



# CITY HERITAGE SOCIETY

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023

As we continue to focus on rebuilding the Society after Covid, I'm delighted to say that we have launched our new website. While there are still some elements to be ironed out, it is great that we have a web presence again after a hiatus of some years. We have also recently joined LinkedIn, with an eye on the number of members and prospective members who use this social network, aimed at professionals.

Please save the date for our next AGM and Annual Dinner – 16 May 2024 at the Guildhall. As you will see later in this report, the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner was a fantastic evening and very well attended; I'm looking forward to seeing as many members as possible in the spectacular dining room overlooking Guildhall Yard.

As we work to reinvigorate the Society, there are opportunities to volunteer in all aspects of our work. I am particularly keen to hear any ideas for events that would interest members, and in anticipation of an upcoming retirement, we are also on the hunt for someone to spend a little time each month examining planning applications and listed buildings consents in the City. The post attracts an honorarium. Please do get in touch if you would be able to support our work in these ways or any others.

*Chris Fowler, Chairman*

### PLANNING APPLICATION COMMENTS

Two major developments in the City were in the news. Firstly, the re-development of Liverpool station. The development proposes to add nearly 1 million square feet of commercial accommodation and involves the partial demolition of a listed hotel, namely the Andaz, a Victorian building, which currently consists of eight storeys. The development would mean that a further 16 storeys would be built on top of the hotel.



The Society has written to the City of London objecting to the plans on the grounds that the whole scheme is overdeveloped.

The Society has joined an alliance of conservation groups who have already raised objections. The coalition includes the Victorian Society, SAVE Britain's Heritage, the Twentieth Century Society, the Georgian Group, Historic Buildings and Places, London Historians and the Spitalfields Trust.

The other development is that known as London Wall West which is on the site of the Museum of London and Bastion House and involves demolishing the site and building new offices.



There has been opposition, particularly from Barbican residents who see the project as inappropriate given that the Barbican Estate is listed Grade II. Residents point to the modern trend of refitting and re-purposing buildings. The opinion of the Society is that the whole scheme will go to appeal and that, in the end, a compromise will be reached. The following applications were examined:

33 Creechurch Lane; St Helen's Bishopsgate; 10 Trinity Square; 19-21 Billiter Street; 33 Lauderdale Tower; St Paul's Cathedral School; Hill House; land bounded by Fleet Street, Salisbury Court, Salisbury Square, Primrose Hill and Whitefriars Street; site bounded by Fenchurch Street, Mark Lane, Dunster Court and Mincing Lane; the Mansion House, 1-4 Liverpool Street, 11-12 Broomfield Street, 10 Foster Lane, City of London School for Girls, Middle Temple Hall and the NED Hotel.

## **ANNUAL DINNER**

After a gap of some four years, the Annual Dinner, on this occasion marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Society, took place in the Guildhall Club where 25 members had an excellent meal allied with

good service. There were a number of toasts with the Chairman toasting, for the first time, King Charles and other members of the Royal Family. The evening was certainly a success.



There was no guest speaker but we hope to remedy that in the future. Our thanks to Dorian Crone for bringing along a number of high profile guests from the world of architecture.

**The Society's Executive Committee 2023**

Desmond Fitzpatrick FSA	President
*Chris Fowler	Chairman
Dorian Crone RIBA, MRTPI, IHBC	Vice- Chairman
Antony Croot	Hon. Treasurer
Patrick Burke	Membership Secretary
Anthony Hemy RIBA	Planning Applications & Webmaster
D Sanya Juliuson	
David Kirkby	
*from April 2022	

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