

## THE FUTURE IS EARTH: REGIONAL CONFERENCE

28th November 2024

The Gamekeeper, Old Buckenham, Norfolk. NR17 1RE

Earth is a sustainable, recyclable material, with the lowest possible environmental impact. With rapid changes in climate, the construction industry is having to rethink how it copes with the challenges these changes bring. Now more than ever, it is necessary to look to examples of historic earth-builds, of which there are thousands of in East Anglia alone, so to promote and benefit from the future of earthen architecture, and to support earth build conservation.

9:15 - 10:00 Assemble, coffee and tea available.

10:00 **Welcome and introduction by Chair Dr Malvern Tipping.**

10:15 **Anthony Hudson – CobBauge: Bringing earth building into the 21st Century.**

The talk will focus on the research and construction of the first wholly earth wall system, CobBauge, which combines structural and thermal performance suitable to meet contemporary needs. This will be illustrated through the design and building of our CobBauge house in Fakenham. We will also look at the lessons learnt and where the future could lie both for the self-builder and the house developer.

11:15 Short break, tea and coffee.



11:30 **Will Stanwix - “The Hempcrete Guy”**

Will is a highly specialist building contractor, with focus in using natural materials to create sustainable low-impact buildings, with expertise in lime, hemp, hempcrete and much more. Now Technical Director of the Hemp Block Company Ltd, and the driving force behind earth block production at HG Matthews Brick Works, Will will be discussing his progression, development and testing of natural, sustainable building materials.

12:30 Buffet lunch.

**1:15 Malcolm Carrington - The development and patent of Bettablok**

Bettablok is an interlocking mortar free earth block which was granted a patent in 2021, and more recently given the honour by Build Magazine as The Most Sustainable Innovative Building Product and Manufacturer in UK 2025. With the UK's first domestic house build commencing in a couple of months, Malcolm will discuss his journey.



**2:00 Michael Knights - The erroneous use of tar and the history behind it.**

With varying beliefs over the years on the application of tar on building materials, Michael will address the long-term effect tar coatings can have upon these structures, and will explode the myth still held by too many people.

2:45 Short break, tea and coffee.

**3:00 Simon Steele - Clay Lump Buildings. Problems and suitable repairs to keep them working as they were designed.**

As a specialist in property restoration, Simon will talk about his experience and dealings with damp in clay buildings. Clay Lump Buildings, their problems and specifying suitable repairs to keep them working as they were designed.

3:45 Final question session with all speakers available.

4:00 **Dr Malvern Tipping, with a summing up of the day's events.**

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**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 the historic Bridgnorth Cliff Funicular Railway.

## **Anthony Hudson**



MA Cantab, DipArch, (PCL), RIBA, ARB, FRSA. Founder and Creative Director at Hudson Architects. Anthony founded award-winning Hudson Architects in 2002. The practice has produced an exciting breadth of modern and innovative work with projects including public buildings and spaces, urban and rural regeneration, landscape design, bespoke homes, housing, arts and education buildings.

He has been an external examiner at Cambridge University, Kingston University and Newcastle University's School of Architecture and a Studio Tutor at University of East London and University of North London. Anthony is on Design Panels for Greater Norwich Development Partnership and Shape East and is a Visiting Professor of Architecture at Norwich University of the Arts.

As well as the expertise developed over 30 years working as a teacher and architect; Anthony has a keen interest in design and its direct impact on economic issues and the positive development of society.

## **William Stanwix**



Will is Technical Director at The Hemp Block Company Limited, Chesham (2022), producing a reliable source of low cost, high quality hempcrete blocks to the UK, consisting of hemp shiv and hydrated lime. Previously Director at Hemp-Limeconstruct from 2009 - 2020, the first specialist hempcrete building company in the UK, Will has been the notable driving force behind the development of natural building materials at HGMatthews brickworks.

Will is Co Author of 'The Hempcrete Book: Designing and Building with Hemp-Lime' (2014 UIT/Green Books, Cambridge), which has been widely acknowledged as the definitive guide to the use of cast-on-site Hempcrete in construction. At Kingston University, Will studied Building Surveying, with a focus on natural building products and vernacular building. His dissertation looked at the load bearing capacity of straw bale construction, and how this fairs with building control.



### **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.



### **Michael Knights.**

Michael qualified with the Royal Town Planning Institute in 1974 and then specialised in listed buildings, and 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.



### **Simon Steele**

Originally from a Farming background, I spent some time in Civil Engineering before starting my own business 30 years ago, as a Heritage Builder working in East Anglia, primarily in South Norfolk. Building on that experience, I have now trained as a Building Surveyor and Building Pathologist.

As EARTHA celebrates its 30th year, we have compiled some early footage and stills, which can viewed through the intervals, of the organisation in action. An early EARTHA film made by the Association of Conservation Officers (prior to the organisation becoming the IHBC), and footage taken of the Traditional building skills day at Poringland, including stills of the Going Green event at Gressenhall.