

The World Reborn

*How heritage was saved
after the Second World War,
and the lessons for today*

Thursday 22 May 2025
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2025 marks the 75th anniversary of the publication of the Gowers Report on the preservation of historic houses and of the establishment of the Waverley Committee, whose recommendations would lead to a comprehensive export control system for works of art in the UK. Both were policy responses to perceived threats to cultural heritage, enacted by a postwar government at a time of severe public finance constraints.

The post-1945 government transformed the policy landscape for the historic environment in other ways too, by introducing the modern system of land-use planning, by instigating the designation of listed buildings, and by establishing national parks.

Seventy-five years on, the policy decisions that came out of this fruitful period continue to affect the heritage sector in the UK. They have had a huge impact on people's relationship with heritage, whether this is conceived as the built or natural environment, or as cultural objects. The policy framework first put in place 75 years ago is one within which heritage custodians, museums, and the art market, continue to operate.

Is this framework still fit for purpose — and what does the future hold? This symposium aims to explore the many legacies of the post-war governments for the way culture and heritage is managed in 2025. It will explore the reasons why this policy landscape came about, but also discuss whether it remains the right framework for the 21st century.

The day will provide an opportunity to delve deeper into the existing regime, thinking critically about how well the system works. What more might reasonably be done to update the idea of a supportive fiscal and regulatory framework — for private owners, for museums, and for the wider heritage sector?

PROGRAMME

FROM 10.00 AM

Registration

Coffees and pastries on arrival

10.30 AM

Welcome

Alexander Herman
Director, Institute of Art & Law

Sarah Roller
Director of Policy, Historic Houses

10.35 AM

Setting the scene

Why are we here?

Ben Cowell
Director General, Historic Houses

10.45 AM

Keynote

Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay
Shadow Minister for Arts & Heritage



Photo courtesy
of Castle Howard
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11.05 AM

The origins of the UK's cultural heritage framework

Why post-war Britain had a renewed interest in heritage

Dr. Simon Thurley CBE
Chair, National Lottery Heritage Fund

Has the post-war heritage settlement worked?

Lord Inglewood, Hutton-in-the-Forest
President, Historic Buildings & Places

11.35 AM

Break

11.50 PM

The Gowers Report: The country house & post-war Britain

The state of country houses & their collections in the years after WWII

Adrian Tinniswood OBE FSA

An introduction to Sir Ernest Gowers
Rebecca Gowers

The country house & politics in post-war Britain

Dr. Oliver Cox
Head of Academic Partnerships, V&A

Dr. Tarnya Cooper
Curation & Conservation Director
National Trust



The sculpture garden. Photo courtesy of Thirsk Hall

12.40 PM

Capital taxation & the national heritage

Discussion

Ben Cowell
Director General, Historic Houses

David Chismon
Head of Landed Estates, Saffery LLP

Duncan Wilson
Chief Executive, Historic England

13.30 PM

Lunch

14.30 PM

The Waverley Committee & the creation of RCEWA

Andrew Hochhauser KC
Chair of the Reviewing Committee
on the Export of Works of Art

14.50 PM

How is Waverley applied today & what is its impact?

Pippa Shirley
Director of Waddesdon Manor
& member of the RCEWA

Judith Nugée
Consultant, Hornsby + Nugée Ltd

Dr Charlotte Woodhead
University of Warwick

Wendy Philips
Partner, Tennant McQuillan LLP

15.45 AM

Break

16.00 PM

Panel discussion

Where do we go from here?

CHAIR: Julian Washington
Head of Tax, Heritage & UK Museums
Sotheby's

Professor John Gilliland
Owner, Brook Hall Estate

Nancy Saul
Senior Programme Manager, Art Fund

Anastasia Tennant
Partner, Tennant McQuillan LLP

Dr. Tessa Murdoch
Vice Chair, Acceptance in Lieu Panel

16.45 PM

Closing remarks & Q&A

Ben Cowell
Director General, Historic Houses

Alexander Herman
Director, Institute of Art & Law

17.00 PM

Drinks

We hope delegates will join us for a post-conference drink, supported by Three Verulam Buildings, a set of chambers in Gray's Inn.

Alexander Herman

DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE OF ART & LAW

Alexander Herman is the Director of the Institute of Art and Law. He has written, taught and presented on an array of topics in relation to art, law and cultural property. His writing appears regularly in *The Art Newspaper* and he has been quoted widely in the press on art law topics (including in *The Guardian*, *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *The Economist*, *The Telegraph*, *ArtNET*, *The Financial Times* and *The Globe & Mail*). His books include *Restitution: The Return of Cultural Artefacts* (Lund Humphries, 2021) and *The Parthenon Marbles Dispute: Heritage, Law, Politics* (Hart Publishing, 2023). His work has also been cited in the UK House of Lords and in an *amicus curiae* brief before the US Supreme Court. He trained in both common law and civil law legal systems at McGill University and practised law in Montreal, Canada. He is Programme Co-Director of the Art, Business and Law LLM and is a frequent contributor to the IAL blog.

Sarah Roller

DIRECTOR OF POLICY, HISTORIC HOUSES

Sarah is Director of Policy & Public Affairs at Historic Houses. Before joining Historic Houses in early 2022, she worked in various history and heritage sector roles, including in communications, digital media and collections/curation work. She is a trustee of the Heritage Education Trust and holds an MPhil in Public History & Cultural Heritage from Trinity College Dublin.

Ben Cowell

DIRECTOR GENERAL, HISTORIC HOUSES

Ben is the Director General of Historic Houses. He has worked previously for the National Trust, English Heritage, and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. He has recently published a book, *The British Country House Revival* (2024), to mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of Historic Houses.

Lord Parkinson of Whiteley Bay

SHADOW MINISTER FOR ARTS & HERITAGE

Lord Parkinson of Whiteley Bay (Stephen Parkinson) served as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department for Culture, Media & Sport between 2021 and 2024.

During his time as Minister for Arts, Heritage & Libraries, he updated the definition of treasure under the Treasure Act 1996, expanded the Blue Plaques scheme beyond London, made permanent the tax reliefs for Theatres, Orchestras, and Museums & Galleries, placed an export bar on a number of works including Sir Joshua Reynolds' *Portrait of Mai*, and was the Minister responsible for the Platinum Jubilee, and then the Lying-in-State queue, for Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

He launched a review of the Waverley Criteria to mark their seventieth anniversary, concluding that they continue to work well, but supporting some modest changes to the way the Reviewing Committee operates with the aim of increasing the proportion of works saved for the nation.

Lord Parkinson is a Vice-President of the Public Statues & Sculpture Association and a Trustee of the Cambridge Union.

Dr Simon Thurley CBE

CHAIR

NATIONAL LOTTERY HERITAGE FUND

Simon Thurley is a historian, archaeologist and heritage champion who believes that our past informs and shapes our future, and that to make a great future for everyone we need to understand and care for our past. He has written some thirteen single author history books and many other scholarly articles and pieces for general readership. Simon has

been Chief Executive of English Heritage, Curator for Historic Royal Palaces, and has been involved with a large number of organisations as a trustee, committee member or as an associate. Simon was appointed by the Prime Minister to Chair the National Heritage Memorial Fund in February 2021. In 2020-22 Simon was Provost of Gresham College.

The Lord Inglewood

HUTTON-IN-THE-FOREST

PRESIDENT, HISTORIC BUILDINGS & PLACES

Lord Inglewood (Richard Vane) acted as Chair of Development Control (Planning Committee) of the Lake



Photo courtesy of Hutton-in-the-Forest

District National Park between 1985–1989. He then went on to become Member of European Parliament (1989–1994, 1999–2004) and has been a Member of House of Lords since 1989. He has acted as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Department of National Heritage 1995–1997, Chair of Reviewing Committee on the Export of Art 2003–2014, President of British Art Market Federation 2014–2024 and Chair of Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership 2018–2024.

He is the owner of Hutton-in-the-Forest, a long-standing member of the Historic Houses Tax Committee, and trustee of several estates with historic houses.

Adrian Tinniswood OBE FSA

Professor Adrian Tinniswood OBE FSA is the author of nineteenth books on social and architectural history, including *The Power and the Glory: The Country House Before the Great War*; *The Long Weekend: Life in the English Country House Between the Wars*, a *New York Times* and *Sunday Times* bestseller; and *Noble Ambitions: The Fall and Rise of the Post-War Country House*. Born in Derby, he spent thirty years in Bath, where he worked with and for various heritage organisations including the National Trust and the National Lottery Heritage Fund. He is currently Professor of British Cultural History at the University of Buckingham and Adjunct Professor of History at Maynooth University. He and his wife Helen live in the west of Ireland.

Rebecca Gowers

Rebecca has written two novels, both longlisted for the Orange Prize (now the Women's Prize for Fiction). In 2014 she became the fourth editor to revise *Plain Words*, the classic guide to English usage by her great-grandfather Sir Ernest Gowers, after which she wrote her own satirical companion volume, *Horrible Words*, both published by Penguin. She has also written two works of non-fiction inspired by family archive materials. Each is focused on the cultural ramifications of a Victorian murder case that happened to involve one of her forebears, in the first case as the principal witness; in the second, as the victim. *The Swamp of Death*, about a grisly 1890 murder in the Canadian backwoods, was shortlisted for a Crime Writers' Association Golden Dagger award and was serialised on Radio 4, while *The Scoundrel Harry Larkyns and his Pitiless Killing by the Photographer Eadweard Muybridge* was shortlisted for a Historical Writers' Association Golden Crown award. She lives and works in Oxford.

Dr Oliver Cox

HEAD OF ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS
V&A

Dr Oliver Cox is Head of Academic Partnerships at the Victoria and Albert Museum, where he leads the museum's growing portfolio of partnerships with UK and international universities. His research interests are rooted in the global histories of the eighteenth-century country house, and the ways in which these are shared with twenty-first century

visitors. He recently completed, in partnership with Dr Tarnya Cooper (National Trust), a British Academy funded project exploring the concept of the 'Public Country House'.

Dr Tarnya Cooper

CURATION & CONSERVATION DIRECTOR
NATIONAL TRUST

Dr Tarnya Cooper is the Curatorial and Conservation Director at the National Trust (NT). She is the client for a major NT programme 'Discovery Houses' focused on 28 of the Trust's historic houses with internationally significant collections. She was the co-investigator of a research project 'Private Spaces for Public Benefit' in partnership with the V&A, exploring democratisation and physical and intellectual access at public country houses 2022–4.

She was previously Curatorial Director at the National Portrait Gallery. Tarnya has published widely on 16th and 17th century visual culture. Her monograph *Citizen Portrait: Portrait Painting and the Urban Elites of Tudor and Jacobean England and Wales 1540–1620*, Yale University Press was published in 2012. In 2015 she was the principal editor of a volume *Painting in England: artistic practice, patronage and display* (with Maurice Howard, Aviva Burnstock and Edward Town) published by the British Academy, for OUP. Her most recent book on the National Trust collections *125 Treasures from National Trust Collections* was published in 2021. She is co-editor (with Oliver Cox) of a forthcoming essay volume *The Public Country House*.

David Chismon

HEAD OF LANDED ESTATES
SAFFERY LLP

David's principal area of work is advising owners of landed and rural estates, which includes individuals, companies, partnerships and trusts, including Heritage Maintenance Funds.

He also provides advice to owner-managed businesses and high net worth individuals, and enjoys working closely with clients, their families and other professional advisers.

David has a keen interest in ensuring that wealth is not eroded by capital taxation and is well versed in providing clear and practical advice that is tailored to meet both the business and personal objectives of his clients. In addition, he understands that cash flow is often a major concern and works hard to ensure that income tax is minimised and budgeted for well in advance.

He joined Saffery in July 2014, after spending over 13 years in a top ten accountancy firm, where he also specialised in providing advice to high-net-worth individuals and traditional landed estates.

David is head of the firm's Land and Rural Practice Group. He is also a member of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP).



Duncan Wilson

CHIEF EXECUTIVE, HISTORIC ENGLAND

Duncan joined Historic England as the organisation's first Chief Executive on 1 April 2015.

Previously, Duncan was Chief Executive of the Alexandra Park and Palace Trust, developing a major regeneration and conservation scheme to restore the Victorian theatre and television studios. He has also been Chief Executive at the Greenwich Foundation for the Old Royal Naval College, maintaining one of Europe's finest groups of baroque buildings, and the Somerset House Trust, opening the site to the public.

Duncan's first job as a chartered accountant in 1987 was as Senior Management Accountant at English Heritage. Before accountancy he

worked as a professional archaeologist in Oxford and Herefordshire, following post graduate research in European Archaeology.

He is a Trustee of Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust, the Greenwich Foundation for the Old Royal Naval College, and the Oxenford International Summer School music festival.

He became a RIBA Honorary Fellow in 2022 and was awarded the CBE for services to heritage in 2023.

Andrew Hochhauser KC

CHAIR OF THE REVIEWING COMMITTEE OF THE EXPORT OF WORKS OF ART

Andrew Hochhauser is the Chair of the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and Objects

of Cultural Interest. He is a KC at Essex Court Chambers, a Deputy High Court Judge, a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Honorary Counsel to the Dean and Chapter of Westminster Abbey and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. He specialises in commercial and employment litigation. As well as an LLM from the LSE, he has an MA from the Courtauld Institute of Art, where he studied British Modernism.

He is a former Trustee of the V&A, a Bencher and (in 2021) the former Treasurer of the Honourable Society of Middle Temple, Chair of the Samuel Courtauld Trust and an ex officio member of the Board of the Courtauld Institute of Art, Chair of Paintings in Hospitals (until January 2023), a Governor of the University of the Arts London, a Trustee of the National AIDS Trust, the V&A Foundation, the Aurora Orchestra, Orchestra for the Earth and Ballet Black.

Pippa Shirley

DIRECTOR OF WADDESDON & MEMBER OF THE RCEWA

Pippa read History at Oxford before an MA in Art History at the Courtauld Institute. She worked as a Commissioning Editor for the Grove Dictionary of Art, then joined the British Museum as a curator in the Department of Medieval and Later Antiquities. In 1992 she moved to the V&A as a Curator in the Metalwork, Silver and Jewellery Department, specialising in decorative ironwork and English and continental silver, working on three major gallery projects.

In 2000 she was appointed Head of Collections at Waddesdon Manor leading the curatorial team responsible for the collections and archives of one of the most significant properties open to the public in the country, home to outstanding continental decorative arts and English, French and Netherlandish paintings created by four generations of the Rothschild family. In 2015 the Gardens and the Aviary (an accredited zoo) were added to her role then Education and Learning. In 2022 she became Director of Waddesdon, responsible for operations and strategic planning, including visitor services and experience. Pippa has published and lectured widely. The Manor runs a varied programme of events for a range of audiences, has exhibitions, schools and community learning programmes and external academic and other partnerships. She works closely with the Rothschild Foundation grant-giving team and represents Waddesdon across different media channels for press and marketing.

Judith Nugée

CONSULTANT, HORNSBY + NUGEE LTD

Judith Nugée, a specialist in Antiquities, has been working in the field for 40 years. Judith read Literae Humaniores (Classics) at Oxford University opting for a special paper in Greek vases, which she studied under Professor Kurtz of the Beazley Archive. After university, Judith joined Christie's and reached the position of Head of the Antiquities Department. She remained a Senior Consultant

with Christie's until 2009 when she co-founded Hornsby + Nugée Ltd with her colleague Sarah Hornsby. Judith carries out independent commercial, academic and educational work which includes working with private clients and public and private institutions. Judith is an independent valuer for the British Museum's Treasure Valuations Committee, providing valuations for the Committee, for the UK government and Scotland and Ireland. She has been involved in the valuation of major historic finds including the Staffordshire Hoard and Galloway Hoard. She serves as an expert adviser for the UK Arts Council. Judith has

lectured widely on Antiquities, the marketplace and the history of collecting on postgraduate programs at Christie's Education, Sotheby's Institute and at the Royal Academy of Arts, as well as taking specialist educational tours in Museums. She has served on ancient art fair vetting committees and was a Trustee of the British Museum Friends. Judith has organised high profile antiquities' auctions, including Classical Sculpture from Marbury Hall and The Erlenmeyer collections of Ancient Near Eastern cuneiform texts, stamp seals and Cretan seals.

Dr Charlotte Woodhead

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Dr Charlotte Woodhead is an associate professor at Warwick Law School, University of Warwick, and is a non-practising barrister. She researches in cultural heritage, covering a wide range of issues relating to how the law, particularly in the UK, cares for cultural heritage. She has written articles and contributed to edited collections on repatriation and restitution, having developed a particular specialism in the work of the UK's Spoliation Advisory Panel which considers claims for cultural objects taken during the Nazi Era. Her recent research, *Caring for Cultural Heritage: An Integrated Approach to Legal and Ethical Initiatives in the UK*, focused on the relationship between law and ethics using the framework of the ethics of care to analyse how the UK cares for heritage. This included considering the work of the Export Reviewing Committee and approaches to resolution of claims for restitution and repatriation. She has previously served on the Ethics Committee of the UK's Museums Association. She is currently a member of the Heritage Trust Network's England Policy Committee and a member of the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee at Compton Verney.

Wendy Philips

TENNANT MCQUILLAN LLP

Wendy qualified as a solicitor in England and Wales, and practised in the tax, trust and estates field. After a spell at HMRC she joined Sotheby's

in 2003, where she was head of Tax and Heritage, and Deputy Chairman Sotheby's UK and Ireland. Her role included representing clients on numerous occasions before the Reviewing Committee for the Export of Works of Art. In October 2023 she joined Anastasia Tennant and Gerry McQuillan as a partner in Tennant McQuillan LLP and advises on a wide range of matters relating to the national heritage.

Julian Washington

HEAD OF TAX, HERITAGE & UK MUSEUMS, SOTHEBY'S

Julian leads the team in London which assists clients (from individuals and families to regional and national museums) with the special tax exemptions which are available for qualifying heritage property in the UK. He also works closely with Sotheby's network of professional advisers, notably lawyers, fiduciaries, accountants and wealth managers; partnering with them, to bring the full range of Sotheby's expertise into play for them and for their clients.

He is a solicitor and a member of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP). Prior to joining Sotheby's in 2024, his career began in the legal profession. Qualifying as a solicitor in 1993, he first worked at the firm then known as Charles Russell and later became a partner at Forsters.

In 2010 Julian joined Royal Bank of Canada in London. Initially working with the bank's fiduciary



Photo courtesy of Ashridge House

business, he went on to hold a variety of roles, all with a focus on business development and thought leadership, across the bank's wealth management platform.

He has served as trustee of a number of charitable bodies, encompassing the heritage, medical and education sectors.

Professor John Gilliland

BROOK HALL ESTATE

John is a willow and livestock farmer from Londonderry, whose farm, Brook Hall Estate, has independently been verified to be "Beyond" Net Zero, already. He is the Professor of Practice in Agriculture and Sustainability at Queens University Belfast; Doctor of Science from the University of Ulster; chair of the UK's Sustainable Farm Networks, Harper Adams University; and chair of the innovative, EIP-Agri funded, farmer led, carbon farming project, ARC Zero.

Nancy Saul

SENIOR PROGRAMME MANAGER
COLLECTIONS, ART FUND

Nancy is Senior Programme Manager, Collections at Art Fund, the national charity for art. Nancy oversees Art Fund's cultural property strategy, including tax efficient gifting and export licensing, as well as the delivery of Art Fund's Gifts and Bequests programme. She wrote the guide *Everybody is a winner: A guide to*

giving (and selling) art and cultural artefacts to UK museums and galleries, which was published in 2024.

Nancy has held previous roles at Arts Council England and the Design and Artists Copyright Society.

Anastasia Tennant

PARTNER, TENNANT MCQUILLAN

Anastasia started her career at a private client law firm in Gray's Inn Square where she qualified as a solicitor. She then worked as an in-house lawyer at the National Trust; 2000-2009 Director in the Heritage & Taxation Advisory Service at Christie's; 2009- 2023 Deputy Head and then Senior Policy Adviser at the Arts Council where she provided advice and guidance across all its statutory cultural property schemes. In 2024 she set up an independent consultancy with her former boss from the Arts Council, Gerry McQuillan and Wendy Philips, formerly Head of Tax & Heritage at Sotheby's.

Dr Tessa Murdoch

VICE CHAIR
ACCEPTANCE IN LIEU PANEL

Dr Tessa Murdoch FSA Tessa's 1982 Ph.D *Huguenot Artists, Designers and Craftsmen in Great Britain and Ireland, 1680-1760*, led to the Museum of London's exhibition *The Quiet Conquest, the Huguenots 1685-1985*. Appointed V&A furniture curator from 1990 and from 2002 Deputy Keeper,

Sculpture, Metalwork, Ceramics and Glass. New galleries curated include *Sacred Silver and Stained Glass*, 2005 and *Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Collection*, 2008. Recent publications include *Europe Divided: Huguenot Refugee Art and Culture* (V&A, 2021) and as consultant *Great Irish Households: Inventories from the long eighteenth century* (John Adamson, November 2022), the sequel to *Noble Households: Eighteenth Century Inventories of Great English Houses*, 2006, a tribute to John Cornforth. Tessa edited *Boughton House: The English Versailles*, 1992 (Christie's/ Faber) with eighteen contributions on aspects of the architecture, collections and landscape. She has co-edited *A Cultural History of Craft in the Age of Enlightenment* forthcoming 2026.

Tessa advises the National Trust, the National Heritage Memorial Fund, is Trustee, Idlewild Trust, and Chair of Trustees, The Huguenot Museum, Rochester. She curated their current exhibition *Sarah Lethieullier's 1730s Dolls House*. A livery member of the Libraries and Archives Committee, Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths, in 2019, following training with goldsmith Rod Kelly in Shetland, Tessa registered her own mark with the London Assay Office as a goldsmith maker.

Tessa joined the Acceptance in Lieu Panel, Arts Council England in 2022 which also advises on the Cultural Gift Scheme, introduced in 2012. She was appointed the panel's Deputy Chair in 2025.

Photo courtesy of The Lee, Knighton



