



Impact Report

2026





C20 Society

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Registered charity number
1110244

Cover: Inmos Microprocessor
Factory, Newport by Richard
Rogers Partnership (1980–8),
Grade II* listed in 2025.
Photograph © Ken Kirkwood



The Twentieth Century Society is a membership organisation, open to all, which campaigns for the conservation of the best 20th century architecture. It was founded in 1979 as The Thirties Society and is recognised by government, with a statutory role in the planning process in England and Wales. It organises lectures, conference and study tours in the UK and abroad.

Our Charitable Objectives are:

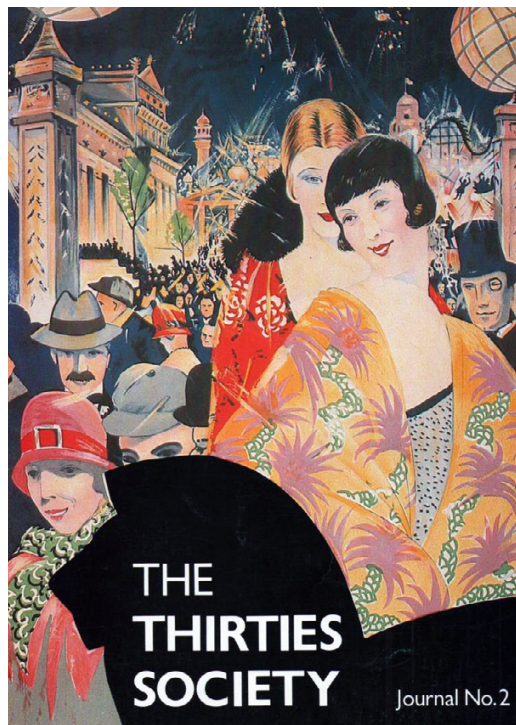
- To educate the public in the appreciation, knowledge and understanding of the arts, architecture, crafts and design from 1914 to the present day.
- To encourage the study of these, and of the related social history, and to afford advice to owners and public authorities with regard to the preservation and repair of buildings constructed or designed during this period.
- To save from needless destruction or disfigurement, the best buildings or groups of buildings, interiors and artefacts designed or constructed from 1914 to the present day.



Chairman's report

Making a difference

Hugh Pearman



The Journal of The Thirties Society, our name from 1979–1992

This summer marks a particular moment for our Society: we are publishing the latest book in our fruitful and successful series with Batsford: *100 21st Century Buildings*. Anything strike you about that? Its title of course belies our name. We are increasingly involved in discussions about the buildings of the century we happen to be more than a quarter of the way through. It will not be long, we hope, before the best buildings and places from this period start to be listed. Although the name and branding of the C20 Society commands great recognition in the heritage sector and across the media, it is more than time to adjust our identity to reflect the fact that we are the only such society with an ever-expanding remit, from 1914 up to the present day.

In 2029 it will be 50 years since our foundation as the Thirties Society. We last updated our name in 1992, with my predecessor Gavin Stamp noting at the time: “Much as I like the very English anomaly of a body called The Thirties Society defending

buildings of the 1950s, the fact is that our name obscures our aims. We defend buildings put up as late as the 1970s... we have not shed our old interests; we have added new ones.’

That situation, updated, is where we find ourselves again. So we are weighing up our renaming options methodically, ranging from the minimal to the maximal. Eventually – we are in no hurry – something interesting and appropriate will emerge to describe better what our Society is and does. In the meantime, there’s our latest book, a statement of intent if ever there was one, recording a period of fascinating architectural change.

Over the past year the efforts of our members, volunteers, trustees and staff have achieved great things across our main activities of casework, campaigns, events of all kinds, publishing and consultancy. These are interesting times in which we demonstrate that we are about the best architecture of any period, regardless of style. So for instance we have defended and celebrated some of the leading examples of Postmodernism, some of which are threatened by radical alterations which would destroy their period character. Thanks to the eyes and ears of our supporters, we also identify some remarkable overlooked buildings to bring forward.

What we have in common with our friends in the heritage societies of all periods is that we certainly cannot save all the good stuff, in a culture and economy where demolition-and-rebuild is built into the system as a default despite the environmental claims of developers, local authorities and government. We advocate a less violent, more accretive, approach which recognises the individual histories of people intertwined with places. The publicity and affection generated by our campaign to list the first and last Ordnance Survey trig-point pillars is testament to that.

We’ve noticed that apart from media coverage it’s not just our members who attend all our lectures, events, tours and trips: we reach well beyond our base into a wider world of interested people. Converting some of this obvious public interest into a new cohort of members is a challenge we happily accept. And for those long-term loyalists among you, please consider remembering us in your wills, and let us know when you do. We’ll certainly remember you.

My thanks not only to our loyal and capable volunteers but also to our members at all levels and our generous patrons and donors: the fact that we are able to do as much as we do is all down to you. So do study and enjoy this impact report: we are making a difference because of people like you who care about the best architecture and design of modern times.



Director's report

Moving with the times

Catherine Croft



Managing change

2025 was a busy and successful year for C2O Society, with much to celebrate, but also many challenges. Not least was the government's continuing emphasis on an uncompromising "growth agenda", and the ongoing misconception that good conservation is at odds with job-generation, building high-quality new homes and addressing climate change through sensitive retrofit – which we do our best to refute through positive examples of specific projects.

We see our role as being about managing change in a positive way; crucially about making sure we get not just any growth, but good growth. Once lost, the buildings we care about are gone for ever. The planning system is there to make sure that all relevant concerns are taken into account when making decisions which will affect all of us for decades, if not centuries, to come. We exist to articulate and build consensus about the positive benefits of the buildings we value: to encourage people to care, and to demonstrate that they do. We're not just about keeping C2O buildings, but about doing so because that makes for a richer, more satisfying and sustainable future. By doing that conservation delivers on lots of government agendas stretching way beyond the planning system.

Power in publishing

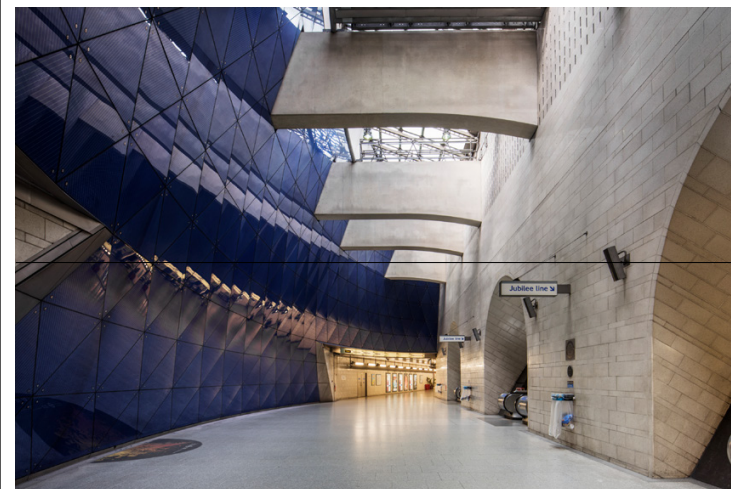
Flagging up both threatened buildings and ones newly eligible for listing, we published both a 2025/6 *Risk List* and a 2025 Coming of Age List. Our Casework encompassed both high profile and previously unrecognised buildings across the country. Our publishing and events programmes were both very active in 2025, helping to spread news of our work to ever-widening audiences

Our *C2O Magazine* included Conservation Case Studies on the Bradford Odeon (now Bradford Live) and Richard Seifert's cylindrical office block, Space House. Both demonstrate good practice in rejuvenating challenging buildings, and were cases where C2O Society had had early input into emerging schemes. The Magazine critiqued the controversial film "The Brutalist", and marked the deaths of key figures including architects Sir Nicholas Grimshaw (The Eden Project and Waterloo International) and Dereck Shorten (designer of Coventry Station) and Ursula Bowyer (who worked on the Festival of Britain) and stained-glass artist Brian Clarke.

Our most prominent publication was our beautifully illustrated large-format book on Cooling Towers, making the point that without a rapid intervention all examples of this



Top: 1 Cobham Mews, Camden by David Chipperfield (1987–89), Grade II listed in 2025



Above: Southwark Tube Station by MacCormac Jamieson Prichard (1994–99), Grade II listed in 2025

magnificent building type will soon be demolished.

All this was achieved with a very small staff and our team of highly engaged trustees and volunteers. To increase our impact further we need more income and so we were delighted by the successful beginnings of our 'Patron Programme', which continues to expand and support our work, but fundraising remains a priority as we take on an ever expanding range of work, including twenty-first century buildings, some of which are now a quarter-century old.

Casework

Fine-grained and expert-informed

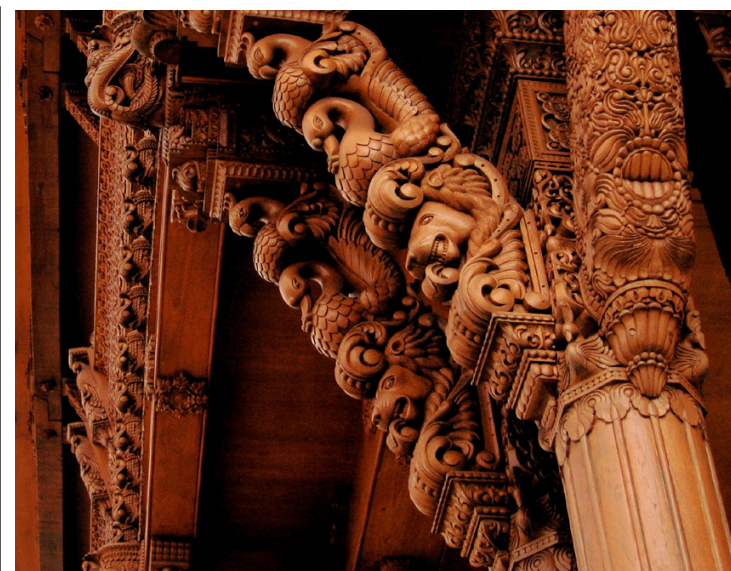


By Government directive, C2o Society must be notified by local authorities throughout England and Wales of all applications for listed building consent involving demolition. As well as day-to-day referrals through this statutory referral system, a wider spectrum of cases, and Scottish cases, are sent to us by our members and supporters, planners, architects and other heritage professionals. We assess the significance of each building, and the impact the works proposed would have on each, and triage accordingly, prioritising our resources where both significance and potential damage are high. This fine-grained, expert-informed work is the core of all we do and gives us unique, up-to-the-minute insight into the range of building types facing threat, pressures for change, and planning issues.

In addition, we offer an extended (paid for) pre-app consultation process for major schemes, with early engagement offering the best prospect for the development of a positive strategy for alteration or reuse.

2025 Casework highlights

- New listings proposed or supported by C2o in 2025 included Richard Rogers Partnership's **Inmos Factory** in Wales (Grade II*), **Southwark Tube Station** (Grade II), David Chipperfield's **Cobham Mews** in Camden (Grade II) and the **Renold Building** at the University of Manchester (Grade II)
- We gave advice on significant alterations to **The De La Warr Pavilion**, **Bexhill on Sea**, **National Sports Centre**, **Crystal Palace**, the **Ziggurats** at the University of East Anglia, **Liverpool Street Station**,



Left: Stairwell of the Renold Building, University of Manchester (1960–62)

Right: Detail of Neasden Temple (1995), headline building from our 2025 Coming of Age campaign

and the **Golden Lane Estate**, City of London.

- We objected to harmful changes to the rooftop of James Stirling's Grade II*-listed **No. 1 Poultry**, to changes which would significantly change the façade of YRM's Grade II-listed **Cole Brothers** department store in Sheffield, and to the replacement of windows at the **Donnybrook Estate** by Peter Barber Architects.
- We supported investment in the **Barbican Art Centre's** future through careful upgrades to fabric, including window replacements, as well as a redesign of the conservatory to allow for full access to all users.
- We have also provided pre-application advice for a scheme by BDP to convert William Whitfield's Grade II-listed **33 Vauxhall Bridge Road** into housing, supported a decarbonisation scheme for **Churchill College** in Cambridge, and have been successful in getting the terracotta panels by Philippa Threlfall on Broad Quay House in Bristol retained as part of the building's retrofit.
- Major paid pre-applications have included advice for the conservation management plan for Giles Gilbert Scott's **Cambridge University Library**, a new scheme for the **Royal College of Art** including RAAC remediation, and the refurbishment of The Smithson's Grade II*-listed **Hunstanton School**.



Campaigns

First ever nationwide billboard campaign for architectural heritage

Our campaigns arise out of casework and draw attention to broader trends and threats, and propose positive interventions and new uses. In 2025 our campaigns attracted widespread coverage across the media spectrum, being featured in *The Times*, *The Guardian*, *Telegraph*, *Financial Times*, *New York Times*, in the design and lifestyle press *Dezeen*, *Architects Journal*, *World of Interiors*, *Wallpaper**, *Country life*, and on broadcast media on BBC News, Radio 4, and the Open City podcast.

2025 Campaign highlights

● **The Risk List:** our flagship bi-annual campaign highlighting outstanding 20th and 21st century buildings across the country that are at risk from demolition, dereliction or neglect. In 2025 the list was dominated by cases from the north of England, with 6 of the 10 buildings featured being from Yorkshire, Lancashire, Tyneside, Merseyside, and Greater Manchester, and only one case from London. From a Bauhaus-inspired 1930s department store in Bradford (2025 City of Culture), to a 1970s brutalist concrete football stand in Newcastle, and a 1980s 'High-Tech Nissen hut' in Newham; the list demonstrates the extraordinary breadth of architectural styles that characterises our period (1914 – the present day).

For the first time, the Risk List included three Millennium-era buildings: The former National Centre for Popular Music in Sheffield (1999), National Wildflower Centre in Knowsley (2000), and Archaeolink Prehistory Park in Aberdeenshire (1997). Some 25 years after the turn of the new Millennium and 30 years since the creation of the National Lottery, which provided the funding for so many of these architecturally ambitious projects, their physical legacy is now increasingly vulnerable and bold new uses are required to ensure their continued survival.

The launch of The Risk List was also trailed by the first ever nationwide billboard campaign for architectural heritage, with site-specific 'Reuse Them or Lose Them' slogan appearing on billboards across Sheffield, Brighton, Bristol, Southwark, Islington, and Hackney.

● **Coming of Age:** the Society's annual end of year 'Honours List' (launched in 2024) for the best of British architecture reaching maturity, continuing our role in leading public debate on the heritage of the future.

It celebrates ten of the most significant buildings that are turning 30 years old in the current year, and so passing the age threshold for listing assessment. Examples in 2025 included Neasden's Hindu Temple; Trinity Footbridge in Salford by Santiago Calatrava; the Queens Building at Trinity College

Cambridge, By Hopkins; and Techniquet in Cardiff, by ABK. As the campaign develops over the next few years, we hope to work constructively with the national heritage bodies (Historic England, Historic Environment Scotland, and Cadw) regarding proactive assessments and designations, creating an annual 'good-news-story' that celebrates the best of modern heritage, while engaging younger, more diverse audiences.

● Our public call-out to save the threatened **Future Systems classroom pod** in Richmond-upon-Thames (2004) received more than 100 expressions of interest – from vineyards to scout camps, art schools to football clubs. One proposal perfectly met the criteria: relocation to The Kaplický Centre Foundation, founded to honour the original architect, Jan Kaplický. The pod was safely dismantled and reassembled in Prague.

● Our **Cooling Towers** campaign continued, with the publication of a large-format book by Batsford Books – the first of its kind on the subject; a listing application – sadly unsuccessful – for the final coal-fired power station in Britain at Ratcliffe-on-Soar; a Change.org petition and an open letter to the Secretary of State are being prepared.



The launch of the Risk List was trailed by the first ever nationwide billboard campaign for architectural heritage, the sit-specific

'Reuse It or Lose It' message shown here next to the former National Centre for Pop Music in Sheffield (1999)



**Education and
engagement**
Attendance at
our events grew
year-on-year

5,176

The total number of
tickets to lectures and
events sold in 2025



Ruth and Sam Ford House by
Bruce Goth (1947-49) from
the 2025 Chicago Tour

Our extensive programme of events is a core part of our educational and engagement offer, as well as supporting our membership programme and raising vital funds. It is largely volunteer run and administered. Each year we hold two formal, thematic six-lecture series (in person and on Zoom); an annual Christmas lecture and an extensive supplementary programme of one-off lectures. We also run walking tours, day trips, weekend/short stay visits in the UK and overseas tours. This is supplemented by seminars and numerous events organised in conjunction with external partners. Each year our Director leads the pioneering residential course in the Conservation of Historic Concrete at West Dean College, Sussex, supported by Historic England. We are currently recruiting and training new event leaders.

2025 Education and Engagement Programme highlights

- Total number of events: 60
- Total number of member ticket sold 2,078
- Total number of non-member tickets sold 1,136
- Total number of lecture tickets sold in 2024: 1,962

- Spring Lecture Series on Great Exhibitions of the Twentieth Century
- Autumn Lecture Series on Buildings for Sport and Leisure (the latter to tie in with the publication of the latest in our '100' series, *100 Twentieth-Century Sports and Leisure Buildings* (published by Batsford Books).
- International tours to Chicago, Gdansk and Gdynia, Cologne, and repeats of the tours to Berlin and the Veneto.
- UK weekend tours to Bradford and Manchester, and day trips to Folkestone, Cambridge, Basildon, Monmouthshire and Avoncroft Museum.
- Other highlights included Nairn Night: an evening celebrating the 70th Anniversary of Ian Nairn's seminal essay *Outrage*; and a book launch for *Up in the Air: A History of High Rise Britain* by Holly Smith.



Publications

Various formats for different audiences

The award-winning and accessible *C20 Magazine* is our primary promotional tool



We produce a wide range of publications in a variety of formats designed to reach different audiences – a core part of our educational and engagement offer. This aims to stimulate and support new research across the breadth of our remit, and disseminate knowledge to our members, supporters, and appropriate groups of professionals. The books produced as part of our long running collaboration with the publisher Batsford are consumer focussed and aimed at a general interest audience. They feature accessible introductions and striking original photography, and are widely stocked in bookshops, galleries, and museum giftshops.

Our journals and monographs are aimed at a more scholarly and academic audience, featuring new research and analysis of key C20 firms, often laying the groundwork for future casework. As well being a member benefit, the award-winning and

accessible *C20 Magazine* is our primary promotional tool, giving an up-to-date review of the Society's activities and emphasising the broader cultural relevance of what we do.

Publications overview

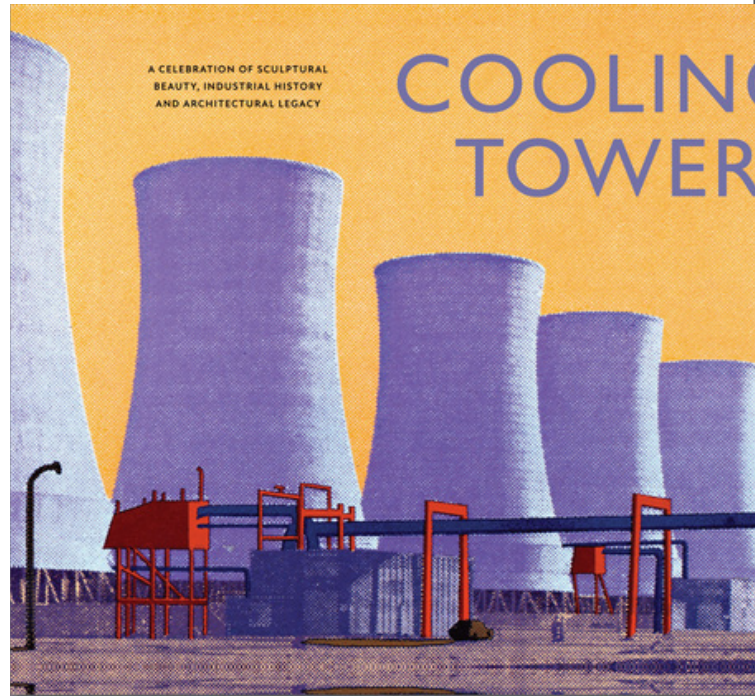
● C20 Magazine

With two issues per year, our substantial, large format magazine scooped a prestigious ISTD design industry award in 2024 for print and typography. The magazine is issued to Society members, sold via our website, and is stocked at selected independent retailers and booksellers.

● 100 Buildings series

Published with Batsford, six volumes so far. Including 100 20th Century Sports and Leisure Buildings published in 2025, adding to previous titles on 100 Shops, Houses, Churches, Gardens and

*‘Cooling Towers is a finely illustrated book: campaigning, as well as elegiac’
Rob Wilson, Architects Journal*



Landscapes. 100 21st Buildings was developed in 2025 and is due in 2026.

● **C20 Building Styles series**

Published with Batsford, four volumes so far on Art Deco, Mid-Century, Brutalist, and Post-Modern architecture in Britain, with a High-Tech volume in production through 2024 with publication in 2026.

● **Campaign and event related**

Published with Batsford, new titles on Cooling Towers and Seaside Architecture published in 2025.

● **Twentieth Century Architects series**

Published with Liverpool University Press, an ongoing series of monographs, with 25 volumes published to date

● **C20 Society Journal**

Thematic and published biennially, with the most recent



volume covering churches ‘Journal 15: Holy Houses’ (2023)

● Our website also has much unique in-depth content, including our long-running Building of the Month feature, which now features over 260 entries spanning more than 30 countries

● Work progressed on several further volumes in our Twentieth Century Architects’ Lives series, our Journal on British Architects working overseas, and further volumes with Batsford Books.

● Two issues of *C20 Magazine* were sent to C20 members, and sold via our website and at select retail outlets.

Financial review

Strengthening our financial resilience

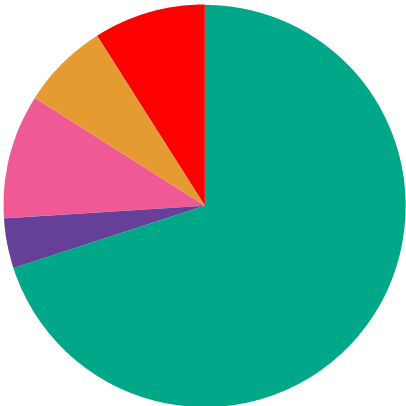
As the charts below make clear, the majority of the Society’s income comes from our members – be that through subscriptions, donations, gifts, or regular attendance at our events. This is not only an excellent demonstration of our grassroots support, it underpins our independence as an organisation and is crucial to the ethos of the Amenity Societies.

In 2025 we stepped up efforts to enhance our already impressive member retention rates, and ensure maximum income through GiftAid. Comparatively the grants we receive from Historic England and Cadw, while gratefully received, make only a very modest contribution to the carrying out of our statutory role in the planning process, for which they are given. Notably these grants have not kept pace with inflation over the past decades.

Our flagship fundraising initiative, the Elain Harwood Memorial Fund, launched in 2023, had reached a total of £86,325 by the end of 2025 – 57.5% of the way to an initial target of £150,000. In Autumn 2024 we also launched a new Patrons Programme, and have attracted support from a number of leading architectural practices, developers and individuals.

Much of our income is spent on our core casework and

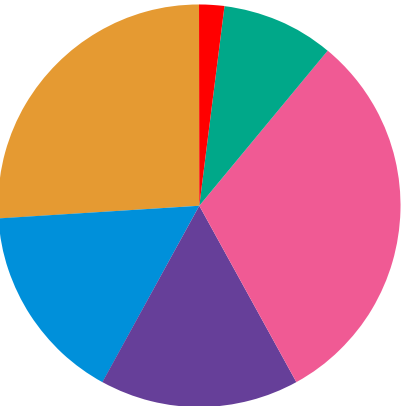
Income	
Membership (including Gift Aid) & event income	£333,056 (70%)
Gifts/donations	£19,370 (4%)
Statutory casework/grants	£45,904 (10%)
Publications	£33,179 (7%)
Other (inc. grants/consultancy)	£41,978 (9%)



campaigns, both of which are supported by our thriving publications programme. These costs include staff salaries, travel for site visits, as well as essentials such as website hosting, IT, and our subscription to the Joint Committee casework database.

We remain grateful to our long-term landlord, Alan Baxter Ltd, for creating a nurturing heritage and design community at Cowcross Street, London, where we happily base ourselves on generous terms and at much below market rates. This location continues to provide excellent accessibility and use of the on-site gallery for many of our events.

Expenditure	
Casework	£105,618 (26%)
Publications	£65,292 (16%)
Campaigns	£67,919 (16%)
Operating costs	£127,318 (31%)
Events	£38,457 (9%)
Governance	£7,851 (2%)



Thank you

Staff

Catherine Croft (Director)
Oli Marshall (Campaigns
Director)
Jonathan Woods (Operations
Manager)
Lukas Novotny (Events
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Laura Mark (Head of Casework)
Gus Wray (Caseworker)

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Barry Needoff
Graham Orbell
Robert Williams
Polly Schlesinger
David Thomas
Simon Wartnaby
*Plus our event volunteers, tour
guides and those who help us
in so many other ways*

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