

Speaker and chair biographies

Aiers, Peter – United Kingdom (Session 5:2)

After starting his career at English Heritage, Peter worked as a local authority conservation officer and then became the first conservation officer employed in the Church of England, working for the Diocese of London DAC. Whilst working as a conservation officer Peter noticed that there was a need to further support parishes in the maintenance and sustainability of the historic buildings in their care and his role evolved into a Project Development Manager. Joining the CCT in 2007 Peter had a specific role to find sustainable solutions to complex urban churches within the Trust as well as running the Regeneration Taskforce to enable more community involvement in the care and maintenance of the Trust's portfolio. Since January 2012 Peter has been Director of the South East region responsible for 126 historic church sites.

Bell, Graham – Hungary / United Kingdom (Session 5:2, and chairing sessions 6 and 7)

Chair of the Hungarian Renaissance Foundation for Built Heritage and the Director of the North of England Civic Trust. A chartered architect who splits his time between England and Hungary, and a member of the FRH Networking Group.

Don Caputo, Gianmatteo – Italy (Session 6)

Director of the Pastoral Tourism and Cultural Heritage for the Patriarchate of Venice and Director of Museo Diocesano d'Arte Sacra, he graduated in architecture at the Istituto Universitario di Architettura in Venice and his field of study includes theology and philosophy. He has published research on these topics and is also a curator of exhibitions of sacred and contemporary art.

Lady Clarke, Frances – Italy / United Kingdom (Dinner speaker 14 Nov)

Co-President of Venice in Peril, which she founded with her late husband, Sir Ashley Clarke, who was the British Ambassador to Italy in the 1950s and early 60s. Lady Clarke was awarded the CBE in 2000, in recognition of her work for Venetian culture. In 2010 she was named Ambassador for Culture of the Veneto region, and was made a member of the Istituto Veneto. In 2007 she was proclaimed Venetian of the Year by the Settemari Association. Lady Clarke has an honorary DLitt from the University of Warwick, and is a member of Warwick's Venice Advisory Board.

Coomans, Thomas – Belgium (Session 1)

Received his PhD from, and is now Associate Professor in the Department of Architecture and the Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation, at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, in Belgium. He has published widely on the history of church conservation, and is also a member of the Commission Royale des Monuments et Sites, which works to preserve historic sites in the Brussels area. He is a member the FRH Council.

Cooper, Trevor – United Kingdom (Session 8 Chair)

Chair of the Historic Religious Buildings Alliance in the United Kingdom, a national network for organisations concerned for the future of religious heritage, he recently retired from a career in business. He has had a life-long interest in church buildings, and has a special interest in the future of historic churches. A few years ago he published *How do we keep our parish churches?*; a short book that presented a range of objective facts and figures on the factors affecting the future of Anglican church buildings. More recently he jointly edited *Pews, benches and chairs: church seating in English parish churches from the fourteenth century to the present*, a major work which not only investigates the history of church seating from early times, but also explores the arguments for and against change, and uses a range of case studies to look at what is happening today. He has been an external member since

2002 of the English Heritage Places of Worship Forum and its predecessor, and has sat on the Southwark Diocesan Advisory Committee since 2003. He is Chairman of Council of the Ecclesiological Society.

dalla Costa, Giovanni – Italy (Session 5:2)

Architect who works independently on projects spanning contemporary glass and furniture design to graphic design and advertising and since 2003, has been a partner of the architectural practice "Dalla Costa Architetti". His duties involve both project planning and job site management on monumental architectural restoration, housing renovation, and interior design, with a specific interest in the relations between architectural restoration and feasible new uses. His client base encompasses both the private and public sectors to include public competitions.

Costantini, Stefano – Italy (Session 5:1)

Parish priest of sant'Alvise.

de Rohan, Olivier – France (Session 1, and chairing the General Meeting)

President of FRH and Chairman of La Sauvegarde de l'Art Français, France's leading religious buildings charity. In 1996 he co-founded La Fondation du Patrimoine, France's largest non-state heritage funder. He previously had careers in marketing and recruitment.

Dowson, Ruth – United Kingdom (Session 5:1)

Senior Lecturer at the UK Centre for Events Management at Leeds Metropolitan University, most recently as Course Leader of the largest events management course in the world. Ruth's professional background includes 30 years as an events practitioner, working in the UK's private and public sectors. For the past five years she has been Ruth trained for ordination within the Church of England and was ordained Deacon in July 2012, and is now also a part-time Curate. As part of her MA in Ministry & Theology, Ruth combined her academic interests in events management with theological studies, examining the role of 'events' in church culture in her local area of Bradford, a diverse multi-cultural city. Her favourite event each year involves working with her students to deliver a conference for the Bishop of Bradford, attended by 500 lay people and clergy from across the diocese.

Gianighian, Giorgio – Italy (Session 6)

Urban and architectural conservation specialist, he has been a member of the building evaluation committee for the Municipality of Venice and in charge of the restoration of the clock tower in Saint Marks Square in Venice. He has been visiting professor in different countries, including Canada, Colombia, France, India, Israel, Japan, Nepal, UK and USA. He is a consultant for UNESCO WHC Nominations (Nepal, Republic of Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova), has worked for the European Commission in Turkey as well as for the Council of Europe on heritage conservation in south-east Europe.

Grootswagers-Theuns, Lilian – The Netherlands (Session 3, and chairing session 5:2)

FRH Council Secretary, and the owner of Erfgoed.nu, a Dutch Institute for Heritage. She is also a Council Member of the Task Force Toekomst Kerkgebouwen, which is a national and independent citizen's movement aiming to re-establish religious buildings as living elements of the urban and rural landscape and communities. Before working in heritage, she had a career in financial management.

Hadzimuhamedovic, Amra – Bosnia and Herzegovina (Session 5:1)

Professor at the International University of Sarajevo and a member of the Commission to Preserve National Monuments in Bosnia and Herzegovina, she is an architect by profession. She is also Associate member of ICOMOS International Scientific Committee for Philosophy and Theory of Conservation, programme coordinator for Bosnia and Herzegovina for the Council of Europe's Regional Programme for the Cultural and Natural Heritage in South East Europe, and editor of the journal Baština/Heritage.

Hawks, Jennie – United Kingdom (Session 7)

Co-ordinator of Art Alive in Churches, England, she has had experience of working in the voluntary, public and private sectors, having started her working life as a teacher. This experience includes running an EU Network in work experience for disabled undergraduates and graduates, managing the London Centre for an American university, equal opportunities management for a major UK bank and working for the UK Parliamentary Ombudsman's service. Since 2007 she has worked for the Diocese of Norwich, England,

which has over 600 churches. She is currently the Historic Places of Worship Support Officer for the Diocese, building on a wide experience of fundraising and restoration project work for local churches over many years.

Jaspers, Jan – Belgium (Session 7)

Director for the Department of Immoveable Religious Heritage (CRKC - Centrum voor Religieuze Kunst en Cultuur), Belgium. His previous work involved management of cultural festivals, including the Flanders Festival in Limburg.

Lindblad, Henrik – Sweden (Session 3)

National Coordinator for Cultural Heritage at the Church of Sweden, he has extensive experience working in church conservation in Sweden, and has also published a number of academic articles addressing conservation issues. He is a member of the FRH Networking Group.

Monkton, Linda – United Kingdom (Session 5, Plenary summary Chair)

Historic Environment Intelligence Analyst for Social Impacts at English Heritage, she was previously Head of Research Policy, Places of Worship at English Heritage and worked for the Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England at Church of England. She has a PhD in architectural history.

Noppen, Luc – Canada (Session 6)

Professor at the Université du Québec à Montréal's (UQAM), Département d'études urbaines et touristiques in Canada. Renowned architectural historian and Quebec architectural conservation specialist, he has to his credit more than thirty books and over three hundred articles, reports, and scientific communications. Luc Noppen has been working on the Quebec religious heritage for more than 30 years, starting with the characterization of religious architecture in the early 1970; he then participated in the conservation and rehabilitation of this heritage, particularly threatened by church closings.

Otzen, Uwe – Germany (Session 6)

Council member of Foerderkreis Alte Kirchen Berlin-Brandenburg.

Plathe, Sissel – Denmark (Session 5:3)

Art Historian and Curator at the National Museum, Denmark, her fields of specialism include church art, church architecture, medieval altarpieces, wall paintings and liturgical robes. She has published works on subjects including Danish churches and conservation plans and, together with Jens Bruun, published research on all the medieval altarpieces in Denmark. Recently she has been involved in a project to develop modern means of heritage interpretation, 'Listen to the Wall'.

Randla, Anneli – Estonia (Session 7)

Associate Professor at the Estonian Academy of Arts, Anneli earned her PhD in art history at the University of Cambridge in 1999. She has worked for the National Heritage Board of Estonia for ten years, for four of those years as the director general of the board. She is a member of the Estonian delegation at the UNESCO World Heritage Committee and a member of ICOMOS.

Romanelli, Giandomenico – Italy (Session 5:3)

Vice President of the Chorus Association and a professor in cultural heritage and conservation University Ca 'Foscari of Venice. Previously he taught history of architecture at the Istituto Universitario di Architettura in Venice. He is the director of Civic Museums in Venice and has been on the central cultural heritage of the City of Venice. He is a member of the of the National Council of Cultural heritage. He has published works on subjects including the history of Venice, Venetian art from the 16th to 19th century and the Venice Biennale. He has curated numerous exhibitions in Venice and abroad.

Sørmoen, Oddbjørn – Norway (Session 1 Chair)

Director of the Department for Church Buildings and Heritage Administration in the KA Association for Employers in the Church of Norway and Church-related NGOs. He has extensive experience working in church management and conservation in Norway, for 17 years worked as Senior Adviser for the Directorate for Cultural Heritage, Norway, and from 2008 to 2010 also worked for English Heritage. He is the Chair of FRH's Venice Conference Committee.

Szekeres, Ágnes – Hungary (Session 5:2)

Agnes studied Dutch and English at the Faculty of Arts of the Károli Gáspár Protestant University in Budapest. After studying Culture Management at the Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design, Agnes started an internship at the National Office of Cultural Heritage in Hungary, at the Division of International Cooperation, Public Relations and World Heritage Affairs, followed by an internship at the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands in Amersfoort. As a participant of the European Public Administration Exchange Programme, Agnes will be working at the Gyula Forster National Centre for Cultural Heritage Management (successor of the NOCH).

Takke, Jacoline – The Netherlands (Session 3)

Jacoline Takke did Masters in History and Museology. Since 2011 she works at Museum Catharijneconvent, the national museum for Christian art and culture in the Netherlands, for the project on the religious objects from closing churches and convents. The Dutch Guidelines had just appeared. In 2012 she and her colleague wrote the Guidelines on ways of dealing with religious objects

Truman, Crispin – United Kingdom (Session 1, and chairing sessions 3 and 5:3)

Chairs the FRH Networking Group and is the Chief Executive of the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT), which cares for redundant Church of England churches. He is also a trustee of the UK Heritage Alliance. Prior to coming to the CCT, Crispin was the Chief Executive of a mental health charity, the Revolving Doors Agency. The CCT generously hosts FRH in their offices in Smithfield, London.

Velkov, Pance – Macedonia (Session 7)

President of the Makedonia Foundation and Professor of Heritage and Architecture at the Euro Balkan Institute in Skopje, he graduated civil engineering in Skopje in 1984 and then began working on the preservation of architectural heritage. He obtained his PhD in 1995 at the French Grand School "Ecole centrale de Paris". Since 2000 he has been living in Macedonia where he founded Makedonida foundation for heritage education, promotion and valorisation. In 2005/6 he was a Fulbright scholar at the Historic Preservation Program at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Since 2009 Dr. Velkov has been teaching as a visiting Professor at the Graduate Historic Preservation Program at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. In Skopje he is now teaching on cultural heritage and architecture at the graduate program of the Euro Balkan Institute for Human and Social Sciences.

Wham, Scott – Scotland, UK (Session 7)

Part 2 Architect, Church Buildings Renewal Trust, Scotland, Scott recently completed his Masters in Architecture at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow where he also completed his BSc(Hons) in 2011. His postgraduate thesis focused upon the development of church buildings as community facilities. From this research he has created a guidebook for use by congregations, which explores the issues affecting church buildings as well as a number of strategies and case studies. Following planned publication in early 2013 the guidebook will be circulated to churches of every denomination throughout Scotland. Since 2009 he has worked for Peter Drummond Architects in Kilmarnock, a practice which specialises in heritage and conservation work. He has worked on a number of church redevelopment projects and is on the committee of the Church Buildings Renewal Trust. He is also part of the steering committee of his own church, Newton Wallacetown in Ayr.

Wollner, Petr – Czech Republic (Session 3)

Deputy Manager, Building and Restoration Department, the Archbishopric of Prague. After graduating the Czech Technical University in Prague in 1985, Petr started his career as a site manager on housing projects in Prague. From 1988 he was employed in the State Institute for Reconstruction of the Historical Towns and Monuments as a member of an architectural team working on different reconstruction and conservation projects in Prague and other places of the country. Since 1994 he was invited to join the building and conservation teams within the Roman Catholic Church of the Czech Republic, trying to restore and renovate the historical buildings and property damaged in the communist era. Since 2002 he continued with this work as a deputy manager on the Building and Restoration Department of the Archbishopric of Prague, the central Czech diocese of the Roman Catholic church. He is responsible for the restoration projects of numerous historical churches in Prague and central Bohemia.

Yuceer, Hulya – Cyprus (Session 7)

Trained as an architect in the Middle East Technical University in Turkey and specialised on architectural conservation. She worked in several private architectural offices and governmental institutions, gaining experience in design, construction, and architectural and urban conservation projects in Turkey and Northern Cyprus. She carried out research in English Heritage and participated ICCROM's course "First Aid to Cultural Heritage in Times of Conflict" in 2011. She has been working as a senior instructor in Eastern Mediterranean University in northern Cyprus since 2008.

Contributors to the poster session (Session 2)

Bahamonde, Pilar

Directora Centro de Estudios Lebaniegos. Previously she has worked as digital cities project co-ordinator, as a lecturer and researcher at various institutions.

Beloescu, Manuela

Co-manages the Satul Verde (Green Village) organisation. They based in Sibiu but operate all over Transylvania and Western Romania. The organisation's activities focus on the sustainable management of culture and nature, focusing on developing links between communities and running training actions in 'sustainable ancestors', 'rural food' and 'empowering communities'.

Bernier, Lyne

Doctoral candidate at the Institute of Geoarchitecture of Université de Bretagne Occidentale, Brest, under the direction of professor Daniel Le Couédic and the co direction of Luc Noppen, holder of the Canada Chair on Urban Heritage at Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM). Her doctoral research focuses on the history and significance of Montreal's ecclesiastical properties; on identity, heritage, and the urban contours of Montreal; and on the role of Monsignor Bourget in the urban planning of Quebec's main metropolitan centre as of the second half of the 19th century. Ms. Bernier is a student member of the Interuniversity Centre for Studies in the Humanities, Arts and Traditions (CELAT) and youth research associate with the Canada Chair on Urban Heritage.

Collison-Owen, Victoria

Director of the Scottish Redundant Churches Trust since 1999 and responsible for all aspects of the SRCT's operation including management of churches in care and project development and implementation. Formerly with the Buildings At Risk Survey of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland and a Curator with the National Monuments Record of Scotland.

Ekere, Baiba

State Inspector for Heritage Protection in Latvia.

Erdélyi, Robert

Founder and owner of OhrozeneKostoly.sk (Endangered Churches), which is the only countrywide initiative working to protect historical places of worship and to gain knowledge about underused and redundant churches and chapels in Slovakia. He is also an Architect and doctoral candidate at the Slovak University of Technology, Faculty of Architecture.

Fowler, Angus

He is a member of FRH's Networking Group. He studied History at Trinity College, Oxford and since the early 1970s has been based in Marburg, Germany where he has worked at the University and been a founding member of the Förderkreis Alte Kirchen e.V. (Marburg), whose pioneering work has inspired the founding of other, similar church conservation organisations in Germany.

Iron, Candace

Doctoral candidate at York University, Toronto and Architectural Historian & Heritage Consultant at Candace Iron. Previously she has worked as Foundations Programme Teaching Development Assistant at York University, Toronto, Ontario and as an Architectural Historian at Ontario Heritage Trust

Knight, Ruth

Environmental policy manager, Cathedral and Church Buildings Division, at Church of England. Previously she worked as the Design and Conservation Officer at Cherwell District Council and holds degrees in architecture and historic conservation.

Kurek, Jan

Associate Professor at Cracow University of Technology.

Lillo-Stenberg, Cathrine – Norway

Art Historian, Adviser for Department for Church Buildings and Heritage Administration in the KA Association for Employers in the Church of Norway and Church-related NGOs.

Loyd, Matthew

Partner at Matthew Loyd Architects. He qualified as an architect in 1988. Having spent several years working for Skidmore Owings and Merrill in London and Chicago, Matthew established Matthew Loyd Architects in 1990 and has developed its portfolio into a practice with a particular commitment to projects of strong social value. Matthew devised and ran two conferences on the rehabilitation of church buildings (A City to Dwell In, 2005 and A Strong City, 2006).

Mace, Jessica

Doctoral candidate at York University, Toronto. Her research focuses on nineteenth-century domestic architecture in Canada. She received her Master of Arts in Art History from York University and her Bachelor of Arts in Art History from Queens University.

Mizzi, Simone

Executive President of Din l-Art Helwa, Malta. Following her studies, she pursued a career in business and is deeply involved in the preservation of culture and the built and natural heritage of Malta. She helped to establish Heritage Malta at its foundation, serving as Deputy Chairperson with the state agency till 2008, and was appointed Executive President of Din l-Art Helwa in 2011. She is also a Council Member of Europa Nostra, the pan European Federation of heritage NGOs.

Monkton, Linda (See above)**Mueller, Bettina-Maria Mueller**

Architect, Research Assistant / Academic Counselor at the Technical University Munich.

Nikitskii, Aleksei

Board member of Village Church (Selskaya Tserkov), Russia.

Parent, Mario

B.Sc. and an M.Sc. in urban studies from a program offered jointly by Université du Québec à Montréal and the Institut national de la recherche scientifique –Urbanisation, culture et société (INRS-UCS). He completed a master's thesis entitled "Étude historique, analyse architecturale et évaluation patrimoniale des lieux de culte de l'arrondissement de Verdun" (Historical study, architectural analysis and heritage assessment of places of worship in the Verdun district) under the direction of Luc Noppen. Mario Parent's research has been undertaken as places of worship are being abandoned and aims to document these essential identity testimonies before they disappear from the built landscape of Quebec. Since 2008, he has been conducting research concerning Québec's places of worship for UQAM's Canada Chair on Urban Heritage while also pursuing research on company towns.

Reijalt, Marieke

Executive Director of the European Hydrogen Association.

Van den Mooter, Johan

Project Coordinator, vzw Kempens Landschap. Previously he worked as an architectural historian at Heritage & Vision and for arts organisations. He has an MA in Landscapes and Monuments studies from the University of Antwerp.

Vachova, Barbora

Architect and co-founder of OhrozeneKostoly.sk (Endangered Churches), which is the only countrywide initiative working to protect historical places of worship and to gain knowledge about underused and redundant churches and chapels in Slovakia.

Vokic Vojkovic, Tatjana

Project Manager, Institute for Creative and Sustainable Projects, Slovenia. Previously she has worked as Project and Finance Manager at Academy of Handicrafts (Municipality of Veržej), Head of Tourist Information Centre at Centre of Home Crafts and Applied Arts (Marianum Institute Verzej) and for a society for human rights. She holds a BSc in Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology from the University of Ljubljana.