

Message from the Chair

The New Language of Planning

This article may seem a bit mad, a bit different, but it appealed to me – so here goes. It's clear that, with an emerging new culture in planning, a new language is also breeding. When I say 'new' I'm sure that some will say it is an old language being reinvented. Others will say it is jargon, modern slang, meaningless. Jargon is, of course, not a negative word as some would have it, but a 'special or occupational language and the 'professional' slang of a variety of interest groups'. But I'm cheating: I have a dictionary of slang, honestly, and many of the words and phrases in it, which probably viewed as jargon at the time, are now in common usage and have meaning – mostly to people under 30 it has to be said!! But language, as we all appreciate, evolves and develops. In other words – get used to the new language, it has meaning now and will continue to have meaning for some time yet.

In this edition:

- 2-3 *A new culture for planning*
- 4-5 *Annual Report 2004*
- 6 *The Region's USP*
- 7 *Planning for the Future*

Some of the following bits of language are tongue in cheek, some are already quite well known, others are expressions I have heard (and may have understood?) used in serious conversation.

Most of these relate to the language of the planning process (no surprises there), the new process that is already exciting a number of you in the region.

L3 (abbrev.) National outbreak involving nasty rash of three letter acronyms (e.g. SSA, LDD, RSS etc); symptoms include confusion, stretched resources, headaches, initial blurring of vision and, if not treated early, complete loss of vision.

Speed dating (orig: Culture SW) – potential answer to huge resources spend



PAT STEWARD
Chair 2005

on front loading. Will result in greater understanding between partners, identification of key issues and, if successful, beautiful, meaningful and long-lasting relationships – although cynics may think you're pulling a fast one!

Surfing (SW slang) – ability to prioritise; to focus on key projects that will deliver best outcome; stay balanced, focused and – when skilled 'surfer' – perform clever tricks; beware adrenaline rush.

Rolf Harris (SW slang): Ability to bring a strategy or vision together from seemingly disconnected areas of work. Onlookers easily detected: furrowed brow, blank expressions and then look of surprise as 'picture' is revealed.

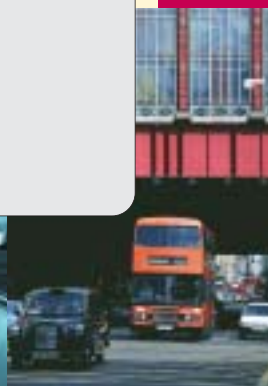
Cross dressing (National RTPI slang): Recognition that successful planning involves working across historic political, cultural and professional boundaries. Particularly fashionable with hip, trendy, 'can do' planners eager to achieve some quick wins.

PPG4 (National abbrev.) – often used to describe outdated, unused, redundant, unfit guidance. More politely used to describe those in need of urgent review and modernisation.

There is also some new 'slang' around the language of planning products:

Vision (ODPM common usage) – Ability to plan for success in future; to produce long-term, deliverable statements of intent with the will, capacity and desire to make it happen. Essential element of good planning.

continued on page 2



A new culture for planning

continued from page 1

Action space (Euro speak) – to provide a framework for actions; allowing creativity, innovation, entrepreneurial efforts; some side effects re temporary concerns re loss of total control, but warm glow when praised for confidence and vision.

Smart Growth (USA – common usage) – A collection of land use planning techniques that feature compact, mixed use, accessible development with the objective of creating more attractive, liveable, economically strong communities whilst protecting natural resources. A Google search will give you much, much more!

Civic boosterism (international – common usage) – Ability to successfully use culture (art, urban design, campaigns, performance etc) to boost civic pride, regeneration and investment. The 'Glasgow's miles better' campaign is a good example.

I couldn't complete this short article without a mention of the emerging new language to describe planners. Not much to report on yet (unfortunately), although the potential provided by the new system for planners to lead the way on more sustainable communities, for example, and show how the brave new world of planning can provide a really good delivery mechanism (is that jargon?!?), will allow more than just:

Smoothie (noun) – sometimes used to describe a sophisticated, smart person, but in the healthy, environmentally sensitive South West it has been used to describe a planner able to utilise a blend of skills and the right ingredients, mix well and produce a refreshing and long lasting flavour.

Language evolves and develops, as I suggested at the start of this piece. I worry that spending so much time with our PCs, Macs and laptops will result in slower development of the planning language and, worse still, a lack of face to face communication. So, get out there, keep talking - even if it's in a language that few understand. Keep using the 'slang' and people will pick it up pretty quickly. Before you know it everyone will be talking the language of planning.

Go on, be a smoothie.



For me one of the joys of life is natural coincidence. I headed down to Dorchester station to catch the train to Poole for the first South West Conference of the 05 Season to the strident uplifting passages of Dvorak's From the New World Symphony. The short train journey to Poole was lifted by superb early morning light breaking across the skyline. What an earth has this to do with the happenings in a darkened auditorium at the Lighthouse, Poole in late January!? To my mind, coincidentally, quite a lot. Dvorak's enthusing passages and images of a bright dawn breaking could have actually been fitting backdrop themes for the day's conference.

Under the enthused baton of Pat Steward, Chair for 2005, a platform of positively uplifting speakers delivering an orchestrated message of aspiration and passion under the banner "A New Culture for Planning".

Undoubtedly Kelvin Macdonald, FRTP, Director, Policy & Research, RTPI set the tempo with a presentation of exhilarating passages covering four elements of culture change – mainstream planning, creating a sense of place, community & empowerment, education & training and finally, communication. He went through to explore what was involved in this culture change in planning. The thorny issue of resourcing the necessary education, skills and Practice support needed to effect the change together with the systems, policies and approaches needed. His illustrated journey through a short history of positive planning to the new world of planning took us through many insights, asides and anecdotes. Musses on targets, turnaround times and appeal statistics then nudged into the questions of resources, sustainable communities, quality, design coding and housing supply. In expounding on all these areas Kelvin pointed out that if you add up all the changes (in planning) over the past 2 years – it is astounding. His positive cynicism reminded us that the spot light is on planning, that the culture change is something to be supported and contributed to, that quality is deeper than design coding and delivery is deeper than targets. Describing this as the most exciting time he could

remember he exulted that despite its apparent complexities planners will make the new era work.

Passion continued to flow from the next speaker as well. John McBride, Chief Executive, Borough of Poole gave us a candid, pragmatic insight into the regeneration of the conferences host town. Refreshing and heartening was the enthusiastic applause of a Chief Executive for his officers and the work they do. Talking-up was definitely an undercurrent emerging as the morning

continued on page 3



The Lighthouse, Poole – January 2005

continued from page 2

progressed also; John built on Kelvin's introduction of this theme. Expounding on the view of what a fantastic town Poole is John's insights about what constitutes vision and how far our visions see were provocative and challenging. He reminded us that a place cannot stay the same forever and we have to analyse what is changing and visions have to accommodate continuous change. These messages were supplemented by other streetwise lessons that are timely for us to reflect on – such as the need to keep agile and flexible because visions can be brittle. We need to be able and to keep a balance and sense the direction of the prevailing wind. Visions need to be well grounded, have to be community owned and not not personal. Perhaps the lasting worldly wise thought that I was reminded of during John's illustration of Poole's evolving regeneration is the old one that in seeing through big ideas we need to remember to attend to the detail

If by this point in the proceedings we had not been encouraged, coerced or reminded not to fall into the "in the box mentality" Jeff Bishop, Director, BDOR (ably supported by Kelvin's technical dexterity) robustly and cheerily turned that box upside down and tipped us out onto the floor amongst the front loaded world of the culture for consensus. Jeff's relevant and thought provoking low tech interactive presentation supported with vibrant case examples must have touched all of us sufficiently for many us to head off to the lunch break in reflective thought. Certainly I found the clear messages about overturning established processes of consultation in favour of collaboratative working caused me to reflect that perhaps I could have done things differently in the past an am jolly well going to have to in the future.

Lunch – animated blur of networking over a buffet that gave the impression to the casual onlooker that we were a sophisticated socialite gathering rather than a sophisticated bunch of professionals catching up on the grapevine.

I suspect that most if not all of us would, if given the chance love to have at least one opportunity in our professional life be involved with a totally new development area.



It's good to talk – delegates take a lunch break

After being involved in major urban expansion projects in the past I certainly have had the lingering desire to go to that next stage of experience. So for those of us in that frame of mind Karime Hassan, Corporate Director of Planning, East Devon District Council did nothing but fuel that interest with an overview of the challenges of delivering a sustainable new community east of Exeter. Necessarily highly detailed and statistic laden Kareem's presentation was however highly spectator friendly with lots of eye candy and pragmatic anecdotes. I hope that I speak for many delegates in expressing the wish that following the path of this development area as it evolves through the successive iterative stages from concept to built form should be a regular feature of our conferences over the next few years.

For any conference the foil of a view from the "other side of the fence" is always a good recipe for balance and holistic reflection. Andrew Beard of CSJ Planning certainly provided that contribution with putting a case from the heart on behalf of the developer. Andrew's delivery illustrated what developer's want out of the planning system; speed, certainty, consistency and pragmatism. He gave us candid insights into how we in local government can be perceived by delivering a list of "what are the real bug bears from developers at the moment". His conclusion seemed to me to very aptly bring a full, very uplifting, day to the close "It is about Culture and

Approach! Belief in the profession and what your doing makes the process work. The process itself doesn't necessarily make good planning."

With those thoughts in mind I made my way back to Poole Station for a reminder of why us Transport Planners are up against it trying to convince car users in modal shift to public transport on a cold winters evening . . . and an unexpected extension of the pleasures of "networking" with the sort of great people that you meet an our conferences.

■ **Stephen Paul Hardy**





Annual Report 2004

The Annual Report of RTPI South West was presented to, and agreed by, the Annual General Meeting held in Bristol on 15th April 2005.

The principal activities highlighted included:

- A series of 11 conferences/workshops at a range of locations throughout the South West with an average attendance of 95.
- A major conference held in Guernsey attended by delegates from England and the Channel Islands with a keynote address by the Rt Hon John Gummer MP.
- Two visits to the Branch by the President, Mike Hayes, including an excellent presentation to the Executive.
- The publication of 4 issues of the Branch newsletter, Branchout.
- The launch of the enhanced Planning Aid Service for the South West.
- Endorsement of the REGEN SW Study of Good Practice on Public Engagement and Community Involvement.
- Publication of the "Planning for Sustainability" – Bristol Harbourside case study
- Development of a range of Branch member contacts throughout the South West.
- Continued participation in the Institute's Branch Review exercise.
- The presentation of the Branch Planning Achievement Awards.
- The preparation and adoption of the Branch's Ninth Business Plan relating to the years 2005–2007.

Many of these activities have already been featured in Branchout but a number of other points featured in the Annual Report are of particular interest:

- With a total membership, at the end of 2004, of 1860, the South West, for the first time, has the largest membership of any region. The overall total included 1488 corporate members, 147 student members, 13 technical members and 190 retired members. There are also 20 legal associates in the South West.
- The positive feedback from delegates attending the RTPI South West conferences continued. The Executive was pleased that some 80% of delegates who responded considered the events to be good or excellent 'value for money'. The same proportion gave a similar assessment of the range of topics offered. A larger proportion of 89% considered the conference organisation to be good or excellent, a reflection of the continuing excellent work of Helen Clarke our Administrative Officer. The standard of catering is important with many delegates travelling long distances to the conferences; some 82% considered the

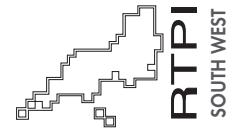
catering provision to be good or excellent. The location of the various conference venues is a particularly difficult issue and the Executive has, for many years, been keen to stage conferences at a range of good venues right across the South West. It is of interest to note that in 2004 the percentage of delegates (89%) assessing that the location of the conferences was good or excellent was the highest recorded in recent years. Previous Annual Reports have noted the problems associated with the standard of equipment and acoustics at the conferences. In 2003 only 62% considered this aspect of the conferences to be good or excellent; it was pleasing to note that the % had increased to 72% in 2004 reflecting, it is hoped, the use of PowerPoint equipment purchased by the Branch.

- A major activity in 2004 was the establishment of the enhanced Planning Aid service for the South West funded principally by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and managed by the RTPI. The Annual Report for 2003 set out in some detail the preparatory work for the new service and this culminated in April 2004 with the appointment of the first SW Planning Aid Coordinator, Mary-Jane Edwards, based at the Architecture Centre in Bristol. Four part time staff were also appointed working on case work and the development of work with communities in the South West. Tim Cox who had achieved so much in developing the previous Planning Aid Service in the region was appointed as one of the Case Workers serving, in particular, the north and east of the region. Over the period January to December 2004 the SW Planning Aid Service handled some 300 cases (7% up on the previous year) and also became involved with developing the planning knowledge of a number of community organisations. For instance the service assisted with training for the preparation of parish plans and liaison commenced with the Market and Coastal Towns Initiative in the South West.
- Finally the Annual Report notes that links with the Channel Islands were very much to the fore in 2004 with the Branch Chair for the year, David Twigg, being based in Guernsey. The autumn conference was held on the island and featured a number of distinguished speakers including the Rt Hon. John Gummer MP, the former Secretary of State for the Environment and the 2004 President, Mike Hayes. The conference was followed by a successful dinner/dance.

Should any member wish to have a full copy of the 2004 Annual Report, please contact **Helen Clarke** at southwest@rtpi.org.uk or telephone **01823 665532**

BRANCHOUT

SUMMER SUPPLEMENT 2005

<http://southwest.rtpi.org.uk>

1945-2005

In May 2005 the RTPI South West Branch celebrates its Diamond Jubilee. This special broadsheet sets out the main features of the 60 years and takes the story forward from that described in the Commemorative booklet published in 1995 to celebrate the Golden Jubilee.

Early Days

The inaugural meeting of what was then known as the South West of England Branch took place on 14th May 1945 at the Old Council House, Bristol. This was some 31 years after the National Institute was formed.

Three days later, on 17th May 1945, the National Council of the Institute confirmed the foundation of the Branch; it became the second regional branch following the Midlands formed in 1943.

The principal initiative for a branch to be formed in the South West was taken by **H W J (Jim) Heck**, then the South West Regional Planning Officer for the Ministry of Town and Country Planning. He was the first Branch Chairman for 1945/46 and then again in 1960/1 and 1961/2 by which time he was the Cornwall County Planning Officer.

Area and Membership

At its inauguration in 1945 the **SW of England Branch** covered the six Counties of Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire and the five County Boroughs of Bath, Bristol, Exeter, Gloucester and Plymouth. Arising from local government re-organisation in 1974 when Dorset expanded a little to the east, Bournemouth and Christchurch came into the Branch area.

The **Isles of Scilly and the Channel Islands** had for many years been regarded as being in the Branch area but this was not formally ratified in the constitution until 1977; at the same time the name was shortened to the South West Branch.



H W J (Jim) Heck
Chair 1945

The **Channel Islands** have become increasingly involved in Branch affairs in recent years; Branch Chairs visited the Islands in 1980 and 1992 and formal meetings were held there in 1997 (Guernsey), 2000 (Jersey) and 2004 (Guernsey), the last coinciding with David Twigg from Guernsey being the first Branch Chair from the Islands.

In 1945, 87 members out of a national total of some 600 lived in the Branch area of which 26 were at the first meeting. By the early 1970s **Branch membership** had risen to over 400. At 1st January 2005 the membership stood at 1860 including 1460 Corporate Members. These were the largest totals of any Branch and almost exactly 10% of total membership in the British Isles.

Branch Meetings

For most members in the South West the Branch, over the sixty years, has been primarily synonymous with the provision of **meetings' conferences and workshops** whose primary purpose has been to provide opportunities for members to keep up to date on planning theory and practice and in recent years also to assist in meeting the Institute's requirements for Continuing Professional Development (CPD). The networking of members at these events has been, and continues to be, an important feature.

From small beginnings in the 1940s and 1950s with some 5 or 6 meetings per year, the events gradually increased in number to the current position, that has been maintained for some years, of 11 major **conferences/workshops** per year. The first Branch Meeting, as noted earlier, took place in Bristol on 14th May 1945, the 100th in Bath on 6th October 1962, the 200th in Exeter on 19th November 1976, the 300th in Bristol on 17th May 1985 (the exact 40th Anniversary of the Institute confirming the Branch formation) and the 400th on 20th



May 1993, again in Exeter. The landmark of the 500th meeting was achieved in Taunton on the 18th January 2002 and the Diamond Jubilee meeting in Plymouth on 17th May (the 60th anniversary of the Branch formation confirmation) is number 539!

A further feature of the events programmes over the years has been the **Branch Weekend** when a conference has been integrated with site visits and usually the Annual Branch Dinner. Originally called the 'Country Meeting', the first was held in St Austell in October 1951. In recent years the format of this event has varied with, on some occasions, the Annual Dinner not being held. It was, however, revived in October 2004 with a dinner/dance following the Guernsey conference. These variations of course reflect the changing times - it is of interest to note that in the early days of the Country Meeting members often brought their families and appropriate arrangements were made including, on one occasion, a special table at the Annual Dinner set aside for teenagers!

In the early years the **venues** for meetings were nearly always in Bristol, Taunton or Exeter, usually in one of the big hotels. It was not until the mid 1970s that they began to take place on a regular basis away from these three centres though this change was fully justified by the increased delegate numbers. In recent years the Branch policy has been to hold meetings right across the South West, the extreme points of the venues in recent years being Penzance and the Scilly Isles, Cheltenham, Swindon, Bournemouth and St Helier in Jersey.



Branch Dinner, Benares Hotel – Minehead 1956

In terms of **delegate numbers** these have consistently been good, bearing in mind the Branch's geographical area. This brought an early issue for the Branch as, in January 1948, it was reported to the Executive that the Regional Petroleum Officer of the Ministry of Fuel and Power had agreed to a supplementary allocation of petrol coupons to allow Institute members to travel to meetings! Attendances of over 200 have been achieved on a number of occasions, the highest recorded being 290 on 1st November 1985, the subject being "Decision-making by Local Planning Authorities". Today the average attendance hovers around the 90 to 100 mark, by some way the highest of any Branch. The number and variety of delegates have often been boosted by the staging of meetings jointly with other professional bodies and regional organisations.

A feature of the early programme of Branch events was the annual **student meetings** at which papers were presented by student members in the South West. The first of these took place in March 1952 when seven short

papers were presented. These meetings ceased in the mid 1970s though it is interesting to note that at least two Branch Chairmen had in early years presented a paper at a student meeting. A one off event was the Branch **Study Weekend** held in Exeter in April 1965. A weekend of study appears to have been a step too far for Branch members and the event was not repeated although the Branch Weekend noted earlier includes both technical and social content.

In any history of the Branch the **Urchfont Manor Design Courses** must be noted. Concern at the standard and availability of design training in the South West led the Branch to stage, in conjunction with Wiltshire CC, annual courses at the Manor commencing in September 1961. These continued until the early 1970s when design training became available as part of the newly established Town & Country Planning course at Bristol Polytechnic (later University of the West of England).

Awards for Planning Achievements

Following the lead of the national Institute's Silver Jubilee Cup for planning achievements established in 1977, the South West Branch launched its own **regional scheme** in 1992. In recent years the national and regional schemes have been integrated, all schemes being submitted nationally for assessment before subsequent regional judging. The South West scheme has been sponsored by White Young Green Planning since 2000 (originally MVM Planning). The overall winner of the South West competition receives the Philip Barclay Cup and a Commemorative plaque, the latter introduced as a millennium initiative in 2000 but also presented to all the previous winners 1992-1999. Certificates are also presented both to the overall winners and other commended schemes in two categories: "Schemes involving physical work on the ground" and "Other Planning Works" (e.g. reports/studies). The overall winner and recipients of the Cup and Plaque since 1992 have been:

- 1992** Gloucester Docks Regeneration Phase 1 (Gloucester City Council)
- 1993** Western Morning News Development, Plymouth (Plymouth City Council)
- 1994** Horton Tower Restoration (East Dorset District Council and Vodafone)
- 1995** College Green Enhancement, Bristol (Bristol City Council)
- 1996** (Joint Winners) Notre Dame Development, Plymouth (Plymouth Catholic Diocese/Plymouth City Council) and Teachers Guide "Geographical Fieldwork Inquiry on Portland" (Weymouth & Portland BC)
- 1997** No award
- 1998** The Piggeries Housing Scheme, Frome (Mendip DC)
- 1999** Caerloggas Down Restoration, Cornwall (Cornwall CC, ECC and English Nature)
- 2000** Plymouth Stonehouse Peninsula Development (Form Design Group)
- 2001** Bristol Legible City Project (Bristol City Council)
- 2002** National Maritime Museum, Cornwall (Long and Kentish Architects, Carrick DC and Falmouth Town Centre)
- 2003** Queen Square Bristol Regeneration and Enhancement (Bristol City Council)
- 2004** Met Office, Exeter (Devon CC and Exeter City Council) - see picture page 3



Exeter Met Office

Planning Aid

A **Planning Aid service for the South West** was first established in 1980 under the auspices of the Branch following negotiations with the Town and Country Planning Association and representatives of the Community Councils and Citizens Advice Bureaus in the region. Over the following twenty years the service was provided by a number of volunteers guided by the Branch's Planning Aid Officer, a volunteer serving on the Executive. The scale of activity at this stage was somewhat less than in many branches. This changed, however, with the Branch decision to appoint its first Planning Aid Administrator and the new post holder, Tim Cox, was the catalyst for a much improved service, the number of cases handled rising from 104 in 2000 to 202 in 2001.

Following considerable preparatory research work during 2003, a much **enhanced South West Planning Aid service** was launched early in 2004. Funded principally by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and managed nationally by the RTPI, the South West service is one of a series established across the country. The full time Planning Aid Coordinator is supported by two part time Case Workers and two part time Community Workers. The case worker continues the earlier work of providing advice primarily to disadvantaged groups and individuals unable to afford professional advice on planning applications and local planning issues. The primary role of the Community Workers is to assist disadvantaged



Branch Meeting

communities to participate effectively in the new planning system where the involvement of local communities is seen as a vital factor. During 2004 over 300 cases were handled and the scheme became involved in a number of initiatives relating to community involvement in planning and environmental issues (e.g. training for participation in parish plans and local development documents).

Environmental Education

A further sphere of activity which the Branch has developed in recent years is **Environmental Education**, in particular in the **region's schools**. In 1989 a Branch schools competition "If only I Could Plan" was won by a school in Weymouth and in 1994 a specific officer post was created on the Executive to develop this work. Appropriate leaflets were published but the most significant achievement was the preparation and publication, as one of its Millennium projects, of the **Environmental Education Guide for Teachers and Students**, aimed particularly at Geography teachers and students. Written by a number of Branch members, the Guide contains 12 case studies based on recent planning and environmental issues in the South West. Launched early in 2001, it was distributed free to all secondary schools and colleges in the region and also to all local planning authorities. The Guide was the recipient of a commendation in the 2001 RTPI National Planning Achievement Awards in the category 'Planning and Young People'. It also was given the Geographical Association Gold Award in April 2002 being described as an "outstanding resource" for geography teachers. Early in 2004 a further case study relating to the developments at Bristol Harbourside was launched.

Relations with Branch Members and the Public

Throughout its sixty years the Branch has sought to promote the role and image of town and country planning in the South West but it was only in the late 1970's that significant initiatives were taken. The **Branch Newsletter 'Branchout'** was launched in June 1978, its scope and quality developing over the years. Particularly important was the introduction of full colour in 2003. Aimed principally at Institute Branch members, to which it is now delivered free four times a year, Branchout is also distributed to other professional bodies in the South West.

Taking the view that contacts with individual members is of growing importance the Branch, from 2003, established a series of **email contacts** throughout the South West; through these contacts the Branch can disseminate news, seek views and request help from its members.

A series of **leaflets on Town and Country Planning** in the South West have been published, these being issued in 1980, 1983, 1986, 1998 and 2002. In 1992 the Branch published a booklet '**Planning in the South West**' in association with the staging of the Planning Summer School in Exeter that year.

Finally the Branch has erected two **View Finders** at prominent sites in the South West. The first was unveiled in 1984 by Prince Charles, in his role as Duke of Cornwall, on the western edge of Dartmoor near Tavistock, it was seen as a contribution to the then Beautiful Britain Campaign and also as a commemoration of the National Institute's 70th Anniversary. The second view finder was erected at Ham Hill in Somerset in 1995 to commemorate the Branch Golden Jubilee but also in memory of Lindsay Smith, the Branch Chair at the Branch 40th Anniversary in 1985 who

had sadly died at the early age of 50 after many years service to the Branch in various capacities.

Liaison with Planning Schools

The South West Branch has always endeavored to forge close links with the Planning Schools in the region. A particular milestone was the establishment of the **RTPI recognised courses** in Town & Country Planning at both Bristol and Cheltenham/Gloucester, although unfortunately the latter later closed as a result of a national review of courses. Staff from both schools have consistently served on the Branch Executive and three staff members from Bristol have served as **Branch Chairs**. The mid 1980's saw the introduction of **two Branch prizes** at the Bristol Polytechnic (later UWE) School of Planning, one for "the best contribution to planning practice" and the other for "fostering relationships between the Institute and the Undergraduate Student Body". The categories of the prizes have varied over the years, in 2004 three prizes were awarded:

- For undergraduate work making the best contribution to the planning profession
- For postgraduate work making the best contribution to the planning profession
- The urban design prize for the best performance in the PG diploma in Urban Design course.

Regional Planning

Over the sixty years the scope and role of regional planning has fluctuated greatly. It should be remembered that the first Branch Chairman, Jim Heck, was at that time in 1945 the South West Regional Planning Officer. In the late 1980s the Branch undertook for the Institute nationally a **study on the Regional Planning process**, the resulting report being accepted and published by the Institute in 1991.

During the 1990s the role of the Branch in regional planning developed significantly, a major event in March 2000 being participation at the invitation of the Panel, in the Public Examination of the draft **Regional Planning Guidance for the South West (RPG10)**. Today the RTPI South West continues to be involved as a stakeholder in the preparation of the new **Regional Spatial Strategy** for

the South West. In parallel the Branch responds to many **consultations on both national and regional documents**, a specific officer post coordinating this work. Involvement in **research work** in the region has also featured over the years, for a period the Branch Research Group bringing together planning research officers to discuss issues, for instance preparation for, and results from, the National Census. The Branch is now a member of the South West Research Intelligence Group which links with the new Regional Observatory.

Branch Finances

Of all the facets of the Branch history since 1945, it is perhaps finance that shows the greatest changes, changes that have been overseen by only **six Branch Treasurers** (1 per 10 years!). At its meeting on 25th January 1945 the Institute's National Council agreed a grant of £15 to the new South West of England Branch; at the first Branch AGM in June 1946 the balance sheet showed expenditure in the first year of £16 6s 9d. The Branch was already in the red as the only income was the £15 grant!

Today of course the financial aspects of the Branch operation have changed beyond recognition. In 2004 the total income of the Branch was £66,666 as against expenditure on activities of £62,038, an operating surplus of £4,628. After the central Institute grant of £15,538 and the payroll costs were taken on board, the result was an overall surplus of £351. Today by far the greatest source of Branch income is gained from the Affordable CPD programme, in 2004 this was over £65,000, much of which was used in staging the events to the high standard now expected by members.

Branch Organisation

Throughout the sixty years Branch activities have been overseen by the **Executive Committee** and a number of officer posts. In the mid 1970s a series of specialist groups were formed and in 1978 the South West was one of the first Branches to adopt the principle of elections to the Executive by means of formal nomination and a postal ballot. In the early 1990s a **sub-committee structure** was formed under the main Executive and very recently, in early 2004, a series of **Task Groups** was

established to progress the work of the Branch in various field of activity.

In order to guide its activities the Branch adopted its first overall **strategy** linked to the budget as from the period 1991 - 1994. This process evolved into a more formal **Business Plan and Budget** process with the first such Plan/Budget being adopted for the two years 1998/1999. The format adopted in the South West has now been adopted throughout all Branches.

The success of the South West Branch over the years has been due in no small way to the hard work of a number of **key officers** in particular the Chairman, the Hon. Branch Secretary and Hon. Branch Treasurer. In the early days the key figure was without doubt Ken Cox in acting as Hon. Branch Secretary for 21 years and serving on the Executive for 35 years. This link with the early days was sadly broken just before the Diamond Jubilee when Ken died in December 2004 just short of his 90th Birthday.

Ken was the first of six recipients by South West Branch members of the **Institute's Outstanding Service Award**, being only the second nationally when presented with it in 1985. Five others have followed: Eric Higgins (1986), Frank (1992), George McDonic (1996), Philip Watts (1997) and Mike Oakley (2000).

The expanding range of the Branch's activities and the parallel reduced opportunities for the work to be undertaken by Branch members in office time or in their own time led to the appointment in 1989 of the first **Branch Administrative Assistant**, Hilary Olney. Her post was later re-designated as **Branch Administrative Officer** and the Branch benefited from her expertise for some 11 years. She was succeeded by Helen Clarke and the Branch has also been fortunate to have her administrative skills, in particular associated with organisation of the Branch's renowned programme of conferences and workshops. Both Hilary and Helen have contributed a great deal to the success of the RTPI in the South West over the last fifteen years. ■

1945–2005

Chairman/Chair 1945–1995

Year of Office	Name
1945/1946	H W J Heck, Ministry of Town & Country Planning
1946/1947	E L Higgins, Gloucestershire CC
1947/1948	B L Brueton, Bristol C.B.
1948/1949	H N H Darby, Consultant
1949/1950	Col. E J Stead, Somerset CC
1950/1951	R W Dale, Somerset CC
1951/1952	E Storey, Wiltshire CC
1952/1953	L Abbott, Dorset CC
1953/1954	R W Jefford, Bristol CB
1954/1955	H Snape, Devon CC
1955/1956	R E Burke, Gloucestershire CC
1956/1957	D Denton-Cox, Somerset CC
1957/1958	K Cooper, Wiltshire CC
1958/1959	H Gayton, Exeter CB
1959/1960	G Payne, Consultant
1960/1961	H W J Heck, Cornwall CC
1961/1962	H W J Heck, Cornwall CC
1962/1963E	L Higgins, Gloucestershire CC
1963/1964	G J Barrington, Cornwall CC
1964/1965	P Turnbull, Devon CC
1965/1966	E J L C Steen, Bristol CB
1966/1967	L A D Russell, Somerset CC
1967/1968	R Robins, Dorset CC
1968/1969	N T Trayler, Devon CC
1969/1970	N R Collins, Gloucestershire CC
1970/1971	Dr H E Stutchbury, Bath CB
1971/1972	G F McDonic, Wiltshire CC
1972/1973	K H Cox, Bristol CB
1973/1974	H Calder, Cornwall CC
1974/1975	A T Swindall, Dorset CC
1975/1976	M Hewling, Devon CC
1976/1977	V J Robinson, Avon CC
1977/1978	K H Jessopp, Northavon DC
1978/1979	T T W Peregrine, DoE, South West Region
1979/1980	P A Watts, Devon CC
1980/1981	P J Floyd, Moxley Jenner & Partners, Bristol
1982	M R Oakley, Avon CC
1983	G J Rogers, Poole BC
1984	C G Griffin, Cornwall CC

1985	L W Smith, Avon CC
1986	A J Scrase, Department of Town & Country Planning, Bristol Polytechnic
1987	D D Derrien, West Dorset DC
1988	R L Williamson, DoE SW Region
1989	P Fountain, Gloucestershire CC
1990	J S Haynes, Exmoor National Park
1991	Ms J S V Jameson, SW Regional Health Authority/J P Sturge
1992	R G Walker, Department of Town & Country Planning, Bristol Polytechnic
1993	J Clotworthy, S Somerset DC
1994	Ms A T Bartaby, Northavon DC
1995	T Bolshaw, E Devon DC
1996	Mrs J C Algate, Torrridge DC
1997	B Smith, McGuinness Finch
1998	D Walsh, Dorset CC
1999	J Burton, Torbay BC
2000	J Claydon, University of the West of England
2001	M Willis, Willis & Co
2002	D Alder, M Baker (Property Services) Ltd
2003	G Hamilton, S Gloucestershire Council
2004	D Twigg, States of Guernsey
2005	P Steward, SW Regional Development Agency

Honorary Branch Secretary 1945–2005

1945/46–1947/48	J L Wetton
1948/49–1968/69	K H Cox
1969/70–1974/75	G F Poad
1975/76–1976/77	K F Thorley
1977/78–1979/80	L W Smith
1980/81	J S Turner
1982–1986	M Hewling
1987–1989	D C Ludlow
1990–1996	P A Watts
1997–2005	M R Oakley

Honorary Branch Treasurer 1945–2005

1945/46–1947/48	J L Wetton
1948/49–1967/68	K H Cox
1968/69–1991	K S Kelf
1992–1995	R Green
1996–1998	M Kelly
1999–2005	D Lobban

The Region's USP

Thistle Hotel, Exeter

February 2005

I've been a member of the RTPI for a number of years now, but this was my first attendance at an 'official' RTPI Conference. I entered the room, with a certain amount of trepidation, not quite knowing what to expect from a 'gaggle' of planners (or whatever the collective term for a group of planners is). I was then cajoled into writing this article by Pat Steward, which meant that I had to pay attention to the speakers, even in the after lunch slot!

Anyway, that wasn't difficult as the speakers were extremely interesting and the information, about 'The Region's USP' quite fascinating.

Professor Martin Boddy, UWE enlightened us with information about the growth of the Knowledge Economy and the impact this would have on the growth of our Urban Areas. To me this identified some quite controversial issues. It became evident that, although our urban hubs are providing for the majority of employment opportunities in the Knowledge Economy in business, hospitals, universities etc. It is often our rural areas that are providing for the housing for those employed in the Knowledge Economy and able to afford the 'rural idyll' - (Does this correlate with the number of 4x4s travelling around our cities!?). An interesting challenge for those trying to encourage urban renaissance!

Andrew Wood, SWRDA then bombarded us with facts, figures and examples to demonstrate how important the key sectors of our economy will be on shaping the growth of the Region in the future. Andy touched on the new opportunities that the production of the A380 (that's the plane not the road) would have on the economy. As well as highlighting that the good old Cornish Pasty is worth £150m pa to the economy, producing 80m pasties annually. Understanding both the growth and decline of key sectors of the economy, and the resulting land use implications (the locational and floorspace requirements for business and the associated housing and infrastructure requirements) will present another challenge for us mere planners.



We sometimes need a quick reminder that the stunning physical environment that we are blessed with here in the South West is in fact also a key driver in the Regional Economy. David Lewis, South West Tourism identified that tourism was in fact accountable for 10% of the Region's GDP and provided a staggering 307,000 'actual' jobs. David then went on to inform us of the changing face of tourism in the South West. He highlighted the need to improve the quality and experience of tourism and deliver truly sustainable tourism. He touched on some of the opportunities we have to become a 'model tourist destination' here in the South West. As well as discussing the benefit of arranging 'Destination Management Organisations' DMOs to 'shape tomorrow's tourism'. It became evident that it is important for us to understand the needs of the tourist industry in order to facilitate the sustainable development of the industry through the planning system, policies and applications.

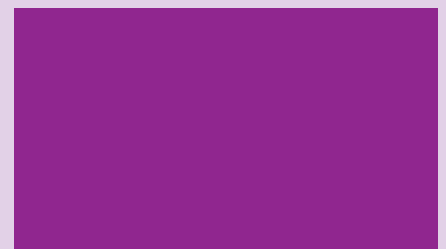
Mark Ellis-Jones of the World Wildlife Fund UK was up next. Would we be hearing that the rare breed we call 'Planners' was becoming extinct in the South West? No, we were here to learn about sustainable homes and sustainable construction techniques. Did you know that if everyone generated as much CO2 as the average person in the UK we would need three planets to support us!? This ghastly fact really highlighted to me the need to change.

As planners we need to be pro active in encouraging sustainable construction to standards such as BREEM and Eco-Homes in order to try and fit our 3 planet lifestyle into the 1 on which we live!

Finally, Peter Brown, Regional Assembly gave us an excellent 'Reduced Shakespeare' style rattle through the Regional Spatial Strategy, or the RSS as it's more affectionately known to us planners! The RSS is to be one of a number of Regional Strategies, others focusing on the economy, waste, housing, the environment, culture etc. Although slightly confusing at the moment, all will apparently become clear. In a 'Rolf Harris' approach to planning those blobs of paint will all join up to create a 'lean and mean' strategy document that we'll see and be able to comment on this summer.

So, I survived a day at an RTPI conference, came away positive and proud to be working in the South West and having had a thoroughly informative and enjoyable day (well, for a work day). Perhaps if you haven't been to one yet you should try it too!!

■ Alice Ordidge



Planning for the Future

Climate Change

Taunton School, Taunton
March 2005

From the moment we received our conference programme with a list of train times and promises of minibuses from the station, this was clearly going to be a conference with a difference. In view of the subject matter it was decided that this should seek to be a carbon-neutral conference.

Each delegate was asked how they travelled to the conference and the distance they had travelled. The total carbon used was calculated and a contribution made to a company called CO₂ Balance (www.co2balance.com) to plant four trees to offset this carbon. Delegates had clearly made an effort to use the train and share cars to keep this figure down. Mike Rigby of CO₂ Balance opened the proceedings by introducing the topic. The first question raised was whether we should consider 'global warming' or 'climate change'. Not all future predictions suggest that Britain is likely to become warmer and indeed if the Gulf Stream is weakened or disrupted we could be in for some very cold weather. Predictions also show that the frequency of Mike challenged us as individuals to do our own bit to help. We should all change our energy use to green tariffs, use public transport more and use low energy light bulbs. The use of one low energy light bulb per house would be enough to remove one power station from the national grid! The targets for reducing emissions are quite challenging. The EU is looking for a cut of 25-50% in CO₂ emissions by 2050. The UK has met its Kyoto target of 12.5%, largely through the 'dash for gas'. To meet the Government target of 20% by 2010 changes in behaviour will be needed.

A key message from Mike's presentation was that climate change will have a major impact regardless of what we do now. Indeed a Pentagon report has described climate change as 'more serious threat than terrorism'



Colin Blundel

Mark Southgate from the Environment Agency agreed at the start of his presentation on environmental planning challenges to give 50p to Comic Relief every time is said 'sustainable development'.

He started by introducing the new Government Sustainable Development Strategy, 'Securing the Future' which sets out a number of guiding principles, identifies climate change as a key issue, revises the UK Climate Change Programme and proposes a code for sustainable buildings.

He recommended the document, 'Warming to the Idea' which relates to climate change in the South West and the Environment Agency document, 'Making Space for Water' which seeks to influence land use and reduce the level of flood risk. It assesses probability and consequences and assesses more than the economic impact.

Mark stressed the importance of the Water Framework Directive in identifying the need for the more strategic use of water and welcomed the recent planning reforms as being visionary and based on sound evidence and positive planning. Water resource problems are particularly acute in the south east,

which says Mark, has 'less usable water than Syria'.

The 'sustainable development' count came to a slightly disappointing 10, but that was o Comic Relief. Pat Steward, our chair for the day, then offered 20p for each time he said 'sustainable', but counting these and taking notes proved an impossible task! I'm sure Pat made a good donation.

Neil Carrington from the Association of British Insurers looked at the impact of climate change on the insurance industry. He started by introducing an ABL document, 'A Changing Climate for Insurance'. This reviews the current situation in relation to weather risks and identifies the likely future risks and opportunities as a result of climate change. Planning clearly has a key role in managing risk.

Following on from Mark's presentation, Neil identified the key issue for insurance is adaptation of buildings in the future. Location and design of buildings are also important considerations. Obtaining insurance cover is also the key to mortgageability. Weather damage claims have doubled to over in the last 6 years and there is an expected step change in insurance claims by 2050.

Clare Tyson and Martin Jobb, representing the Youth Parliament, gave an inspiring presentation about the workings of the Youth Parliament and the importance of involving young people in the planning process.

The Youth Parliament was set up in 1999 as a democratic voice for young people aged 11-18. Elections are held in each LEA area and there are 29 MYPs in the South West. At the last election in BANES there was a higher turnout than at the General Election!

They explained a number of key issues from their Manifesto. These included sustainable transport, education for sustainable development, and environment and rural affairs. The main message was that young people are interested in these issues and that there is a need to actively engage

continued on back cover

continued from page 7

them in the decision making process. They outlined some Top Tips for involving young people:

- Participation is better than consultation
- Need a sensible place and time
- Need to provide travel expenses
- Need to follow up consultations
- Make involvement interesting and relevant, particularly using participatory techniques
- Don't be patronising

The morning session was followed by an excellent lunch – Jamie Oliver had obviously been working on these school dinners!

Cheryl Cowlin of Regen SW began the afternoon session with a presentation on the use of renewable energy. She stressed that security of supply is a key issue as well as climate change. Regen SW's role is to provide advice and guidance, to lobby for the region, and to carry out research. They seek to identify county renewable energy champions and carry out county level resource assessments.



It is anticipated that there will be a major increase in the use of renewable energy in the South West. The South

West has installed plant to generate a total of 109.4 MWe, but the target by 2010 is 563–665 MWe. There are currently 103 grid connected projects. Renewable energy needs to be promoted through criteria based policies in the Local Development Documents. Bill Gething of Feilden Clegg Bradley Architects concluded the presentations by looking at how the construction industry should be adapting to climate change. We need to consider how our current buildings will adapt to climate change and to rebalance our lifestyles and the built environment.

He explained climate models based on changes in human activities, carbon dioxide emissions and temperatures. These are considered to be most accurate when both natural and human impacts are assessed. Key changes are likely to be warmer, wetter winters, which will reduce energy consumption, but increase flood risk, and hotter, drier summers, which will lead to water resource problems. It will be important in the future to design for shade and buildings with large areas of glass are unlikely to be appropriate.

He referred to 'CIBSE TM 36: Climate Change and the Internal Environment – A Guide for Designers', which gives guidance on the design of schools, offices and dwellings. He stressed the need for more heavyweight houses in the future as these are much better for controlling ventilation and for solar control. The key message was that we need to adapt our built environment to climate change, but still hit our carbon targets

The day had raised a number of very challenging issues for planners and it was also clear that we need to work closely with the construction industry and insurance bodies and make a positive commitment to the use of renewable energy. We need to accept that climate change is going to occur and adapt our built environment accordingly.

■ Colin Blundel

DIARY

A Warm Welcome to New Members to RTPI South West

Ruth MacKenzie, Robert Summers, Robert Burroughs, Stephen Holt, Stuart Mollison, John Greenwood, Alan Jones, John Baker, Richard Greenwood, John Clements, Lydia Lambert, David Horne, Mark Wadsworth, Stuart Jarvis, James Bennett, Robert Spriggs, Claire Burnett, Elliott Jones, Peter Burridge, Steve Smith, Lee Walton, Elaine Orme, Mark Felgate, Susan White, James Gilfillan, Christopher Hargraves, Giles Moir and Alastair Coke.

RTPI South West Conference Programme

24 June 2005

Development Control Workshop – Focus on the New Planning System.
Taunton

22 July 2005

Big it up for Planning – Walking the Talk.
Gloucester

15 September 2005

Planning and the Historic Environment
Dartington

Contact:

Helen Clarke, RTPI South West Administrative Officer
Telephone **01823 665532** or
e-mail southwest@rtpi.org.uk