

## Your contact in EEACTS

Each Civic Society has a representative on the EEACTS committee, based on county. The area representatives are:

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<http://www.eeacts.org.uk>

## Welcome to the first EEACTS newsletter



### An Introduction from our new chairman

I feel privileged to have taken over the chairmanship of

the East of England Association of Civic Trust Societies, and I wish to pay tribute to my predecessor John Egan for his hard work for EEACTS. As a trustee of the Cambridge Preservation Society I have become keenly aware of the pressures on the region. While we can take pride in the contribution we are making to the national economy, it is important that we do all we can to help ensure that the development of the region preserves it as a uniquely attractive place in which to live. One of the first things I did in my new role was to attend a meeting organised by the Environmental Law Foundation on the new Sustainable

Communities Act. The Act was described as remarkable, revolutionary, unprecedented and a great opportunity. Among other things, it will offer the opportunity to help communities have a greater influence on planning decisions, and to resist inappropriate pressure from central government on eco-towns and other new housing. Local authorities are invited to come forward by July with proposals for them to be given new powers to promote sustainable communities. They have to demonstrate that they have consulted effectively with the local community and reach agreement (not just go through the motions), eg by creating citizen panels. If we want the Act to be a success, we will all have to try to persuade our local authorities to take part.

See [www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/sustainablecommunitiesact](http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/sustainablecommunitiesact).

## Help Griff Rhys Jones Make Better Places For People



The Civic Trust is asking for help in distributing a request from its President, Griff Rhys Jones, to all members of civic societies to increase the number of individual members of the Trust. The Civic Trust needs to raise additional funds to provide further services to civic societies.

Further information is available on the Civic Trust website ([www.civictrust.org.uk](http://www.civictrust.org.uk)) or from The Civic Trust, Essex Hall, 1-6 Essex Street, London, WC2R 3HU. Tel: 020 7539 7900; fax: 020 7539 7901.

## Training Events on The Historic Built Environment

EEACTS is considering holding training events for member societies. We would like to know if your society would be interested in attending such an event. If so, how far would you be prepared to travel and what subjects would you be interested in (for instance it may be possible to hold an event on timber framed buildings) . Please contact your local representative (see first page).



Walking tour of Cambridge led by John Preston, City Historic Environment Manager

## Report of EEACTS Annual General Meeting

The Association's Annual General Meeting was held in Cambridge on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October with the help of Cambridge Preservation Society, who are celebrating the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their founding this year.

In the morning attendees met at the Guildhall in Cambridge for a walk about with Historic Environment Manager John Preston of Cambridge City Council, considering the award winning document "Cambridge City Centre – Historic Core Appraisal" and looking at one or two case studies.

After lunch, attendees met in the Education Centre at Wandlebury Country Park, the home of the Cambridge Preservation Society for the formal meeting. Professor Peter

Landshoff, a trustee of Cambridge Preservation Society, was elected as Chairman. He succeeds John Egan who has served for the past 3 years.

The principal speaker at the meeting was Philip Kolvin, chairman of the Civic Trust. He set out his vision for a new relationship between the Civic Trust and civic societies to produce a better resourced movement serving communities striving to protect and improve their local neighbourhoods, one which would also have a strong national presence.

Draft minutes of the formal business of the Annual General Meeting will be placed on the EEACTS website later:

[www.eeacts.org.uk](http://www.eeacts.org.uk)



Wandlebury Education Centre

## Civic Trust and EEACTS - Members' Contact Details

**civic societies**

The Civic Trust website now has an area for member Civic Societies to record their details, including an email contact and website. As much of their communication is carried out by email, it would be helpful if these details could be kept up to date by member societies.

[www.civicsocieties.org.uk/maps](http://www.civicsocieties.org.uk/maps)

EEACTS would also prefer to send communications such as this newsletter by email rather than by post, so if an email address could be provided for your organisation it would be appreciated. Please email the secretary: [janet.smithgibbons@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:janet.smithgibbons@tiscali.co.uk) with your contact details if you are happy to receive information from EEACTS by email.