

Annual General Meeting

17 June 2017

Events Annual Report

This year saw a wide variety of events both at home and abroad. In July 2016, Susannah Charlton and Catherine Croft led a visit to Le Havre, concentrating on the development of the city centre after the terrible damage done to the city during the war. It has become a World Heritage Site following original plans by Auguste Perret that set the tone of the new city. But there are also interesting later buildings by, for example, Jean Nouvel and Oscar Niemeyer. In October, Jon Wright and local expert Pal Ritook showed us to see the twentieth century architecture of Budapest in Hungary. In Pest, there is a great deal of art deco as well as some good modern blocks of flats and interesting older buildings including several synagogues. Buda, the other side of the Danube, has a very interesting range of C20 buildings, including many that show the spirit of the Bauhaus, but with uniquely Hungarian touches.

In this country, the year's programme started with a post-AGM tour of Leicester and some of the surrounding area very successfully led by Elaine Harwood, who showed us that there was much more to be seen than the Stirling and Gowan's iconic Engineering Building. As usual, many events within London were arranged, including post-war architecture in the City, led by Suzanne Waters, Hollamby's Brandon Estate with Owen Hopkins, *Guinness is Good for You*, a walking tour of 30s buildings in Ealing with Robert Drake, a rare chance to see Lasdun's Institute of Education properly, and a tour of Westminster and Pimlico based on *Nairn's London*, published in 1966.

Some highlights outside London included Frinton with John Barter, Neil Bond and Linda Ellis, the Dreamland of Margate and North Kent with Nick Dermot, and Modernism in Cambridge with Peter Ruback and Peter Carolin, emphasising the extraordinary flourishing of modern architecture there in the 60s and 70s. The C20 East Midlands Group arranged a trip to the famous and iconic Boots Factory in Nottingham.

In the near future, the biggest event is the Society's visit to Japan to be led by Neil Jackson from the University of Liverpool in London. A fall in the value of the pound relative to the yen has made this a relatively expensive trip, but one that we are all greatly looking forward to. It is a potential worry for the future that this fall and the unknown consequences of Brexit may well make overseas trips more expensive and difficult to mount. But they are popular and valuable both in themselves and for understanding UK twentieth century architecture in a wider context.