

EARTHA AGM & CONFERENCE 2019

7th November 2019

Sugar Beet Eating House, Norwich Road, Swainsthorpe, Norwich, NR14 8PU

LOW CARBON HOMES IN EARTH AND STRAW

Concern for the environment has never been greater. Carbon emissions and climate change, the loss of biodiversity, plastic waste and the ever-increasing demands on finite resources, all need urgent solutions. This conference will focus on two traditional and often overlooked building materials, earth and straw, and suggest how these can be used to produce modern buildings capable of achieving the highest environmental standards both in terms of energy efficiency, embodied energy and perhaps most important of all, a sense of well-being.

Program and speakers

12:00 - 1:15 PM **registration and buffet lunch**

1:15 **Welcome and introduction:** Malvern Tipping conference chair

1:30 **Eartha AGM** see separate agenda.

2:30 **“Not Half Baked but Unbaked”** : Colin Williams will seek to quantify the energy and carbon savings from the use of earth construction, setting it against other conventional building materials and against the overall carbon emissions from housing stock in the UK.

3.15 **Coffee and Tea break**

3:30 **“Tars and their historic application to buildings. A good idea or not.”?**
Michael Knights will explain the history and use of coal and wood tars as protective coating to masonry and timber buildings. Is tar vapour permeable and which buildings and materials might benefit from this treatment?

4.15 **“strawbale building: natural materials, moisture & our senses”** Fran Bradshaw. When we analyse and measure performance of natural building materials with the tools currently available, we consistently get much better results that people expect, but what about the things that are not so easy to measure? We mostly describe surface and visual experience, but what about other ways of experiencing buildings? And how does that experience contribute to our sense of wellbeing?

5.00 **“Bettablok - bringing clay lump into the 21st-century.”** Malcolm Carrington. Earth is a sustainable, recyclable material, with the lowest possible environmental impacts. But the image of clay of lump can seem outmoded, cumbersome and messy. Malcolm has developed and patented an interlocking mortar free earth block system that could transform attitudes to earth construction.

5:45 **questions and answers and summing up.** Malvern Tipping

Conference fee: £25 for Eartha members, £30 for non-members

Certificates for 6 hours CPD will be available .



Sugar beet Eating House is on the A140 Ipswich Road just before the village of Swainsthorpe when leaving Norwich. There is ample parking at the venue.

Conference speakers

Dr Malvern Tipping. Malvern is a long-standing member of Eartha. He is a Chartered valuation surveyor with a Professional Doctorate in the Built Environment; a visiting Research Fellow at Anglia Ruskin University and owner of businesses owning historic buildings and an historic funicular railway.”

Malcolm Carrington. Malcolm is director of MSC Naturally. He is a founder member of Eartha and currently Chair. MSC are specialists’ suppliers of natural building materials and have undertaken specialist renovation and construction of historic buildings using traditional materials for over 50 years. Bettablok is produced by MSC at their yard in Somersham, Cambridgeshire. Malcolm is also a member of ASBP and Confor.

Colin Williams. Colin is Treasurer and Membership Sec. of Eartha. He is a Chartered Building Engineer, Chartered Surveyor and Accredited Energy Assessor. He is the author of technical papers on contemporary earth construction and the use of lime. In 2007 he completed a six-year research degree at Plymouth University enquiry into obstacles to the greater use of earth as a sustainable, contemporary material. He is director of WCK Design and Conservation. WCK carries out specialist surveys of earth buildings and offers an architectural and structural design service specialising in earth and natural materials.

Michael Knights. Michael qualified with the Royal Town Planning Institute in 1974 and then specialised in listed buildings, their conservation and repair. After five years as museum director of England’s first working brewery museum in Burton upon Trent Michael came to Norfolk and spent 20 years with Norfolk County Council as Heritage and Landscape Manager with a professional team of 10 specialists. For six years he was chair of the East Anglian branch of the Institute of Historic Building Conservation and has been a member of Eartha since its formation. Michael is still active as a consultant on traditional paints, planning and historic buildings.

Frances Bradshaw. Frances is an Architect, and has been a partner at Anne Thorne Architects since 1996. Extensive experience in participatory design and community projects, with a strong focus on green design, form the basis of her work.

Recent ATA projects include strawbale house and the Ecohub, a strawbale Community Centre at Lordship Recreation Ground, new passivhouses and low energy retrofit for London Bourough of Lambeth.

She has contributed through lectures, articles and seminars to developing and forwarding sustainable design and refurbishment and is a Trustee of the sustainable building association, the Association for Environment Conscious Building.

EARTHA

The East Anglian Earth Buildings Group
2019

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Sugar Beet Eating House, Norwich Road, Swainsthorpe, Norwich, NR14 8PU

12:00 - 1:15 PM **registration and buffet lunch**

1:30 **AGM**

1. Introduction by the chair - Malcolm Carrington
2. Adoption of minutes from last year's AGM
3. Treasurers report
4. Membership Subscriptions currently £10 for individuals £20 for organisations
5. Call for committee members. Committee to include: the chair, the treasurer and membership Sec, the secretary plus between two and four additional committee members.
6. Election:
 - Chair
 - Treasurer and Membership Sec
 - Secretary
 - Members of the committee
7. Use of Eartha website for members to advertise their services free of charge. Other suitable advertisements could be accepted by the committee from non-members but subject to an annual fee of £35.
8. Programme of events for 2020
 - Some possible events could include:
 1. Daub day Summer 2020. the Bettablok journey
 2. Conference
 3. Demonstration of block production/block laying
 4. Visit to a large earth constructed summerhouse at Mattishall, Norfolk.
 5. Visit to a recently renovated clay lump house offered last year by member Susie Stevens
9. Any other business
10. 2:15 Close of meeting