



# CITY HERITAGE SOCIETY

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2018

I have continued to search for a replacement for myself as Chairman of the City Heritage Society, but, having now approached 6 possible candidates, so far without success. To organise the City Heritage Award takes quite a long time starting shortly after the installation of the new Lord Mayor so I have committed myself to another year and will continue to try to find a successor. If any member of the Society can suggest anyone that would be suitable and willing to take on the responsibility please let me know.

### Visits



In April we were fortunate to be allowed to visit the recently completed Leathersellers' latest Hall (above). Completed in 2016 and accessed off St Helen's Place as was their previous Hall but now on the South side of St Helen's Place. I say "fortunate" as this is not a Hall readily available to the public.

It incorporates a number of features from the former Hall. Its Dining room is, unusually, at the lower level and windowless. It is panelled with a specially commissioned tapestry relating to the leathersellers' craft at high level. The reception room at ground floor level (opposite) with its spectacular modern chandelier has a large glazed wall through which only a few yards away, can be seen the medieval side wall and gothic traceried windows of Great St Helen's. The Court Room is also timber panelled but featuring a rescued chandelier. The Library containing an important collection is much more intimate being panelled in lighter wood. We were made very welcome and given tea and cakes.

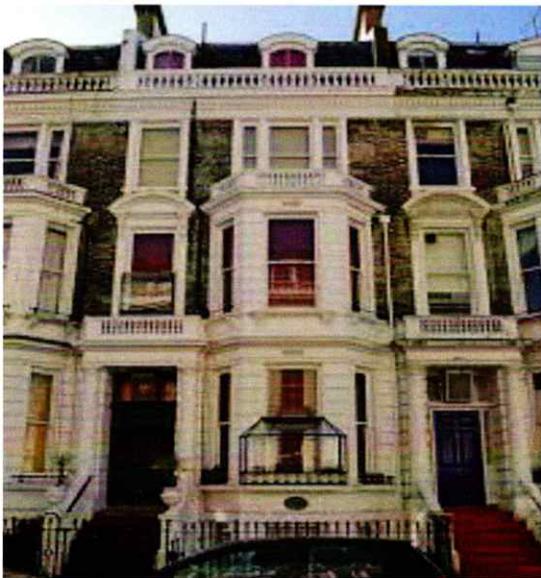


In May we visited Charterhouse (above) which is now much more open to the public having a small museum. With an excellent guide, one of the Brothers, we were taken through the fascinating history of this group of buildings and its beautiful gardens. I found it particularly interesting that, in its days as a mansion just outside the City, it was visited by both Queen Elizabeth I and

Charles II while they waited to see how the City would receive them.

The brothers, who now include women, have their own apartments but there is also an infirmary to cater for their failing years.

In September we visited the Linley Sambourne House (below) in Kensington. This is not such a well-known venue. The house was owned by Edward Linley Sambourne who worked for 'Punch' from 1867 eventually becoming its chief cartoonist. The house was left to his son who kept it more or less as it came to him, with the result that it is a remarkable survival of well-to-do middle class home complete with furnishing, ornaments, picture and light fittings.



Our conducted tour not only told us about the house but also gave us an insight to the work of Linley Sambourne. The feature that sticks out in my recollection is the minute garden which is screened from view from inside the house by stained glass filled windows. This, we were told, was because in Sambourne's day it was not a garden at all but the drying yard for the laundry. The only "garden" was housed in a glass case projecting from the front bay window which can still be seen from the street. I also appreciated the separate bell pulls by the entrance gate for tradesmen and visitors.

In October Desmond Fitzpatrick conducted a walking tour for the Society in the area of Buckingham Street in Westminster. It started at the York Watergate (below), now well back from the Thames behind Embankment Gardens. It was the river entrance to York house.



York House was one of the long vanished great houses that lined the Thames in the days when travelling by water was a common mode of London transport. Buckingham Street (below) is lined with houses dating from the late 1600's through the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, plus a striking Victorian building on the corner with John Adam Street which once housed the office of the eccentric architect William Burges who was the brother in-law of the designer of this building, a certain Mr Pullan.

Desmond then lead us up John Adams St making a brief detour down York Buildings to view from a service entrance that dived quickly underground. Here we could see some of the surviving brick vaulting that supporting the Adelphi development by the Adam Brothers, most of which has been swept away making room for the now Grade II listed Art Deco Adelphi building constructed in the 30's. We detoured down

Robert St, the West side of which retains some of the Adam Brothers original terraces (below).



Returning to John Adam St the vista is closed by the most complete fragment of the Adam Brothers scheme centred on the pedimented No. 7. This is where our tour ended, a tour enlivened by Desmond's erudite commentary on the architecture and background history of the buildings and area.

### **City Heritage Award 2018**



The City Heritage Award this year attracted 6 entries which were scattered the whole length of the City from close to the Tower of London in the East to close to Blackfriars station in the West. This, on an unusually hot day in April, gave the Assessors a strenuous task.

There were two major schemes converting important buildings to hotels. The Assessors in the end decided that the most appropriate scheme for the Award was the conversion of the former Midland Bank on Poultry designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens into the NED hotel. They considered that the manner and ingenuity with which the many remaining important elements had been incorporated gave this submission the edge over the other schemes.

The award was presented the Lord Mayor, Alderman Charles Bowman, on 20<sup>th</sup> July. The Architects for the project were EPR Architects. The interior designers who had an important role in this project were Soho House and the contractors were Ardmore Construction Ltd.

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 2018:**

Peter Luscombe RIBA

Desmond FitzPatrick FSA

Andrew Hunter dip Arch RIBA Grad Dipl Cons[AA]

Dr Jenny Freeman OBE BAHons DiplCons(AA) HonDocArts FRSA

Frank Kellsall MA FSA IHBC

Dorian Crone BA, BArch, Dip TP, RIBA

### **Annual Dinner**

Also in October we held our Annual Banquet once again at the Guildhall Club.



Our principal guest and speaker was Julian Briant, the current Master of the Worshipful Company of Painter-Stainers'. He was a very appropriate speaker as, not only are the Painter-Stainers our co-sponsors of the City Heritage Award, but Julian, who is a surveyor, has been one of our assessors for the Award on several occasions.



Though smaller in numbers than last year, it was I believe very much enjoyed by all who attended.

### **Carol Service**

The final event of the year, ignoring the City Heritage Award, which I have already covered, was the Carol Service. We were again made very welcome at the Parish Carol Service at St Botolph-without-Bishopsgate which has a new Priest-in-charge, the Rev David Armstrong. The service was greatly enlivened by the participation of the Choir and Band of

Cooper's Company and Coborn School. The service was followed by mince pies and mulled wine which gave our group the chance to socialise.

### **Planning**

We welcome the designation of the Barbican Estate and the Golden Lane Estate as the latest conservation areas in the City. These two post-war developments represent the high standard of design which is now being recognised as worthy of careful consideration.

### **Planning Application Comments**

A] Three proposals to which we objected were related to proposed public telephone installations. These applications are trying to use regulations permitting public telephone boxes to be erected without planning consent brought in at a time when provision of public telephones was considered desirable. With the advent of the mobile telephone, these conditions no longer apply but the regulations have not been rescinded. We consider that all these applications are an attempt to place advertisements on the public footpath. The three sites involved were:

i] Outside 128 Moorgate EC2M 6SX

ii] Outside Adelaide House EC2 7PD

iii] 26 Liverpool Street EC2M 7PD

B] Priory Court, Cloth Fair EC1A 7JQ

We objected to the replacement of sliding sash windows with plain glass windows with no sub-division which made the building less compatible with its neighbours.

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

We objected to the design of new shop windows and entrance door.

D] Sherbourne House, 119-121 Cannon Street

We objected to a so-called dormer window which in fact stretched across most of the width of the building.

E] 25-26 Lime Street EC3

We did not object to the proposed increase in height of this building but were unhappy with the way it was handled.

F] Seal House, Swan Lane EC4Z 3TN

We had various comments on the new building which formed part of this application. In addition, we were unhappy with the extension over the service entrance to Fishmongers' Hall which introduced inappropriate hydroponic planting, a scalloped screen and an enormous coat of arms over inappropriate industrial gates.

G] Brewers' Hall, Aldermanbury Square EC2

The proposal is to add a double storey height extension on the form of a steep mansard with double storey height dormers which

spoils the proportions of the building and to this we objected.

We did not object to the increased height but did object to its treatment especially the double height dormers.

H) 120 Cannon Street, EC4

We did not object to the increased height but did object to its treatment especially the double height dormers.

**The Society's Executive Committee 2018**

Peter Luscombe RIBA

Chairman

Desmond FitzPatrick FSA

Vice Chairman

Antony Croot

Hon. Treasurer

Patrick Burke

Membership Secretary

Anthony Hemy RIBA

Planning Report & Webmaster

D Sanya Juliuson

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