



## NEWSLETTER

July 2007, Issue 2

### Greys Court

Phase 1 of the works at Greys Court, Henley on Thames are now complete. Greys Court is a Grade I listed building owned by the National Trust. Oxley Conservation acted as lead Consultant.



The works included repairs to the roof timbers and improving the detailing of the parapet gutter outlets and the rain water goods to be able to cope with changes in climatic conditions and associated deluges of rain. The opportunity was taken during these works to upgrade the insulation of the roof using compatible natural materials.

### Courses & Seminars

One of the goals of Oxley Conservation is to be proactive in sharing our experiences and knowledge with other professionals and the broader conservation community. In this way we hope to stimulate discussion, spread good practice, and learn from others. During the past few months the team at Oxley Conservation have been particularly busy speaking at seminars and conferences.

In March, Richard and Phil led a day's course at the Weald and Downland museum about energy efficiency in traditional buildings, which they reprised, with Catharine's help, a month later in Henley. All three also spoke at the SPAB's technical day entitled "Energy efficiency, sustainability and old buildings" in March. Separately Catharine addressed the SPAB's spring repair course in London, Richard spoke at the RICS Briefing Event in Nottingham, and Phil presented to Ventrolla's national conference in York.

Richard also taught three one-day hands-on courses on surveying timber framed buildings in a Grade II listed building in Chesham which we are currently helping to save.



*The fan pressure kit in use at the Weald & Downland Museum*

### Chatterley Whitfield

Earlier this year we completed a condition survey of an interesting complex of industrial buildings: the Pit Head Baths at Chatterley Whitfield Colliery.



Chatterley Whitfield is the best surviving example of a mining complex in Great Britain and is a Scheduled Ancient Monument owned by Stoke City Council.

We were appointed to undertake the work by the architectural practice Fielden, Clegg and Bradley, who are working with the Council to find a sustainable use for the site.



The Pit Head Baths represent an important part of the social welfare history of the Colliery. In 1926 the Samuel Commission noted that only a tiny percentage of British miners had access to pithead baths yet their installation was compulsory on the continent. In order to comply with the Mining Industry Act of 1926, in 1937 the Miners Welfare Committee funded the construction of the Pit Head Baths and Canteen. These brick range buildings were architect designed to a Modernist style and are interesting for the display of both architectural and utilitarian features.

Since the closure of the Colliery in 1977 these building have been suffering the consequences of disuse. Whilst the condition survey was restricted to non-structural elements the rapidly deteriorating condition of the structural concrete frames of the buildings highlighted the need for an integrated repair strategy so that the Pit Head buildings and their contents can be preserved.



## Electrifying News!

Oxley Conservation, with the environment in mind, has changed their electric tariff to a supplier who is dedicated to building wind turbines to supply renewable sources of energy. This was done at no additional cost to the running costs of our offices and can only increase the demand for renewable energy.

## Berg Cottage

An article published in Cornerstone, (Vol 27, No. 4 2006) the SPAB publication, provides a summary of the work to repair and improve the energy efficiency of Berg Cottage, a 17<sup>th</sup> Century grade II listed cottage owned by the National Trust. Oxley Conservation were consultants to the National Trust for this project.



To read the full article:

<http://www.oxleyconservation.com/publications/documents/BergCottage-ModernisedButNotModern.pdf>

## St Andrew, Rollestone

Repair works and internal redecorations have been completed on the church of St Andrew, Rollestone in Wiltshire. The church, which is Grade II\* listed is maintained by the Churches Conservation Trust as it is no longer used for regular worship.

