



C20 Cymru AGM 2021: Chairs Report

Creation of C20 Cymru:

C20 Cymru was formally ratified as representation of the C20 Society in Wales in November 2020, the culmination of talks which had been in progress since 2017. With a very different historic environment sector in Wales, heritage being a matter devolved to Welsh Government, it is hoped that C20 Cymru will help the C20 Society advance its aims in Wales. The aims of C20 Cymru include:

- To influence the political arena in Wales regarding strategy for the Listing of C20 built heritage leading to increased preservation.
- To ensure improved awareness and communication in the professional built environment / heritage sector regarding the value of C20 built heritage and its archive.
- To increase public understanding and appreciation in Wales of C20 built heritage.
- To raise the profile of C20 built heritage in Wales to a UK and international audience.
- To provide a Welsh perspective on the development of C20 built heritage within the UK.
- To represent the development of C20 architects, building forms and styles with a separate Welsh national identity within the Society.

Membership:

There are currently 37 members of the C20 Society registered as living in Wales. One of the main aims of C20 Cymru going forward is to expand member in Wales through the increased offer for people living within the nation and improved representation of Wales at every level of the C20 Society.

Communication:

C20 Cymru has set up social media accounts on Twitter and Instagram. Created in November 2020, the Twitter account has 540 followers at time of writing and Instagram has 319 followers. Social media campaigns have included an architectural advent calendar during December 2020 and the use of widely-used hashtags such as #ModernistMonday, #ThrowBackThursday and #FaithBuildingsFriday to build support. On Twitter alone, our posts have garnered over 423k impressions during this five-month period.

In February we sent out our first email newsletter to members registered in Wales, on the back of which we received several requests to join in the work of the group. A small article on the creation of C20 Cymru in main C20 Society newsletter of the same month has seen some 25 people, in addition to members in Wales, sign up to receive the newsletter. It is intended to issue newsletters on a six-monthly basis, with additional, interim email updates if required.

Events:

C20 Cymru held its inaugural event as an online lecture on 1st March 2021. This was a presentation by Jonathan Vining, 'Introduction to post war Welsh architecture'. 136 people attended this talk live, with a further 74 having subsequently viewed the recorded lecture on YouTube. This was offered as a free event to encourage engagement with C20 Cymru as a new group, with £40 raised through donation.

On 1st April Catrin Saran James, archivist and artist, will be giving a lecture on Swansea as part of the C20 Society Spring series 'UK Cities'.

In the year April 2021 – March 2022, C20 Cymru is looking to hold a regular online lecture series. Hosting the talks virtually allows for the greatest

accessibility to members and others across Wales, as well as opening up information about C20 built heritage in Wales to those further afield. Exploration of a variety of presentations, including 'virtual tours' is being explored. There will be ongoing assessment of the COVID-19 situation in regard to the possibility of starting physical, face-to-face events in year.

Casework:

Support has been given to Coco Whittaker, the C20 caseworker, on a number of sites. Buildings advanced for listing campaigns are Swansea Civic Centre (former West Glamorgan County Hall); County Hall, Caernarfon; Plas Menai, Gwynedd. Comment and advice has also been given in planning cases in Clevis Crescent, Porthcawl; the former County Cinema, Pontypridd; The Memorial Institute, Trehafod.

C20 Cymru have also input into the C20 Society programme of assessment on 'at risk' department stores.

Susan Fielding