



future for religious heritage

Activity Report 2013



Table of Contents

Administrative report

Background to FRH	5
Registration	5
Aims	6
Membership	6
The Council	6
The Networking Committee	6
The office	6
Internal rules	7
Finances	8

Work report

Events and networking	9
Communication and lobbying	10
Projects	11

Financial report	13
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Administrative report

Background to FRH

At a conference on the conservation of religious heritage in Montreal in 2009, it was felt among the European delegates that Europe lacked a platform for communication in this field. Attendees included representatives from the Churches Conservation Trust, the KA Association for Employers in the Church of Norway, the Directorate for Cultural Heritage Norway, English Heritage, the German Association for Christian Art, and Thomas Coomans from the Catholic University of Leuven.

This sparked the idea for a European forum event in Canterbury 2010, which was realised thanks to substantial time, effort and funding from the Churches Conservation Trust (Crispin Truman), Europa Nostra (John Sell), English Heritage, the Directorate for Cultural Heritage Norway, and the KA Association for Employers in the Church of Norway (Oddbjorn Sormoen), the North of England Civic Trust (Graham Bell) and the subsequent joining of the Förderkreis Alte Kirchen (Angus Fowler), Church of England (Rebecca Payne), the Church of Sweden (Henrik Lindblad), and the National Churches Trust (Michael Hoare). A special thank you is also due to Lucy Hockley, who volunteered invaluable hours towards organising the conference and setting up a website, with support from Laoise Bailey at the Churches Conservation Trust.

The Canterbury Forum Event brought together 57 delegates from 25 countries to discuss working together for historic places of worship across Europe. Three days of intensive work resulted in the agreement that we should set up a formal network and the appointment of an interim Council to oversee the first years. Participants also pledged to find some start-up funds from sources in their own countries so that the network could employ someone to help do the work.

Registration

FRH was registered as an ASBL (Associacion Sans But Lucratif) in Belgium on 29 September 2011. Its governing document is the Statutes (available on the FRH website) approved by the Greffe du tribunal de commerce in Belgium on that same date.

Aims

Article 3 of the statutes states that the aims of the Association are to promote, encourage and support the safeguard, maintenance, conservation, restoration, accessibility and the embellishment of places of worship, their contents and their history.

Membership

FRH currently has 35 Full members and 59 Associate members in 31 countries. A scale of membership fees were agreed at the 2012 AGM. Details are available on the website.

The Council

Chairman	Olivier de Rohan , French, Chairman of the Sauvegarde de l'Art Fran
Secretary	Lilian Grootswagers , Dutch, representative of the Task Force Toekomst Kerkgebouwen
Treasurer	Michael Hoare , English, former Chairman of the National Churches Trust
Members	Thomas Coomans de Brachène , Belgian, professor at the K.U. Leuven, representative of the Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation Giannalia Cogliandro Beyens , Italian, Secretary General of ENCATC

The Networking Committee

The Networking Committee sets out to build relationships with all those active in the sector across Europe. It works through personal contact, formal meetings and events. It is a forum for exchanging ideas and encouraging good practice. It helps to promote the FRH, recruit new members and develop cross-border project ideas.

Chairman: **Crispin Truman**, English, Chief Executive Officer of the Churches
Conservation Trust

The office

Leena Seim joined as a salaried Development Worker in June 2011, initially part-time, but full-time since September 2012. In early 2013 she successfully moved the head office from the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT) in London to the European Landowners' Organisation's premises in Belgium. The FRH is most grateful to the CCT for its support and use of office facilities at a critical period in its development.

Leena's line manager is Lilian Grootswagers who has made a notable contribution to the FRH on a volunteer basis.

At the AGM in Venice 2012, the future extension of the office was discussed. It was proposed that as monies became available the FRH should begin to remunerate Lilian and recruit a third member of staff. A salary budget of €100k for 2013 was voted to cover this. This subject was further debated at the Networking Committee meeting in Brussels in January 2013.

In practice during 2013, monies were slower to be raised and amounts are slightly lower than expected (an estimated €118k compared to a budgeted €140k). At its meeting on 16th October 2013, the Council therefore, decided to limit the current expansion of the salary bill to an annual €84k and to:

Remunerate Lilian as from 1 October 2013 for a fraction of the time she works for the FRH.

Her particular responsibilities include:

- Lobby and network on behalf of FRH
- Help draft funding applications
- Support and supervise projects & events
- Recruit a French-speaking part-time assistant to help in the office

Day-to-day work is also supported by volunteers and interns who help both with specific projects, such as event administration or collecting case-studies, and with on-going research for the newsletter. FRH's current policy is to recruit two interns a year for a three month period each.

Potential candidates for work at FRH, both paid or unpaid, should consult the website.

Internal Rules

The Internal Rules of the Association were agreed in May 2013 and will be revised from time to time by the Council. They are a complement to the Statutes and, in the case of contradiction, the Statutes prevail. The Statutes and an up to date version of the Internal Rules are posted at all times on the website. Members, both Full and Associate, accept these Rules by subscribing to the Association. Staff accepts them by signing working, internship or volunteering contr

Finances

Other than membership subscriptions, the FRH has no recurrent source of funding. If it is to develop it needs to convince both private and public funders that it is capable of making a real difference to the future of Europe's religious heritage.

During 2013, it has been fortunate to obtain the support of:

- The Golden Bottle Trust who have made a grant of €100k over three years
- The Lempriere Pringle Trust who have made a one-off grant of €58k
- The Headley Trust who have now agreed to support two conferences with grants of €12k for each.
- The European Commission who have granted €15k to the ALTERheritage project

Thanks to their generosity, the FRH's cash balances now stand at around €100k and the ASBL can envisage the further investments in staff outlined above.

The FRH would like to thank the retiring Assistant Treasurer - Chris Baker - for all the pro bono work he has put in to set up the ASBL's accounting systems and to move its bank accounts from the UK to Belgium.



Work report 2013

Events and Networking

2013 Utrecht - FRH Seminar on Movable Religious Heritage

This international event was organised in partnership between FRH, the Museum Catharijneconvent and the National Heritage Board in the Netherlands, with support from the City of Utrecht. It was also the first in the European ALTERheritage (see below) series of seminars on promoting heritage conservation methodologies across Europe, introducing the *Guidelines on dealing with religious heritage objects*, developed by the Museum Catharijneconvent.

The seminar was held at Museum Catharijneconvent in Utrecht on 4 and 5 November 2013. One of the aims of the seminar was to form a network of experts in movable religious heritage, supported through the structural framework of the FRH Networking Committee.

The event was sold out in October, with 130 delegates registered from 16 countries.

96% of the delegates would recommend an FRH event to others.

90% of delegates were there in a professional capacity.

18% represented charities, 10% government, 8% businesses, 16% religious bodies, 16% museums and 24% other institutions.

Work of the Networking Committee

Thanks to the efforts of Angus Fowler, the Networking Committee had a very successful meeting in Marburg in the beginning of June, including a series of site-visits.

Three of the most active Networking Committee members spoke at the Nordic Church Building Conference in Helsinki in the beginning of September. This year it had a special emphasis on redundancy and extended use. FRH members Henrik Lindblad (Church of Sweden) and Oddbjorn Sormoen (KA Norway) had one seminar together, and Crispin Truman (CCT) was the keynote speaker on the last day.

Lucy Hockley attended Europa Nostra Congress, as a member of the Council. The event was celebrating 50 years of Europa Nostra and launched the 7 Most Endangered list. She shared information about the work of FRH and also made notes for internal use on the work of Europa Nostra.

Organisations in different countries

Time has been spent to understand the system of church management in Belgium. This is particularly complicated due to the division of responsibility between the geographical regions and linguistic communities, as well as between different types of heritage.

Following introductions provided by Angus Fowler, the FRH has also met with a number of organisations in Germany – in Berlin, Halle and in Bonn.

Communication and lobbying

Website and newsletters

The website has been steadily enhanced and complemented by the monthly newsletter which is now circulated to 519 subscribers. The FRH has also 343 followers on Twitter.

Conferences attended by FRH in 2013

18 September - *Global Heritage Forum, eCult Dialogue Day, and Best in Heritage Conference*

Seminars organised by Europa Nostra in Dubrovnik, Croatia

FRH was invited to take part in the Global Heritage Forum, together with Europa Nostra, UNESCO, ICOM, ICOMOS, Council of Europe and other major heritage organisations.

26-27 September - Young Scholars conference "*Beyond the Monument, The Fate of Churches: Become Heritage or Disappear*", Leuven, Belgium

Arranged annually by Prof. Luc Noppen and Prof. Lucie K Morrisset (UQAM), this year in partnership with K.U. Leuven and FRH.

7 October - "*Extended use of Churches*"

Seminar organised by Kanut Conservation Centre in Tallinn, Estonia.

FRH were invited to help kick-start the debate nationally on the future of Estonian churches.

13-14 November - European Conference entitled '*Cultural heritage and the EU-2020 strategy – towards an integrated approach*', Vilnius, Lithuania

Organised by the Department of Cultural Heritage of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania, on the occasion of holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

5 December - *European Policy Conference on Cultural Heritage*, Brussels, Belgium

Arranged by Europa Nostra

Getting to know the EU

There are now three European heritage networks and one national network represented in the office of the European Landowners' Organisation building in Brussels. Representatives of each meet regularly to give updates on their work and future actions to build potential future cooperation on the European level. One outcome of this effort has been a meeting with the European Historic Houses Association, Europa Nostra and UNICRI (United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute) on the possibility of launching a project on the topic of heritage crime. This topic also connects with the upcoming event in Utrecht, on Movable Religious Heritage.

Leena attended a three week intensive course in July, on the EU administrative bodies, how they work together and what the opportunities for influencing them might be. This is the first step in a longer-term effort to build the FRH capacity to organise lobby activities in Brussels.

FRH was represented at the Global Heritage Forum in Dubrovnik meeting with leaders from, among others, UNESCO, ICOM, ICOMOS, INTO and Europa Nostra, as well as the Council of Europe, to discuss a global agenda for heritage.

Projects

ALTERheritage

A funding bid was submitted to the EEC Leonardo programme in February 2013 for the ALTERheritage project, and the news of success came through in June.

The project aims to make existing material for vocational learning on religious heritage conservation and management available to a larger proportion of the sector in Europe. It consists of a series of meetings, hosted by the partners over a two year period. They will present guidelines, learning tools or methods that they are developing, and the partners will assess how the material can be adapted to their own circumstances. It will support academically well anchored, high quality tools that can build the capacity of vocational learning in the field across Europe. The results will inform future production of new learning tools on religious heritage conservation, management and regeneration in Europe, in support of their widespread practicability.

FRH is the co-ordinating partner, and organised the initial meeting on 14 October, 2013.

The other partners are:

Department of Conservation, University of Gothenburg, Sweden

media k GmbH, Germany

University of Leuven - Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation,
Belgium

Churches Conservation Trust, UK

Sociedad Regional de Cultura y Deporte, S. L., Spain

Museum Catharijneconvent, the Netherlands

MONASTERY - JPI - JHEP project

The FRH was not, however, successful in obtaining EEC funding for this project.

The project title is “MONASTERY - Market oriented strategies for large scale religious heritage in times of crisis and new roles for the public sector” and the main objectives are (i) network building; (ii) building a spatial and economical strategy on reuse of monasteries; (iii) a framework for adaptive heritage management including private and bottom up driven initiatives; (iv) new models for funding the maintenance.

A project proposal for the JPI-JHEP call was made in March 2013, with much help from Lilian Grootswagers.

FRH was unable to form a consortium as the lead-partner, but it was to be represented as Associate Partner in a proposal led by Ghent University. Tilburg University, Manchester University and the Cultural Heritage Agency in the Netherlands were the other partners. Unfortunately this application was unsuccessful, but the group of partners agreed to continue working towards the next deadline, expected in 2014.



Financial report 2013

Assets

Receivables less than 1 year	€ 169,59
Available funds	€ 107.776,25
Adjustment account	€ 3.000,00
Total	€ 110.945,84

Liabilities

Profit/Loss retained	€ 106.797,48
Debts less than 1 year	€ 4.148,36
Total	€ 110.945,84

Income

Membership fees	€ 13.680,05
Golden Bottle	€ 33.333,33
Major donor fundraising	€ 58.390,75
Grant	€ 15.000,00
Other donations	€ 1.554,78
Event income	€ 1.226,67
Total	€ 123.185,58

Expenditure

Rent	€ 4.232,27
Phones, fax	€ 1.002,47
Website development	€ 71,94
Laptop and software	€ 80,71
Furniture	€ 89,85
Office supplies	€ 2.126,04
Staff moving costs	€ 971,14
Accounting fees	€ 726,00
Social secretary fees	€ 1.762,20
Accommodation expenses	€ 1.036,43
Travel expenses	€ 3.315,80
Event expenditure	€ 1.482,85
Advertising	€ 77,50
Project funding	€ 361,39
Line management costs	€ 852,87
Wages, social taxes	€ 46.950,16
Total	€ 65.139,62
Gross operating margin	€ 104.996,12
Operating result	€ 58.45,96
Financial profits	€ 3.866,22
Financial result	€ 3.866,22
Current financial year profit	€ 61.912,18
Year benefits to be appropriated	€ 44.885,30
Benefits brought forward	€ 61.912,18
	€ 106.797,48

The European network for historic places of worship



Future for Religious Heritage

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