

## **HERITAGE PLASTERING NOTES 9 MARCH 2017**

### **Attending**

David Frise - FIS

Joe Cilia - FIS

Keith Adams - Ornate Plaster UK

Claire Appleby – Theatres Trust

Mike Arney - Artisan Plastercraft Ltd

Phillip Brown – Society of London Theatre

Ronnie Clifford - Ornate Interiors

Mark Coates – Construct PM

Ray Deeks - G Cook & Sons Ltd

Richard Ireland

Kenneth Fisher - David Fisher & Sons (Edinburgh) Ltd

David Harrison - Hayles & Howe Ltd

David Pratt - Simplicity Mouldings & Interiors Ltd

John Pye - Simplicity Mouldings & Interiors Ltd

David Serra - George Jackson Ltd

Mark White - ABTT

### **Apologies**

Jon Riley - Locker & Riley

Robert Barker – FIS

John Stewart – Historic England

1. National Heritage Training Group NHTG - David Harrison DH reported that CITB had pulled funding of £50k per year but Historic England are still involved  
They are pulling together data base of craftsmen and have enough money enough to last a year.

The NHTG Bursary scheme – 30 bursaries £12k each 12 still available. Anyone who can use that money from Heritage Lottery Fund <https://www.the-nhtg.org.uk/bursary-scheme/> for upskilling in almost anything but includes a good 2 day general awareness course

DH reported that research on Heritage CSCS card uptake and acceptance would be circulated to the group but in essence the report found that Clients don't care about the cards and in some cases resent the idea that this can be imposed

2. Theatre Ceilings Inspection Scheme – Members reported that theatres are not using the survey template

There is also ample evidence that there is not enough funding to make this work particularly within Councils who are cash strapped

ATT Yellow book and ABTT Guidance Note 20 sets out the guidance <http://abtt.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/ABTT-Guidance-Note-20-19May2015.pdf>

FIS to consider Conference with Westminster Council & HSE to promote the requirements for a formal inspection scheme

The group considered that the use of ropes acceptable but only for visual checks needs proper scaffolding in place to carry out a base survey

3. The meeting was then joined by Richard Ireland, Mark White, Claire Appleby and Phillip Brown Larger theatre groups follow guidance but smaller ones are not. All fibrous plaster ceilings were supposed to have been inspected by 1 September 2016, suggest an internal survey between members and groups to establish what theatres have been inspected.

Agreed local authorities are an even bigger problem

There are 1100 theatres of which 200 in Scotland but not sure how many have fibrous plaster ceilings

Richard Ireland stated that any ceilings including Lathe and Plaster should be inspected

He also felt that there is a problem with establishing a level of competence

As there is no formal qualification their people are competent but not qualified

Insurance specialist brokers do not appear to be concerned about the risk and Professional Indemnity insurance cover can be gained by-submitting a CV

DF said that the market was not big enough and there are insufficient resources within Client groups for FIS to develop a formal qualification.

It was therefore agreed that;

- FIS would increase the profile of the theatre inspection scheme on their website
- Tighten the Code of Practice to remove any element of tendering or budgeting within the reports
- Develop the list of members able to do the work
- Review inspection process set out in the digital tool to fully reflect ABTT Guidance Note 20

It was stressed the inspection should be a stand-alone piece of work not a tender. The revised format should set out the baseline requirement and cover all elements. Clients would be required to strike through activities they do not want to be competed in the survey.

CA reported that John Stewart of Historic England is developing a Best Practice Guidance on Fibrous Plaster – FIS to join the group. – Robert Barker to contact John.