative built heritage models and preventive systems, 2017 Thematic Week of the Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation at the University of Louvain/Leuven in Belgium, on 6-8 February 2017 Arensberg Castle, Louvain/Leuven.

[http://sprecomah.eu/rlicc/images/stories/projects/rlicc\\_tw2107\\_extended\\_deadline.pdf](http://sprecomah.eu/rlicc/images/stories/projects/rlicc_tw2107_extended_deadline.pdf)



*Arensberg Castle, Louvain  
- photo P Turner January 2015*

## **ECOVAST CROATIA**

In Zagreb on 16 December 2016 the Assembly of the Croatian Section of ECOVAST was held. As the current governing bodies Association two-year term lasting until the end of this year, so this is according to the Statute and the Election Assembly.

The Assembly was led by the current President of the association Nikša Božić, who presented the report on the work and financial report for the previous year. Last year was not marked by a lot of activities of the association for a number of reasons, the most important being the one that members with all their daily obligations are less and less time for additional work in the ECOVAST, as ECOVAST for now only works through volunteer members.

He expressed hope that in the future work of the Croatian Section of ECOVAST find encouragement and energy for interesting new activities and projects.

The most important part of the Assembly referred to the election of a new leadership of the association. For **members of the Board** in the next two-year period were elected:

1st Nada Bakula

Second Ph.D. Clementine Batina

3rd Nikša Božić

4th M.Sc. Valeria Kelemen Pepeonik

5. Andrew Kolic

6th Ph.D. Jasenka Kranjčević

7th Ph.D. Aleksandar Lukic

The only candidate for President was a Ph.D. Aleksandar Lukic by the Assembly unanimously elected as the new president of the association for the next two-year period.

Association Secretary was elected Ives Vodanović Lukic.

The newly elected President, Aleksandar Lukic thanked everyone.



### **HMRR Celebrating ten years of action**

In Kravarsko 22 November 2016 the Croatian Network for Rural Development (Rural Development Network) marked the tenth anniversary of the

network, which today brings together 46 associations dealing with rural development. The Croatian section of ECOVAST was one of the founders of the network. On the occasion of 10 years HMRR prepared and smaller leaflet with basic information about the history of the network.

*Source: ECOVAST Croatia website*



### **EUROPA NOSTRA SUPPORTS NOMINATION OF ROSIA MONTANA FOR UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE STATUS 6 December 2016**

Europa Nostra and its President **Plácido Domingo** welcome the landmark decision by the Romanian Government to nominate the ancient mining landscape of Roșia Montană for UNESCO World Heritage status. In a **letter** sent today to the Prime Minister of Romania **Dacian Cioloș**, Maestro Domingo endorses “this important new nomination”, which will be officially submitted to UNESCO on 9 December 2016, and congratulates “the Romanian Government for its new strategy of integrated sustainable development for the entire area”. Europa Nostra has campaigned for a long-term development plan for Rosia Montana for over a decade, which included the site being put in 2013 on its very first list of 7 Most Endangered heritage sites in Europe.

In his letter to Romania's Prime Minister, the President of Europa Nostra stated: "We are delighted to witness such a positive policy development by the Romanian Government under your leadership. We are fully confident that a wise, long-term integrated plan of sustainable development of Roșia Montană – with its heritage and its community representing the core value and the main beneficiaries of such a plan – will be implemented in a near future".

Plácido Domingo added: "We very much hope that your Government will be successful in attracting due support by the structural funds of the European Union. Europa Nostra and I will continue to closely follow any future developments and can assure you of our continuous support".

For over a decade, Europa Nostra and its member organisations in Romania led by Pro Patrimonio and ARA - Architecture, Restoration, Archaeology have called for a culturally sensitive and environmentally friendly alternative to the large-scale open-cast gold mining project promoted by a Canadian-based company. In 2013, the organisation, together the European Investment Bank Institute, listed Rosia Montana among The 7 Most Endangered heritage sites in Europe.

## ARC2020

### CAP Communication Complete by Dec 2017?

The European Commission intends to adopt – before the end of 2017 – a Communication on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) post-2020. Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker made this announcement to 400 delegates at the Agriculture Outlook event in Brussels on Tuesday.



*Jean Claude Juncker & Phil Hogan meet at EU Agriculture Outlook event 2016 (c) European Union*

Juncker stated the aim of "modernisation and simplification of the Common Agricultural Policy to maximise its contribution to the Commission's political priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals." He added "The first step will be a public consultation which will be launched at the beginning of next year."

For his part Ag Commissioner Phil Hogan **said he was** "convinced, based on our market experiences as well as our international commitments, that the CAP has to ensure greater market resilience, more sustainable agricultural production and progress on generational renewal."

Other noteworthy elements of his speech include:

“It is my determination that basic income support and an effective safety net will continue as an essential element of any new CAP through a system of direct payments.”

“The forthcoming public consultation on the Communication provides an ideal platform for debating all issues relating to the CAP...the new CAP will have to have a higher level of environmental ambition. (emphasis in original **text**)”

“The European Commission does not have a monopoly of wisdom about the ideal policy for the future. We want your input and active and constructive engagement, beginning with the public consultation, which I expect to launch early in the New Year.”

ARC2020 are already developing CAP Communication, with our CAP debate #AfterCAP. Already comprising five varied contributions from experts in their respective fields, this will continue in the weeks ahead.

*Posted on 8 December, 2016 by*  
**ARC in Latest from Brussels, Main stories**



## European Rural Parliament

### The ERP 2016-17 Campaign

One year on from the 2nd European Rural Parliament held in Schärding, Austria, in November 2015, we are now well into the 2016-17 campaign which will culminate in the 3rd European Rural Parliament to be held at Venhorst in the Netherlands in October 2017.

### Thematic projects

A prime element in the new campaign is a series of thematic projects, focused on key ideas in the European Rural Manifesto which was adopted in Schärding. The first set of six projects, funded by the European Commission, will all be launched during December. They are focused on

- Provision for young people in rural areas, and preparing for a European Rural Youth Parliament
- Welcoming refugees and economic migrants in rural areas
- Tackling poverty and social exclusion in rural areas
- Sustaining rural services and infrastructure
- Strengthening local and sub regional economies
- Integrated rural development, and promotion of LEADER and Community-Led Local Development

Each project will be led by one of our European or national partners, and will involve many other partners. Each project will have a phase of consultation and activity among rural people in many countries, in order to clarify problems and opportunities and to identify case studies which can be widely publicised. This will be followed, within each project, by a multi-national event, bringing people and ideas together from many countries and contributing to the on-going ERP campaign.

In the New Year, we aim to launch a further series of thematic projects, pursuing other aspects of the European Rural Manifesto. These are expected to focus on :

- The well-being of small and family farms
- The crucial role of small towns, and rural and urban cooperation
- Climate change and its implications for rural areas
- The role of civil society networks in rural areas
- Leadership in rural development
- Education in rural areas
- Partnership between civil society and governments in rural development
- Rural development in the western Balkans and the Black Sea regions.

## **National Rural Parliaments**

The idea of national rural parliaments – which express the voice, the aspirations and the demands of rural people – has been with us for some time. The Swedish Rural Parliament and the Estonian ‘Maapaev’ have each been held every second year since the 1990s. The emergence of many national rural civil-society movements during the last 20 years has stimulating the holding of further events of this kind.

The European Rural Parliament campaign, which was launched in 2013 by our Swedish partner HelaSverige ska leva (“ALL Sweden shall live”), is itself built on the same model as the national rural parliaments. In turn, we are now encouraging and supporting the holding of further national events.

So, the 12 months October 2016 to the 3rd European Rural Parliament in October 2017 will see a larger number of national rural parliaments than any previous year. Rural parliaments are already being planned in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, Latvia and Slovenia, and we expect other countries to follow. The first events in the series were the Scottish Rural Parliament at Brechin on 6 to 8 October 2016; and the Slovakian Rural Parliament at Sliac in central Slovakia on 25-26 November 2016.

The Scottish Rural Parliament, organised by Scottish Rural Action, brought together nearly 400 people from across rural Scotland to discuss the issues of greatest importance to rural communities. Delegates from other European partners also attended. The gathering debated and approved the first Manifesto for rural Scotland and identified the main actions to be taken to ensure Scottish rural communities are empowered, connected and sustainable. For further information, see [www.scottishruralparliament.org.uk](http://www.scottishruralparliament.org.uk).



*Platform party at the Scottish Rural Parliament, discussing the implications of Brexit*

Discussion at the Slovakian Rural Parliament embraced themes which are close to the ideas in our European Rural Manifesto. These included the needs of young people in rural areas; the offer which rural areas can make to immigrants; social inclusion in the countryside; and the strengthening of the rural economy. VIPA SK will bring the outcome of these discussions into the ERP campaign.

## **ERP 2017 Gathering**

The Third European Rural Parliament will be held 18 to 21 October 2017 in the attractive small village of Venhorst, in the North Brabant province of the Netherlands.

Venhorst, with a population of 1,700, may seem an unlikely setting for an international gathering of 300 people from 40 European countries. But this village, built 100 years ago as part of an ambitious programme to create fertile farmland out of former peatbogs, is a lively and outward-looking community. Its Parish Hall will be the main venue for the Rural Parliament. Surrounding buildings, including the school and the church, will provide extra meeting places. Many residents in the village will provide overnight accommodation for participants in the event : others will stay in farms and guesthouses in the surrounding area. The Gathering will include field visits in North Brabant region, which is not only truly rural but also remarkable for its high-tech agro-food and other industries.

The Gathering will be hosted by Landelijke Vereniging voor Kleine Kernen LVKK (National Association of Small Towns) and its provincial partner Vereniging Kleine Kernen Noord-Brabant VKKNB (North Brabant Association of Small Towns), supported by many provincial and local organisations and by student volunteers.

Funding for the event has been promised by the Netherlands Ministry of Internal Affairs, the province of North Brabant and the municipality of Boekel, alongside our own funds from the European Commission's Europe for Citizens programme.

*Source: ERP Newsletter December 2016*



*ERP and LVKK leaders at Venhorst Parish Hall after the formal signing of the agreement to hold the 3rd European Rural Parliament at Venhorst*

## **Future events**

**6-8 February 2017** Arensberg Castle, Louvain/Leuven, Belgium. International conference on innovative built heritage models and preventive systems, 2017 Thematic Week of the Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation at the University of Louvain/Leuven

**11 - 14 July 2017** Lisbon, Portugal. Fostering the European Dimension of Planning.

[http://www.aesop-planning.eu/events/en\\_GB/2016/11/09/readabout/2017-aesop-congress-in-lisbon](http://www.aesop-planning.eu/events/en_GB/2016/11/09/readabout/2017-aesop-congress-in-lisbon)



*Lisbon*

*Source: Pierre Laconte, Foundation for the Urban Environment.*

**18 to 21 October 2017** Venhorst, in the North Brabant province of the Netherlands. The Third European Rural Parliament.

***Phil Turner***

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## EUROPEAN HERITAGE ALLIANCE 3.3

*Annex to the Draft Minutes of the meeting on 9 November 2016 at Denkmal trade fair in Leipzig, Germany*

**Non-exhaustive list of important dates mentioned by EC/Alliance members during the meeting:**

### **2017**

**March 2017 – EC meeting with stakeholders on the preparation of the Year:** Alliance members will be invited

**22-24 March 2017 – ECTN project CHRISTA:** [2<sup>nd</sup> workshop on “Industrial Heritage Tourism”](#) in Borås, Sweden (tbc)

**22-24 March 2017 - FRH Health and Heritage conference** in Ipswich, UK

**Early April 2017 – Euroclio annual conference** on professional development in San Sebastian, Spain

**3-6 May 2017 – European Museum Forum** annual conference (40<sup>th</sup> anniversary) and European Museum of the Year Award 2017 in Zagreb, Croatia - <http://www.emya2017.eu/>

**May 2017 – FEDECRAIL conference & general assembly** in Antwerp, Belgium

**10-14 May 2017 - European Heritage Congress and European Heritage Awards Ceremony** in Turku, Finland, to be organised by **Europa Nostra**

**13-14 June 2017 - ELO General Assembly** in Tallinn, Estonia

**September/October 2017 – European Heritage Days (EHD)** on the theme “Heritage and Nature”

**27-29 September 2017 - ENCATC** annual conference in Brussels, Belgium

**September 2017 – ECTN annual conference** on “Interpreting Heritage” (dates and location tbc)

**28-30 September 2017 - The Best in Heritage** event in Dubrovnik, Croatia

**28 September – 1 October 2017 – European Museum Academy Awards Ceremony and EMA conference** in Skopje, FYROM

**28 September – 1 October 2017 – EHHA General Assembly** in Barcelona, Spain

**October 2017 – Interpret Europe (IE) conference** on landscapes taking place in Scotland, UK. (Call for papers is open).

**October 2017 – ECTN event** during the European Week of Regions and Cities in Brussels, Belgium

**end of October 2017/early November 2017 - FRH annual meeting** in Leuven, Belgium

**November 2017 – NEMO’s annual conference** taking place in Ghent, Belgium.

**November 2017 - ELO General Assembly** in Romania (date and location tbc)

**Late November 2017 – Alliance showcasing conference** on the occasion of the **European Culture**

**Forum 2017** (which will be the official launch event of the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018) in Brussels, Belgium

## **2018**

**Date tbc 2018 – Interpret Europe**  
annual conference in Austria

**Late March/early April 2018 – Euroclio** annual conference (topic and venue tbc)

**March/April 2018 (tbc)** - Heritage related conference organised by the **Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU**

**18 April 2018 – International Day of Monuments:** possibly jointly organised event of European Commission with UNESCO

**9 May 2018 – Europe Day:** event organised by European Commission either in Brussels or elsewhere

**May 2018 – FEDECRAIL** conference & general assembly in Edinburgh, Scotland, UK

**May or June 2018 – European Heritage Summit** in Berlin, Germany (**Europa Nostra**)

**Early May 2018 – European Museum of the Year Award 2018** will be hosted by the Polish Ministry of Culture (under the auspices of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe)

**September/October 2018** - European Heritage Days

**September 2018 – ECTN** annual conference (topic, dates and location tbc)

**End of September 2018 - ENCATC** annual conference in Bucharest, Romania (date tbc)

**end of October/early November 2018 - FRH** Biennial conference in Paris, France

**November 2018 – NEMO** event in Valletta, Malta (ECOC)

**Towards the end of 2018** - Heritage related event organised by the **Austrian Presidency of the Council of the EU**