

How the AHF can help

The Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) is a registered charity, limited by guarantee, established in 1976 to promote the conservation and sustainable re-use of historic buildings in the UK. As long as they are listed, scheduled or within a conservation area, we help people to bring a historic building back to life by:

- Being involved at the earliest stages of a project to give advice and information on how to establish a BPT.
- Providing vital financial assistance in the form of grants and low-interest working capital loans for projects undertaken by building preservation trusts (BPTs) and other charities.
- Working constructively with BPTs to identify viable new uses for redundant or under-used historic buildings.
- Putting interested people in touch with a BPT working in their area.

To date, the AHF has offered grants totalling over £3.5 million and working capital loans of almost £73 million to BPTs and other charities, enabling the rescue and revitalisation of almost 1000 historic buildings.



A FUTURE FROM THE PAST

THE ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE FUND

For further information on the work of the AHF and BPTs or an informal discussion about a possible project, please contact us at:

The Architectural Heritage Fund
Clareville House
26/27 Oxendon Street
London SW1Y 4EL

Tel: 020 7925 0199
Fax: 020 7930 0295
Email: ahf@ahfund.org.uk
www.ahfund.org.uk

Helping people to bring buildings back to life

A roofless medieval church stands isolated in overgrown fields, ivy threading through its stonework. Along the roadside is an abandoned historic warehouse, formerly the source of economic prosperity for a small town. A Victorian shop, once at the heart of a community, sits empty and decaying, its fine windows broken and boarded over.

At The Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF), we know that such sights are sadly all too common in our towns, cities and countryside. Our experience tells us, however, that with a little imagination and a lot of enthusiasm, buildings like these can be saved and helped to become assets for their local communities by their local communities. Every day, buildings are given new leases of life by local people who care about the past or want to make a difference to the future of where they live.

The AHF has helped hundreds of groups across the UK to do exactly that – by helping people concerned about valuable historic but dilapidated buildings to form building preservation trusts (BPTs) and by providing important financial assistance at the earliest stages of a project.

What are BPTs?

BPTs are charitable organisations made up of local volunteers and established specifically to rescue historic buildings at risk by repairing and converting them for viable new uses. There are more than 250 BPTs across the UK. Some have been formed to tackle one particular building while others take on several projects in their area over time.

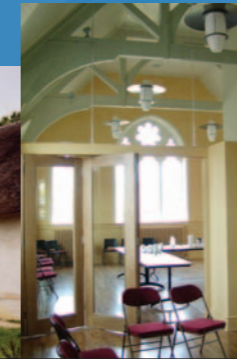
For further information about the network of BPTs or for details of a trust in your area, please contact:

The Administrator,
The UK Association of Preservation Trusts,
Clareville House,
26-27 Oxendon Street,
London, SW1Y 4EL.
Tel: 020 7930 1629 Fax: 020 7930 0295
Email: apt@ahfund.org.uk

Somerset Building Preservation Trust

This trust was drawn to the Grade II St Margaret's Almshouses in Taunton, seeing the potential for high quality housing in this sad, fire-damaged building. It:

- Was awarded an AHF loan to provide working capital.
- Developed the vacant Almshouses into four affordable dwellings.
- Received two conservation awards for its work and the project itself was awarded a third.



Old Belmont School Preservation Trust

The Old Belmont Primary School in Belfast was declared redundant in 1999. Three mothers decided that it shouldn't become private housing and offices as planned but should remain as a facility for local people. They:

- Formed a BPT in 1999 to drive the campaign for the Grade B+ school.
- Were awarded two grants by the AHF to assess the viability of its plans and to meet administration costs and a working capital loan to finance restoration work.
- Opened the restored building as a multi-use community facility including a playgroup and after-school club, coffee shop, exhibition space and meeting rooms.

Scottish Redundant Churches Trust

St Peter's Church in Orkney, a category A building, was threatened with demolition in 1998. The Trust:

- Purchased the building in 1998 and initiated a scheme for repair.
- Was awarded an AHF loan to provide working capital.
- Restored the church as a centre for visitors and established a local Friends group to care for the building.
- Was presented with a Europa Nostra award for its sensitive conservation of the church.



Llandudno Seaside Building Preservation Trust

The abandonment of St George's National School spurred the Llandudno Civic Society and the local historical society to:

- Form a BPT with help from the AHF.
- Apply to the AHF for grants to help look at project viability, administration costs and the employment of a project organiser and for working capital loans.
- Sensitive convert the Grade II school into offices for the local education authority.