



ECOVAST REPORT 57

November 2014

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Contents

Editorial

Report of the President

Obituary: Rüdiger Maul

News from the Sections

Partner organisations

Details of events notified to the Editor

EDITORIAL

In her President's report, Valerie Carter announces that the ECOVAST General Assembly is to be in the Czech Republic in March 2015. Activities in the Czech Republic are to be found in the reports from ECOVAST Sections. ECOVAST Austria members have been active in Slavonice and in contact with Pilsen. Croatia has featured Czech Architects' work and influence on tourism, and Olga Sevan of Russia attended a conference at the Wallachian Open Air Museum. Civilscape informs us (see events) that the Central European Landscape Forum will be in Pilsen in May 2015. Pam Moore (UK) reports that the next European Route of Industrial Heritage Conference will be at Pilsen, Czech Republic from 21 - 23 October 2015.

There are examples of cross-national co-operation involving ECOVAST: Tihana Stepinac Fabijanić has been invited to speak at the conference of Europa Nostra UK - see events. We hope to see you there as well. ECOVAST UK has agreed to be a partner of the events in the historic and University City of Cambridge, and you are warmly welcomed to join the activities. Please contact me.

The Croatian Kazun in the Peak National Park (UK) is further reported, and ECOVAST members from Croatia and Austria continue to be involved in the EU Danube Strategy. PREPARE, of which ECOVAST is a founder member, reaches out to nations currently outside the European Union.

It is a very serious concern to the effective future of ECOVAST that there have been no nominations for the post of Secretary General to support the President and the work of the ECOVAST International Committee.

A PDF of this newsletter can be accessed at:
<http://www.dorfwiki.org/upload/PhilTurner/ecovastnews57.pdf>

and, using a search engine, can be translated from English.

Please send copy for the next Newsletter to me, at p.turner@semantise.com

by 30 January 2015, please

Phil TURNER

Past President ECOVAST
Member ECOVAST International Committee
Lead ASSET Project Team
Member ECOVAST UK



PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Mrs Valerie CARTER
President ECOVAST
Member ASSET Project Team
Member ECOVAST UK

Hello to our readers of our Newsletter.

I must first pay tribute to our friend and colleague Rudiger Maul who tragically died in an accident. We will all miss him so much and our thoughts go out to his wife and family.

Not long after our UK meeting of the ECOVAST International Committee, I visited Poland as part of the **European Rural University** which is one of our partner organisations. Several other ECOVAST members, as well as I, have been members of ERU. We met in the small town of Sucha Beskidska, in the Beskid Mountains, and we had people from Hungary, Poland, France and Italy as well as myself from the UK. The current URE President is from Hungary and the Vice President and Secretariat are from Poland.

Our host was the University of Tourism and Ecology in Sucha Beskidska. We are trying to revive the organisation which like many has been having difficulties recently. We agreed that the ERU organisation should no longer be registered in France but in Poland and we have applied to be accepted by the Polish courts. However it still has not been completed. The intention was to try and stage a 'rural university' event in Sicily in the early summer of 2015. Members of ECOVAST will be invited.

As stated in the last Newsletter ECOVAST was not accepted into the new DG Agri Civil Dialogue group on **Rural Development**. PREPARE was accepted, as an umbrella organisation, of which ECOVAST is a (founder) member. However, I am to be the person representing PREPARE at these future meetings on behalf of the PREPARE Organising Group and you will learn the results of the meetings in due course through our Newsletters. The first meeting is at the end of November which I will be attending.

The 2014 **PREPARE Gathering** this year was held in both Finland and Estonia. We were made very welcome and able to visit a variety of rural projects and meet local people in both countries. A report on the visit is on the PREPARE website – <http://www.preparenetwork.org/news-archive/334-prepare-gathering-2014>

See page 12.

I was also invited to attend an International Meeting in Greece on **Cultural Landscapes**. More than 250 people attended the event from many countries, in the presence of the President of Greece. I made many useful contacts. My Presentation and the Paper that accompanied it will soon be put on our website.

http://www.ecovast.org/english/news_e.htm

At the ECOVAST International Committee meeting in the UK in May 2014 we decided to celebrate our 30th birthday (we were founded in 1984 in Germany) and agreed to prepare a leaflet which would list the things we had been doing during the last 10 years. This leaflet has now been produced, printed and sent around to many people and organisations. Each National Section of ECOVAST has been sent a packet of leaflets and I hope that they will send them around to relevant people in their countries. A version will be on the website

http://www.ecovast.org/english/news_e.htm

As you know our major project, **Action to Strengthen Small European Towns, (ASSET)** which started in 2005 in Retz, Austria, is now drawing to a close. We produced a formal Position Paper in October 2013 and submitted it to many people to explain why we think small towns are so important. This work has now been put into a booklet which is about to be printed.

It is called 'The Importance of Small Towns' and refers to 39 countries in Europe and 86 individual town examples. The mailing list for this booklet goes into hundreds – so it will be a major task, but it should start in November.

Our **General Assembly** has been delayed from 2014 and is planned to be staged in the Czech Republic in March 2015 with help from two of our partner organisations. We hope to have a proper launch of our major publication on small towns as well as looking at the Green Belt project which covers the route of the former 'Iron Curtain' and has involved ECOVAST Austria in its work.

As soon as the dates are confirmed and the venue is known, you will be informed so that you can put it in your diaries. I hope a lot of you will be able to come – it is quite a central location for access from many Sections.

Valerie J Carter, President

Obituary: Rüdiger Maul



Rüdiger Maul died in a tragic accident (in a construction project). Rüdiger was a board member of the ECOVAST German Section and head of the working group "Rural Architecture" of the ECOVAST International Committee.

Rüdiger Maul worked as an independent architect and was also an organic farmer. As an architect, sustainable building and structural maintenance of regional building culture were his priority areas of work, which he implemented both for farm buildings in viticulture as well as for private residential buildings. About his professional work, he campaigned for a variety of regional and local tasks. He was co-founder and board member of the BUND (Friends of the Earth Germany) of the Southern Palatinate, for bodies of regional heritage conservation and sustaining village and planning at the local level in different institutions of the community

At the memorial service on August 15, 2014 in his hometown Essingen (Southern Palatinate) Justus Bohl and I were present. The number of mourners was testament to how his death is perceived as a private and public loss. This applies in particular for his work as a personality and moving for ECOVAST members across Europe will miss his contribution to our work and also his jovial personality.

Ralf Bokermann

NEWS FROM THE SECTIONS

Austria

Annual Forum of the EU Danube Strategy in Vienna

In ECOVAST News 56, Tihana of the Croatian Section reported on the Forum which she attended a small group from her country and with Arthur and Brigitte of the Austrian Section. It was organised by the town of Vienna and carried out rather gloriously in the town hall.

Afterwards we received a letter from Dr. Johannes Lutter, Deputy Managing Director of Europa Forum Vienna :

“On behalf of the organisers, we’d like to thank you very much for attending the Annual Forum of the EU Danube Strategy in Vienna! The active participation of 1100 experts and stakeholders from all 14 EUSDR countries and from the European institutions, the manifold presentations and lively debates have made the event a real success.

Meantime the Forum has been well documented on the conference website.

www.danubeforumvienna.eu.

Other projects

Our main concern – and hopefully a project – is the merging of the two fields of importance: Landscape and Historic Small Towns. We strive to do this n work on the Green Belt of Europe (Central European section of the landscape of the former Iron Curtain) that we consider to be the ideal space for this intention.

ECOVAST Austria drafted a chapter in the book “Critical Spaces” by Alexandru Calcatinge, our member in Romania. He also was asked to establish an institute on architecture at the University of Sibiu in his country and he is making progress. Again, our contribution was about the Green Belt, seen as a “critical space”.

ECOVAST Austria also contributed to the brochure “30 Years of ECOVAST” , the leaflet “The Last 10 Years of ECOVAST”, and to the “glossy” version of “The Importance of Small Towns”.

We also promised to translate these publications into German, but that will take some time. (So far,

the “Introduction” and the “Summary” are ready in German, and can be used).

There is the possibility of organising a symposium on Small Historic Towns at the Green Belt. We contacted with the administration of Retz, the Small Historic Town at the border of the two Lower Austrian landscapes “Wine Quarter” and “Wood Quarter”, near the border to the Czech Republic and at the Green Belt as well. We are looking for their response.

Our friendly organisation “Austrian Border or Rural Technology and Development” on our recommendation dedicated the whole spring-edition of its journal to the “Green Belt”. This edition also provides every chapter in a shortened version in English. Very good feedback is given - nationally and internationally speaking.

An interesting and gratifying enquiry came from a Iran advanced student – and her tutor - of landscape architecture, who wants to work with our method of landscape identification. We keep contact and do our best in trying to help over this long distance to use our tool. We will see how this interesting contact will develop in the future.

Also in the Basque Province of Spain our method, applied to their specific need, has been used successfully.

Arthur Spiegler took part at the German section’s yearly assembly in Görlitz (Border town to Poland). There he gave a lecture on the Green Belt, its essence, problems and options especially in the context of landscapes and Small Historic Towns.

We followed an invitation from the former Austrian Ambassador in the United States of America who now is the head of the “*Österreichische Kulturvereinigung*” to do the opening presentation of the autumn/winter session in their office with a successful “Green-Belt”-PPP.-

Our core team from Ecovast AT attended Slavonice (CZ/ a beautiful Historic Small Town) in autumn for the “8th Pan European Green Belt Symposium“, 23 - 26. Sept. 2014. There we did a Poster presentation and discussions before all the 24 countries involved at the GreenBelt-Project.

ECOVAST Austria also contacted the Czech town *Pilsen* (capital of Western Bohemia) and its Western Bohemian University in the subject of the Green Belt. They contributed to the publication of the Austrian Council of Agricultural Engineering and Rural Development about the Green Belt.

This publication in German and English was also presented by Brigitte Macaria at the Austrian/Czech cultural society *Kulturbrücke Fratres* in cooperation with the University of Dresden (Germany), Prof. Elmar Csaplovits.

We will discuss the problem of momentarily not being allowed to use an EU-logo at our General Assembly in early December.

Our next task will be on the “Austrian Landscape Register” (there are some 50 identified landscape units in the European scale 1:500.000) and the “Austrian Register of Small Towns” (their number comes up to 164, and 159 of these are “Historic Small Towns”).

Arthur Spiegler and Brigitte Macaria

Croatia

Here is a recent report that recalls the event in the Summer of 2013, as first reported in ECOVAST News 54

A Piece of Croatian Heritage in Britain by Robert Dolata, Secretary of the British-Croatian Society

“Right from the start everyone - visitors, locals, cyclists, walkers, everyone really loved it. A shelter that fits the landscape perfectly”, said Chris Manby, Peak District National Park Estate Manager.

On Saturday 4 October 2014, a pleasantly sunny autumn day, 18 members and friends of the British Croatian Society travelled to see the Istrian Kažun at Parsley Hay on the High Peak Trail in Derbyshire, England. Kažun was a project by the Croatian Ministry of Culture, based on the initiative from the Welcome Croatia Festival, in cooperation with the Croatian Ministry of Tourism, Istrian Tourist Board and Region of Istria with support from ECOVAST and Peak District National Park Authority.

Chris added: “When the proposal was received we thought – here is another daft idea! But when we looked into it we were very keen. So were our local

stone masons who came to see the work in progress and meet the guys on site.”

“The Kažun walls are local limestone, with Pennine sandstone for the roof: 50 tons of dry stone construction. “

“The five Istrian Stone Masons had a great time building it. Staying in a local farm house, they had a hearty breakfast, worked all day and enjoyed evenings in the local pubs.”

Speaking at the Kažun Dr. Ivan Grdešić, the Croatian Ambassador to the United Kingdom said: “It is not just the building, which I am told will last at least 400 years; it is the enjoyment of working together, and common memories that mark our heritage. I hope it will inspire people walking and cycling in these beautiful hills to come and see Croatia.”



Photo: *Suzana Dolata*

The Kažun was officially opened on 5 July 2013 and remains in permanent use in the Peak District National Park as a gift from Croatia to the United Kingdom to mark the accession of Croatia to the European Union. Croatians in Britain plan to visit it regularly.

The memorial plaque at the Kažun reads: “This Kažun – an Istrian stone shelter – is a gift from Croatia to the United Kingdom to mark the accession of Croatian to the European Union on 1 July 2013, in celebration and recognition of a shared heritage and tradition of vernacular dry stone buildings across Europe.”



Photo: *Gordana Joh*

European Heritage Days

From 18 September to 12 October 2014 there were activities in many locations in Croatia to represent the rich heritage and cultural diversity of the European continent. The events included exhibitions, public lectures, site visits that citizens are not usually able to access, and round table discussions. The rich program, in which some members of ECOVAST Croatia participated, also included several topics dealing with the legacy of rural areas and small towns in Croatia:

A new scientific project "Urban heritage - urban and spatial models for the revival and enhancement of cultural heritage" took place on September 23 at the Faculty of Architecture, University of Zagreb. The project deals with a number of heritage sites in Croatia, which are in poor condition and failing because there is no enduring purpose and they are not included in the life of towns and villages, despite the official protection. The project aims to define the spatial / urban and other criteria, methods and models for rehabilitation and for new interventions in the immediate and wider area of cultural heritage that can contribute to its improvement. Members of the Croatian section of ECOVAST were involved: Biserka Bilušić Dumbović Ph.D. (Coordinator theme "Cultural Landscape"), Jasenka Kranjčević Ph.D. (Coordinator theme "Rural heritage") and Nikša Božić (Coordinator of the theme "The legacy of small historic towns").

On, September 25th, at the Department of Historical and Social Sciences Academy in Rijeka of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Art, there was a presentation by Tihana Fabijanić of the book by Ana Lemić "Villages and seasonal shelters on Velebit. Testimonies of life from its origins to extinction."

Czech architects and the beginnings of Croatian tourism. September 3 saw the opening of an exhibition authored in Rijeka by Jasenka Kranjčević Ph.D. (member of Croatian Section of ECOVAST) and Mirjana Kos in the Rijeka State Archives.



Conference at Ogulin on Saturday, 15 November 2014.

A conference was organised by ECOVAST Croatia in cooperation with the Tourist Board of Ogulin on the theme of "Creative use of the potential of small towns" within the project "Revitalisation and sustainable development of small towns and their surrounding areas in Croatia." The purpose of the project is to investigate the quality and potential of small historic towns and villages as a resource for economic development and provide support and encouragement to small towns for their revitalisation programs on the principles of conservation of cultural and natural heritage and their environment. The basic vision is to improve the quality of life while preserving local and regional identity, and the cultural and natural heritage. It has been asserted that the cultural heritage of small historic towns and the adjoining landscape, preserved and managed appropriately, can play an important role in the physical and economic development, not only the town but also the wider region.

Creative use of the potential of small towns - example Ogulin

Ogulin is a successful example of a city where the rich local cultural and natural heritage was the starting point for the design and implementation of projects which have been developed new tourist facilities which contribute to the overall economic development of the local community. The town is implementing the project for sustainable development of cultural tourism "Ogulin, home of fairytales" part of which is realized "Visitor Center Ivana's House of Fairytales" - multimedia and interdisciplinary center for the fairy tale as intangible cultural heritage of the world. Center "Ivana's House of Fairytales" was opened in December 2013 in Frankopan Castle in Ogulin, is funded by the EU IPA component IIIc (Regional Competitiveness).

Conference topics included a creative approach to local cultural heritage and creating tourism destination offer. A special event of the conference was the presentation of the 30th Anniversary of our international organization and leaflets distributed along with those of the 20th Anniversary of the Croatian Section - prepared for the occasion by Tihana Stepinac Fabijanić and Valerija Kelemen Pepeonik and presented by President Nikša Božić. A number of both leaflets will be forwarded to various institutions with which Croatian Section has been connected with or is still collaborating.

Tihana Stepinac Fabijanić

Germany

The Committee of the German Section of ECOVAST met in Berlin in September at the Seniorenresidenz, near the Hackeschen Markt. It is a good and central location and could be used for an ECOVAST International Committee meeting with ease of access from the airports.

More recently the Committee met on 8th November (despite rail strike in Germany) at the ECOVAST stand at Denkmal, Leipzig, meeting with Horst Bruchmann, the former Mayor of the destroyed village of Heuersdorf, discussing with him and a colleague, the situation of brown-coal mining particularly in eastern Germany and planning future events (committee meeting in Pegau/Groitzsch in western Saxony, near Leipzig; AGM of German Section; participation in the next international conference and AGM of ECOVAST)

ECOVAST had a stand at Denkmal, Leipzig, the European Trade Fair for Conservation, Restoration and Old Building Renovation 6-8 November, shared with the Förderkreis Alte Kirchen (Marburg) (also representing the FAK Berlin-Brandenburg, the Verband der Kirchbauvereine in Sachsen-Anhalt and the international association Future for Religious Heritage). A further stand was shared between DenkmalWacht Brandenburg-Berlin/BAUDID and the alliance "Gaslicht ist Berlin" (see www.gaslicht-ist-berlin.de).

Denkmal's exhibition spectrum ranged from monument maintenance, restoration and rehabilitation, and a wealth of first-class conferences and congresses about these issues, along with a qualified trade audience.

"Historic Facades - Stucco.Plaster.Paint." was 2014's special focus topic. The first day of the international conference on the topic, which brought together speakers from Germany, Moscow, St. Petersburg, Budapest, Barcelona, Ravenna, was moderated by ECOVAST member, Angus Fowler.

The 30th anniversary of the international organization ECOVAST was expressly featured in the newsletter of Denkmal-Leipzig fair, see <http://www.denkmal-leipzig.de/Neuigkeiten/192466>.

Messages about the anniversary from [Heinar Henckel](#), [Irmelin Kuttner](#) and [Angus Fowler](#) are on the homepage of the ECOVAST Germany website <http://www.ecovast.de/ecovast/30-jahre-ecovast/bericht-zum-jubilaum/>

(Heinar remembers the ECOVAST Assembly 2010 in the UK, but has the Island location wrong - it was in the Isle of Wight, not the Isle of Man. Editor)

An International Conference, **Sustaining Rural Religious Heritage**, in Halle (Saale), Germany on 29 October was organised by the European Network for historic places of worship, Future for Religious Heritage (FRH) (www.frh-europe.org) of which the Förderkreise Alte Kirchen (Marburg) and Berlin-Brandenburg are founder-members. This third international conference brought together practitioners and policymakers working to save and promote religious heritage across Europe. It shared new thinking on sustaining historic religious buildings and recognising value in a rural context. Angus Fowler, at the opening of the conference highlighted the increasing demographic problems in the countryside, the continuing scandal in Germany of destruction of villages with their churches and the dispersal or mass movement of their populations/communities for brown-coal mining.

Angus Fowler

Ralf Bokermann of ECOVAST Germany has produced a short paper on the subject of "Adaptation of existing building stock with declining population".

In many rural regions of Germany the number of inhabitants has dropped continually since the 1990s. The federal states in the eastern part of Germany are particularly affected since the loss of jobs after 1990 led to the outflow of many people. A further decrease in population is expected over the next few decades for structurally weak rural areas. There are many empty buildings which are not needed anymore. Multi-storey housing estates had arisen since 1950 on the outskirts of many small towns and villages.

Since about 2000, as an alternative to complete redevelopment, 'selective redevelopment' is increasingly being exercised. The upper storeys of the buildings concerned are removed. The remaining storeys are provided with roofing and modernised. Streets with standard facade alignment can be redesigned more attractively by various levels and shaping. Through varying numbers of storeys to segmented partitioning to detached houses, a varied residential area can be attained.

The paper by Prof Dr Ralf Bokermann will appear on the ECOVAST Website

Phil Turner

Russia

Dr Olga Sevan reports that her work with the Institute for Culturology (Russian Institute for Cultural Research) has ceased due to the closure of that institute. She is now Senior Fellow at the Institute for Heritage.

In the Czech Republic, in June 2014 Olga Sevan, President of ECOVAST Russia, attended the international conference on "Wooden Architecture in the cultural landscape: NEW CHALLENGES Modernity " at the Wallachian Open Air Museum (Czech Republic). Also involved were, the Czech Association of Outdoor Museums, the Foundation "Support monuments of wooden architecture" (Russian Federation) and Machaon International (Slovak Republic) The conference focused on interdisciplinary topics: Open-air museums and Protected areas as scientific - methodical centers of conservation and architecture and historical natural places. How does architecture make or break cultural landscapes ?

At the small town of Štramberk there was a meeting with the mayor and Czech businessmen active in restoring monuments of the region.



Štramberk, Moravian-Silesian Region

Dr Olga Sevan, as a member of ICOMOS committees, participated in a visit to the Museum-Reserve "Kizhi": a mission of UNESCO experts and ICOMOS experts on the development of the territory and settlements in July 2014.

The famous open-air museum, and the ensemble of the Kizhi churchyard - a World Heritage Site, is held "in the eyes the whole world ". The restoration of the Transfiguration Cathedral (1714) is visited by many tourists from around the world. International experts of UNESCO's mission from Germany and

Norway addressed careful reconstruction and new construction on the neighboring islands and territories. There was consideration of how and where new buildings can be introduced, so as not to harm a unique architectural and natural ensemble.

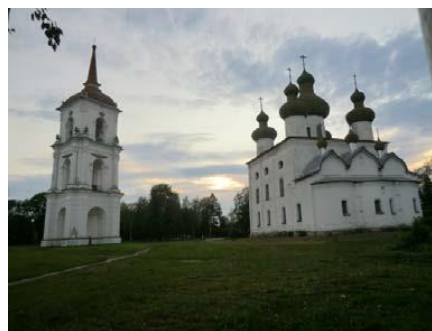


Kizhi



The Russian Committee of ECOVAST held an international scientific-practical conference in August 2014 on "Actual problems of study and conservation of architecture in urban heritage historic settlements " was held in Kargopol, Arkhangelsk region

It was attended by a total of about 100 people, with scientific reports and presentations of about 50 participants.



Kargopol

Under discussion were the modern study and preservation of historical and cultural landscapes, the principles preservation of the material environment of the historic city as the carrier of the spirit of space.



An important consideration was the problem of conservation of wooden historic residential buildings and new construction in the context of conservation and development.

Also covered were architecture and urban planning heritage preservation and development opportunities, wooden towns and the different approaches available in modern Russia.

Information and communications technology (ICT) was considered as a resource for conservation of heritage, as well as educational opportunities in the field of restoration of monuments in historic areas.

Olga Sevan

United Kingdom

SCOTTISH RURAL PARLIAMENT CLOSES WITH CALL FOR ACTION



Scotland's first Rural Parliament closed on 8 November 2014 with a call for action to achieve a more empowered, connected and sustainable rural Scotland.

Over 400 delegates gathered in Oban for the the three-day event, discussing a range of rural issues with local democracy and a need to bring power closer to the communities emerging as a strong theme throughout. An overwhelming majority of participants agreed in the final session that the Rural Parliament should continue.

A [draft workshop report and videos from the event are now available on the Scottish Rural Parliament website](#) including speeches from Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs Richard Lochhead, Anneli Kana from the Estonian Rural Parliament and Councillor David O'Neill, President of COSLA and Chair of the Commission on Strengthening Democracy.

Scottish Rural Parliament Chair John Hutchison said, "More than 400 people from across rural Scotland gathered in Oban for the first Scottish Rural Parliament, and their overwhelming verdict is that it has been a resounding success. There can be no doubt that the Rural Parliament is here to stay. "Over three days of debate, conversation and celebration, the participants have made it clear they want a much stronger voice for rural Scotland – and they expect to be listened to.

"Our message to Scottish Governments and other agencies that we want them to support rural communities and the Rural Parliament to decide and deliver more of what they aspire to, including tailored support arrangements for community-led actions. "Rural communities need national and local governments to get behind their efforts to empower themselves and plan their own futures. There was also wholehearted agreement that it is time for a national conversation on local democratic renewal as a first step towards a radical reform of local government that will bring power much closer to local communities."

Rural Affairs Secretary Richard Lochhead said, "Scotland's first Rural Parliament has been a fantastic event and I very much appreciate all of the effort that has gone into making it such a success. This was one of the largest rural grassroots gatherings ever held in Scotland and it has been a real privilege to join hundreds of activists from across the country for debate and discussion of such exceptionally high quality. I was extremely impressed by their energy and enthusiasm to make rural Scotland prosper and our nation owes them all big thanks for all they do." Source: [Scottish Rural Parliament website](#).

ERIH – EUROPEAN ROUTE FOR INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE – CONFERENCE

The European Route for Industrial Heritage (ERIH) is a network of the most important sites for industrial heritage across the continent. It works to promote regions, town and sites which showcase the industrial past and its remains.

Sites can be found via Regional routes, organised geographically, or by Theme routes (such as textiles, or mining). Some listed are not ERIH Members, but of those which are, some are “Anchor Points” (major sites with more facilities and longer opening hours) and ordinary Members.

Currently 14 countries are involved – Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. ERIH’s website – www.erih.net gives more details.

Every year, ERIH organises a Conference, and in 2014 this was based at Cromford Mill, Derbyshire, UK, an “Anchor Point”. About 60 delegates gathered for three days of lectures, visits and social events.



Cromford Mill Derbyshire

The first day offered a tour to see sites in Yorkshire. The theme was “Miners, Makers and Money” and sites visited were Kelham Island Sheffield (where museums illustrate the city’s rich industrial heritage, especially in relation to steel production), Elsecar (an area famous for ironworking and coal mining) and finally, the National Coal Mining Museum near Wakefield. A reception and dinner rounded off the day.

The second day, held in Cromford Mill, was devoted to presentations on the theme of “Networks of Industrial Heritage”. Looking at the topic from international, national and local levels it covered aspects such as funding, founding networks, and promoting them in innovative ways. This was especially useful to us, as Hampshire Buildings Preservation Trust (HBPT) is working on a “Hampshire Industrial Heritage Trail” and developing an industrial heritage network for the County.

As well as our involvement in ECOVAST, Phil Turner is Treasurer and I am Secretary of HBPT, a non-profit/charity which owns a water-powered silk mill, a windmill and brickworks museum.

Cromford Mill was an exciting venue and it was heartening to see the progress which has been made in renovating this magical site. Cromford was erected in 1771 by Sir Richard Arkwright and was the world’s first successful water powered cotton spinning mill. It is a remarkable example of an early textile factory complex. Its success was, however, short lived, as by the 1840s there were problems with water supply so the buildings were re used for many purposes, including as a brewery, for cheese making and as laundries. In 1922 it became a colour works and this continued until 1979. By that time, the site was heavily contaminated by the lead chromate used in the production of pigments and dyes. Some of the buildings were demolished, and it is miraculous that the remainder survived. The mills are now in a variety of uses – for Conference, shops, a café, exhibition, and gallery.

The second day ended with a dinner and entertainment for delegates in the Roundhouse, Derby.

The final part of ERIH’s event was a day of tours to iconic sites of the area. A choice of two tours was offered. We went on the one which focused on textiles. Starting at John Smedley’s mill – an historic complex dating from 1784 – the group were given a tour to learn how quality knitwear is still produced on site today. Next, there was a brief call at Crich tramway Village, before making a visit to Masson Mills, one of the most famous sites in the Derwent Valley.

This was another of Arkwright's Mills and has a museum dedicated to this, with working machinery. The huge buildings "earn their keep" by also housing retail outlets and a restaurant and multi storey car park, all incorporated in a very sympathetic manner.



Masson Mills

From Masson, the party went to Belper, another textile centre, where, after lunch, they toured the town, seeing excellent surviving examples of workers' housing and the fine mills. Since then the small town of Belper has won a Great British High Street of the Year Award from the government ministry, Department of Communities and Local Government and is overall "High Street Champion".



Belper High Street

The next ERIH Conference will be at Pilsen, Czech Republic from 21 - 23 October 2015.

Pam Moore



Belper workers' houses

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS



CivilScape

www.civilscape.eu

EUROPE NEEDS PARTICIPATION IN LANDSCAPE ISSUES

It is evident that citizens of democratic countries expect to have a say on their landscapes. Yet, sometimes, from the citizens' perception there is a lack of communication and information about European policies and their impact on their daily landscape. Often they feel being in similar situations that people faced during the early stages of the Industrial Revolution. However, the lessons learned from this must clearly be proven by taking the ecological or social and economic needs, which are of importance for the European policies, in consideration. While European policies will in many ways, affect the daily landscape of the people, it should use the implementation of the European Landscape Convention (ELC) as an appropriate and acknowledged instrument. The fact that the European Union should sign the ELC was one key question that the participants have raised during several events.

<http://www.civilscape.eu/civilscape/content/en/articles/index-complete.php>

PREPARE



www.preparenetwork.org

ECOVAST President, Valerie Carter, attended the 2014 PREPARE Gathering which in 2014 was held in both Finland and Estonia. Participants were made very welcome and able to visit a variety of rural projects and meet local people in both countries. A full report on the visit will appear on the PREPARE website – www.preparenetwork.org in due course.

On the final day of the Gathering there was a formal meeting about the future of the European Rural Parliament and the grant application to the EU for funding future events. ECOVAST were one of the partners in the application which is supported by a wide range of partners. There was a great deal of enthusiasm for the potential 2015 European Rural Parliament and negotiations for a suitable venue are underway. Below in this Newsletter is an article for Michael Dower where he is asking for support from ECOVAST National Sections. **I hope that you will feel able to respond to his request.**

Valerie Carter

European Rural Parliament.

Many European Countries - for example Sweden; Finland; Estonia, the Netherlands, Slovakia and Slovenia - have their own Rural Parliaments, which are typically biennial gatherings of rural people organised by the national rural movements and designed to express the voice of rural communities and to influence the policy of public authorities. The first Scottish Rural Parliament was staged this November (www.ruralgateway.org.uk). Building upon these national initiatives, the first **European Rural Parliament** was staged in Brussels in November 2013, on the joint initiative of the European Rural Communities Association ERCA (<http://www.ruralcommunities.eu>) and the PREPARE Partnership for Rural Europe (www.preparenetwork.org), of which ECOVAST is a long-standing member. ECOVAST was represented at that event, attended by 150 people from 30 countries.

Now, plans are in hand to hold the second European Rural Parliament in September or October 2015. To organise this, ERCA and PREPARE have been joined by the European LEADER Association for Rural Development ELARD. Member organisations from all three of these networks have agreed to act as national champions, who will have the task in each country of gathering and synthesizing an 'upward cascade of ideas' from rural communities, to form a national input into the European event. Already, we have committed national champions in 28 countries, and hope to have a total of about 40 countries involved.

ECOVAST is supporting this initiative at European level, and is a partner in a funding application to the European Commission. Among the national champions are organisations in countries which also have National Sections of ECOVAST - Austria, Croatia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and all four parts of the United Kingdom.

ECOVAST President Valerie Carter has encouraged me to put ECOVAST national sections in touch with these national champions, so that (if they would like to do so) the national sections can contribute (with their contacts and expertise) to the national campaigns. I have attempted to do this by direct contact with both sides in each of these countries, and I hope national sections will take up this opportunity. Please let me know if you would like further information.

Michael Dower

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EVENTS NOTIFIED TO THE EDITOR



10-11 February 2015 The Agricultural and Rural Convention 2020 (ARC2020), Friends of the Earth Europe and IFOAM EU A civil society gathering and conference on in Brussels, hosted by the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC).

People of all ages across Europe are hungry for change and want to see better agri-food policies based on agro-ecological principles. This conference and gathering will help develop a civil society agenda for the agro-ecological changes needed in the food system, including in Europe's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Good food and farming practices already taking place across Europe will be highlighted.

This 2-day event brings together representatives from civil society, grassroots groups, researchers, national/regional authorities, policymakers and more.



ECOVAST International
March 2015 General
Assembly. Czech Republic (CZ).
 Details available soon.



14-17 May 2015. Pilsen (Plzen CZ). CENTRAL EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE FORUM

PEOPLE – EMOTIONS – LANDSCAPE – SOLUTIONS is an event reflecting a process of the formation of the sustainable society living along the Czech and German border in the former Sudetenland. The burden of the past personal and national history of this region left a significant mark in people's hearts and the landscape structure. The border area has been a witness to destruction of many villages, churches, old historic roads, roadside crosses, peace stone markers, piped brooks, and so on. Many villages remain deserted with devastated cultural landscape. There is the complexity of the challenge we face today.



ECOVAST UK

7-9 April, 2015: Europa Nostra UK Annual Meeting in Cambridge The meeting, exploring the 'Contribution of the Arts to the Understanding of the Significance of Place', promises to be of exceptional interest. There will be private visits to colleges and the Fitzwilliam Museum. Lord Renfrew will deliver the Duncan-Sandys Lecture and Dame Fiona Reynolds, former Director of the National Trust, Tim Knox, Director of the Fitzwilliam Museum, and from Croatia, Tihana Fabijanić, Vice-President of ECOVAST (the European Council for the Village and Small Town) will be taking part.

ECOVAST UK is partnering these events and we hope to see many members of ECOVAST in Cambridge.



Europa Nostra

June 2015. The 2015 European Heritage Awards Ceremony and Europa Nostra Congress will take place in Oslo, Norway in June 2015. The Awards will be made on 11 June.

Civilscape



3-6 June 2015 Oslo Norway. DEFINING LANDSCAPE DEMOCRACY

Constitutional ideals of democracy, human rights, equality and freedom have a tangible landscape dimension. Democracy is rooted in free debate in public spaces – landscape is the spatial materialisation of democracy. At this time of global environmental and economic challenges driving increasing social tensions, there is urgent need for sustained discussion and debate about the role of landscape in society and for relevant knowledge and insights that address and tackle complex situations.

11-12 September 2015. Riga Latvia. BALTIC LANDSCAPE FORUM 2015

The Baltic Landscape Forum will focus on the change processes of our marine and coastal landscapes around the Baltic Sea. Our coastal and marine landscapes are a shared resource and a shared responsibility where different values meet, i.e. cultural, ecological, aesthetic, social and economic. The European Landscape Convention (ELC) is an instrument for ensuring a richer life environment, where landscape diversity is managed sustainably. In this context the sometimes different perceptions of local people, visitors and tourists are a key how these landscapes can be used in a sustainable way. In this way the Baltic Landscape Forum will be an important stakeholder event for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention on local and regional level.