

LIM BRANCH LATE SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Message from the Chair of LIM – 8/8/11

This Year

Fresh from the recent LIM Branch committee meeting re-energised by its recently elected members – I'm taking the opportunity to introduce myself as Chair – and send out a short update on the planned future of the Midlands Branch and events and initiatives. For the Branch to have a more vibrant future I'm aware it has to respond to and involve you as local members. The committee can't do this alone so, as I emphasised at the AGM in June, I do encourage you to get involved.

There are lots of ways you can contribute - whether it's through simply spreading the word and attending LIM events, suggesting ideas for fund raising or things you'd like to see the Branch getting involved in that help raise the profile of Landscape Architecture in the Midlands. Listed below are some forthcoming events but the Branch needs new ideas and potential sponsors.

LIM Action Plan

Ensuring we build a bigger profile and a bolder voice for Landscape Architects in shaping the built environment and people's quality of life I see as one of my key roles in my tenureship this year. This aim is also explicit in the LIM Action Plan 2010-2013 formulated by the outgoing Chair – Jerry Birkbeck, who along with other long standing members we have to thank for keeping the Branch moving forward in recent years.

The Action Plan isn't cast in stone though nor is LIM standing still. To keep the plan evolving and making it relevant to members I need your views on how it might be updated for 2011 -12. You can take a glance at the Action Plan on the LIM website and email comments and ideas to mail.midlands@landscapeinstitute.org or by leaving a message on 0121 233 2321 the LIM/RIBA phone number.

LIM News and Events

- **Landscape Practice SHOWCASE – Birmingham Arts Fest 10th & 11th Sept** - Do you want to promote a recent project you've been working on alongside other local practices and practitioners? LIM have secured an exhibition area in Centenary Square for 2 days in September to profile Landscape Architecture in the Midlands. If you'd like to be included in the display space please contact the Branch Rep, Ian Lanchbury before 21st August.
- **New committee members:**
 - Richard Waddell is Treasurer
 - Susan Moore is Branch Secretary
 - Ian Lanchbury is Branch Representative
 - Russell Good is Ordinary member and BCU lead contact
 - Tom Supple is Webmaster

- Mike Podmore – Ordinary member
 - Andy Wayro – Ordinary member
 - Bob Churn – Ordinary member
 - Matt Davies – Ordinary member
- **Event Co-ordinator:** There is an opportunity within the branch for someone to take on the role of Events Officer. This would not be someone who has to do everything, but a point of contact and co-ordination role with others who are organising specific events throughout the year. If you are interested in this role please contact the branch at mail.midlands@landscapeinstitute.org
 - **P2C – Colin Moore is re-running his successful CPD/P2C Seminars this Autumn. Details are available on LIM web site.** The 8 seminars are a relevant refresher CPD for qualified landscape architects and P2C candidates alike.
 - **Meeting minutes** - Please take a look at the Minutes of LIM Committee Meeting held on 25/7/11 posted on website.
 - **Legacy Landscapes – Lecture by the ODA** – free talk on what the Olympics 2012 project will leave as a legacy and how Landscape and Green Infrastructure has recreated a new identity for Stratford, London. Watch the web site for dates.
 - **Trip to the ‘Versailles of the Midlands’, Broughton House, Kettering** – with guided tour and picnic in a contemporary landscape in a classical setting by Kim Wilkie Associates – planned for Autumn 2011. Check web site for details.
 - **LIM’s ‘Pecha Kucha’ Night – December 2011** – another run of last year’s successful format with nine speakers around this year’s theme of ‘Places that Matter to People’.

Next LIM meeting 6.30pm 9th Sept – all members welcome

Held in RIBA’s offices within the beautiful Grade II* listed building occupied by the Midlands Institute. *It’s interesting to note the Midlands Institute was originally created with the aim of promoting " the Diffusion and Advancement of Science, Literature and Art amongst all Classes of Persons resident in Birmingham and the Midland Counties,"* and it’s still fitting that LIM and RIBA’s presence in the building continues to support this aim.

Finance and sponsorship

LIM events were well attended last year, there was a lot of positive feedback and circa £1500 of income was generated from sponsorship. Thank you again to our sponsors Hardscape, Marshalls and SDS. This success helped put the Branch’s finances on a healthier footing and provides an opportunity to consider other types of profile raising events and opportunities to work with other local professional institute Branches in the coming year.

I hope this message gives you a flavour of what LIM has planned and how in the current economic climate I feel it's even more important that Landscape, working with other professions, has a positive voice in the Midlands that can benefit the membership and the work of the Landscape Institute.

I look forward to working with all LIM members over the coming year. Please feel free to contact me with any ideas and suggestions.

Steve Fancourt
LIM Branch Chair

<http://www.libbranches.org/branches/midlands/index.shtml>