

The Twentieth Century Society, West Regional Group

Chair's Report 2019-20

At our regional AGM on 11th May 2019 Bob Hardcastle stood down as Chair with gratitude for his dedication and key role in establishing the West Group in 2016. Bob remains involved in the society as an active committee member.

The well-attended AGM was held in Frome, Somerset, where we held a review of the previous year's activities and ended with a walking tour of the town, which included '90s housing located in the Conservation Area and built for the Guinness Partnership (figs 1, 2).



Figs 1,2 The Piggeries, Frome, Somerset by APG Partnership

We represented the Society at the opening of The Bauhaus in Bristol Exhibition held at the Ken Stradling Collection on 12th September 2019. The exhibition focussed on Marcel Breuer's collaborations with Crofton Gane.

On 27th October we held an event in Bristol to celebrate the recent twentieth century additions to Bristol City Council's 'local list' for which we acted as a consultee. The visit focused on two post-war redevelopments in the city centre: Broadmead Baptist Church (Ronald Sims, 1962-68) and High Kingsdown housing estate (Whicheloe Macfarlane JT Group, 1970-74). The tour of High Kingsdown was preceded by an introduction by Roger Mortimer, former director of the JT Building Group (figs 3,4).



Fig. 3 Broadmead Baptist Church, Bristol
Ronald Sims



Fig. 4 High Kingsdown Estate, Bristol
Whicheloe Macfarlane JT Group

This year's events have all been postponed due to Covid-19 but we look forward to our Portishead visit, which is planned for March 2021. We will be holding a committee meeting in late October to plan the forthcoming year's events. We will also be discussing ways to expand our social media presence and casework involvement. We continue to build our regional database of unlisted c20 buildings of interest and will be having another drive for contributions from local members.

We have been pleased to support the caseworkers with the successful Grade II listing of Barbara Hepworth's sculpture 'Themes and Variations' along with the principal façade of Cheltenham House (Healing and Overbury, 1972) in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

While in-person events have been on-hold, a number of members have remarked on the success of the programme of online lectures. The ability to access the back catalogue of talks is considered particularly positive.

The Committee members of the c20 West Group are Jack Konynenburg (Vice-Chair and Events Organiser), Anne Goodyer (Secretary), Jan Morgan (Treasurer), Bob Hardcastle and Claire Nodder (Committee Members).

Dr Jessica Holland
Chair c20 West Group