

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Twentieth Century Society held on Saturday, 13th June 2015 at the Parish Hall of St Aloysius Church, Phoenix Road, Somers Town, London NW1 1TA

1. Apologies for Absence

Nicola Rutt, Simon van Heyningen, Elaine Harwood, Barnabas Calder, Aidan Turner-Bishop, Michael Atkinson, John Latham and Michael Wilson.

2. Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting at the University of Liverpool

These were approved by a show of hands and signed by the Chairman. In response to a question from the floor, it was explained that the minutes of the 2014 AGM were in the 'About us' section of C20's website along with the Society's final accounts for 2014 and governing documents.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. President's address

4.1 Gillian Darley hoped that the Society would forgive her for being on a 'reverse motion traveller' but the shifting over time of our own personal preferences begins a cycle of retrospective judgements which can eventually lead to applications for listing. She reflected on her own influences starting with the Bury St Edmunds sugar beet factory in Suffolk whose heroic silos may have pointed to her choice of the Shredded Wheat Company silos at Welwyn Garden City in *100 Buildings, 100 Years* (for 1926). She said that her early journalism had brought her into contact with housing schemes all over the country and their architects such as Ralph Erskine whom she nearly interviewed and was struck by his consultation with local people over his Byker Wall in Newcastle, Cold War relics such as the Orfordness silos, and with divergences of view such as over the now demolished Observer building in Battersea where she used to work, loathed by most and, in her view, unfit for purpose but loved by some. Finally she showed images of iconic TV series and their film locations such as *Minder* (Fulham) and *Only Fools and Horses* (Peckham), showing that what was once reviled can become fashionable and then valued.

5. Chairman's Address

5.1 Peter Ruback in reviewing the year said that as well as high profile cases like Hyde Park Barracks, where we have led the campaign for its preservation, he emphasised less well-known cases such as 1960's to 1990's commercial buildings. These were often challenging to make a case for especially as post-war architecture is still too frequently equated with failure. However, he had been heartened by some recent developments: first 1960's and 1970's buildings and design were now regarded by a younger generation as unequivocally cool; second the SAVE and

Victorian Society campaign against the King's College Strand development which threatened ordinary Georgian and Victorian buildings. This had successfully put the spotlight on the importance of streetscape which he saw as helpful to all Amenity Societies and despite the negative comments from the campaigners about the 'New' King's College Building of 1966-71 by Troup and Steele.

5.2 PR emphasised the need to get C20's message across to new audiences (and therefore potential members) through our increasing use of social media and expanding regional groups so that we have a greater presence outside London and the South East which is crucial for a national organisation. This is why we are proposing to members important changes to our Governance arrangements at this AGM to integrate Regional Groups into our structures and put them on a sound footing.

5.3 Finally, PR thanked Catherine Croft and staff, Trustees and volunteers for their contributions in the last year, with particular thanks to retiring Trustees Eva Ling and Barnabas Calder.

6. Director's Report and Casework Review

6.1 Catherine Croft said that she was combining her Director's report with casework developments (agenda item 12). She was delighted that the *100 Buildings 100 Years* book, which had started as a website project to celebrate the century of our remit from 1914, had been quickly transformed into a hard-back book (already reprinted) with the help of Polly Powell and an exhibition in the Royal Academy architecture space which had made us very visible in a prestigious and much visited venue. It had also led to events such as a lively debate at the RA on the 'Best Building' of the 100, which Finsbury Health Centre (1938) had won, as well as raise funds for the Society through book advances and associated events.

6.2 We had also received funding from other sources in 2014 such as the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for membership development and as part of WWI centenary funding. This 'Sites of memory' project included a new section of the website for notes of C20 European and London War Memorial events and involved several repeats of the London walks for members of the public. We had received funding from English Heritage/Historic England to update and make inter-active a Gazetteer of post-1914 places of Christian worship, originally in C20 Journal no 3 (now out of print), so that it can be searched by location, denomination, dedication as well as architect. This will be an invaluable casework resource.

6.3 She thanked David Attwood for his enormous contribution as sub-Editor of the C20 Magazine which continued its very high standard and which was being sold in more retail outlets. We were now receiving sponsorship from ACE tours (an educational Charity) for our two annual lecture series which we now also record (with lecturers' permission) and make available on line.

Casework

6.4 On Casework the number of logged cases had increased from 128 in 2013-14 to 181 in 2014-5. There was good and bad news: we had got a wide range of buildings listed covering the whole of our period such as Landers Monumental Masons outside Kensal Green Cemetery; Cobblestones, a neo-Tudor house in Esher of 1938 in remarkably original condition by Blunden Shadbolt; Leigham Court Rd old people's flats by Kate Macintosh for LB of Lambeth; and the Ready Mixed Concrete HQ near Egham, Surrey of 1991 at Grade II*, a great success after a concerted campaign involving the original architect, Ted Cullinan. This pointed to the need to publicise C20 successes whether in designation or finding suitable re-use to encourage others to do something similar.

6.5 On current cases, the former Western Morning News HQ in Plymouth (by Grimshaw) had been recommended by HE for listing and had also found a buyer who was positive about listing, if it occurred. We had proposed Stirling's No. 1 Poultry, opposite the Bank of England, for listing because of destructive alterations proposed at ground level. We are awaiting Ministerial decisions on Certificates of Immunity (ColIs) from listing for Hyde Park Barracks (Spence) or their renewal for Robin Hood Gardens (the Smithsons). We had produced our top ten 'most at risk' buildings at the end of 2014 and would do so again later this year as this was a good way of drawing attention to the most threatened buildings of our period especially through social media.

6.6 CC said that we are likely to lose the so called 'Eco' Sainsbury store on the Greenwich Peninsula and the former Birmingham Central Library (John Madin) if an alternative use is not found for it soon. We are going to produce an archive of post-1914 demolished buildings as significant 20th century buildings are still being lost in a way that is no longer happening with equivalent 18 and 19th century structures. The 1920's Carlton Tavern in Maida Vale had been demolished just before its listing which raised the issue of interim protection for buildings while being considered for listing and which we will be raising urgently with Historic England.

6.7 Regarding Battersea Power Station, we are trying to obtain a section of one of the chimneys to prove our point that they did not need to be demolished and re-erected, just maintenance. We had a partial success with Paolozzi murals at Tottenham Court Road Underground Station, with TfL agreeing to move one of them within the station but had lost the main scheme over the escalators [although the mosaic pieces were being given to an Art School which aimed to re-erect them.]

Treasurer's Report

7.1 Carolyn Parmeter said that 2014 was a reasonably steady year with a loss of £20k in line with the budget for the year. Trustees had agreed to run the budget at a

loss for a few years to raise our profile by using some of our accumulated legacy money to a formula agreed by Trustees to support casework and Journal costs. It was a good year for events profits which made a much needed contribution of £25.5k to funds, boosted by the Miami event and membership income was also increasing. The usual funding for casework came from EH/HE of £45,000 (and which is guaranteed until March 2016) but this is static and casework costs are increasing in part because of the need to pay mandatory pension contributions from April 2016.

7.2 Another financial pressure was the cost of Journal 11 which although originally budgeted for 2013 mostly came to account in 2014. Increased levels of sponsorship had to be found for subsequent Journals as they were very costly to produce. There was no legacy income in 2014 but several bequests were in the pipe-line. CP said that she was always looking out for new ways of raising funds and members will be able to sponsor Trustee Elaine Harwood this Summer on a Paris to Geneva bike ride to raise funds for the Society.

7.3 The accounts for 2014 were proposed and seconded and agreed by a show of hands.

Membership Secretary's Report

8.1 Jane Rosier said that we had seen in the last year an increase in membership to just under 2000. This she thought had been in part due to a consistent, high quality and more easily understood membership offer to all members, whether they experience us through the Magazine, Journal, e-newsletters or social media. A key priority remains operating as cost-effectively as possible so that subscriptions are not swallowed up by administration costs and can contribute as much as possible to casework. Payment by Direct Debit (DD) significantly reduces the amount of time that the office spends on issuing reminders and the one-year discount in 2015 for those paying by or switching to direct debit had been very successful with over 70 members going over to DD. JR urged those still renewing their subscriptions annually to switch to DD from 2016 as this is of considerable help to the Society.

8.2 JR reported on significantly increased activity on social media with the number of twitter followers increasing by 113% and Facebook 'likes' by 147% over the last 12 months and also with much higher levels of contributions on these platforms plus some superb photos being added to C20's Tumblr blog. Social media channels give us the opportunity to engage with wider discussions about twentieth century architecture and make connections with both individuals and organisations who share our interests and concerns. JR thanked Susannah Charlton and volunteers who have contributed to our increased profile online.

9. Hon Secretary's Report

9.1 Robert Drake said that the pattern of holding AGMs on Saturdays and alternating them between London and regional centres was now well established with events being held in connection with each of them. This year's London venue reflects current interest in post-war Roman Catholic churches and their heritage protection and we would see St Aloysius Church after the AGM. He thanked the Parish Priest, Father Jeremy Trood for his co-operation and CC and her team for providing refreshments. The venue was a convenient one for members coming from the North and Midlands and was an ideal starting point for the three post-AGM walks in the vicinity on the themes of housing, art deco and London University which would take place after the AGM and church visit. These would end at the Brunswick Centre where two members had generously agreed to host members in their flats there. Next year it is planned to have the AGM in Leicester in mid-June.

Motions to members: Proposed changes to the Society's constitutional arrangements with regard to Regional Groups

Introduction

9.2 Trustee Barry Arden, who had led on the formulation of these proposed changes, said that there is a need to provide a formal legal framework for Regional Groups and their status in relation to the Society which has not been done before. This would enable a degree of independence for Regional Groups within a working governance framework and which would be embedded in the Society's own Governance arrangements. We had taken legal advice from David Goepel of Edwin Coe, Solicitors, who had advised on the changes proposed to our Memorandum and Articles of Association and Rules and that the Society should draw up a set of By-laws to provide such a framework. The proposed By-laws would fit well into the Society's governance structure, would count as part of the Society's 'Rules' and would carry the requisite legal weight to clarify and confirm the status of Regional Groups. This would for example enable them to set up bank accounts in their own right and to apply for grant funding. The By-laws would ensure that this is done in a way which was consistent with the Society's national objectives and practice.

9.3 The changes to the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Rules, proposed in motions a(i) to (iii) give Trustees the power to make such By-laws (motion ii, proposed Article 40A (3) of the Articles of Association) and would strengthen the Society's structure nationally to reflect the important role of Regional Groups. This would be done through the setting up of a Regional Groups Committee as a Sub-Committee of the Society (motion ii, proposed Article 40A (2) of the Articles of Association) and the appointment of an Honorary Regional Groups Convener as Chair (motion iii, proposed Rule 2(9) of the Rules of the Society). These proposals would in effect develop and formalise existing arrangements. Established and newly formed Regional Groups have been consulted through regular contact and meetings between the Board of Trustees and Regional Groups and a number of changes have

been made to the draft By-laws as a result. If the changes now proposed were to be adopted by the meeting, Trustees would in due course adopt the proposed By-laws, print copies of which are available at the meeting, and which would be posted, once adopted, on the Society's website.

9.4 These consultation meetings with Regional Groups about the changes would be effectively formalised as the Regional Groups Committee and which would involve the Chair of the Broad of Trustees, other trustees with specific responsibility for Regional Groups to advise and support their development in different parts of the country, and chairs of established Regional Groups.

9.5 The following motions were proposed:

**a. CONFIRMING REGIONAL GROUP STATUS IN THE SOCIETY'S
MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION, ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION
AND RULES**

(i) Memorandum of Association

RD said that the first change is to the Society's core document 'The Memorandum of Association'. Article 4(1) of the Memorandum lists the Society's powers to further the objects of the Society such as holding meetings, lectures and events (sub-clause a) and make representations about buildings (sub-clause b). The Resolution is to add a new sub-clause in Article 4(1) after sub-Article (h) giving us powers to form Regional Groups, to determine their rights and obligations and if necessary dissolve them.

“(i) To establish as branches such Regional Groups as may be seen expedient and from time to time determine the constitution, rights, privileges, obligations and duties of such Regional Groups, and, when thought fit, dissolve them. Such Regional Groups may operate only in fulfilment of the Society's objects and not otherwise.”

As a consequence existing sub-clauses (i) to (o) of Article 4(1) would be re-numbered (j) to (p).

(ii) Articles of Association

RD said that this second core constitutional document defines in outline how we run the Society and contains provisions on membership of the Society, how we conduct AGMs and elections of Trustee Directors. We have made changes to the Articles of Association at previous AGMs (in 2012 and 2013) and inform the Charity Commission about them once adopted.

We now propose to insert after Article 40 an additional Article 40A as follows:

“Regional Groups

40A

- (1) Regional Groups may (with the prior approval of the Board of Trustees) be formed to further the objectives of the Society in particular areas and to perform the Society’s work in those areas to the extent approved by the Board of Trustees.
- (2) The Board of Trustees will constitute a Regional Groups Committee to which it will delegate the co-ordination of, monitoring of and support for the activities and functioning of the Regional Groups.
- (3) The Board of Trustees can make bylaws for Regional Groups in accordance with Article 50 and shall have the power to dissolve such groups if it deems necessary in the light of non-observance of such bylaws.”

(iii) Rules of the Society

RD said that the Rules of the Society are made under powers in Article 50 of the Articles of Association and give more detail how we govern ourselves and procedural matters, naming, for example, the officers of the Society at Rule 2 and membership categories at Rule 3 (which we changed at last year’s AGM).

Motion (iii) is to insert after Rule 2, an additional sub-clause after sub-clause (8) as follows:

“(9) Honorary Regional Groups Committee Convenor.”

And to insert after Rule 7 an additional Rule 7A as follows:

“(7A) ‘In the event that the Society makes bylaws for Regional Groups in accordance with Article 40A of the Society’s Articles of Association, these shall constitute Rules for the purpose of Article 50 of such Articles.’”

These changes to the Society’s Memorandum, Articles of Association and Rules were agreed unanimously by a show of hands.

Motion (b) Appointment of auditors

Our previous auditors Nigel Wordingham had merged with Argents, another Norwich accounting firm, in the latter part of 2014 but with Wordingham’s staff dealing with our financial affairs transferring across and who have produced our accounts for 2014 on time. The appointment of Argents as auditors was agreed by a show of hands.

Motion (c) Election of Directors

Under Articles 24 of the Articles of Association, one third of Directors stand down at each AGM usually after a three-year term. Trustees standing for re-election and members standing for election are named on the Agenda.

Eva Ling is standing down after a three year term and has been an indefatigable defender of buildings of our period in Birmingham. **Barnabas Calder** is standing down two years into his first three year term because of professional pressures. His expertise on the modern movement in Britain has been invaluable and we have to thank him for arranging the venue for last year's AGM in Liverpool University. Both will continue to serve on the casework committee.

Two Trustees are standing for re-election: **Peter Ruback** who chairs the Trustee body and **Jane Rosier** who is Honorary Membership Secretary and who has simplified our membership categories with its incentives for younger people to join.

Three candidates are standing for election for the first time. A one page sheet is available with biographical information on **John Clarke**, **Ellen Gates** and **Matthew Schofield** all of whom are present. Trustees also propose to co-opt Elain Harwood again to the Trustee body at their next meeting because of her expertise on post-war buildings, making 14 Trustees in total, the maximum number we can have. The election of Peter Ruback, Jane Rosier, John Clarke, Ellen Gates and Matthew Schofield was agreed by a show of hands.

Hon. Events Secretary Report

10.1 This was made by Peter Ruback as Simon van Heyningen, the Hon. Events Secretary was unable to attend. The Society ran a full and successful programme of events last year, all advertised and bookable on the website and most were also announced in the magazine and in regular e-newsletters sent to members. Three overseas trips were among the highlights: one to Girona in Catalonia where we admired the work of Rafael Masó arranged by Dr Jordi Falgàs; Dublin where Professor Alistair Rowan with Elain Harwood arranged a wonderful tour; and Ian McInnes and Andrew Cunningham took us to Bratislava and Brno at the end of May.

10.2 Highlights of UK trips were Farnborough Wind Tunnels, Poole, East Suffolk, Frinton, Bedford and the Cardington Airship sheds, the Universities of Essex, Oxford and Cambridge and many walks and events in London including to Romford and West London post-war Catholic churches. Coming up, we have, a first 'POMO on pedals', a tour of London Docklands on bicycles; a day in Newport, South Wales, an uncelebrated city with many interesting buildings; another foreign trip to Porto (Portugal), in September, plus Durham City and Bethnal Green housing estates.

10.3 The Society is grateful to all those who put such a lot of effort into organising events, and to those who welcomed us to many places not usually open to the public. SvanH said that he hoped to organise an equally wide-ranging programme for the forthcoming year but would be grateful for any offers to organise and lead events.

Publication Convenor's Report

11.1 Timothy Brittain-Catlin said that we continued to receive positive feedback on the re-vamped Magazine on which we continue to refresh content and ensure that the website is well managed and continually updated.

11.2 In about two months' time, members should receive Journal no 12 'Cross-country: regional houses' which like all Journals from now on has been peer reviewed to ensure the highest standards of text and images. As the Hon. Treasurer has already said, it is vital that we find new sources of funding support for future Journals. Historic England has agreed to provide some funding for Journal 13 on the 'Architecture of public service' due out in 2016. Journal no 14 would be on commercial architecture. JStor, a US on-line access point for academic journals and which has C20 Journals 1-10 (and Thirties Society Journals 1-7), was proving to be a useful source of income which would be dedicated to future Journal costs.

11.3 Following on from the success of *100 Buildings, 100 Years*, another book project with Batsford was being developed on the basis of interviews by Pamela Buxton with prominent architects on their favourite buildings which it was felt would attract the attention of reviewers.

11.4 On the *Twentieth Century Architects* series of monographs, the next two, to be published later this year or early next with Historic England, would be on Frederick Gibberd by C H Manley and HKPA by Geraint Franklin. We are developing other volumes such as on the church architect Cachemaille-Day and the theatre architect Peter Moro but needed to prove to HE on the latter that there was sufficient interest in him.

11.5 On future lecture series, the Autumn 2015 lectures would be on architects who had designed their own houses, tying in with Journal no. 12 and which would provide their personal insights into the 1960's and 1970's. With sponsorship from ACE for the lecture series, we needed to publicise subjects further in advance and were developing for Spring 2016 a series on significant buildings in the UK by foreign architects, one per decade such as Berlage (1910's), Behrens (20's), Breuer (30's), Jacobsen (60's) etc.

Regional Groups Report

12.1 Nicola Rutt, the Regional Groups Convenor had recently gone on parental leave and Barry Arden made this report in her place. There had been a significant increase in the number of groups since the last AGM, with much of the country now being covered with new groups as follows:

- Yorkshire, represented by Andrew Jackson
- East Midlands, represented by Chris Matthews
- South West based in Bristol, represented by Bob Hardcastle as an interim Chair
- Far South West covering Devon and Cornwall, represented by Tony Stokoe

- Southern Group, based in Southampton represented by Bobbie Dawson and Pauline Mousley.

There is also much greater Regional group presence on C20's website and on social media due to additional resource being devoted to this.

12.2 On the existing groups, the North West is now lead by Mathew Schofield, West Midlands by Anna Douglas and the NE Group by John and Karen Topping. The Scottish and East of England groups need new representatives to take them forward. Individual Trustees would be taking responsibility for regional groups in different areas of the country.

12.3 The inaugural meeting of the far SW Group had alerted C20 to the imminent demolition of the former Western Morning News building in Plymouth by Nicholas Grimshaw. As a result it was passed urgently to C20 nationally and as reported by the Director a successful campaign was launched resulting in a new buyer, a good example of how local members can link with the main Society to help save a building before it is too late.

12.4 West Midlands and NW have been collaborating on events with a Birmingham suburbs event on 20 June including a number of post-war churches to which all are invited. West Mids have also visited the recently listed Coventry churches by Spence.

AOB

13.1 Member Tom Bull said that people often ask him "what is the 20th Century Society about " as they are unaware of it and he asked if we had a by-line. The Director confirmed that we have added the line "Campaigning for Twentieth century architecture" to the website, and are planning on applying this across more platforms. She recommended "We campaign for the preservation of buildings from 1914 onwards" as a good verbal response.

13.2 The meeting closed at 12.55 hours.

Robert Drake
Hon. Secretary
Twentieth Century Society