



BWPDA – 75 Years Old and Still Going Strong!



Past Presidents of the BWPDA.

Back row from left to right: DS Belford (1982-84), D Buckley (1998-2000), PG Shaw (1991-1994).

Front row from left to right: FW Brooks (1996-1998), EA Hilditch (1988-1990) Dr C Coggins (Director of the BWPDA), H Marsh (current President), M Connell (2002-2004).

The British Wood Preserving & Damp-proofing Association celebrated its 75th Anniversary in style with a special dinner for members and guests at the splendid King's College, Cambridge on the 6th May.

Dinner was held in the fabulous Great Hall with its impressive wooden roof and the Collegium Regale were on hand to sing grace. Howard Marsh, President of the BWPDA, and Dr Chris Coggins, Director, recounted some of the history of the Association and guests were given a commemorative booklet containing the inaugural minutes of the Association and photographs of Past Presidents as a memento. Indeed the Association was delighted to have so many Past Presidents attending the event and

also to have representatives from some of the original companies that were instrumental in setting up the Association in 1930.

The BWPDA has its origins in the British Wood Preserving Association which was formed 75 years ago in 1930 to 'spread knowledge of wood preservation with a view to prevention of wastage of timber and to standardize specifications for wood preservatives and their application; to investigate all possible methods of wood preservation; and to afford members opportunities for the interchange of ideas regarding improvements in wood preservation'¹. In 1977 the British Chemical Dampcourse Association was formed and the two associations merged in 1989.

The Association has undergone many changes over the years to meet the needs of its membership. In January 2003, two divisions were created; Property Care Association and Wood Protection Association and this was followed by the formation of the Structural Waterproofing Group. Members of the BWPDA were also instrumental in forming the Guarantee Protection Trust in 1982 to offer insurance-backed guarantees to customers and became Guarantee Protection Insurance on achieving FSA approval in 2002.

10 August 2005

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Notes to Editors:

1. Extract from the British Wood Preserving Association Inaugural Meeting Notes.