

Graham Bell BA(Hons) BArch(Hons) RIBA FRSA

a Kuratórium elnöke, Magyar Reneszánsz Alapítvány (H)

Director, North of England Civic Trust (UK)

ISES.1212.G Bell cv English.doc

Professional Profile

Two experiences influenced Graham Bell joining the North of England Civic Trust (NECT) in 1995: working on the Anglo-Swedish architect Ralph Erskine's internationally acclaimed social housing redevelopment in Byker, and being a participant in the UK pilot of Common Purpose, a leadership programme committed to developing a civil society through understanding, skills and mutual respect. Applying these experiences as a 'principled practitioner' has helped establish his reputation as director of one of the leading NGOs in its field in the UK, and within the European context.

NECT is the only NGO in England that combines support for civil organisations with independent professional consultancy, project management, education, training and restoration of historic buildings. Its demonstration projects include conversion of a country house into flats and apartments, a farm into flats and workshops, a 'living-over-the-shop' scheme in a fishing port, a derelict municipal building into a conference centre, a coaching inn into craft workshops, and a watermill into a hydro-powered sawmill rural enterprise centre. Over the last 7 years NECT has initiated and developed one of the largest and most successful traditional skills training programmes in the UK, providing hands-on practical experience to encourage better maintenance of property and more people to take up careers in this high value sector. Programmes include construction, landscape and engineering and have reached a huge audience.

An architect with 30 years experience, Graham Bell has been a studio design tutor for a UK university and an assessor for regional, national and international awards. A member of the National Trust's Architectural Panel for nine years, he has advised on design and conservation management implications for important historic sites around the UK. At the request of English Heritage he chaired a study into the impact of tall buildings and has provided expert design advice on sensitive rural development and major civic redevelopment projects.

His concern about redundant floor space in urban centres resulted in Graham exhibiting at the first national conference of Common Purpose at the Royal Society of Arts. This led to representing English Heritage on the board of the Grainger Town Partnership in Newcastle upon Tyne, overseeing a six year £200m regeneration programme that has won national and international best practice awards; he also chaired its Urban Design Panel and Public Arts Panel. He represented the project as a speaker at a conference at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg and in receiving the Europa Nostra Prize for cultural environments at the 2003 annual congress in Munich, leading to a successful bid to bring the congress to Newcastle Gateshead in 2008. NECT has since successfully applied these principles across a wide range of market towns and in 2012/13 NECT is leading in considering similar economic profiling for the historic city of York.

His experience in European cultural heritage management has involved hosting placements and joining a British Council delegation to Moscow to coincide with the Queen's State Visit. NECT is a long-standing member of Europa Nostra; Graham is Secretary of Europa Nostra UK and has been a contributor to all its conferences; he currently serves on the Council of Europa Nostra as it prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2013. He led a workshop for the European Network of National Heritage Organisations General Assembly in Antwerp and has presented to the management committee of INTO, the International National Trusts Organisation, with which in 2011 he was involved in setting up an international exchange programme for cultural heritage managers across central Europe to share best practice. He continues to welcome collaboration with cultural heritage organisations in Ireland, Iceland, Slovenia and Slovakia on similar exchange programmes and project management.

In 2007 Graham set up Magyar Reneszansz Alapítvány, a foundation in Hungary with similar charitable purposes to NECT. During its formative years Graham worked with a range of organisations and universities on project proposals and to promote best practice in conservation heritage management, including presentations at a wide range of conferences organised by such as Budapest Observatory and Dunalog.

In 2010 he worked with the British Embassy to host a summit meeting in the presence of HRH The Prince of Wales and chaired by HE Katalin Bogyay, Hungary's Ambassador to UNESCO and subsequently president of its general conference. Hungarian and British experts met to discuss Hungarian heritage issues and consider closer co-operation between the two countries. Graham subsequently led the programme of follow-up actions. This included contributing to a conference on the economy of heritage at the Károlyi Kastély, Fehérvárcsurgó and participation in the summer university programme at ISES (Institute for Social and European Studies), Kőszeg.

Since 2010, Graham has been a regular contributor to postgraduate programmes at ISES (a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence and UNESCO Chair), including setting up an e-Learning course in characterisation as a tool of cultural heritage management for historic sites, collections and areas.

Conservation management of built heritage also was a theme Graham taught in 2012 for a postgraduate course at Academia Istropolitana Nova at Svätý Jur near Bratislava in the Slovak Republic.

In 2010 Graham was a member of an organising committee for an international conference at Canterbury Cathedral that explored the issues facing historic places of worship across Europe. This led to the establishment of Future for Religious Heritage, an NGO registered in Belgium, of which Graham was a founder member and a contributor to its conference in Venice in 2012 attended by 90 delegates from 25 countries.

Another European initiative Graham has been involved in is European Heritage Days. In 2011/12 Graham chaired the Futures Group, advising on how the programme for England can develop, and in Hungary he and MRA have collaborated with KOH and TKME to improve marketing and audience profiling.

Selection of relevant activities, publications, lectures, conference papers, broadcast interviews, etc.

Cultural heritage management and economic development in Europe

International National Trusts Organisation, cultural heritage management exchange training programme in the UK, 2011;
Council of Europe, Strasbourg, conference presentation on urban regeneration, 2002;
Europa Nostra, Annual Congress, EU year of intercultural dialogue, skills event organiser, 2008;
Europa Nostra UK, Secretary, conference organiser and speaker, 2005 - ;
International National Trusts Organisation, presentation on cultural heritage management in Hungary, 2010;
REVIT (EU programme), conference paper on working with communities on industrial heritage, 2006;
European Association of Historic Towns and Regions (EAHTR) conference launch of INHERIT, 2002;
British Council Delegation to Moscow, report in the Newcastle Journal on cultural regeneration opportunities, Queen's State visit to Moscow, 1994;
British Government Department of Trade & Industry, Hungary briefing paper, 1993;
British Urban Regeneration Association (BURA), author of article, INTER-AVIN, 1993;
UK Faculty of Building, paper to construction industry seminar, 1994.

Working with communities in regeneration in Europe

OVÁSI, Erzsébetváros regeneration, conference paper, 2005;
European Network of National Heritage Organisations (ENNHIO) annual conference, paper, Antwerp, 2001.

Historic Places of Worship

Future for Religious Heritage, founder member 2011; member of the Networking Group 2011-
Northumbria Historic Churches Trust, Trustee (1995-2010) and Chair (2003-2010)
Anglican Cathedral of St Nicholas, Newcastle upon Tyne, Council member (2003-2009) and Chair (2006-2009)
Christian Heritage of Northumbria Millennium Festival Project, Chair, Steering Group, 2000
Parish church of St Aidan (AD1100), Thockrington, Northumberland, Churchwarden 1992-

European cultural tourism and development

ICHI (Innovation in Cultural Heritage Interpretation), report on Slovak exchange programme, 2007.

Urban Regeneration

Joseph Karolyi Foundation, Fehérvárcsurgó, Hungary, 'The Economy of Heritage, 'NGOs in heritage-led development', 2010
Anglo-Hungarian Heritage Summit, HRH The Prince of Wales, HE Katalin Bogyay, 2010
Institute of Historic Building Conservation, UK, 'What is Civil Society?' 2010
University of Newcastle upon Tyne, Dept of Planning, 'Building Preservation Trusts', 2009
Limerick Civic Trust, Ireland, 'NECT: a Civic Trust in the UK', 2008
Budapest Observatory, Hungary, 'City Water and Solidarity', 2008
Dunalog, Hungary, 'Illusions of Grandeur', 2008
European Association of Historic Towns and Regions (EAHTR), INHERIT project (Belfast, Newcastle upon Tyne, Göteborg, Verona, Gdansk, Ubeda), 'NGOs as partners in urban regeneration', 2007
Blaenavon World Heritage Site, Wales, 'Historic Environment Conservation Skills: How do we meet the shortfall?' 2006
University of Newcastle upon Tyne, Department of Architecture, studio design tutor, 1995-2002;
University of Newcastle upon Tyne, Masters Degree in Urban Design, guest lecturer, 1996- ;
Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland, presentation on conservation management plans;
Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, paper on conservation management;
Common Purpose, programme days, Newcastle upon Tyne and Bradford, 1992-2006;

Common Purpose, exhibition publication, first UK National Conference, Royal Academy of Arts, London, 1990;
Northern Business magazine, article, 1992;
The Observer (UK national newspaper), feature, 1991;
Hungarian television interviews, 2005;
Tyne Tees Television, expert interviews/features, 1994-2003;
BBC television and radio, interviews/features.

Architecture and Design

University of Newcastle upon Tyne, Studio Design Tutor, 1991-1997

Public and NGO appointments; publications, programmes and projects

Heritage Open Days (European Heritage Days) England, Chair, Futures Group, 2011-12

Europa Nostra: Europa Nostra Council, 2012-

Europa Nostra UK – honorary secretary, 2009-

Europa Nostra annual congress, NewcastleGateshead organising committee, 2008

Europa Nostra UK – host/organiser, inaugural conference, 2005

NECT member organisation representative, 1995-

Grainger Town Partnership, Newcastle upon Tyne, Main and Executive Board member, Chair of the Urban Design and Public Art Panels, 1997-2003; reports, programme & international conference papers;

Coastal defence heritage interpretation project, 2008;

The role of historic churches in tourism and communities, 2008;

Maritime heritage sector regional strategic review, 2006;

Cultural Heritage management in the English Lake District – strategic review, 2004;

Conservation management strategy of internationally important 1970s housing, Byker, 2004

Tyne Gorge urban landscape study, Chair, 2003;

Millennium Marque sustainable development awards, Assessor, 1996-2000.

Professional memberships and associations (selection only)

ICOMOS (Hungary), 2012-

TKME, Hungary, 2011-

Royal Society for the Promotion of Arts, Manufactures & Commerce, Elected Fellow, 2000-

Common Purpose, UK pilot programme, 1989-90; supporter, Common Purpose Magyarország, 2011-

Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne, 1992-

Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, 1990-

Royal Institute of British Architects, 1985-

Architects Registration Board (UK), 1984-