



## **C20 Cymru AGM 2021: Chair's Report**

### ***C20 Cymru:***

This has been the first full year of C20 Cymru, after its creation in November 2020. It has been a year of getting to grips with establishing an events programme and with embarking of a programme of both strategic listing requests and supporting protection of at-risk heritage assets.

### ***Membership:***

There are currently 39 members of the C20 Society registered as living in Wales, a number which has remained almost static from the previous year. One of the main aims of C20 Cymru is to expand membership 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:***

Our social media accounts have continued to do well, with a 60% increase of followers on Twitter to 901 followers at time of writing. This takes us to being the second most followed of the C20 regional account, just 18 followers off equalling the very successful C20 West Midlands account. Over the last twelve months, 115 tweets have generated 512.5k impressions. The two most 'successful' tweets have been about buildings at risk: that for 57 Marine Drive generating 46.4k impressions, and Argoed School creating 48.5k impressions and both showing considerable interest in, and support for, the survival of C20 built heritage in Wales. Instagram has been slower to grow, but has still increased substantially with followers now number 534 – an increase of 40%.

In addition to the social media channels, the first issue of the 2021-22 year C20 magazines showcased the work of Bill Davies with an excellent article by C20

Cymru committee member Jonathan Vining, with Davies' Benllech church making the cover photo. This issue also included a piece on the plight of the County Halls in Wales and an 'Introduction' to C20 Cymru.

We now have 66 people signed up to receive our newsletters and updates about news and events.

### **Events:**

With the COVID situation continuing, and with the recognition of the increased accessibility of online events, C20 Cymru decided to focus on a largely online events programme for this year, with attendees of up to 75 for these talks. Online talks have consisted of:

*20th Century Concrete: A World of Innovation* by Judith Doyle (GGAT) in July 2021

*20th Century Buildings on Paper: Sources from the Ceredigion Archives* by Helen Palmer in November 2021

*Trawsfynydd Nuclear Power Station: Why do we conserve?* by Elinor Grey-Williams in February 2022

*Frank Lloyd Wright: The Requisites of Genius* by Jonathan Adams 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022 (Annual St David's Day lecture)

C20 Cymru and Swansea were also represented in the C20 Society spring series, *Cities of the British Isles*, with a talk by Catrin Saran James in April 2021.

In addition to the online programme, our first face-to-face event was held on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October. This was a guided walk of Cathays Park by Committee member Elaine Davey and was a very successful first in-person meet-up with 15 present.

There has been much discussion around whether talks should be provided free of charge, or a small charge made. After assessment of the large offer available to people in terms of online content, and the desire of the group to engage with both existing members and draw in new interest, the decision was made to offer the monthly online talks for free. In-person events will be charged for appropriately, taking into account costs involved and people's time, as will the annual St David's Day talks.

### **Casework:**

Support has been given to Coco Whittaker, the C20 caseworker, on several sites. Buildings advanced, or supported, for listing campaigns are:

Argoed High School, Mynydd Isa (1978-81, K J Denley & Brian J Davies) - *Rejected*

57 Marine Drive, Rhos-on-Sea (1939) - *Rejected*

Imos Microprocessor Factory, Newport (1982, Richard Rogers & Partners) - *Awaiting*

Plas Menai National Outdoor Centre (1985, Bowen Dann Davies Partnership) - *Awaiting*

St David's Hall, Cardiff (1978-82, Vernon Crofts of the J Seymour Harris Partnership) - *Awaiting*

Aberystwyth Arts Centre: Hugh Owen Library, Great Hall, Student's Union and Bell Tower, Aberystwyth (1972, Dale Owen PTP) - *Awaiting*

Pencadlys, Caernarfon (1982-84, Merfyn H. Roberts & Terry Potter in association with Dewi-Prys Thomas) – *Awaiting*

Seaside Shelters, Rhos-on-Sea/Colwyn Bay (1969?, unknown) - *Awaiting*

The former County Library, Haverfordwest (1964, Gilbert Ray) - *Awaiting*

We maintain a forward list of sites to submit for listing, but also welcome suggestions and requests for support from members, particularly for those which are felt to be at imminent risk. We also welcome general information about listed, or non-listed, built heritage at-risk.

There have been two meetings between the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Society (including the Chair of C20 Cymru) and Cadw to discuss a strategic approach to listing and the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Society gaining statutory consultee status in Wales (which will align us to the other amenity societies such as The Victorian Society and The Georgian Group). A programme of six-monthly meetings to ensure ongoing communication between the society and Cadw has been agreed.

Susan Fielding

April 2022.