



CITY HERITAGE SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2016

It is with sadness that we have to record the death of Douglas Woodward on 11 December 2016. Douglas was the prime mover in establishing the City Heritage Society and an active supporter to the end. I am not the person to write a definitive obituary having only known him in recent years. By the time I knew him, though physically frail, his mental capacity and lively interest in the City were undiminished. Indeed it was only a short time ago that he penned his objections to the proposed new concert hall, an opinion taken seriously enough to provoke a detailed response.

I had looked forward to seeking his view of the Listing of Stirling's No. 1 Poultry which I'm sure would have been trenchant. His love of and concern for the City will be sorely missed.

A fuller obituary by past chairman Anne Thomas is included in this report.

Lecture



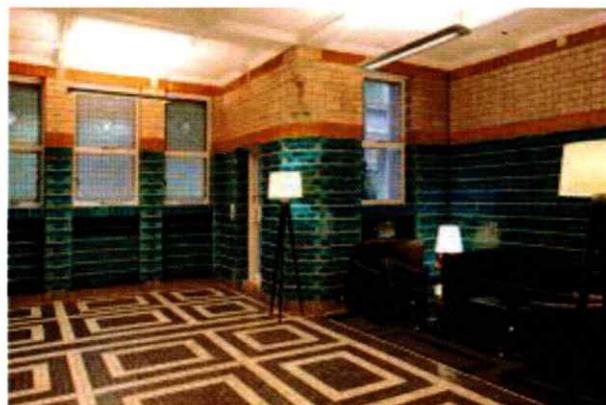
Turning to happier events, we were privileged to host a lecture on 1st April 2016 entitled "Sir

Horace Jones, Smithfield Market and the Curious Phoenix Columns" delivered by Dr Jennifer Freeman, a distinguished member of our Society. It was held at The Gallery, 77 Cowcross Street by kind permission of Alan Baxter Associates Ltd.

The lecture, despite its historic nature, had current interest as this part of the Smithfield complex is the proposed new location for the City of London Museum. It was well attended and received by over 60 people.

Visits

We paid visits to 5 places of interest during the year, most of them through the good offices of past chairman Desmond FitzPatrick.



In February we visited Holland House (above) not the remnants of the former Holland House in Holland Park, but an office building in Bury Street in the City, completed in 1916. Built for a Dutch shipping line, hence its name, it was also designed by a Dutch architect, H P Berlage. Its advanced design for its date coupled with a striking faience exterior, fine tiling and light fittings within and a striking stylised sculpture of ship's prow by the S.E. entrance by J Mendes da Costa, makes it an

unexpected and little known treasure in The City.

In April we visited the Chartered Insurance Institute building at 20 Aldermanbury. Built in 1932/33 in contrast to Holland House, this building, by M.E. and O. H. Collins, draw its inspiration from Tudor times. It is beautifully executed and has an impressive hall.



In June we visited Girdlers' Hall (above). A post wars rebuild but in a determined traditional neo Georgian design by C. Ripley of Waterhouse and Ripley. Sitting among its towering neighbours with a public garden in front and a private garden behind, it makes a charming haven in the City's bustle.



In July we visited Richmond House (above) venturing into Westminster. It was built as Richmond Terrace in 1822/5. Now united into one building and extended and converted by Whitfield Partners, Richmond House now houses the DHSS headquarters. Internally the grand rooms on the first floor behind the main façade have been retained. None of the

interiors, though grand, appear to date back to 1822. As so often happened to such grand houses, they were revamped internally to suit the taste of subsequent owners. It was interesting to see that most of these grand rooms, all of which have chandeliers, are now occupied by general staff with their metal desks and computers. The minister occupies a room on the far less prestigious 2nd floor.

In September we visited Cutlers' Hall (below). This arose from the fact the refurbishment of its façade was awarded a Commendation in the 2016 City Heritage Award. More details of this are given below in the report on this year's Award.



The Hall was designed in by T. Taylor Smith and built in 1886/7. Its façade on Warwick Lane is fairly plain though enlivened by a terracotta frieze [see below re the City Heritage Award]. Internally free neo Jacobean is employed with such pleasing conceits as a column sitting on the back of a carved elephant; elephants feature in the company arms. The Dining Hall's hammer beam roof's hammer posts terminate in elephants heads. A nice touch was that we were welcomed with tea or coffee and sent on our way with a glass of Madeira.

Annual Dinner

The Annual Dinner was once again held in the Members' Club at Guildhall with 27 people attending. We were pleased to welcome as our guests Richard Brindley, Master of the Worshipful Company of Chartered Architects,

and his wife, Harry Evans and Andrew Hunter, who acted as assessors for the award from the Painter-Stainers' Company and Mrs Hunter. Regrettably the then current Master Painter-Stainer was called away on business but we were fortunate to have Past Master Colin Goodman and his wife instead.



The Principal Guest was the Rev Dr Alan McCormack currently Dean of Goodenough College and formerly rector of St Botolph without Bishopsgate. His lively and entertaining speech was well received.

City Heritage Award 2016

This year the Assessors, while unanimous as to the best scheme, were also very impressed by a second submission, that of the restoration of the façade of the Cutlers' Company Hall in Warwick Lane, especially the careful work done to the terra cotta frieze designed by Benjamin Creswick, a protégé of Ruskin. This depicts the process of knife production at the time, the late 1860's. So the Assessors took the rare step of awarding a Commendation to the firm that carried out the work, the Cliveden Workshop Ltd.

The main award went to the reinstatement of the Taylor's Treasury in the Bank of England. This was designed by Sir Herbert Baker based on a design for a similarly proportioned room designed by Sir Robert Taylor which was destroyed in extending the Bank in the 1930's. Sir Herbert has incorporated external stone

door cases designed by Sir Robert which were rescued and used internally by Sir Herbert. The room, which was originally a lobby to spaces accessible to the public, was considered redundant in the 1960's. It was by passed and converted into archive storage by the erection of concrete block walls and installation of metal shelving.



The Lord Mayor flanked by Peter Luscombe (left) and the Master Painter-Stainer

Fortunately someone had the forethought to mothball the original bronze doors and fittings and a single light fitting and stash them in recesses behind the new block walls and to note their location in notices attached to the partitions. This made it possible, when it was decided that the archived material should be moved elsewhere, to reinstate the lobby. This has been done with great care to match the original Herbert Baker colour schemes, to replicate missing light fittings and reproduced the original floor pattern. This last, however, has been done in carpet rather than the original linoleum and this, coupled with the careful introduction of acoustic panels to the domed and vaulted ceiling, has given this space the facility to hold receptions etc. This aspect particularly pleased the Assessors.

The Lord Mayor, Alderman the Lord Mountevans, accompanied by his wife, having unveiled the plaque, presented the Commendation Certificate to Lewis Proudfoot representing Cliveden Conservation Workshop Ltd and the Certificate for the Award to Robin Dhar representing Donald Insall and

Associates, the architects for the reinstatement of the Taylor's Treasury.

The Lord Mayor and his wife displayed a lively interest in both projects talking at length to both teams.

We would like to record our thanks to our co-sponsors of the Award, The Worshipful Company of Painter-Stainers, who not only supplied two of the Assessors and the location for the Assessors' deliberations, but also commissioned the hand crafted certificates and the bronze plaque. We also thank the City Planning officers for their help in compiling a list of suitable candidates for the Award.

The teams involved in the projects are noted below:-

Cutlers' Hall

Project Manager for Cutlers Company
- Richard Mais

Executive contractors
- Cliveden Conservation Workshop Ltd

Bank of England, Taylor's Treasury

Project Manager for the Bank
- John Reed

Architects
- Donald Insall and Partners

The Assessors for the City Heritage Award 2016:-

Peter Luscombe RIBA

Desmond FitzPatrick FSA

Annie Hampson BA Hons DipTP MRTPI
[City Architect]

Harry Evans FCIQB FRSA ACIrb

Andrew Hunter dip arch RIBA Grad Dipl
Cons[AA]

Dr Jennifer Freeman OBE BAHons Dipl
Cons[AA] HonsDoctArts FRSA FSA

Frank Kellsall MA FSA IHBC

Planning Application Comments

The Society continues to try to review all planning applications made to the City and comment on them when this is considered appropriate.

In 2016 we sent letters commenting on, or raising objections to, some 13 applications ranging from objections to adding illuminated advertising panels to bus stops to objecting to a proposed virtually 21 storey office block in Fenchurch Street which would overshadow Fountain Court. The final application to which we raised objection was the proposed redevelopment of a site in Aldgate High Street which would entail the loss of the 'Still and Star' public house, a unique survival in the city and rare in the country of a slum pub, which comprised a single bar served by a still room in the rear, hence the name of the pub.

The Society and Its Future

The City is an odd place in many respects, not least in having very few residents, though the number of residents is increasing judging from the number of planning applications to convert buildings, particularly in Conservation Areas, to residential use.

However, these are not in terraces or residential streets and they do not form communities. The only large residential community is that of the Barbican so it is not surprising that when the late Douglas Woodward conceived the idea of having local representation on the newly formed Conservation Area Advisory Committee, he built it around the Barbican Residents' Association. Barbican residents still form the bulk of its membership.

The lack of definable residential areas has the consequence that the City Corporation is exposed disproportionately to pressure from

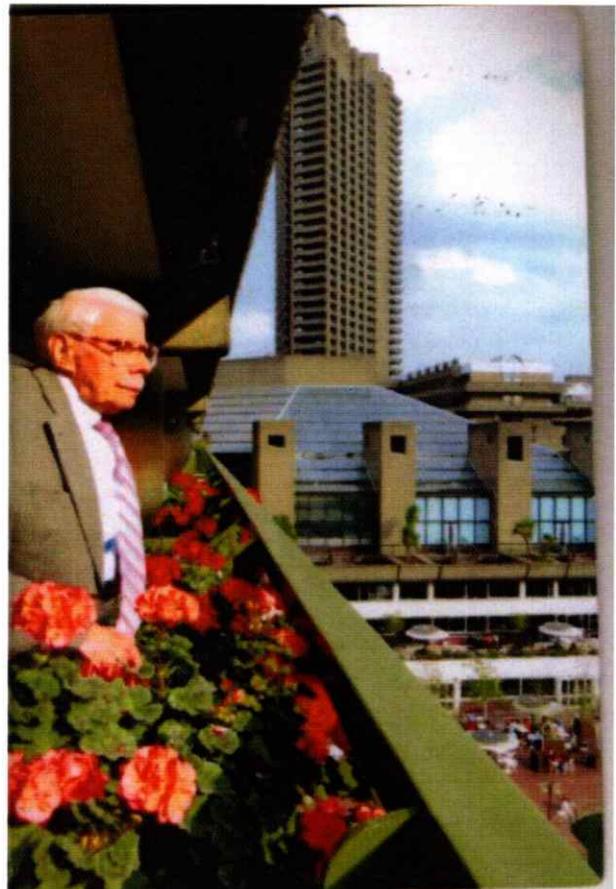
commercial interests and the City Heritage Society, as I see it, tries to some extent to redress this balance. It does this in three ways, first, by being represented on the City's Conservation Area Advisory Committee, secondly, in partnership with the Worshipful Company of Painter-Stainers, by promoting interest in conservation issues through the City Heritage Award and thirdly, by trying to review all planning applications to the City and commenting on them when this seems appropriate.

The Society is still without a secretary and I must thank Patrick Burke for undertaking some of the secretarial work such as taking the minutes of committee meetings and sending out calling notices in addition to being the membership secretary, and to Desmond Fitzpatrick for his help in finding and arranging most of our visits. I must also not forget Antony Croot for volunteering to replace Les Breadmore as Treasurer.

When I took over the Chairmanship I promised to serve for three years, well I'm now in my third year but there is no obvious successor to me on the horizon. I believe the need to keep conservation issues to the fore is just as relevant now as when the Society was founded in 1978 and so I am prepared to serve for a fourth year to give time to find a new chairman. I shall then be 83 and I do not wish to continue after that. If no replacement can be found then I think it will be necessary to decide if the Society can carry on. I should be sorry for it to fold as, as I think I've made clear, I believe it still serves a useful function but one has to be realistic.

Peter Luscombe (Chairman)

OBITUARY: C. Douglas Woodward, CBE, 1924-2016



Douglas was, amongst all his many other City and professional achievements, the leader for nearly fifty years of the conservation, historic buildings, and urban design movement in the City. He had tenacity of purpose, staying power, political skills of a very high order, and organising ability. He persevered, in spite of set-backs in an often hostile context, and achieved a very great deal. Tenacious and astute, Douglas Woodward was the best kind of local authority man.

In 1970 he moved with his wife Ann to the new Barbican estate in the City of London to be near his work with the Fire Protection Society where he was Director from 1960-89. He moved into the Barbican just at the time the City was still recovering from war damage and recreating its image as a modern City. He was quickly co-opted onto the Barbican Residents Committee, and, concerned about the proposed new modern development

threatening historic London, and not being represented on the new Conservation Area Advisory Committee of the City of London, the Barbican Area Conservation Group was set up in 1973 with Douglas and Anthony Henfrey as co-founders. This Conservation Group soon grew into the wider City Heritage Society, becoming the City's recognised conservation and amenity society, influencing planning policies in the City and commenting on draft policies and on planning applications.

Following various popular visits organised by Ann Woodward, and walks through the City, in 1974 Anthony Henfrey produced the society's very well received first publication: *'Passageways and Alleyways'*. Then in 1978 the City Heritage Society, in partnership with the Company of Painter-Stainers began to present an Annual Award for the best conservation development in the City, which encouraged architects and developers to produce better designed buildings and convert historic buildings more sensitively.

Douglas himself in his book *'Voyage round a Barbican Garden'* believed that 'the most enduring of the society's achievements, one that has gone on as strongly under my three successors as City Heritage chairmen – Anne Thomas, Desmond FitzPatrick and Peter Luscombe – as when it began, is the Award made for the conservation and restoration of buildings in the City of London.' He quoted the Royal Exchange, the Mansion House, Bank of England Museum and St Paul's Cathedral (for its brilliant interior restoration), together with less flamboyant buildings such as a derelict cold store under the arches of Cannon Street Station, an 18th c. warehouse, and a merchant's house of 1679 as worthy beneficiaries of the CHS Annual Award.

CHS was a major player in restraining excessive and ugly development in the City. It was also influential in preserving the historic passageways, alleys and lanes of the City, such as Bow Lane and Carter Lane. CHS had strongly opposed Palumbo's plans for the redevelopment of the No. 1 Poultry site with a Mies-van-der-Rohe eighteen storey tower

block close to St Paul's, eventually winning the argument to retain the ancient Bucklersbury and Pancras Lane running through the watered down replacement building. In future all major high-rise buildings were confined to the 'Eastern Cluster', thus preserving the historic setting of St Paul's and the heart of our 2,000 year old City.

When the magnificent Baltic Exchange building was partially destroyed in 1993, by an IRA bomb, Douglas – and the CHS – campaigned tirelessly against a Norman Foster proposal to erect a gigantic 1,200 ft tower on the site – and won! The height of sky-scrapers in the City would be limited in the future, even those in the 'Eastern Cluster' – partly as a result of the City Heritage's arguments to protect the views of and the area around St Paul's and the heart of the historic City.

In December 1971 a year after moving into the Barbican, Douglas was also elected as a 'Common Councillor' for the City Corporation, representing Cripplegate, and becoming chairman of the City's Libraries, Art Galleries and Records Committees. He was also chairman of the Irish Society. In 1993 he became Chief Commoner of the City of London (analogous perhaps with the role of Leader of the House of Commons, but in a non-political body). In that year he accompanied the Lord Mayor on overseas trade visits and entertained foreign dignitaries and politicians at Guildhall, such as King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. At one glittering banquet in 1993 he received the medal and star of the Portuguese 'Order of Merit' for his contribution to a successful relationship between the two countries.

In 1989 in his capacity as Director of the Fire Prevention Society, liaising with his European counterparts, Douglas was awarded an OBE in recognition of his services to fire safety and his role in the fight to control arson. He was also chairman of the GFPFA Europe and the first director general of the Arson Prevention Bureau and the first President of the European Area Prevention Institute. He received the

Gold Medal from the King of Sweden for his services to fire safety.

In 1994 his OBE was upgraded to CBE for services to the City of London. The City is a better place today, in conservation and environmental terms, than it would have been without him. Douglas remained Chairman of City Heritage from 1973 until 2008, and was President until he died in December, 2016.

Douglas was born on 26th October, 1924 to Bertram William Woodward, shipwright aboard HMS Inflexible, and his wife Frances, in Larksfield, Kent. Educated at Hastings Grammar School, twinned with St. Albans during the War, Douglas obtained his first job with the help of Ann Duncan, whom he later married, as a journalist on the Sunday Pictorial, becoming Features Editor on the Times Review of Industry. He then moved to Public Relations and worked for the British

Standards Institution. There he was asked to write the definitive history of standards work: 'The Story of Standards', 1972. He began working for the Fire Protection Association in 1964 and was its Director from 1980-89.

Douglas always said he owed all his successes in life to his wife, whom he married in 1950. She died in December, 2008. Douglas continued with his work, writing half a dozen books and many articles about his life and work in the City, in spite of ill-health. He died this year, just before Christmas, on Sunday, 11th December, and will be greatly missed.

Anne Thomas

The Society's Executive Committee 2016

C. Douglas Woodward CBE	President
Peter Luscombe RIBA	Chairman
Desmond FitzPatrick BA FSA	Vice Chairman
Antony Croot*	Hon. Treasurer
Patrick Burke	Membership Secretary
Anthony Hemy RIBA	Planning Report & Webmaster

* Les Breadmore resigned July 2016

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