

Events Report for C20 AGM 12th June 2021

Real life events in 2020 were heavily curtailed by the pandemic. Before it became necessary to move events online we were able to visit a Goldfinger school in Putney, 55 Broadway, the headquarters of London Transport, an exhibition on the Bauhaus at the Bristol Guild, have a art deco bike tour and visit Hackney. The “High Spec” lecture series focussed on commercial buildings and we were pleased to be able to include a number of younger and less experienced architectural historians and writers alongside some better known names. In March 2020 profits from events had stalled at around £5,000. However after the decision was made to charge for online events over £4,000 was made in the latter part of the year.

Thanks go to all members for their continued support of the C20 event programme, also to those members who generously gave donations to help our casework during the period that we were not charging for events. We would like to thank all those volunteers who stepped up to help us in this trying time by offering lectures, photographs and practical help with organising online events.

The move online enabled us to cover a range of past C20 Study Tours, to Japan, India and Los Angeles as well as re-run a series introducing participants to the various styles of architecture over our period. Events continued online throughout 2020 and we were able to reach a larger, and more geographically dispersed, audience. Our autumn lecture series ‘Worship in the Modern World’ – covered primarily Anglican and Roman Catholic churches, but also nonconformist buildings, synagogues and mosques. The whole series followed on from our earlier book “100 churches 100 years” and we were delighted to be able to offer such a broad based and accessible series. There were 108 season ticket holders, plus another 364 individual ticket sales – many more people than we would have been able to accommodate in the Cowcross Street Gallery! The ability to host online has also allowed us attract with ease lecturers not based in London (or even the UK). And this wider audience has sustained and even increased our membership numbers.

Other 2020 lectures related to monograph launches (FX Verlade, Rowse), casework and conservation (Dudley Zoo, Cressingham Gardens, Derby Assembly Rooms) with one off lectures where opportunities arose.

In 2021 we have continued with online lectures, hosting one per week from January through to end May, including a successful and popular ‘Cities’ series. We are planning to return to our more traditional events, with walks over the summer, a weekend to Chester, and more walks and coach tours this autumn. Overseas events are currently on hold, but we plan to offer these again when the travel situation is stable. We will also continue to stage lectures online and are exploring the possibility of being able to hold some talks with a physical audience, but also to live-stream the event more widely.

2020 and the first half of 2021 have been a very difficult period for all, but I am confident that we will continue to reach more members and non-members with a continued programme of online events, as well as a welcome return to meeting in person.

Cela Selley

Hon Events Secretary & Trustee