

The Twentieth Century Society South West Chair's Report for AGM 2022

Given the circumstances over the last two years the regional activity in the South West has been much reduced. However we have had some success with online events, linking up with our regional neighbours in the West and South regions for a series of Zoom talks held in the autumn of 2020 and spring of 2021.

We were able to arrange one physical gathering, in July 2021, when we visited Shaldon Botanical Gardens and the Italian Garden at Great Ambrook. The former was created in the 1920s by Maria Kempe Homeyard, the latter completed slightly earlier in 1912 for Arthur Smith Graham. The gardens demonstrated two different visions of landscaping in the early Twentieth Century and the site at Great Ambrook is undergoing restoration work after decades of neglect.

We are restarting events in the South West in the spring of 2022 with our AGM at Kresen Kernow, the Cornish Archive Centre in Redruth. Later in the year we plan a weekend in and around St Ives focusing on Barbara Hepworth, and also a day in Truro.

On casework, as previously reported, we were pleased that the Palais de Danse, formerly a studio for Barbara Hepworth in St. Ives, has been listed Grade II. Amongst other listing news, committee member Robert Dowden successfully submitted an application for Saltash Library (Royston Summers, County Architects Dept. 1963), now listed Grade II. We continue to monitor and work with various Plymouth projects, including the Heritage Action Zone and most recently the Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan.

Member Tattwa Gyani who lives near Dartington has alerted us to the difficult financial position the Dartington Trust finds itself in and the neglect of several unused buildings, particularly Aller Park and Foxholes. The Society Caseworker has written to the Trustees to ask them to clarify their position and the way forward for the Estate.

Regarding the committee and am sorry that we are losing two members, Samantha Barnes and Sally Sutton. Sam's knowledge and enthusiasm has been invaluable in the running of the West Region and she has made a huge contribution to our group over several years. Sally is the most recent member to join our happy band but feels she is best suited to remain a Society member rather than take on a committee role. We will miss them both.

On a positive note, member Adrian Symons, who was key in organising the two garden visits back in July, has agreed to become a committee member. Welcome to our happy team Adrian, we look forward to working with you. I know you have a particular enthusiasm for early C20 country houses and you will be involved in our visits to the two Oliver Hill houses next year.

In the notice for this AGM I said that I would like to stand down as Chair, after 7 years in the role I feel it is time for somebody else to take the lead.

Tony Stokoe

21 March 2021