

### Jean Letherby

An ex-President of ASCHB (2019 – 2022), Jean Letherby spent 42 years as an architect, researching and providing advice, guidelines, surveys, conservation briefs and detailed context studies for listed buildings as well as informing the design of new buildings in historic areas. Her conservation projects included the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Natural History and British Museums. Before her retirement, Jean was Quality and Environmental Systems Manager Associate at the London office of Hellmuth, Obata + Kassabaum (HOK). She is a key member of the ASCHB Committee, managing the on-line offerings (including the website and the running of hybrid meetings).

### Dr Angela Nicholls

Angela Nicholls read History at Durham University, graduating in 1970. After a career in social work and health and social care management, in 2007 she gained an MA with distinction from the University of Warwick (in Religious and Social History 1500–1700), and she took her Doctorate there seven years later. Dr Nicholl's research interests focus on the provision of housing for the poor in early modern England, in particular the nature and variety of post-Reformation almshouses, which were often not as grand as those that survive today. Her book *Almshouses in Early Modern England: Charitable housing in the mixed economy of welfare 1550–1725* is canonical in the field of the study of early social housing.

### Giles Proctor

A conservation-accredited architect, Giles Proctor has worked for English Heritage (now Historic England) since 1986. During that time he has mainly worked to support the repair of outstanding buildings and monuments of all types and periods, encouraging and assessing applications for grant, advising on the technical aspects of repair and promoting appropriate maintenance and use. Projects have ranged from the repair of Castle Howard and Wentworth Woodhouse to the repair and adaption of the first phase of Park Hill Flats in Sheffield. Giles is currently much engaged with advising on Countryside Stewardship Grants and the Heritage at Risk Capital Fund..

### Matthew Vaughan

An AABC accredited conservation architect, Matthew Vaughan leads the Birmingham studio of Donald Insall Associates. His experience has been gained in firms specialising in historic conservation, as well as contemporary design led practices, where he has worked on a range of projects including social housing in both historic and new build settings, gaining a thorough knowledge of both modern and traditional construction techniques. Matthew is particularly skilled at analysing and reordering complex buildings while pragmatically balancing the needs of conservation with those of revenue generation, environmental sustainability and accessibility making traditional buildings fit for day-to-day use.

### Charles Wagner

A member of the the Royal Town Planning Institute and the Institute of Historic Building Conservation, and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, ASCHB past-President Charles Wagner MTRPI is also a Trustee of SPAB and chairs The Heritage Alliance's planning group. After a long stint at English Heritage, he left to become an independent heritage consultant working on his own and with the Built Heritage Consultancy.

### James Weeks

James Weeks has advised on the conservation and development of historic buildings and places for 21 years. Following a degree in architectural history he worked for six years as a heritage consultant at Alan Baxter before setting up the Built Heritage Consultancy in 2010. The practice's work spans every area of the development or management of historic buildings and places. Since 2018 James has been working with LB Wandsworth on various proposals for the regeneration of the Alton East Estate Roehampton.

### Richard Woolf

Richard Woolf is an industrial designer, architect and building historian in private practice in West London. He has been the ASCHB lead on conferences for seven years, and has recently undertaken research at the University of Cambridge on building history with specialisms in places of worship and industrial buildings. His practice McDaniel Woolf is known for their contemporary architecture and sensitive reordering of heritage assets.

### Gus Wray

A caseworker at the 20th Century Society, Gus Wray holds a Master of Architecture from the University of Edinburgh, and a BA(Hons) in Architecture from Manchester School of Architecture. Prior to joining the C20, Guy worked as a sub-editor and a chef.

# ASCHB 2025

# Social Housing

## AND THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT



14 MAY 2025

ST BOTOLPH-WITHOUT-BISHOPGATE  
LONDON EC2M 3TL

ASCHB: THE FORUM FOR ALL ASPECTS OF THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

# ASCHB2025

## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

**9:45 WELCOME: Jean Letherby**

**9:55 SESSION 1: THE HISTORY OF SOCIAL HOUSING**

*Chair: Jean Letherby*

1. Angela Nicholls *Medieval Hospitals, almshouses and charitable housing: a true history*

2. Susie Barson *Housing the masses in Victorian and Edwardian London*

**11:30 SESSION 2: CASE STUDIES (Part 1)**

*Chair: Charles Wagner*

3. Matthew Vaughan *The repairs to Lord Leycester Hospital*

**11:15 MORNING TEA**

**11:45 SESSION 2: CASE STUDIES (Part 2)**

4. Peter Aiers *Managing The Charterhouse*

5. Sherry Bates *The Hibbert Almshouse 19th-century foundation*

6. James Weeks *The bungalows of Roehampton Estate*

7. Giles Proctor *Parkhill, Sheffield*

**12:50 LUNCH**

**14:05 SESSION 3: ESTATES AND LANDSCAPES**

*Chair: Richard Woolf*

8. Phil Askew *Leading one of London's largest regeneration and development projects: a landscape-led approach*

**15:10 SESSION 4: THE FUTURE (Part 1)**

*Chair: John Burton*

9. Gus Wray *The challenges of Listed social housing*

**15.10 AFTERNOON TEA**

**15:40 SESSION 4: THE FUTURE (Part 2)**

10. Mike Althorpe *The future of social housing*

11. PLENARY *What contributions can conserving the past make to providing a better future?*

**16:55 FINAL REMARKS & FAREWELL: ASCHB President John Burton**

**17:00 CLOSE**

## SPEAKERS + CHAIRS

**Peter Aiers OBE**

Peter Aiers is the 34th Master and Chief Executive of the Charterhouse. He was previously the Chief Executive of the Churches Conservation Trust, a national charity caring for historic church buildings across England, where he worked for 15 years. His background is in historic building conservation, and he and has always had a particular interest in how historic buildings can best serve contemporary society. Peter has a track record of significant historic church building development projects and also invented Champing™. He is a trustee of Goodwill Solutions CIO, a member of the Institute of Historic Building Conservation, a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, and a Lay Member of the Chapter of St Paul's Cathedral.

**Mike Althorpe**

A researcher and urban historian who focuses on housing typologies and social and urban policy in the UK, Mike Althorpe has spent the past 18 years producing a variety of built environment events, publications, exhibitions and outreach projects, lecturing and contributing to radio and television. From 2006 to 2009 he was part of architectural think tank 'Building Futures', and from 2011-2015 programmes curator at the RIBA where he produced the exhibitions 'A Place To Call Home', 'The Brits Who Built The Modern World', and 'Mackintosh.' Since 2016 he has worked with Karakusevic Carson Architects, where he leads research and learning initiatives. He is also an independent curator and educator, and leads architectural walks and lectures as 'The London Ambler.' In 2017 Mike co-authored *Social Housing* and curated exhibitions of the same name in London and New York's Center for Architecture. As recipient of an RIBA Research Fund, in 2019 he wrote *Revolutionary Low Rise* with Abigail Batchelor, and the same year *Public Housing Works*. He is currently collaborating with the AIA's Housing Committee to compile a volume comparing housing on London and New York, a project that will launch in 2025.

**Dr Phil Askew**

Director of Landscape at Peabody, Phil Askew is leading landscape and green infrastructure design and implementation across all of Peabody's existing and planned estates. At Thamesmead he is leading one of London's largest regeneration and development projects where the landscape-led approach (underpinned by Peabody's green infrastructure strategy *Living in the Landscape*) is intended to make the most of its unique green and blue assets. Phil has a background in landscape architecture, urban design and horticulture. Prior to his current role he led the design and delivery of the London 2012 Olympic Park for the Olympic Delivery Authority, afterward moving to the with the (London Legacy Development Corporation to oversee its transformation into the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, the largest new urban park in the UK for more than a century.

**Susie Barson**

A Senior Architectural Investigator with Historic England, Susie Barson is a co-author of English Heritage publications *A Farewell to Fleet Street* (1988), *London Suburbs* (1999), *The Peabody Estates* (2001), and *Scene/Unseen: London's West End Theatres* (2003). She has also published an essay on Charles Holden's London Underground stations in *The Architecture of British Transport in the Twentieth Century* (Yale 2004), and on Victorian police stations and magistrates' courts in London, in *Living, Leisure and Law* (Spire 2010).

**Sherry Bates**

Chair of ASCHB, Sherry Bates is an architect and academic whose work embraces new buildings and conservation, particularly of old churches. He is a past president of the Ecclesiastical Architects and Surveyors Association, a visiting professor at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and has taught in most of London's schools of architecture.

**John Burton MBE**

Current President of ASCHB, John Burton is a consultant with Purcell, where he began as assistant to the practice's founding partner Donovan Purcell, a great pioneer of the post-war conservation movement. This equipped John with skills that would enable him to care for some of the country's finest historic buildings, and ecclesiastical buildings in particular. His expertise in conservation of ecclesiastical architecture led to his appointment as Surveyor of the Fabric at Canterbury Cathedral (1990-2014) and Surveyor of the Fabric of Westminster Abbey (1999-2013). Despite his long service in conserving these world heritage sites, John is equally proud of the success of his efforts to save small country churches. His career achievements were recognised in 2013 when he was awarded the MBE for Services to the Conservation of Historic Architecture.