

C20 East Midlands Regional Group

Annual Report for the AGM 2018

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Accounts

The East Midlands regional group does not hold a bank account and most activities have been financed on a voluntary basis. One expenditure which C20 did reimburse the regional group with was with regards to the Derby event in September:

- £131 for Derby Conference Centre Refreshments
- £178.20 for Linburg Coach Hire

Events Past

Boots 23/6/17

In June we led our second regional paid tour of Boots. Again this was a popular and enjoyable event, which was well supported by the Boots archive team.

Derby, 2/9/17

On the 2nd of September the group led an official C20 tour of Derby, which included visits to the Olivetti Building, Aslin's Courts and the former LMS Transport School. This was a great success and a very enjoyable day out, so thank you to everyone who attended and helped to organise the event. This took nearly a year of planning (phew!) but it worth it because it was the Twentieth Century Society's first Derby tour and enjoyed by around 27 delegates. The Derby archives were of great assistance and drew our attention to their impressive collection of material for the original C.H. Aslin civic centre scheme – we think this warrants a C20 article so watch this space.

Parks, Council Estates & Essex, 11/11/17

In November we hosted a series of talks about public space and the built environment with Five Leaves Bookshop.

- Travis Elborough on about parks, one of his recent books being A Walk in the Park: The Life and Times of a People's Institution
- Ian Waites on social housing, based on his most recent book, Middlefield: A Postwar Council Estate in Time
- Gillian Darley, talking about Essex, which is the most interesting of counties.

A History of Council Housing in Nottingham

In November and March, our regional chair Chris Matthews gave two public talks on the history of council housing in Nottingham. These talks were hosted by Nottingham Civic Society and The University of Nottingham School of Architecture.

Nottingham Lace Walk

In March and April our regional chair Chris Matthews chair was preoccupied with conservation issues prior to the Twentieth Century. He was working on a commission to design and author a guidebook on the history of the Lace Industry in Nottingham. This was accompanied by a series of tours and online video.

Events Planned

Municipal Dreams, 16/5/18, Five Leaves Bookshop

Municipal Dreams presents an alternative history of the United Kingdom. This history begins in the slum clearances of the late nineteenth century and the aspirations of those who would build anew. John Boughton looks at how and why the state's duty to house its people decently became central to our politics.

Boots

We were hoping we can organise another visit to the Boots site this year (it's such a popular event) but there has been a change of management and so everything has been put on hold.

Northampton

We've been trying to organise a trip to Northampton (last visited in 2005) but may have to postpone for another year.

Matlock

In light of this our fall back may be a Derwent Valley railway trip to Matlock for mills, modernism and fish & chips!

C20 Illustration

Finally, we've created a trial brief for graphic design students at Lincoln University – asking them to respond to the region's best C20 buildings from an illustrative point of view. This is an attempt to encourage students to take an interest in C20 architecture, but also show people how illustration can create new perspectives.

Conservation

Nottingham Broadmarsh

John Minnis and Historic England have produced an excellent report 'Buildings in the Broadmarsh Area of Nottingham: An Architectural and Historical Investigation', which features a number of lesser known C20 buildings.

Horizon Factory, Nottingham

Despite two listing attempts by the society, it seems like we are going to lose the Horizon Factory in Nottingham. New owners Henry Boot Developments recently announced they intend to demolish and rebuild new industrial or commercial premises.

Assembly Rooms, Derby

Similar at Derby: the City Council narrowly voted to demolish the Assembly Rooms in January following a consultation exercise. C20 wrote a letter to the council in favour of retention but it was to no avail – the council had already succeeded in applying for an Immunity from Listing so their intentions were clear.

Bilborough St John

C20 have submitted Bilborough St John for listing following advice from the regional group. This is a wonderfully simple Scandinavian Modern church from 1959 by local architects

Broadhead & Royle. Let's see what happens here but the real intention is to help people at Bilborough St John apply for sufficient funds to maintain the building.

Beeston Town Hall

There has also been support for a listing attempt for Beeston Town Hall (1936-8), which has been submitted by Nottingham Civic Society. The frontage of the building is pretty much unchanged with original crests and downpipes, while the interior retains the original inner lobby, central staircase, chamber, committee room and wooden panelling.

Charles Wilson, Leicester

C20 have also submitted a listing attempt for the Charles Wilson building at Leicester University by Denys Lasdun. Its position beside Victoria Park is sublime and it's important that the sculptural quality and materials are given the care they deserve.

Publicity

We currently have around 150 Mail Chimp subscriber and 440 twitter followers.

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Chris Matthews

Regional Chair

April, 2018

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