



CITY HERITAGE SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017

I started last year's Annual Report by recording the death of our founder Douglas Woodward so it seems fitting to start this report by recording the bequest of £10,000 to the Society in Douglas's will. This puts the Society on a sound base financially.

Regarding the future of the Society I can only report that the search for a new Chairman to replace me continues.

VISITS



In January we visited the Scotland Office located in Dover House, Whitehall. It is one of those quite unexpected hidden gems which one passes on the street without knowing what lies within.

Built as a town house in 1754-8 designed by James Paine, it was extended by Henry Holland for the occupancy of the Duke of York. It retains a room painted in the Etruscan or Raphaelesque style which is a rarity as well as the Grand Stair housed in a rotunda under a shallow dome. This stair leads to the grand rooms which are located on the first floor.. Among the house's residents was Lady Caroline Lamb who had the infamous affair with Lord Byron. An intriguing detail is a rope

handrail still on the grand stair said to have been installed to assist Lord Byron who had a club foot.

In February we visited Goodenough College called after Frederick Goodenough, a chairman of Barclays Bank whose brainchild it was.



It is a college, i.e. residential accommodation for university students studying in London but students who are deemed to be exceptional in their field of study. Originally intended for students from the Empire, it now accommodates students from around the world.

The main purpose-built building was designed by Sir Herbert Baker with later modifications but the college has acquired most of Mecklenburg Square. It provides accommodation not only for single students but for married students and even some families.

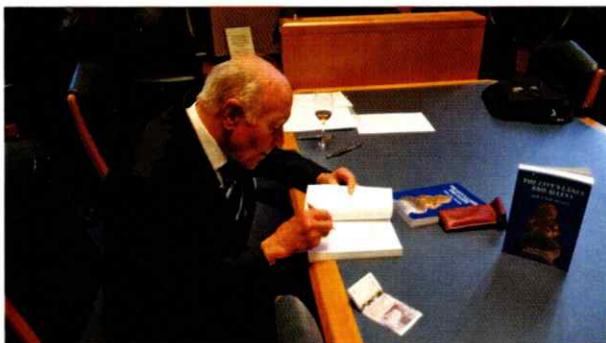
We were conducted on our tour by the Dean, the Reverend Alan McCormack, seen overleaf in Mecklenburg Square. He is the former rector of St Botolph without Bishopsgate. Two features of this visit stick out in my mind. The first was that we were given the chance to visit the garden in the centre of the Square which is jealously guarded by the Square's residents

who have exclusive access to it. The second is that the Dean invited several students to join us over refreshments at the end of our visit which those attending much appreciated.



Our AGM was held in March once again in the Aldermen's Court Room of the Guildhall by courtesy of the City Corporation. The usual business was transacted and we were pleased to accept Sanya Juliuson's offer to join the Committee.

After the formal business was concluded Desmond FitzPatrick, our Vice Chairman, gave a short talk on his recently published book "The City's Lanes and Alleys and a Few Streets" which was well received. Desmond is seen here signing one of his books.



A Gresham College Lecture took place in June. The event was not strictly a CHS affair but the members of the Society were invited to attend and several of us took up the invitation. Its title was "Fifty Years of Conservation Areas". The speakers were Professor Simon Thurley CBE, Lester Hillman and our own Vice Chairman, Desmond Fitzpatrick.

We visited the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in Whitehall in July.

Our excellent guide gave us a rundown of the history of the site and the stages of development of the current buildings which were designed by Sir George Scott, if reluctantly, in a classical style.

The Locarno Suite, restored in 1988-92 to George Scott's original decor, we were only able to get a glimpse of due to its being prepared for an event but the Former India Office interiors, which are by Matthew Digby Wyatt, were very impressive. The highlight of the visit, however, was quite unplanned as we met Palmerston, the famous Foreign Office cat, who happened to be being carried up the Grand Stair (below) at just the right moment.



City Heritage Award 2017

The presentation of this Award by The Lord Mayor of London Andrew Parmley, now Sir Andrew Parmley, also took place in July on 21st of that month.

The winning project was the extension and refurbishment of Salters' Hall. The original building completed in 1976 was designed by Sir Basil Spence in the brutalist style. The architects for the alterations of this Grade II listed building are dMFK. The Assessors were

impressed that the extensions to the office space had been achieved without marring the sculptural quality of the Spence design. They also appreciated that the new entrance lobby, treated as a pavilion, not only solved the inherent circulation problems of the building but, by echoing the panelling detail of the David Hicks Great Hall, successfully provided a visual link for those visiting the ceremonial parts of the building.



After the presentation of the Award we were privileged to take lunch in the Great Hall by invitation of the Salters' Company.

We would like to thank the Worshipful Company of Painter–Stainers for continuing to be our joint sponsors for this Award.

The Assessors for the City Heritage Award 2017:

Peter Luscombe RIBA

Desmond FitzPatrick FSA

Harry Evans FCIOB FRSA ACI Arb

Andrew Hunter dip Arch RIBA Grad Dipl Cons[AA]

Dr Jenny Freeman OBE BAHons
DiplCons(AA) HonDocArts FRSA

Frank Kellsall MA FSA IHBC

In October the Annual Dinner was once again held in the Guildhall Club. Some 46 people attended and we were pleased to have Annie Hampson, the City Planning and Transport Director, as our principal guest. She emphasised in her speech the importance of speaking up for conservation issues which can so easily be side-lined.



In December we were once again welcomed at St Botolph without Bishopsgate for the parish Carol Service. The singing was led by the splendid choir and band of the Coopers' Company and Coborn School which always makes this such an enjoyable event.

Planning Application Comments

The Society reviewed something like 130 Planning Applications made to the City during the year. We had no objections to raise about the majority.

Douglas Woodward remarked on last year's Annual Report that it would be helpful to give a brief explanation of the comments made on Planning Applications to which we did object, rather than just providing a list. So the following is a list of those Planning Applications with a summary of our comments.

1] Eldon House, 2-3 Eldon St EC2M 7LS
We raised objections to the proposed alteration of the entrance doors and the introduction of an inappropriate canopy.

2] 23-29 Eastcheap EC3M 1DE

We objected to the proposed introduction of a ventilation grille cutting through the central stone column of a window.

3] King's House 36-37 King Street EC2V 8BB

We objected to alterations to the introduction of unbroken glass windows on the King Street frontage omitting any mullions in the creation of a retail unit.

4] Telephone Kiosks O/S Royal Exchange

The proposal was to turn 2 adjacent traditional telephone kiosks into small retail units. We objected to this proposal as we considered that it would be an unsuitable and visually unacceptable use for these kiosks.

5] St Paul's Cathedral, St Paul's Churchyard

The proposal is to install two disabled ramps to replace the current temporary ramp to the North Porch of the Cathedral. We considered that, while reluctantly accepting the need for such access, the detailing was unnecessarily intrusive.

6] Procession House 55 Ludgate Hill EC4M 7JW

The proposed alterations to the facades of this building were, we considered, an architectural dumbing down of a characterful modern building and were undesirable especially where it related to the adjacent former City Bank by T. E. Collcutt.

7] Dauntsey House, 4A&4B Frederick's Place EC2R 8AB.

This proposal affects both Ironmonger Lane and Frederick's Place. We objected to the loss of Dauntsey House, an interesting Edwardian brick and stone building and its replacement with another bland office block with an unnecessary shopping arcade at street level. In Frederick's Place we particularly regretted the removal of a robustly detailed stone arch at its West end, and to the change in character of Frederick's Place by forcing through an unnecessary pedestrian corridor to connect it to Ironmonger Lane, duplicating the existing route a short distance away provided by St Olave's Court.

The Society's Executive Committee 2017

Peter Luscombe RIBA

Chairman

Desmond FitzPatrick BA FSA

Vice Chairman

Antony Croot

Hon. Treasurer

Patrick Burke

Membership Secretary

Anthony Hemy RIBA

Planning Report & Webmaster

D Sanya Juliuson

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