



THE ARCHITECTS' COMPANY

MASTER'S NEWSLETTER
Autumn/Winter 2020



Original drawing by Liveryman Sherin Aminossehe



THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF CHARTERED ARCHITECTS

MASTER

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RENTER WARDEN

Chris Dyson

JUNIOR WARDEN

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Nigel Ostime

Andrew Reynolds

Audrey Hesse

Chris Williamson

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INTRODUCTION FROM THE MASTER



12th January 2021

Dear Wardens,
Liverymen,
Freemen,
and Students,

In his Christmas message to the Livery, the Lord Mayor said he felt proud because he was both impressed and reassured by the determination of all in the Livery to adapt to the challenges and to contribute in the crisis, by helping the vulnerable and those most in need. He said *'Our long-standing philanthropic traditions have found a new relevance and urgency this year ... the Pan Livery Philanthropic Survey reveals that the total charitable giving of the Livery collectively during the last 12 months was £72 million. We believe this puts the Livery movement in the top 5 charitable grant makers in the UK, with this year much of that giving being focussed on communities and organisations impacted by COVID 19.'*

As Master of the Architect's Company, I too feel proud, and am both impressed and reassured by the determination of our members to adapt to the challenges and to contribute in the crisis, by helping the vulnerable and those most in need. This determination is set out in our 'Livery Lockdown' book, which is an extraordinary record of an extraordinary year, reflecting the true spirit of fraternity in troubled times. I hope you enjoyed reading it.

Many, many members have made wonderful contributions to the continued success of the Company during the 2020 pandemic, from the WCCA Charity's urgent creation of the Student Hardship Fund, to Temple Bar Trust's amazing on-line events, cocktail parties, talks and virtual tours. I feel proud of our Students who continued their studies during lockdown, adapted to a socially distanced world, and were supported by WCCA members throughout.

Heartfelt thanks to the Wardens, Officers and so many others in the

Company who helped keep WCCA members engaged and buoyant, by moving WCCA on-line and organising remarkable events and initiatives to keep the Company growing and relevant! We successfully set up a budding system, pairing younger and older members for mutual friendship and support, and developed our first St Thomas' Day Service and Art auction.

We held Practice Forums to provide business support and raised funds for charity. We welcomed our largest ever audience (120 guests) at our Annual lecture and received the largest ever number of entries (75 submissions) to the Student Drawing competition. We made careers films about our 'Lives in Architecture,' attracted 17 new members and 3 new student members during the pandemic and established the Future Minds Group to explore ways of increasing and widening our membership base further still. Thank you, one and all!

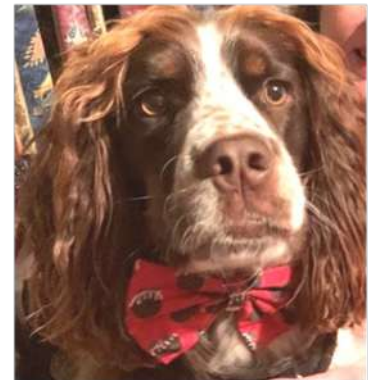
I sincerely hope 2021 is a better year for the Architects' Company, as well as for the City of London and our country. A vaccine is being rolled out across the UK, so let's move forward with renewed determination and optimism. As Shakespeare said in Richard III, *'True hope is swift and flies with swallow's wings. Kings it makes gods and meaner creatures kings.'*

With every best wish to you and your families for the coming year, from



Valerie

Valerie Owen Le Vaillant OBE



Marley received a snazzy Architect's bow tie for Christmas and, as he now looks perfect for the role, I hereby appoint him our Company Mascot until September 2021.

Installation Court Meeting

22 September 2020

I am delighted to report, three new Court Assistants were welcomed at the Installation Court meeting on 22nd September 2020 **Karen Cook, Ben Derbyshire** and **Luke Tozer**. They are all inspiring leaders of the architectural profession, as shown in their biographies:

KAREN COOK,
Founding
Partner PLP
Architecture



Karen is one of five founding partners and her experience extends from London across Europe to Paris, Berlin and Prague, where her work has focussed on the workplace sector and public realms.

She is leading the design for the tallest tower in the City of London, **22 Bishopgate**, which is now under construction for Lipton Rogers Developments and AXA IM-Real Assets. The project proposes innovative solutions to improve the pedestrian experience, with shared amenities creating a workplace to attract talented individuals, nestled below London's highest free-to-access public observatory.



22 Bishopgate

Karen is the design partner of our new building at **4 Cannon Street**, which houses the financial services company, Fidelity, in a red sandstone structure on an



4 Cannon Street

extremely sensitive site opposite St. Paul's Cathedral. Public realm improvements played a big part of this project and a new public garden faces the historic St. Nicholas Cole Abbey.

For our new UK headquarters for Qatar Airways in Mayfair, she helped lead a design that has rethought an urban site along Conduit Street into a bold yet sensitive architectural statement that reflects the company's goals and values.

In Paris, Karen led one of seven teams selected from over seven hundred applicants for the re-imagining of the Tour Montparnasse from a dated and inefficient eyesore into a twenty-first century working environment.

Also in France, Karen led the design of Tour First in La Défense, the tallest tower in France and the first to receive a sustainability rating, whose dynamic new top transforms the local skyline. Her award-winning Danube House in Prague was enriched by local craft and its dramatic interior spaces open the James Bond film "Casino Royale."

Karen's designs have been exhibited at the Royal Academy of Arts, London, and the Centre Pompidou, Paris. She spoke at the Royal Academy Mavericks programme, "After the Age of Starchitects", and at the ULI France convention in Paris on "Le Droit à l'Hypercentre."

Karen obtained a Bachelor of Architecture and a Bachelor of Art (Art and Architecture) from Rice University, and a Master of Architecture from Harvard University. Karen is a Court Assistant in the Worshipful Company of Chartered Architects and sits on the Board of the City Property Association. She has an interest in culture and language including French and German.



BEN DERBYSHIRE,
Chair, HTA Design LLP



Ben Derbyshire is Chair of HTA Design LLP. A member of the practice since 1976 and a partner since 1986, Ben became a main board director when the practice incorporated in 1998 and was appointed Managing Director of HTA Architects Ltd in 2005. Ben became Chair and Managing Partner of HTA Design LLP when it was formed in 2013 until 2016 and now acts as its Chair. He has built up broad-ranging expertise through involvement in much of HTA's work in regeneration, masterplanning, housing and mixed- **Chair, HTA Design LLP** use design across all sectors. Ben leads the practice's internal design review processes and heads up its marketing effort.

HTA Design LLP is a design consultancy to the home building industry specialising in Creative Collaboration between its multidisciplinary team, clients, communities and other professionals.

In 2020 the Practice won numerous awards, including:



Winner, off-site Awards,
Best use of volumetric Housing at George Street

Ben Derbyshire is Immediate Past President of RIBA. He was elected onto Council in 2014, becoming President Elect in August 2016 and serving as President from September 2017 to August 2019. The RIBA is a global professional



Winner, British Homes Awards, Best Community Living – Union Wharf.

membership body driving excellence in architecture. It serves members and society in order to deliver better buildings and places, stronger communities and a sustainable environment.

Ben is a Commissioner at Historic England. He was appointed in September 2019 for a period of four years.

Historic England is the public body that helps people care for, enjoy and celebrate England's spectacular historic environment.

Ben is a member of New London Sounding Board, the advisory Board to New London Architecture. New London Architecture is a membership organisation devoted to bringing People Together to Shape a Better City.

Ben is a Court Assistant in the Worshipful Company of Chartered Architects.



LUKE TOZER,
Director,
Pitman
Tozer
Architects
Ltd

Pitman Tozer Architects was founded by Tim Pitman and Luke Tozer in 2002, who continue to grow in their West London studio with great success. The firm have an

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un-waivered expertise in contemporary sustainable design and creating beautiful low-energy buildings. They were critically acclaimed for The Gap House, a narrow new-build terraced London townhouse which won the prestigious RIBA Manser Medal in 2009, and that's now home for Luke Tozer. Since then they have developed a reputation for designing and delivering elegant and practical housing on complicated, heavily constrained sites.

Tim Pitman and Luke Tozer are friends, they trained together and then shared a flat in Trellick Tower in Notting Hill, before becoming business partners. They both have a shared love of architecture and had one eye on the future and the way an evolving world would affect the industry that they wanted to work in. The practice grew from there. Luke and Tim always knew they would have a dedication to quality and the emphasis is very much on realizing client aspirations and creating a great body of work rather than growing the practice. Today, Pitman Tozer is a studio of energetic, engaged and curious architects. The Practice co-create schemes, each with a distinctive identity, borne out of considered research into the social, cultural and environmental nature of a place. Its approach is inclusive, collaborative and responsive and this is reflected in two of its most recent award-winning housing developments:

- Monier Road, a new build development for Peabody, comprising 71 homes in three blocks with commercial workspace on the ground floor, and

- The Reach, a 5,700m² residential-led mixed use development for Peabody



The Reach

Although Luke is perhaps best known for the design and delivery of his own Manser Medal winning 'Gap House,' his experience spans way beyond this, to landmark housing and mixed-use schemes across London. He champions collaboration with like-minded clients, experts and other practices to discover insights and new ways of working – ways that help to make the city a better place to live, work and play. For example, Luke currently heads up Pitman Tozer's cycle research unit, examining the provision and use of cycle storage in new housing schemes across London.

Luke studied architecture at the Glasgow School of Art and undertook a Master's degree at the University of Cambridge. He is a Court Assistant in the Worshipful

Monier Road



Installation Court Meeting

22 September 2020. Two Past Masters, Roger France and Mervyn Miller, retired from Court. We celebrate their careers and great contribution to the Architects' Company here:

Past Master Roger France



Who do liverymen thank most for choosing architecture as a future career? For myself, it was an enthusiastic art master at school combined with my father who allowed me to accompany him as Master Navigator on his travels around Bedfordshire on business. My interests have always lain as much in the personality of places as in individual buildings. Out of several aspects of my life as an architect I highlight three as 'firsts'.

After spending five years in the individualistic atmosphere of the AA, three at the Greater London Council (GLC) was challenging and enjoyable. I was claimed by Jack Whittle, head of its Town Development Division, to develop a system-produced house that would serve the initial influx of residents who were to follow the construction of the new factories in the Council's expanded towns at Andover, Thetford and Haverhill. The concrete parts were made in Norwich and the timber parts in Belfast, all being magically clipped together on site. The innovative aspect of the design is that although of factory-built parts, the houses were finished in materials that related to the localities in which they were located. In this sense they were the first example of a hybrid vernacular prefabrication. Hundreds of these houses were built, and as the lead designer it was gratifying that both the Ministry of Housing as well as the Civic Trust offered design awards.

Feeling constrained by the tightness of architecture I looked for opportunities in town planning and was awarded a scholarship at Imperial College to study transport engineering under Professor Buchannan. After the academic looseness of the AA it was good to climb within the tightness of this distinctive discipline. As the first architect on the course, I was able to employ my knowledge of design in the new realm of 'traffic architecture', thereby being the first 'traffic architect'.

With a transport engineering qualification under my belt, I was then appointed to the London Borough of Southwark to sort out the borough's transport networks. But I was soon transferred to lead the design team where, as the Borough's first conservation officer, I had to monitor around one thousand listed buildings. Additionally, I had the privilege of identifying and declaring its first twelve conservation areas. My favourite is that of St Mary's Rotherhithe incorporating the famous tunnel designed by the Brunels, father and son. Now there is a Brunel museum on the site, and one can rent the shaft for private events!

I claim other 'firsts' as well: participating in the establishment of the British Standard 7913:1988, *A Guide to the Conservation of Historic Buildings*; working on the first *Guidelines for Education and Training in Architectural Conservation* with ICOMOS; with UNESCO's International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), establishing the only joint Master's course between the two universities in Oxford; being a Founding Court member of a new Worshipful Company of Educators, and – of course - establishing the first formal mentoring scheme in the UK for architectural students in our own Company.

I have been doing some arithmetic. Of 36 years as an architect, I have been with the Company for 26, almost three-quarters of the time. And over that period, 22 years on the Education Committee and the Company's first Master of Students. It has been a particular pleasure to have started our mentoring scheme, the first formal scheme in the UK, the RIBA's not starting until 2003, but ours with clear management guidelines and formal agreements by way of indentures. Alas, I was a late starter as far as joining the Company is concerned, but I hope that our growing number of indentured students will not only reduce the average membership age overall, but also enable them to participate in the governance of the Company earlier in life.

History and relationships have always been part of my identity within our profession. Individual designs are always guided by our own values, be they conscious or unconscious. But creativeness can be seen in careful relationships as well, hence the importance of urban conservation as a discipline for providing physical and cultural briefs for individual buildings, be they existing or new. At any present moment we are simultaneously taking the past into the future, so we need to be sufficiently self-critical about present values with respect to other people, other cultures as well as considering the world's resources.

The heavy emphasis placed on the minutiae of building construction processes acts as a detriment to architects being sufficiently self-critical in this way. Such evaluation allows us to enter the realm of ethics and consequently that of ethical practices, and I have used the period of my retirement from full-time employment to explore further in this realm. The journey has taken me into the realm of academic chaplaincy, becoming a qualified Reader in the Church of England, first as Chaplain of the Worshipful Company of Educators and then of Queens' College Cambridge.

The philosopher Roger Scruton argued that we ought to follow ethical practices not only in our immediate occupations and for our close neighbours, but also to those in need who are distant from, and even unknown to, us. With respect to the former, the practice of conservation is ethical in that allows us to climb with imagination into the past, and to understand the perceptions of former generations. It also forces us to keep a close eye on resources ensuring their use with due economy, while not disadvantaging future generations. In these senses it carries the hallmark of an ethical practice, and I like to think that my past work as a conservator has complied with this definition. As far as the latter is concerned, I have retained an interest in medical ethics from my student days in London, and more recently have come to participate in the work of an international hospitaller order, the Order of St Lazarus.

This organisation provides support for medical relief overseas, having a particular focus on leprosy, a terrible disease which is still prevalent in Africa and the Far East. I established a scheme to fund medical students going abroad for their elective periods of training, and I have been awarded the order's own *chevalier de grace* for my work there. Some involvement with the community beyond the immediacy of architecture is important for us to keep a sense of perspective, and here I have always participated in the work of local and national amenity societies as design and planning adviser: the Neighbourhood Association in Cambridge, the Barnsbury Association in Islington, the Oxford Preservation, the Council for British Archaeology and the Victorian Society.

The work of an architect in the wider realms of urban development offers many opportunities for influencing the physical social and economic shape of the environments in which we live, work, move and have our being. As the Reverend Dr Allan Doig cautioned at the annual service in my year as Master: architects carry a huge responsibility in the realm of creation. "You can hold heaven in the palm of your hand: Take care how you handle it".

Past Master Dr. Mervyn Miller



Academic and Professional Summary

Degrees from Durham University 1966; University of Illinois 1970; Doctorate from Birmingham University 1981 on the influence of the Garden City on British statutory planning.

Professionally I gained Membership of the RTPI in 1973 (Fellowship 1981) and RIBA Fellowship in 2017. After 15 years as a Local Government Principal Conservation Officer, I founded my Sole-practitioner Heritage Expert Witness Consultancy in January 1988.

As Architect, Planner and Historian my 46 years' specialist expertise in conservation of Garden Cities includes Letchworth Garden City and Hampstead Garden Suburb (Director of HGS Trust 1979-2000, subsequently Honorary Life President). Founding Trustee of The Lutyens Trust, Architectural Adviser 1985-2011.

Lecturer and author on Architectural History and Town Planning since 1970 (including UK, frequent International Conferences in Europe; USA; India and Japan; principal theme International diaspora of Garden City movement, author of histories of Letchworth Garden City and Hampstead Garden Suburb.

From 2003, I have contributed to The Lutyens Trust's initiative for World Heritage designation for New Delhi.

Personal Statement

Born in Walsall in July 1942, my first dateable memories were removing the blackout and family fireworks on VJ day in August 1945 and a visit to the Castle Bromwich, Birmingham, Spitfire Factory, where I sat in the cockpit.

My route into Architecture came through the award of a primary school prize in 1950 of 'The Observers Book of Architecture' and a three-month trip to relatives in South Africa November 1951-February 1952. We travelled outward and homeward by Union Castle Line. I found that (unlike my parents) I could read the plans of the accommodation and spatially appreciate the Dining Saloon and Lounge (into which I wondered whether our house would fit).

I majored on Arts subjects at Queen Mary's Grammar School, Walsall, and in October 1960 entered the School of Architecture in Newcastle (still then part of Durham University). I returned to the Midlands in 1963-4 for my year out in the Housing Office of Birmingham City Architect, where I met my long-time friend (subsequently consort) Ann Levitt. My final thesis reflected my passion for classical music, a concert hall for Birmingham using the site developed for the Symphony Hall in the early 2000s. I made a concert hall tour of the Netherlands and West Germany in August 1965, focussing on the recently opened Berlin Philharmonie, sited alongside the Wall. I obtained an interview with Herbert von Karajan, conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic, and attended a recording session. My design, with acoustic modelling brought me a First class Honours degree.

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After two years working for a practice in Leamington (and gaining my ARIBA) itchy feet took me to the United States with a Fulbright Award to the University of Illinois in September 1968, where I graduated with double Masters' in Architecture and Urban Planning in June 1970. My 'gap' three months commenced. A tour round the USA logging Frank Lloyd Wright buildings, included 'Fallingwater' Pennsylvania and 'Taliesin' Spring Green Wisconsin, across to California, where I stayed with friends then flew via San Francisco, Vancouver and Hawaii to Tokyo. After touring down to Hiroshima I embarked for Russia at Yokohama. I had booked this leg of the journey with the only Intourist agent in Chicago, and the itinerary was set in stone. Seven days on the Trans-Siberian Railway took me to Moscow (where I was briefly 'detained' for 'illegal' photography), then Leningrad, Helsinki, Copenhagen, Oslo and Newcastle, on 23 September 1970.

WCCA, Progression

I was approached to join The Architects' Company by Stuart Murphy in 1994 while I was RIBA Vice President for Education; joined as a Freeman and took Livery in 2001, when I became a Court Assistant. I progressed through the Warden stages 2009-11, and was duly elected Master for 2012-13, and was installed at Watermen's Hall. I served on the Company's Committees and chaired the Court as Master. I served three times on the judges' panel for the Architectural Award. I have participated in many study tours including three to the USA and to Brazil in 2007, Southern India in 2008, and to Master's Weekends in several European cities.

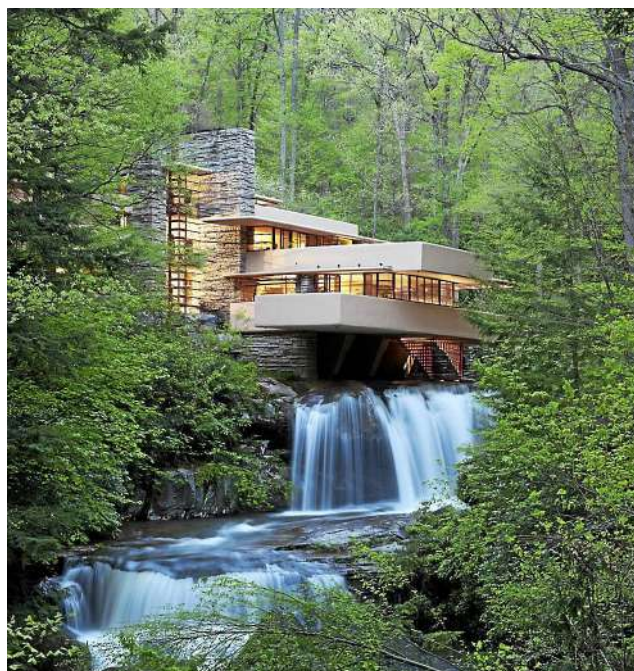
I organised a walk around Hellerau Garden Suburb for Ian Head's Master's Dresden Weekend in 2008, Company visits to Hampstead Garden Suburb, Lutyens houses in Hertfordshire, and in my year as Master to Letchworth Garden City, when my study tour was to Helsinki. In 2012-13, I gave two Company/ public lectures as the RIBA, 'Lutyens in Hampstead Garden Suburb' in July 2012 and 'Lutyens in the City of London' in February 2013. The latter was the Company's annual Milo Lecture, attended by Masters from 45 Companies and a full house in the Jarvis Hall. It is unusual for Masters to give this lecture themselves but it worked.

Towards the end of my year The Company launched its promotion of London as the Global Hub for Architecture, involving meetings with The Lord Mayor's Office: this is ongoing through my successors. Peter Murray, Master for 2015-16, has successfully increased Company membership. I was pleased to serve on the interview panel for prospective joiners, in batches of six, to whom I posed a question about the degree of conservation appropriate to an expanding modern financial centre, which provoked lively discussion.

My appetite for travel has been assuaged by many WCCA events including several returns to the USA, Cuba and diverse Masters' Weekends. I've also presented over 30 years at Conferences of the International Planning History Society and its US associate and have visited India four times with The Lutyens Trust to advocate World Heritage Status for the former Imperial Capital.

I have been delighted to assist Temple Bar Trust (TBT.) I joined a small group of members, to help secure Charity Registration of TBT with the Charity Commission, which was achieved successfully last summer, with legal input from Mr Chris Coombs and Linklaters. Registration must precede the application for funding to the Heritage Lottery Fund which is being championed by Past Master Geoffrey Purves and I hope there will be a successful outcome for the Trust shortly.

Covid-19 has brought all this to a grinding halt. However, a highlight has been my presentation in September 2020, in an acclaimed Lutyens Trust Webinar, on his work in Johannesburg including the Art Gallery, with an audience ranging from South Africa to Washington and West Coast USA.



Fallingwater is a house designed by architect Frank Lloyd Wright in 1935 in southwest Pennsylvania's Laurel Highlands



New Delhi— Lutyens Architect



Student Forum Discussions, Autumn 2020

16th September & 4th November 2020

Two Student Forum Discussion have taken place over the last quarter, with the sessions becoming more and more popular, relevant and successful, over time.

16th September 2020

It is the student cohort, that is suffering the most in the pandemic. Many of their home set-ups are inadequate, but more importantly they are not being mentored by 'osmosis'; listening and watching senior colleagues in action, asking questions and visiting manufacturers, suppliers and, of course, construction sites.

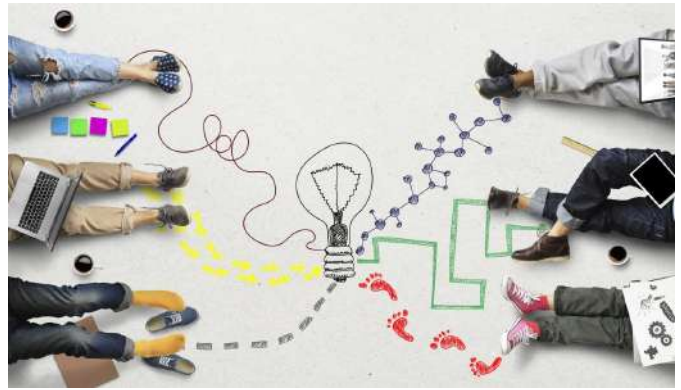
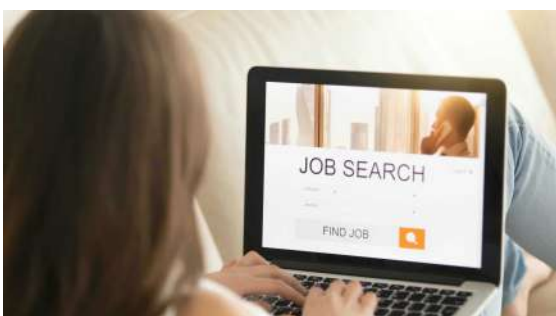
Because many WCCA Student members were struggling working from home, the Master of Students, John Assael, supported by the Deputy Master of Students, John Bushell, set up a series of evening meetings every two months, which are attended by both mentees and mentors. The meetings had a slow start, but at the last session on 4th November we had well over twenty attendees!

The agenda for 16th September covered:

[Reminder of Awards available for students, especially the WCCA Student Hardship Fund](#)

1. Advice of coping with the current crisis as a student at a university
2. Advice on where to study at Part II with a review of alternative routes
3. Advice on where and how to study at Part III
4. Advice on seeking appropriate employment
5. Other advice

The matters discussed, which attracted most student engagement and attention, included advice on how to deal with the crisis as a student at University, suggestions on where to study Part II and Part III and finally tips on seeking employment.



4th November 2020

On 4th November, much of the discussion focused on alternative courses for Part II and Part III studies. Each student provided feedback on their university course and the reports covered:

- LSA - 'Diploma in Designing Architecture' Part 2
[Architecture Apprenticeship, Oxford Brookes University](#)
- AA Part 3
- Cardiff – Welsh School of Architecture - Part 2
- Westminster Part III
- London Met Part III
- Sheffield Collaborative Practice Course.

I feel proud of our Students who continued their studies during lockdown, adapted to a socially distanced world, and who were supported by WCCA members throughout. Huge thanks to John Assael and John Bushell for their hard work and commitment to our Students – they are both the future of our profession *and* the future of our Company!



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Modern Practice Discussions, Autumn 2020

- On 12th October, Tim Haedrich, co-Founder of Haptic Architects discussed the studio's new publication, 'The Haptic Way'.
- On 9th November, Nigel Ostone, Partner, Hawkins Brown, lead a discussion on the 'RIBA Small Works Handbook.'
- On 14th December, there was a Virtual Practice visit to Studio Seilern, led by Christina Seilern.

On 12th October, Timo Haedric, co-founder of Haptic Architects, led a discussion about the studio's

The studio's first monograph focuses on the way that Haptic practice rather than the projects they make and is intended to be a manual for future Hapticians as well as others setting up a creative business. As much an event as a book, it documents a series of five workshops and activities, held over a period of six months and covering Haptic's business, design method, workplace, culture and networks.

The Haptic Way begins with a masterclass by business entrepreneur John Brown, who asks some difficult questions about the shape of the practice and the founders' transition 'from lively teenagers to healthy adults'. A series of photo essays, curated by the practice, chart Haptic's design approach. It takes a quantitative measure of the workplace through maps and infographics, with the same questions then answered qualitatively in a series of creative tasks undertaken by the Hapticians themselves.

Finally, six interviews with peers, collaborators, clients and friends uncover more about the importance of connections - and the challenge and delight of solving big design problems with small practice spirit. Haptic describe making the book as being a little like opening the kitchen drawer, so it has been designed so that its inner workings are also on show.

Bound by Swiss bookbinders Bubu, the exposed spine is stitched with a rainbow of threads.



© HAPTIC ARCHITECTS 2009—2020

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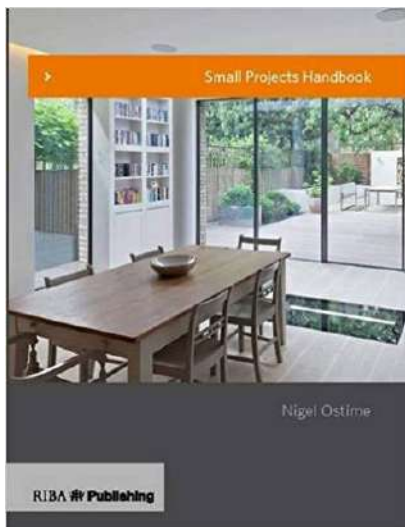
On 9th November, Nigel Ostime and Phil Coffey, supported by Luke Tozer and Chris Dyson, led a discussion around issues highlighted in the 2nd edition of the, "Small Projects Handbook" which was written by Court Assistant, Nigel Ostime.

Nigel is the Product Delivery Director at Hawkins Brown. He has over 25 years' experience as an architect, leading practices and project teams and designing buildings in a wide range of sectors, working with clients and managing client accounts. Nigel is also the chair of the RIBA Client Liaison Group.



2020 2nd Edition

2014 First Edition



This hands-on, no-nonsense guide to running smaller projects – most under £250,000 in value – will become your 'bible' in day-to-day practice. Smaller practices often find it hard to turn a profit as they spend too much time and money, especially on the design stages, trying to compete and are unsure as to what they can safely dispense with whilst still being rigorous and delivering quality. This book provides reassurance as to how to achieve great results on a budget, utilising stripped-back and efficient solutions, while following the principles and stages of the RIBA Plan of Work.

Each chapter provides:

- simple step-by-step guidance to the key tasks in that stage of the Plan of Work including inputs, outputs, stage activities and sustainability checkpoints

- in-text features which break down complex tasks and highlight best practice with pragmatic, real world advice including 'tips', 'warnings' and guidance on forms and templates
- inspiring case studies of small projects that document the architect's experience of the process
- guidance at each Plan of Work stage on the relevant practice issues that will help you to run your small project more effectively.

Designed as a project handbook for smaller and medium sized architectural practices, it is also invaluable for Part 3 students getting to grips with how projects are run within the RIBA Plan of Work framework. Everybody in the project team – including clients, contractors and consultants – will find this a handy guide to the project process, full of useful insights and solutions.

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RIBA Plan of Work 2020

1. Strategic Definition/ Preparation & Briefing
2. Concept Design/ Spatial Coordination
3. Technical Design
4. Manufacturing & Construction/Handover/Use

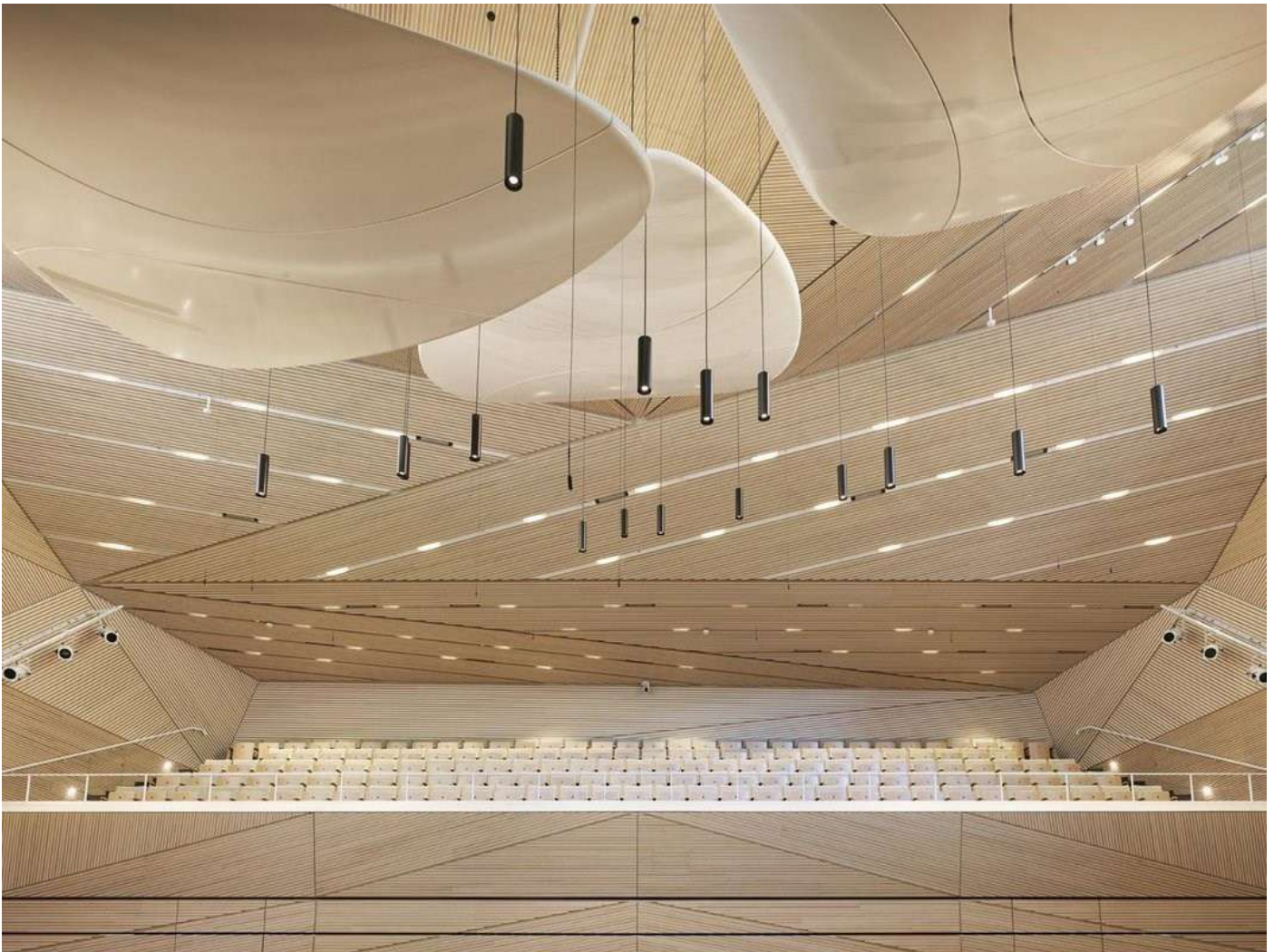
For the Modern Practice Visit on 14th December, Luke Tozer and Chris Dyson organized a virtual Practice visit to Studio Seilern, with a talk from the founder, Christina Seilern.

THE STUDIO

Studio Seilern Architects is a London based international creative practice established in 2006 by Christina Seilern with the intent of producing exceptional architecture that lasts, working across geographies, building sizes and typologies. The Studio's diverse portfolio of built work spans the UK, Europe, North Africa and the Middle East.

Studio Seilern tackles a diversity of projects; its conscious decision is to keep working on smaller and larger scales both simultaneously and continuously: from new build to restoration works. Irrespective of size or context, each project it undertakes informs another.





14 December 2020 6:00pm

Studio Seilern

Light and Reflection as Building Materials: Studio Seilern Architects latest work, from the G.W. Annenberg performing Arts Centre at Wellington College to the Andermatt and Gouna Concert Halls.

Studio Seilern believes that architecture does not just rely on innovation and design, but on the ability to deliver a project from conception through to completion. Its expertise lies within commercial, high-end residential, mixed-use, cultural, master-planning and educational projects.

Following a practical, in-depth assessment of the client brief, Studio Seilern projects have an emphasis on investigatory and locally integrated approaches to the built environment. The studio thrives on projects that combine challenging sites and multiple stakeholders with the opportunity to create an integral relationship between architecture, the environment, and the cultural landscape.

Studio Seilern Architects was established with the intent of continuing the strong design ethos developed during Christina Seilern's years as Founding and Design Director of Rafael Viñoly Architects London. The Studio has won many awards, in 2019 these included:



Modern Practice - Studio Seilern

Light and Reflection as Building Materials:
Studio Seilern
Architects latest work, from the G.W. Annenberg performing Arts Centre



ABOVE

G.W. Annenberg Performing Arts Centre

- Architects' Journal Architecture Awards - 2019 G.W. Annenberg Performing Arts Centre - Finalist
- Structural Steel Design Awards 2019 G.W. Annenberg Performing Arts Centre - Winner of Merit Award
- RIBA National Awards - South 2019 G.W. Annenberg Performing Arts Centre – Finalist



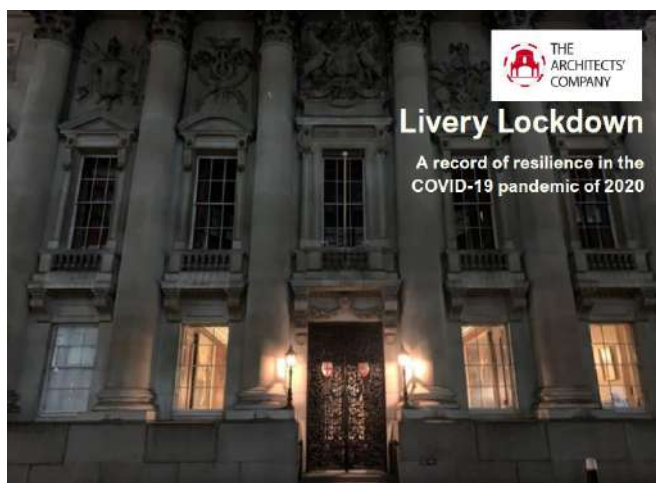
BELOW: **Ansdell Street**

- BCO 2019 - British Council for Offices Awards Ansdell Street - Finalist



Publication of our 'Livery Lockdown' Book

15th December 2020



Livery Lockdown – A record of resilience in the COVID-19 Pandemic of 2020.

We invited Court members, Officers and Students to submit their Lockdown stories, and an evocative photograph, to create a book which captured life in 2020 from different perspectives during the pandemic:

Retired Court members recorded stories about life in lockdown at home. Tales about keeping in touch with grandchildren or starting a new hobby. Some have volunteered in their community by making 'scrubs' or helping neighbours. Some mentored our students through difficult times, and some moved houses!

Working Court members recorded stories about keeping their studios afloat – closing office doors and setting up home working stations. Furloughing staff and maintaining team morale. Closing construction sites, managing client expectations, and – against the odds - winning new business during the pandemic.

Our Charities recorded stories about their wonderful work, from the WCCA Charity's urgent creation of the Student Hardship Fund, to Temple Bar Trust's amazing on-line events, cocktail parties, talks and virtual tours.

Students recorded stories about continuing their studies during lockdown, how WCCA supported them throughout, and how they adapted to life in a socially distanced world.

Master, Wardens and Officers recorded stories about keeping WCCA members engaged and buoyant. About moving WCCA on-line and organising remarkable events and initiatives to keep the Company growing and relevant!

As Master there have been highs and lows in recent months: Joy, when raising charitable funds during sponsored walks with my funny, speckle-nosed Spaniel, Marley. Sorrow, when Bob and I joined a small group at our local cenotaph on Armistice Day, both wearing masks, which made the service even more poignant.

These strange experiences and emotions contribute to the story of the Architect's Livery Company in Lockdown.

In part it is a story of hardship - the pandemic has hit the oldest and youngest hardest, which is why our most senior members and our students feature first in the book, - but mostly it is a story of resilience and success against the odds.



Members' feedback:

Thank you so much for the book. It is a wonderful record of a strange and interesting year.

Chris Williamson

Just to say thank you for the booklet, beautifully done. It has achieved breaking the insularity of some of the profession, a result often falling by the wayside, and has given an insight rarely noticed in previous Livery formal publications.

David Rolfe

Thanks for sending me the Architects' Company Livery Lockdown book – a nice way of communing with friends at the end of this ghastly year.

Christopher Coombs

We loved the little Lockdown book about members' thoughts during the plague year. It will be a historic document!

James and Anne Thomas.

I've just got our post midway through a really dark wet and gloomy Chilterns afternoon...including the Livery Lockdown.....What a wonderful idea and what a wonderful productionit's certainly a great reminder as to all that's great about our Company and I thank you and all involved for spreading some positivity at the end of a pretty awful year.

Andrew Reynolds



COMPANY NEWS



Chelsea Reach on a Sunday morning walk—Barry Monday

I've just received the book and it is splendid. Many thanks for the idea and especially to Michele for designing it. A great gift for all our members

Phil Cooper

Thanks for the superb lock down book - it's great!

Peter Murray

With my best wishes to all for 2021, also come my thanks and praise for the *Livery Lockdown* record. As well as the upbeat readability of the contributions, it is lifted by a lovely consistency in the setting out.

Jonathan Louth

The wonderful "Lockdown" book arrived this morning and it looks fantastic - so much work must have gone into producing it. I will treasure it!

Cheryl Reid

Well done to everyone who contributed to the lock down book..... Merry Christmas one and all and a Happy New Year. See you all in 2021.

Chris Bicknell

Just received the Livery Lockdown book in the post! Absolutely wonderful! Wasn't expecting this at all. Made me laugh and smile. Looking forward to reading it all.

Martha Grekos

The 'Livery Lockdown' book just arrived by post – it is so lovely to see it actually in print!

The stories are lovely and interesting. Many thanks too to Michele for designing and arranging the book, and thanks to the poem selector, and to the photographer. The words in that verse from the poem by WH Auden resonate with me.

I am intrigued at the poetic imagery created by using that verse with the photo, in the context of Covid-19. It makes for very interesting analysis and musings: did the world stop as shown by the empty street, or did we carry on as the cyclist shows? are we grieving, or not?

Just as one has experienced the sheer brilliance of the matching the photo with the verse, then one realises the starkness of the last line of the verse: because the coffin did come out. But then one begins to feel conflict, because the reality is that the mourners could not really be allowed to come, because of the lockdown restrictions. So, is this loss reflective of loss of loved ones who have sadly died, or loss of our way of life (as we knew it); or loss of the enterprises that we had formed? Perhaps all.

A brilliant and very interesting composition indeed and deeply appreciated!!

Audrey Hesse

What a delightful surprise to receive the 'Livery Lockdown' book – what an excellent Christmas gift. Thanks to all who contributed.

Ian King

Thoroughly enjoyed reading our 'Livery Lockdown' review. Thank you Valerie, Phil and others for its production.

Richard Brindley



*The rude timber buildings that have sprung up in wonderful profusion all over our local Queen's Wood
David Cole—Adams*



Working from my pre-fabricated study in the garden I spent the spring remote from colleagues, friends and family, apart from my wife. I shared the widely reported reconnection with nature . Ben Derbyshire

Will apprenticeships become another victim of the coronavirus crisis?

Architects Journal - 16 October 2020 by [Will Ing](#)



Credit: Shutterstock

The ‘earn and learn’ programme was heralded as offering an architectural career to those unable to afford the traditional education route. But as practices struggle, will apprenticeships become another coronavirus victim? asks Will Ing

The coronavirus crisis could not have come at a worse time for the fledgling architecture apprenticeship programme. Heralded at its launch as a game-changing new qualification route which would widen the profession’s catchment net, the two-year-old ‘earn and learn’ scheme is facing a significant challenge prompted by the unprecedented economic turmoil. The initiative’s fate is intrinsically linked to the buoyancy of the industry, relying on employers investing in apprentices and holding on to them. But with workloads dropping and, according to the RIBA, one in five practices looking to shed staff, the imminent worry is that existing apprentices will be made redundant and struggle to find another practice to take them on.

There are worries too about the numbers of new apprentices. The Department for Education recently reported that apprenticeships starts across all industries had fallen by 18 per cent during the last academic year. And research by the AJ appears to show a similar slowdown in take-up – caused primarily by a cooling of interest from businesses. So is the programme really ‘dead as a dodo’ as one senior academic told the AJ? Or is there hope yet for an initiative that could finally open the architecture door to those unable to afford the £100,000 price tag of a traditional education?

Demand for apprenticeships seems to be increasing, but the appetite from universities and practices is not as strong.

The four-year architectural apprenticeship schemes launched in 2018 when the Architecture Trailblazer group,

led by Foster + Partners, combined forces with four universities. Apprenticeship Level 6 is the equivalent to Part 1 while Level 7 covers Part 2 and 3. But the scheme is different from part-time undergraduate or Master’s studies. Practices, and not the apprentices, pay the university tuition fees using money they have already put aside through the apprenticeship levy. Practices also speak to architecture schools to agree a training programme, so that apprentices’ work lives can complement their studies.

‘Some apprentices take this route because they prefer to learn new skills on the job rather than in a strictly academic environment,’ says Peter Garstecki, associate at Foster + Partners and head of the trailblazers group. ‘The majority, however, find it more financially viable.’

Demand for apprenticeships seems to be increasing, as word gets out to sixth formers and Part 1 students thinking about what to do next. BDP told the AJ it received about five applications for every place it offered. But the appetite from universities and, in particular, practices is not as strong.

Even before the coronavirus, there were concerns that practices preferred to sponsor Level 7 apprentices, rather than Level 6 apprentices (see AJ 22.08.19 ‘One year on, are apprenticeships failing to open up the profession?’). In the first year (2018-2019) of the programme there were just 14 Level 6 apprentices – all studying at London South Bank University. The following year (2019-2020) 26 more students started this junior architectural apprenticeship, with all but a couple attending the same London university. The numbers for fresh apprenticeships this year are not yet known but there is no anecdotal evidence of any boom in new starters. The Level 6 figures compare to 60 starting on the Level 7 courses in 2018-19 and 114 apprentices the following year.

Claire Middleton, a degree apprenticeship manager at the University of Portsmouth, says only two Level 6 apprentices joined Portsmouth last year because firms would not sponsor more. ‘The Level 6 apprenticeship is very experimental and involves lots of different designs, but when apprentices go into practice they are just working on flats and offices,’ she says.

It’s just a reality that it’s harder to sponsor apprentices out of the metropolitan areas.

‘Employers like [architectural] apprentices to have Level 6 already because they have done the most creative stuff and have more knowledge. It also takes eight years to get a Level 6 apprentice to become an architect – so employers have to invest a lot, and there is a significant chance of apprentices dropping out.’

It is a problem that concerns the RIBA’s director for education David Gloster, who says the Level 6 scheme is ‘the really decisive factor’ in increasing access to the industry and, in turn, its diversity. ‘It’s the only route where your way into qualification [as an architect] is an employment offer, so it is very problematic that [practices] aren’t willing to take more of a risk,’ he says.

Middleton points out that geography is part of the reason Portsmouth does not attract more apprentices. 'Apprentices have to be able to get here one day a week,' she says, 'and if you look at the semicircle of travelling distance around Portsmouth, there are only a finite number of practices; and most can't take someone on.'

Gloster agrees that this too is an issue. 'It's just a reality that it's harder [to sponsor apprentices] out of the metropolitan areas,' he says. 'We were talking to schools in the north-east of Scotland and the South West [of England]; they're looking at largest local practice sizes of 30-40 people, so relatively speaking, taking on even one apprentice is quite a big deal.'

The economic uncertainty caused by coronavirus is now another massive obstacle for apprenticeships, with several architectural apprentices having already been furloughed over the summer.

'Apprentices are so closely linked to the success of the employer that there are obviously going to be some challenges,' says Lorraine Farrelly, head of architecture at the University of Reading and chair of the Standing Conference of Heads of Schools of Architecture. 'There are a lot of practices which are having to think really hard about who they continue to employ,' she says. 'It will affect people on the apprenticeship scheme as much as it will affect others in practice. [Job cuts affecting apprentices] are going to start to happen and we need to make sure we can support students.'

Farrelly suggests apprentices who lose their jobs might be able to switch to different courses, such as a part-time or full-time masters if they are Level 7. Gloster, on the other hand, hopes other practices that already have apprentices can take them on.

In these tricky times, companies may be reluctant to commit to taking on an apprentice, especially at Part 1 when they are not yet equipped to work independently.

'The dialogue between the practices participating in [the Architecture Trailblazer group] has been quite good,' he says. 'One would hope that if an apprentice is entering a period where workloads look uncertain, perhaps there is a safety net by possible transfer or secondment to another practice.'

It is something the trailblazer group has discussed, says Garstecki. 'If an apprentice is made redundant, the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE), their employer and the provider will support this apprentice in the search for the new employer,' he says.

But the business uncertainty surrounding the coronavirus crisis means fewer companies are inclined to sponsor an apprentice in the future. One senior academic, who asked not to be named, said: 'I'm hearing that some schools have just not got the applicants they expected this year – in fact, numbers are down on the previous year. 'My sense is that companies in these tricky times may be reluctant to commit to taking on an apprentice, especially at Part 1 when they are not yet equipped to work independently.'

London South Bank University head of architecture Lilly Kudic says numbers at her university are 'maybe slightly lower than the previous year', adding: 'We expected this due to the impact of the current global pandemic, and possible recession in some sectors of the profession.'

But Foster + Partner's Garstecki is more upbeat. 'The pandemic has had an impact on the employment of architects overall, so for that reason apprenticeships may also be affected,' he acknowledges. '[But] this year, we hope the numbers will be even higher than last as the awareness and confidence from employers grows. We have also seen an increase in the number of universities offering the scheme – there were five in 2018, this year there are around 14.'

One boost comes from the government, which is offering a £1,500 one-off payment to any company that employs an apprentice before February 2021. It has also opened up funds to small businesses, which do not pay an apprenticeship levy.

The most pressing reform, however, is yet to be enacted. Many would like to see an increase in the amount companies can draw from their levy money to sponsor apprentices – currently, £21,000. The problem is most acute at Level 6, where at least one of the two university providers is demanding extra money from sponsors because £21,000 does not cover all the studio time and one-to-one teaching.

'Funding allocation for Level 6 is an obstacle for providers,' agrees Garstecki, 'so we have started a process of reviewing the funding band for this standard with IfATE.' Gloster believes this could make a difference. 'Had we not had the virus, things would look significantly better,' he says, adding: 'The funding of the scheme overall at Level 6 and Level 7 remains a challenge and is a self-evident limitation.'

Life as an apprentice:

Dan Stokes, a Level 6 apprentice at HLM Architects, says his apprenticeship has been 'hugely life-changing'. Before becoming an apprentice, Stokes worked as a technician at HLM but dreamed of becoming an architect. 'The cost of doing a full-time degree ruled that out,' he says. 'It was £27,000, plus another £18,000 for a two-year masters. It was unachievable.'

Carmel Simmonds, a Level 7 apprentice at BDP, says she thinks apprenticeships help diversify the industry. 'I live in south London on an estate,' she says. 'Money is something kids from the area think about – can you get paid and support your family? The apprenticeship is amazing as it lets kids have dreams and aspirations of working in a higher profession.'

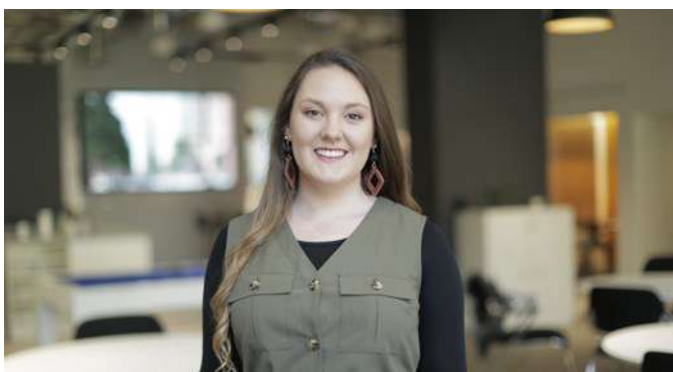
Kudzai Chirimuuta, a Level 7 apprentice at Foster + Partners, agrees. 'Apprenticeships are one of many solutions to diversifying the profession,' she says, 'but one of the most important ones.' She adds that she enjoys the blend of work and university life. 'Being in an office really does make you question what you are doing a lot more,' she says. 'There is

constant feedback from people who are practising in real life.'

It's a perspective shared by Jim Santoni, a Level 7 apprentice at Grimshaw. 'My work is always looked at by dozens of architects with years of experience,' he says. 'It's a kind of live, constant crit whenever I am building up a project.'

Members considering sponsoring an apprentice can download the [architecture apprenticeships Guide for Employers from the RIBA website](#)

Katherine Birkett, WCCA's Architecture Apprenticeships' Ambassador, responds to the AJ Article of 16th October 2020 'There's no better time for apprenticeship programmes.'



As we continue through the uncertain times of Covid-19, the architecture industry needs to protect and enhance its apprenticeship programmes to safeguard future talent.

The future of apprenticeships and whether these programmes would become another victim of the coronavirus crisis was questioned in a recent article by the Architects Journal.

But as we likely head into a harsh recession, the industry must ensure these schemes survive.

As a third-year apprentice, having been part of the cohort of the first ever architectural apprenticeship scheme, I can confidently say that the successes and benefits of this route to qualifying as an architect significantly outweigh the potential challenges the scheme currently faces.

Firstly, with so much current economic uncertainty, the cost-effective role that apprenticeships play in training the next generation of architects helps make the profession ever more accessible.

Secondly, apprenticeships offer far more security for the young architect than the traditional route.

And even in these uncertain times, apprentices benefit from such security; if an apprentice is furloughed, they can still benefit from mentorship and the opportunity to carry out research and personal development linked to their studies, and the tripartite agreement means that apprentices will be closely supported in their search for a new employer if needed.

The AJ article expressed concerns that Covid-19 and the uncertainty that comes with it will be the end of apprenticeships. But, back in March, architecture apprenticeship programmes were – and still are - perfectly positioned to handle the challenges that many other academic institutions were suddenly being confronted with. With all universities frantically implementing virtual programmes this academic year, apprenticeship programmes were already based around digital and distance learning; tutorials and tripartite meetings have always been held over video conferencing.

Of course, many think the scheme is doomed to fail with workstreams falling during Covid-19, there may be those who think it is an easy part of the business to drop.

But that ignores the significant benefits to practices themselves that apprenticeships offer over the long-term.

Although they may cost employers money in the short-term due to the time investment in training, in the long-term companies can save money on recruitment costs, and benefit from apprentices seeking career longevity at a practice.

The pandemic provides an opportunity for the government to give even greater support to apprenticeship schemes. They have already shown their support, for example, by offering a £1,500 payment to any company that employs an apprentice before February 2021. But a long-term commitment to supporting apprenticeships will be of benefit not only just to architecture but the wider economy, especially given the broader challenges likely to hit the job market thanks to the virus.

Ultimately, apprenticeship schemes are a win-win. Students receive a salary, government funding to pay fees and invaluable exposure to real work with one-to-one mentorship from the outset. And at the same time, architectural practices benefit from longstanding employees and retained knowledge, and students who have much more practical experience than those graduating from traditional, full time courses.

Our profession is a challenging yet rewarding one. While Covid-19 is currently challenging many parts of our lives, we must continue to see the value in apprenticeships; they're succeeding and this needs to be realized and they must be supported.



Feature on Chris Williamson

In my role as a mentor for both the RIBA and the Company of Architects I found myself looking through the list of AJ100 Architects over the weekend in order to assist one of my mentees. It was interesting to see just how many were represented by the Architects Company. The Worshipful Company of Chartered Architects (to give it its full name) is a modern Livery Company. The Company promotes quality architecture in the City of London and the architectural profession globally; it supports education through awards and prizes as well as a range of charities related to the City. It was granted Livery status in 1988, received the Royal Charter in 2019 and will move into its new home of Temple Bar in Paternoster Square in 2021. This will see an increase in activities - lectures, events, breakfast and lunch meetings including vital CPD in essential topics such as climate change, sustainability, insurance, ethics, social mobility and diversity.



About half of the AJ100 are represented by the Company of Architects and over half of the top ten. Representatives from these practices range from apprentices and students to Partners and Founders and include the following;- AHMM, Allies & Morrison, Farrells, Foster & Partners, Gensler, Grimshaw, Hopkins, KPF, Make, RSHP and Zaha Hadid Architects. It is also important to note that the Company is representative of the whole range of the profession including sole trader architects, teachers, academics, researchers, writers, managers and associated professionals.

The key activities of the Company of Architects are built on the Foundations of the original Livery Companies dating back to the Fishmongers' who were granted their charter in 1272. It is a testament to the Companies and their Masters to remain relevant for over 700 years. Anyone who has watched the Netflix series "The Crown" will understand the tensions of retaining historic traditions whilst modernising to represent a rapidly changing society.



In the modern world the Company of Architects has a key role in the global architecture community because the concerns of UK architects mirror those world wide. Issues of urbanisation, sustainability, ethics, climate change and the importance of architectural thinking in planning are universal issues in which architects can play a leading role. We aim therefore to assist the Lord Mayor's aim to ensure the City of London enhances its reputation as a global hub.

During his Mayoral year, Alderman Russell is promoting his initiative 'Global UK – Trade, Innovation & Culture' agenda which builds on the current Lord Mayor's theme of 'Shaping Tomorrow's City Today', focusing on connecting communities through trade, innovation and culture. The programme has three key aspects: growing global trade and investment, championing innovation, and promoting a rich and vibrant cultural and creative economy of which Architecture plays an important role.

I know from experience how valued UK Architects and Engineers are valued all over the world from the heritage of Paxton and Brunel to the modern day brilliance of Fosters and Rogers and the current crop of innovators.

Last year Weston Williamson+ Partners won the Queen's Award for Enterprise for International Trade as a result of being able to export our expertise gained on UK infrastructure projects to work in Singapore, Australia and Canada. London in particular has shown the world what investment in well designed safe and efficient public transport can achieve. Whilst also reducing car use through the congestion charge and improving the environment for pedestrians and cyclists. Cities throughout the world are embarking on city shaping projects similar to the Jubilee Line, London Overground and Crossrail, often enlisting the help of British Architects and Engineers. Many of the designers involved in these projects are represented in the Company of Architects.

It is a published ambition of the RIBA to become a global membership body to be a leading voice for the Architectural community tackling difficult issues of urbanisation, sustainability, ethics, and diversity.

MEMBERS' NEWS

I have long advocated that the RIBA suffix should be seen as a qualification rather than belonging to a membership club and should set the highest standards of life long learning where a number of specific modules would need to be completed each year in order to retain membership. Then the letters RIBA will be seen by our clients, politicians and industry as evidence that a member is better qualified and more up to date than a non member. If this can be achieved I believe Architects from Australia to Zimbabwe will want to join in a like minded community. The lifelong learning events organised by the Company of Architects and the Temple Bar Trust made available on line will be a vital component of this global influence. If there is one thing that this pandemic has taught us it is that the world is a small and fragile place and we need to act together.



These global aims are incredibly important but so is the Company's work close to home. The Guilds were established to share best practice and new ideas, to help train and educate and to help charitable giving amongst their colleagues. . As a passionate enthusiast of social mobility and sharing of knowledge I am pleased that the Company of Architects is taking a lead on these concerns within the profession. The current Master Valerie Owen Le Vaillant has made the promotion of social mobility through Apprenticeships the major focus of her leadership and has established a Future Minds group led by Nicholas Naidu.

One of the greatest opportunities for students or young architects becoming involved in the Company is the opportunity for mentoring. You never know who you might sit next to at an event or dinner and invariably they are ready and willing to help and advise. I myself have had very informative informal discussions from several architects I have respected throughout my career including Richard Saxson and Ian Ritchie. There is always much to learn and in my experience Company members are keen to share knowledge and help mentor.

A key component of the Company's work is the Student Prizes. There are 6 Annual Awards including the Assael Architecture Award for Students recognising talent and tenacity in adverse circumstances. These Awards can make a welcomed contribution to Student finances as well as prestige and recognition.

The company also has links to schools offering career advice and information. Another example of exactly the sort of activity which the Livery Companies were established to promote over 700 years ago.



My own route to Architecture is explained in a ten minute video on the Company of Architects youtube channel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4VR09YvbpVk> and there are other videos showing the diverse backgrounds of some other members and more will be available shortly. For more information on the Company of Architects visit the website www.architectscompany.net or contact me at chris.williamson@westonwilliamson.com . Thank you.



My bid for a drawing from Sherin Aminossehe was successful in the St Thomas Day auction and I requested a drawing of Temple Bar from Sherin.

I plan to donate the original to the WCCA after silk screening some prints (when restrictions ease) and am delighted it features on the front cover of this Newsletter.



Feature on our Deputy Master of Students – John Bushell, Principal, KPF Architects



John has had an outstanding career and, as a Principal at Kohn Pederson Fox (KPF), he is a 'leading light' of the architectural profession. John has been integral part of KPF's global practice since joining the London office in 1994, has achieved wide acclaim for his innovative and distinctive residential, institutional, commercial, mixed use and cultural buildings in the UK, Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and the United States.

John's detailed understanding of what makes a successful city has contributed to a strong track record of effective planning applications and has positioned him as an authority on a range of architectural issues. John has achieved planning consents across many London boroughs, including for two landmark projects in the emerging Nine Elms area.

An advocate for architectural reuse, John has led some of the firm's most important "transformation" projects, including the iconic, award-winning design of **Unilever House**, which preserved and restored the building's historic exterior while completely renovating and modernizing the interior. John also led the design of South Bank Tower in Southwark, converting a former office tower designed by the architect Richard Seifert into a world-class mixed-use development.



Unilever House

The introduction of more mixed-use development in London has long been a priority for John. Drawing on KPF's expertise in mixed-use buildings across the globe, John has incorporated tenets of mixed-use design into projects including One Crown Place in Hackney, DAMAC Tower in Lambeth, Market Towers in Wandsworth, and the **Bermondsey Project**.



MEMBERS' NEWS



Bermondsey Project



Crown Place, Hackney. A mixed use scheme, which KPF will complete on site in May 2021.

Prior to KPF, John worked in the US (New York and New England), and in London for a number of years on the British Library, and the Oxo building transformation.

John received his BA (first class with Distinction) and Diploma from the University of Cambridge and was awarded a Kennedy Scholarship to study at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. His study of the Roof Gardens of early 20th Century New York has inspired a lifelong interest in creating new usable roofscapes. He is a Chartered Architect with the Architects Registration Board (ARB) in the UK, a member of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), Conseil National de l'Ordre des Architectes (CNOA), a Liveryman and Deputy Master of Students of the Worshipful Company of Architects.

John's contributions to the built environment extend beyond the studio to encompass paintings and drawings exhibited at the Royal Academy, as well as opinion columns in the architectural press. He participates annually in the 10x10 Drawing the City London initiative, which sees artworks by prominent architects, designers and artists auctioned for charity and, of course, he provides great support to students of Architecture in his role as our Deputy Master of Students.

We are indebted to John for his wonderful contribution to the success of the Architect's Company, and to the architecture profession as a whole – thank you!



Remembering Three Past Masters

Sadly, three Past Master died during the last 12 months, Michael West, Peter Luscombe and Michael Welbank. They all made significant contributions to the Architect's Company, both in its formative years and when they served as Master. But they also enjoyed very successful careers in architecture, so much so that their passing was recorded widely in national newspapers and learned journals. It seems fitting to reproduce some of these articles here:

Past Master Michael West



*'My colleague and friend **Michael West**, who has died aged 80, had a long and distinguished career in architecture and planning. After early years in private practice, in 1970 he was appointed director of the Central London Planning Conference, which co-ordinated planning throughout the central London boroughs, and in 1975 became borough planner of Southwark.*

He commuted by train daily from Ipswich, Suffolk, to Liverpool Street, and from there charged south to his office on Peckham Road on a folding bicycle, dressed in a long leather overcoat and a sailor's cap in the winter, with plastic bags over his shoes when it was particularly wet.

*In 1981 he returned to private practice with Twigg Brown & Partners, and founded the Twigg Brown West planning consultancy, which in 1992 became West & Partners. **A founding member in 1988 of the Worshipful Company of Chartered Architects, Michael was elected as its master for 2001-02.***

He was born in Liverpool, to Catherine (nee Robson) and William West; the family soon afterwards moved to Surbiton, south-west London, and Michael was educated at Tiffin boys' grammar school in Kingston upon Thames. He was proud to call himself a Liverpoolian and returned to study architecture and subsequently to undertake a master's in town planning, at Liverpool University.

He then took up appointments in private practice with Eric Lyons, Shankland Cox & Partners and Sir Hugh Wilson, before a period at the Greater London council and Westminster city council.

He met and married Shirley Loades in 1969 and they set up home in Coddensham, Suffolk. The first year of their marriage was spent in Bermuda, where Michael was deputy director of planning. Their daughter, Catherine, was born in 1972 and their son, Simon, in 1974. In Coddensham Michael served as chair of the parish council, was an active member of the country club and regularly attended St Mary's church. He designed the new village hall that opened in 2004.

Michael's great love of classic cars began when his father helped him purchase a 1927 Rolls-Royce, and he later owned an AC Ace and two Alvises. His children remember fondly the annual outings in the Rolls-Royce for the Ipswich to Felixstowe vintage car rally.

He shared a birthday with Prince William and for each of the prince's first 21 years undertook a meticulous small drawing depicting a specific example of classic architectural design, which he had framed and sent to Kensington Palace.

Michael was an admirer of the writings of CS Lewis and Clive James, and an occasional collector of political cartoons. He remained creative and in recent years enjoyed pottery painting with his grandchildren.

Shirley died earlier this year. Michael is survived by Catherine and Simon, and by a granddaughter, Rachel, and grandson, Samuel.'

Reporter: Chris Francis.



Postscript from the Master.

Here are some more notes on Michael's life and work.

During his illustrious career, Michael made numerous expert witness appearances at public inquiries combining his town planning expertise with detailed experience of listed buildings and historic townscape, also advising national and international clients on commercial, manufacturing, residential and public works projects.

In addition to being a founding member of the Worshipful Company of Chartered Architects, and serving as Master for 2001 – 2002, Michael also held the office of Chairman of the Trustees of the Company's Charitable Trust Fund for 15 years.

Past Master Peter Luscombe

Peter's passing was reported in a range of learned journals including the Royal Society of Marine Artists, but I have reproduced this article from the Wanstead Village Directory, because it was written by Peter himself in 2017.

TESTIMONY TO TALENT

1 June 2017



©Peter Luscombe

'I was articled to an architect for three years when I was 16, which was a sort of apprenticeship. This method of training has long since been superseded by full-time courses in colleges and universities.

Then, trainee architects were required to be able to draw and paint, and the work – known as testimonies of study – had to be submitted to and approved by the Royal Institute of Chartered Architects before one could sit their exams. So, along with evening classes in building construction, history of architecture, structural engineering and building design, we were given lessons in watercolour painting. In my case, our tutor was a very good local artist called Reg Hamlin. I'm very grateful to him, not only for a good grounding in watercolour technique but also for insisting that we painted out of doors as well as in the studio. This has stood me in good stead. We also had to learn how to set up perspectives to illustrate our designs, and this too has proved invaluable. Throughout my career, I produced illustrations both for my own designs and for the various practices for which I worked. However, my interest in art has not been confined to work. It has been a hobby throughout my life. Not surprisingly, given my early training, my main medium has been watercolour, although I have recently branched out into

acrylics. As to subjects, I paint most things, buildings and landscape naturally, but also still life, portraits and maritime subjects.

I'm a member of several art clubs and a liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Architects, where I was elected Master in 1991-92. I am also a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Painter-Stainers. I was chairman of its Fine Art Society for several years and am still vice-chairman. Locally, I'm a member of the Essex Art Club, which I joined not long after moving to this area in 1990. Despite its name – which dates back to its founding some 118 years ago when the area was still in Essex – most of its members live in Redbridge and quite a number in Wanstead. We hold an exhibition annually over a weekend in October in Wanstead House. We also try to have an exhibition somewhere in Central London and this year, we are fortunate to have secured the lobby of the Barbican Library as our venue.'

Reporter: Peter Luscombe

Postscript from the Master: In the article, Peter writes mostly about his artistic career, so here are a few notes about his illustrious architectural career. Peter joined the well-known firm of Ley Colbeck, Chartered Architects, rising through the ranks in the 1980's to become a partner. Several of the leading lights from Ley Colbeck merged with the Halpern Partnership in 1992, Peter amongst them. He brought to Halpern his particular expertise in conservation projects and his great understanding of delicate design issues.

Peter contributed to many City office development during the 1990's before retiring from Halperns (now Formation Architects) in 2000 and is remembered by former work colleagues for his thorough knowledge of classical Architecture, and great skill in formulating graceful solutions to complicated architectural problems. With his artistic flair, he was well known for presenting projects using perspectives in watercolour, his favourite medium. Peter's concern for the City's historic fabric led him to serve on the Conservation Area Advisory Committee, which he joined in March 2005, and later the City Heritage Society, becoming Chairman in 2014. He greatly enjoyed both positions and made a wonderful contribution.



©Peter Luscombe



Past Master Michael Welbank MBE



Upbeat Town Planner who became Chief Commoner for London. **Michael Welbank, 90:**



Michael Welbank was once held for almost a week by the Russians

'When the planning consultant Michael Welbank was asked by Unesco in the 1960s to look into the conservation of the area around the Sphinx in Cairo, he told his driver to take him up a nearby hill so he could better examine it with binoculars. Within minutes they found themselves looking down the rifles of a group of armed soldiers from a Russian military zone and led away. He learnt later that neither his teenage driver nor guard could read and had missed the trespassing signs. Confined to a room in the Russian barracks, it would be nearly a week before Michael was released and the officers were satisfied that he was not a spy. The meals, he reported, comprised black bread, smoked sausage and vodka.

Notwithstanding incarceration in Egypt, Michael was known for approaching his assignments with bounding enthusiasm. One of his early positions was in the Planning Department of the London County Council, where he embraced what he described as 'the mood of post-war Britain to make the country a better place.' After reconstruction of the bombed-out areas in the East End, his career would take him from Bolton in Greater Manchester to assignments in developing countries. In Sudan he was involved in the Rahad project, resettling 100,000 people when water from the Blue Nile was diverted to irrigate newly developed agricultural land. In Saudi Arabia he uncovered the pilgrimage route from Baghdad to Mecca, and in Egypt he advised on the reconstruction of the port and city on Port Said.

Michael was born in 1930 in Hornsey, north London, to William, who worked for Dr Barnado's in the East End, and Molly (nee Robson), a teacher. A born and bred Londoner, he lived for 40 years in a four-storey house in Hampstead that backed on to the heath. The bustle and diversity of the city appealed to him – he knew the best place to stand on every Tube platform for a quick exit – and after Highgate School and National Service, the Royal Artillery, he went on to study architecture at University College London (UCL) At a Student

union dance he met Alison Hopkins. She was a dressmaker for Worth in Conduit Street, and after her work they would nip round the corner for a pasta diner in Soho. They married in 1956 and had three children: Julian a civil engineer; William, a project manager for Transport for London, and Katherine, a business analyst.

After UCL, Michael's first position was in an architectural practice in Doughty Street, but he was drawn to town planning because 'it covers social and political matters as well as environmental and design.' He went to evening classes at UCL and joined the Royal Town Planning Institute, of which he later became President.

*At London County Council he grew to know Graeme Shankland and Oliver Cox, and when they left to form Shankland and Cox Partnership, their planning consultancy, he joined them, becoming a Director in 1972. After assignments abroad he concentrated in 1980s and 1990s British projects including environmental assessments for the Channel Tunnel and its rail link, Heathrow Express, Terminal 5 and the East Coast Main Line. **In 1995 he became Master of the Worshipful Company of Chartered Architects.***

When Alison died in 2002, Michael sold the house in Hampstead and shared a flat in Belsize Park with Maggie Holton, a long-term friend whose spouse had also died. Eager for a new direction, he put himself up as a councilman for the Billingsgate Ward for the City of London Corporation. He served on committees, but it was his chairmanship of the planning and transportation committee, overseeing constructions such as the 'Cheese grater' in Leadenhall Street, that drew in his experience. In 2013 he was appointed MBE and four years later became Chief Commoner, working alongside the Lord Mayor. The Livery dinners and formal City functions appealed to his social temperament.

Closer to home, he was Chairman of the City Corporation's Hampstead Heath committee, and successfully faced down the outcry over the 2016 reinforcement of the heath's ponds avoid risk of flooding.

His sense of humour – his grandchildren called him Grandpa Funny – and enthusiasm for projects, including parties, never abated, and he relished the planning of his 90th birthday lunch at The Goring Hotel in Belgravia.'

Postscript from the Master

Michael became a Freeman of the Company in 1985, and a Liveryman in 1988, joining the Court soon after. He was a Churchill Trust Fellow in 1989 and a Visiting Professor at Oxford Brookes University.



Foundation of Support



ABS Chair of Trustees, Geoffrey Purves

Past Master **Geoffrey Purves** would like to ask for your support following the celebration of the 170th birthday of the Architects Benevolent Society (ABS). As Chairman of the ABS, Geoffrey asks if WCCA members could watch the 170 second video clip, which tells you something about the work done by ABS and asks if each member could find an imaginative way to raise £170.00. Here is the video link: <https://youtu.be/vCdBTrNRyx8>

Raise £170 to celebrate 170 years of support!

On 27th November 2020, Architects Benevolent Society (ABS) turned 170 years old! Marking this special occasion, the WWCA would like to show their support for the #FoundationOfSupport campaign by encouraging its members to help raise £170 each throughout 2021.

ABS has changed a lot since its inception in 1850, when the first formal General Meeting was held in the Freemason's Tavern in Covent Garden, London. There, the Architects Benevolent Society was founded. By 1852, ABS had helped 4 people in the profession and 170 years on they are assisting over a thousand individuals and families each year. The aim of providing support, which is tailored to individual needs, and designed to improve people's lives has remained the same throughout our 170 years.

Tell a friend, colleague, family member to follow the #FoundationOfSupport campaign.

Architects Benevolent Society is calling on all their supporters in the architectural community to join us in this campaign to help spread the message to people who may need assistance and let them know the Society is a foundation of support for the wider architectural community, their families and students.

The Foundation of Support campaign will provide a renewed focus on our diverse range of services. It will also showcase our partnerships with other charities such as Shelter and Anxiety UK.

There are various ways in which you can raise these vital funds to help the many individuals and families that have been turning to ABS for support and they have a number of fundraising events happening that you can get involved in, persuade your colleagues in the office to do so, or take it upon yourself to come up with your own challenge.

ABS events in 2021 include;

May: Bake the World a Better Place. Whether you're an individual or practice, why not host your very own bake off or a bake sale? Raise vital funds whilst treating everyone to some brilliant baked goodies. Bake the World a Better Place is at the start of Mental Health Awareness Week 10-16th May.

June: Chicken Run 2021. With over 250 people taking part each year, this fun run takes part in London with a race from Blackfriars Bridge to a chosen architectural practices' courtyard for a fun after party. In previous years' we have seen hosts such as Orms, Bennetts Associates and Pollard Thomas Edwards. In 2021 you could sign up as an individual or as part of a team and help raise funds and have a fun day out at the same time.

September: #Time2Sketch. Be quick off the mark with our Architectural Sketching Competition open to anyone in the construction-built environment industry. Entries will be judged. Prizes for the most imaginative and creative quick-fire sketches.

You are always welcome to contact ABS directly who will be more than happy to discuss any ideas you may have about your own challenge fundraiser or provide some suggestions. Which ever you decide, helping raise £170 for ABS will help provide a vital lifeline to those who need it most. To know more about the Foundation on Support campaign, or find our ways in which you can help, please visit www.absnet.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns-appeals/foundations-of-support

Spread the word: #FoundationOfSupport

Past Master Geoffrey Purves reminds WCCA members the ABS charity Patron is the Duke of Gloucester, who is also Patron of Temple Bar Trust, and hopes every WCCA member will do their best to raise £170.00, to further strengthen the 'Foundation of Support,' which is so badly needed by many architects, because of the combined public health and economic impacts arising from the Covid-19 pandemic. If you would like further details about any of the events mentioned above, please feel free to contact Mark Thomas at ABS directly.



ABS Patron, His Royal Highness, The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO



ABS President, Jane Duncan OBE PPRIBA



Almoner's Report



Stuart Le Sage
Junior Warden &
Almoner

Since the Master's summer newsletter Past Master **Michael Welbank MBE** has sadly passed away. He suffered a stroke in late July, just before his 90th birthday, and sadly went downhill after that, passing away on 15th September. He was Master of the Company in 1994, and after his career as an architect & town planner, he was to become a tour-de-force in the London Corporation. A condolence card was sent to his family, and an obituary notice posted in the member's section of our website. Following his stroke Michael had

been under the care of University College London Hospital, and in his memory the Company made a donation of £250 to the UCL Hospital, to help their work with stroke victims. Michael's family were very appreciative of the donation made.

Since the last newsletter, the Company have also become aware of the passing of Liveryman, **Terry Elson**, a while ago now on 10th November last year from leukaemia. The Company only became aware of his death as his family recently decided to make a donation in his memory to the Temple Bar trust fund, as

Terry had been very taken by the idea of the Company finding a home in the City, and in Temple Bar no less. An obituary notice was duly posted on our website, and in Terry's memory the Company donated £125 to Leukaemia UK to help support their work. Terry's widow, Yvonne, was very appreciative of the Company's donation.

Regarding Company members who have recently been unwell, our Clerk Emeritus, David Cole- Adams, tops the bill having undergone open-heart, by-pass surgery early in November. I am very pleased to report that David has been recovering from his Op very well, tenaciously sending out emails within a week of being discharged from hospital! A get-well card was sent to him on behalf the Master & the Court, wishing him a speedy return to full fitness.

On lighter matters since the last newsletter, on behalf of the Master & the Court, decennial birthday cards have been sent to Luke Tozer, Stuart Piercy, Brian Godfrey, John Assael, Tim Poulson and Nigel Thompson. **Congratulations & Many Happy Returns!**

Regarding the pandemic still overshadowing all our activities, we now have the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, not only approved in record time, but now being administered to those most at risk from Covid-19, and it is hoped that the much more easily stored and distributed Oxford University/AstraZeneca vaccine, will soon follow behind. At last we should have the upper hand in managing Covid-19,

and hopefully in some 3 or 4 months' time the world will become safer, allowing some relaxation of the current restrictions. Meanwhile, more and more of us have come to know someone who has been very ill with the virus. It is now uncomfortably close to many of us and our loved ones, so please keep up your guard against this dreadful virus, as we slowly edge towards better times ahead.

Stuart Le Sage, Junior Warden & Almoner



Temple Bar Trust (TBT)



Past Master Peter Murray,
Chair, Temple Bar Trust

The Trust's slogan is that it is "the architectural gateway to the City". Its historical role as the western entrance to the Square Mile, as well as its current location next to St Paul's cathedral, ensure an iconic status for visitors of all kinds. When the Trustees embarked on the adventure of creating a physical home for the Company, a room for lectures and for dining and an embarkation point for City tours they were totally focused on delivering a building. Without Wren's jewel of a structure, without regular face-to-face meetings and events, what would the Trust's role be?

As it turns out, now that we have had to operate for nine months without being able to get into our building at all, the virtual world forced upon us by the pandemic has provided a very positive dress rehearsal for the real thing. As coronavirus vaccines are being rolled out, we can but hope that we will be able to start using the building again sometime in 2021. When we do, we will be in good shape.

Over recent months we have organised a series of lectures ranging from Karen Cook of PLP Architecture talking about the City Cluster's latest addition at 22 Bishopsgate to Paul Williams of Stanton Williams on the refurbishment of the General Market Buildings in Smithfield to create a new home for the Museum of London. We have delivered a diverse programme with speakers like Simone de Gale, David Ogunmuyiwa and Sumita Singha – reinforcing the Trust's commitment to supporting access to the architectural profession by those of all backgrounds. At the same time, we have organised regular and well-attended Virtual Walks of the area around Temple Bar led by City Guides. Topics have included Paternoster Square, Sir Christopher Wren, Fleet Street and Temple Bar itself. Here are a few highlights:

TEMPLE BAR TRUST EVENT 19 September 2020

David Ogunmuyiwa, Principle of Architecture Doing Place, explored the expressions of heritage through decoration in placemaking



On 19th September 2020, David Ogunmuyiwa, Principle of Architecture Doing Place, explored the expressions of diaspora heritage through decoration in placemaking at the heart of his practice's work.

TEMPLE BAR TRUST PRESENTS: PEOPLE, PLANET, PLACE - THE HEAVENLY EYE 3 December 2020

The TBT's Pathfinder Series showcases and celebrates architects and urban designers exploring issues of identity and meaning in their work.



The Temple Bar Trust's Pathfinders Series of lectures showcases and celebrates architects and urban designers exploring issues of identity and meaning in their work. We place a focus on practitioners' engagement of diverse communities, narratives and languages – resilient and equitable cultural drivers of placemaking for London in the 21st century as it transitions through the COVID crisis into a new era.

A presentation by Sumita Singha, founder of Eco=logic Architects, Charushila an environmental design charity, RIBA's Equality Forum and Architects For Change. Sumita is also an artist, author and academic:

Sumita Singha, founder of Ecologic Architects, Charushila environmental design charity, RIBA's Equality forum and Architects For Change. About this Event 'There are shadows in the darkness, but people cannot discern them. There are trails in the sky where birds fly, but people cannot recognize them. There are paths in the sea along which fish swim, but people cannot perceive them. But they are visible to the heavenly eye.' Nichiren, 13th century Buddhist monk.

The invisible connections between life and the natural world manifest in our daily lives during moments of intense turmoil. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the unseen was made visible in the suffering of the living. In her talk architect Sumita Singha will discuss how architects can embrace the uncertainty that the world offers while continuing to create value for society. Architecture's social function embeds itself in the way communities are engaged and empowered through the act of physical interventions.

These interventions can be gentle yet comprehensive in the manner that they connect personal health, environmental and economic sustainability. An 'autotelic architect', using a term made up from the Greek words 'auto' (self) and 'telos' (goal) is someone who makes use of the opportunities offered during such moments of upheaval and continues to advocate architecture as a tool for not just riding the waves of change for themselves but creating lasting positive changes for society.

A sense of purpose for a bigger gain drives the strength of agency for an autotelic architect. This big picture is the 'heavenly eye' of architecture. Inauguration of community kitchen garden by Dr Rupa Huq, MP for Acton and Ealing, for a project done by Charushila with Energy Gardens, TfL and Arriva, local businesses, May 2018. Photo: James Jordan. Eco-friendly community centre refurbishment by Ecologic Architects, ongoing, carried out in collaboration with volunteers and SMEs. P Pathfinders Series The Temple Bar Trust's Pathfinders series showcases and celebrates architects and urban designers exploring issues of identity and meaning in their work. We place a focus on practitioners' engagement of diverse communities, narratives and languages – resilient and equitable cultural drivers of placemaking for London in the 21st century as it transitions through the COVID crisis into a new era.

TEMPLE BAR TRUST PRESENTS: A STROLL ALONG FLEET STREET

5 December 2020

Temple Bar Trust and City of London Guides invite you to join them for series of live broadcast virtual walks around the City

The guides are all experts in the City with a rich and varied mix of professional backgrounds. They will provide entertaining insights into the history, architecture, planning and people that make this area of the City so interesting. Participants will be able to ask questions along the way.

All events start at 17:30 UK time and will last between 1 and 1.5 hours and will be hosted on Zoom.

A Stroll Along Fleet Street with City Guide, Marilyn Greene



Walking from the site of the original Temple Bar in Fleet Street, we will discuss its original function and its removal. Continuing up Fleet Street and Ludgate Hill, we will admire some of the monuments, buildings and Churches which makes this route so historic and will conclude at the new site for Temple Bar in Paternoster Square.

About Marilyn; Marilyn Greene is a museum curator and educator. She was curator of Hampstead Museum, Burgh House from 1998-2006 and worked in the learning department of the Victoria and Albert Museum from 2000-2013 and more recently at London Transport Museum. She has been guiding locally for many years on history, art and architectural themes and qualified as a City guide in 2015. She particularly enjoys talking about the architecture and landscaping of the City. Marilyn leads student teaching tours; tours for locals and tourists, and virtual tours and is member of the co-operative guiding company Footprints of London.

So, we have a curatorial team led by Barry Munday and Lucy Bullivant, technical expertise thanks to Paul Weston, we have got to know the very professional City Guides team, we have a growing audience and we have made a small profit. Most importantly, we have been able to show our supporters that we are still in business.

We can't wait to transfer this experience to physical events and activities, but in the meantime, we are eternally grateful to Zoom, YouTube and Skype which have allowed us to be the virtual architectural gateway to the City during these extraordinary times. Future events, include:

TEMPLE BAR TRUST PRESENTS: A VIRTUAL GUIDED WALK AROUND TEMPLE BAR AND ST PAULS

City Guide and Blue Badge Guide Rhys Thomas will take you around Temple Bar and its most famous neighbour, St. Paul's Cathedral

9 January 2021 5:30pm



Temple Bar and St Pauls, both magnificent structures were designed by a man widely accepted as England's Greatest Architect, Sir Christopher Wren. Rhys will also take you virtually around the precincts of St Paul's and all the fabulous monuments and statues you will find there.

About Rhys; Rhys Thomas has been guiding London and beyond since 2010. He qualified as a City Guide in 2018, and as a London Blue Badge Guide in 2020. As a trained actor, Rhys has a flare for story-telling and a real passion for Shakespeare. Other interests include Architecture, World War 2, and movie location tours. Rhys has been giving virtual tours since April this year, having training through both the City Guides and the Association of Professional Tourist Guides.



TEMPLE BAR TRUST PRESENTS: FROM THE HUMAN TO THE DIVINE, A VIRTUAL GUIDED WALK

Discover the City of London's public sculptures in and around St Paul's Cathedral and Temple Bar

6 February 2021 5:30pm



City Guide, Ildiko Bitá will conduct this fascinating tour. With artists as diverse as YBA, Gavin Turk, Emily Young, Britain's greatest living stone sculptor, the underappreciated Elizabeth Frink and Thomas Heatherwick, the designer of the Olympic Cauldron and Routemaster bus, the works are challenging and beguiling in turn, ranging from giant origami, an androgynous shepherd, stone angels, a snapshot of a notorious murder to even an enormous nail.

About Ildiko; Ildiko Bitá is a lawyer, City of London Guide, and keen photographer. She has lived and worked in London for over 30 years and has a particular interest in art and Roman and medieval London, having recently completed an MA in Medieval Studies. She is a member of Six in the City walks and guides at the Guildhall Art Gallery, Roman Bathhouse, Billingsgate and during Open House.

Peter Murray, Chairman Temple Bar Trust



WCCA Charitable Trust Fund (CTF)



Past Master Ian Head, Clerk to the Charitable Trustees

Over the last year the CCACT has maintained a dialogue with its established beneficiaries and understood how the aspirations of each have remained substantially the same, albeit with remote mechanisms.

Although the changing restrictions have caused a constant review of how the varying programs can be delivered the Charity has been satisfied to continue its support to those including; Team Build, City Schools Art Prizes, RA AttRAct program, Sir John Soane Museum and the Orpington Sea Cadets.

Support for students, both members and those from the London Universities, has been a little more difficult. The new format for the Jonathan and Victoria Ball drawing prizes developed by John Bushell and Master of Students was a great success in 2020 (a veritable highlight of the year) and will be repeated in 2021. The Travel Award was suspended in 2020 due to the restrictions but will be reinstated in the coming year (still a challenging prospect). Similarly, the David Hubert Bursary available to students at one of the London Schools will be sent out shortly to the Universities. The intent is that the Universities will make recommendations for consideration based on an assessment of real need rather than students applying directly.

The funds in the previous year which had to be suspended, for example the Travel Award, were aggregated into a new Fund under the category, "Student Hardship" which is available only to Student members of the Company. There has been a very slow take up of this Fund to date, but it was always felt by the Charity that the longer the current situation prevailed the more relevant such a Fund would become and hopefully, (although regrettably), more relevant applications to the Fund will be made.

An additional Fund was set up in 2020 being the Apprenticeship Fund that has received generous support from members. The details of this annual Award are currently being finalized by the Court and it is hoped that this will support those who have chosen to follow an apprenticeship route into the profession.

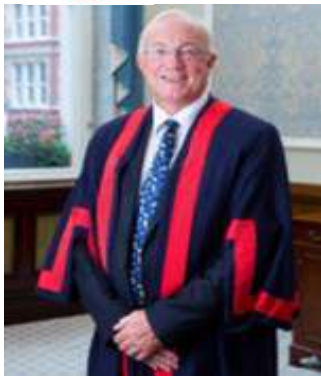
This year has been challenging for everyone both in time lost and financially and it is to be hoped that 2021 will improve on the situation. However, some changes will be long lasting and the CCACT with the help of both The Master of Students John Assael and John Bushell with the continued connection with other organizations can help make a difference even on a small scale.

I want to thank all WCCA members who have contributed to the Charitable Trust Fund during 2020, whether through personal donations, or by raising charitable funds through sponsored events or wider Company activities, such as the St Thomas' Day Art Auction. Your efforts are appreciated greatly by the Trustees and, as you can see from this report, your generous donations are being put to good use. Thank you very much indeed.

Ian Head, Clerk Charitable Trust Fund



Clerk's News



Phil Gibbs, Clerk



Cheryl Reid, Assistant Clerk

A view from the Clerks!

When I last wrote something for a Newsletter, we had had our hopes for physical meetings sorely dashed, but now there is a vaccine on the horizon, there could be light at the end of the tunnel (and not a train coming in the opposite direction!).

Virtual meetings continue to be the order of the day, and it is pleasing that everyone has become so adept at this technology, and it is hoped that when we finally get back to physical meetings, we can look at a hybrid process to blend presence and virtual attendance if necessary.

Cheryl and I continue to work behind the scene providing support to all of you that ask for it and maintaining the cashflow of the Company. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions whatsoever.

We have updated the events page on the website and in there you will find all planned Company events and now additionally the Temple Bar Trust events under their logo. This page gets updated regularly, so please remember to look at it often to make sure you do not miss out on anything that is planned. Therefore, please continue to keep an eye on your inbox for communications about upcoming digital events and other initiatives aimed at reaching out to and helping our valued members.

A very recent change to the website is the addition of a "Sales Space" under MEMBER OFFERS at the top of the page. Here we will advertise WCCA Merchandise, Jobs, Project Placements, Students Placements, Members charitable efforts and other items of interest to members. Please visit regularly to avoid missing out on good offers!

We hope you had a good Christmas and wish you a happy and prosperous New Year in 2021.

Phil and Cheryl

Phil Gibbs, Cdr RN (Rtd) Clerk to the Worshipful Company of Chartered Architects and Cheryl Reid, Assistant Clerk

Important Message about our Gallant and Learned Clerk

Dear Company Members

Phil Gibbs' wife, Gillian, thought that we should let you all know that Phil unfortunately went into hospital on Thursday 7th January suffering with the classic Covid-19 symptoms, in particular shortness of breath. Since then, Gill has kindly kept us up to date with Phil's progress, and I am delighted to tell you Phil was released from hospital on Tuesday 12th— what great news!

However, now Phil is back home he needs complete rest, and is not expected to return to his duties as Clerk for at least a couple of weeks, so we would be very grateful if you would kindly **not** email Phil about Company matters for the time being.

In the meantime, our Assistant Clerk, Cheryl Reid, assistantclerk@architectscompany.org has kindly stepped up to the bar, and will be happy to deal with any Company matters, which would have otherwise landed in Phil's in-tray.

We will of course keep you informed as to Phil's general progress, and will pass on your Good Wishes for his full and speedy recovery. As a former Naval Commander, no doubt he will want to make his own announcement, when he is fit enough to be back at the helm.

At this very difficult time, we hope you and your loved ones are keeping safe and well.

Kindest regards,

**The Master,
Valerie Owen Le Vaillant OBE**

**And The Almoner,
Dr Stuart Le Sage**



The Gallant & Learned Clerk, with his wife Gillian Gibbs, at the Royal Charter Banquet, Mnasion House, February 2020



Report from the Master of Students



John Assael Master of Students & Chair, Education Committee

We instigated bi-monthly on-line Student Forums at the start of the pandemic, and over time, they have gained momentum with increasing popularity and relevance. Most of the sessions cover a range of topics, including reminders of WCCA Awards available for students, especially the WCCA Student Hardship Fund. Advice of coping with the current crisis as a student at a university and advice on seeking appropriate employment

There were over 20 attendees at the last session in November, (mostly Company students and their mentors), when we invited each student to provide feedback on their Part II or Part III courses, so others could benefit from their insight. Reports were prepared following a standard format:

- Introduction
- Course structure
- Cost
- Strengths
- Weaknesses
- Summary

The reports were candid, so just the strengths of each course are recorded below:

Architecture Apprenticeship, Oxford Brookes University

Strengths: The apprenticeship route allows students to continuously engage in industry and academia. The course content and workload has been designed to be completed in the study time allowance, reducing the risk of overwork.

Apprenticeships offer direct mentoring from experienced architects who are there to provide professional support with life, admin and practice work – something which university students may not have access to. Apprenticeships can offer a financial break to students. Architecture degrees can cost anywhere between £50,000 and £90,000. The Apprenticeship comes at no cost to the student, and moreover, the student can continue to be employed full-time throughout the course.

The apprenticeship brings together apprentices from a wide range of architectural practices, offering chances to engage and visit practices throughout the UK.

LSA - 'Diploma in Designing Architecture' Part 2

Strengths: School encourages an entrepreneurial slant on the profession and wants you to be critical of both practice and the professional as a whole. Politically and Economically, the school is both embracing of Neoliberalism and critical of it; expect these kinds of conversations/topics.

I would say its strongest facet is that they want you to be able to leave knowing how you want to practice, and with

ambition; what will your image be, your ethos, your design sensibility, etc - while I have many things to say about the school both good and bad, this I would say is its most valuable asset, and if you see the course as a discovery process of your role as a designer, as well as getting a qualification, you'll be a lot more set up for the journey. The first year which is split between practice and education is stressful, but a very good learning experience, and allows you to adapt to most situations and working practices easily (lockdown has been a breeze after this).

AA Part 3

Strengths: Concise, teaches you what you need to know, and treats you like an adult - aware that the reality of building is 'messy', and therefore advises not only best practice, but realistic practice.

Cardiff – Welsh School of Architecture - Part 2

Strengths: the course gives you the best of both worlds; being able to work and study at the same time, followed by a traditional full-time year. The first year is incredibly well structured and organised which is essential when you're relatively isolated from the cohort and self-directed. It's very obvious what is expected of you, and you have very clear deadlines to enable you to structure your time efficiently. The amount of work that is expected of you in this year is very reasonable.

It's beneficial that you have the ability to stay in practice and get two years of experience while not being slowed down your ambitions to qualify (if you came from a different university).

You have an assigned area of pin-up space for your final crit for both years (the first year's is much smaller than the second year's) which is a really useful tool to enable you to interrogate and curate your work properly, and really consider what are the most important things to show. It also helps prevent you from doing abortive work. This differs from many other schools where it can become a competition between students as to who can produce the most work.

It seems as though there is much less of an 'all-nighter' culture in this masters programme (as opposed to undergraduate programme experience). People keep to very reasonable hours with the odd exception - most likely because students are already accustomed to working standard office hours through being in practice in the first year.

The workshop is brand new and recently renovated and is now of a very high standard.

It's a relatively technical school. You can still have fun with your project and do something quite wacky and exciting, but you do have to produce technical requisites, so it still has to be buildable. This could be a weakness rather than a strength depending on your preferences.

Cardiff as a city is a really amazing place to be a student. It's just the right size; the whole city is walkable, but as it's the capital there's always something going on or something to do. It's also incredibly affordable – you can still get £1 beers at some student pubs!

Westminster Part III:

Strengths: This course runs like a well-oiled machine. As each year is consistent with previous years, there is a plethora of material to study from to best answer the exam questions.

With the exams spaced throughout the year, students can concentrate on a specific module. The first semester lectures cover the English Law, Regulations, Contracts and Procurement module in preparation for the exam in January. The second semester lectures cover Architectural Practice Management module. Students are assigned a personal tutor to develop the Case Study and Professional Development appraisal.

London Met Part III:

Strengths: There is variation in the lectures with a number of guest speakers. For many years the primary lecturer completed the majority of lectures and he pitched these lectures in a way to provoke further thinking and student opinions. This made interesting lectures which were more than a list of facts and legislation to be memorised. (Although I believe the primary lecturer has now changed.)

Having all of the submissions at the end of the year, allows flexibility for students to work at their own pace and manage their own time. The focus of the Case Study and Career Appraisal can be led by the student to explore what interests them most.

Sheffield Collaborative Practice Course:

Strengths: A key benefit of the course is it allows students to earn a salary throughout the first year, potentially reducing financial pressure. Many students also choose the course in order to gain further experience in practice and reduce the time they are away from industry project work and their current work / life set-up.



Students have access to office resources and colleagues can offer further knowledge and advice, which is important to utilise. Having students from a variety of “partner practices” and visiting these over the first year provides

further understanding into how other practices operate. Many of the directors and partners of the “partner practices” will give presentations and discuss their work with the group, which is a great insight that feels unique to the course.

The university projects have a strong emphasis on reflection on working methods and office structure which can be useful for Part III study. Balancing work for both University and Practice also develops good skills which again can provide some “head-start” for Part III. In addition to this, compared to the traditional masters programme, the variation in modules between first and second year is greater, which exercises different skills.

Becoming part of the wider cohort in the second year allows students to still have the full-time University experience. Students are integrated into the wider master’s programme and benefit from being exposed to the plethora of ideas and skills from other students.

Sheffield School of Architecture itself have a very collaborative and open approach, which I believe creates a less competitive studio ethos and encourages students to work with and learn from each other.

Employment Market Place

Our latest initiative is to help students find work placements and employment opportunities by creating an on-line employment marketplace, where Students of the Company can respond to expressions of interest for new staff members from members and where students can share their CV and interests. This is still under development, but we hope it will be available shortly, given the economic fall-out of the pandemic and the relatively high levels of unemployment among younger workers, like our WCCA Students.



John Assael Master of Students & Chair, Education Committee





Report from the Upper Warden



**Phil Cooper, Upper
Warden & Chair,
Membership &
Communications
Committee**

Membership and Communications Committee

Since the summer we have continued to push ahead on all fronts:

Applications for Membership

In spite of the Pandemic, our target of 20 new members was exceeded in 2019-20 with a total of 26 New Members joining us. However, with a number of resignations and sad passing of members, it resulted in a net gain of 17. So far in this year, there has only been one new member of a target of 10 with one outstanding application in hand. It is essentially up to members themselves to promote the WCCA to their friends and colleagues by making them aware of the wide range of benefits of becoming a member not least the mutual advantages of fellowship in these difficult times.

In contrast with the fall-off in applications for applications for Freedom of the Company 6 new student members were bound at the last Court meeting in September and one new application has been received for binding at the New Year Court. Our target for 2020-21 is 3 students.

Honorary Liverymen

Following the report in the Summer Newsletter, an initial shortlist was prepared by Peter Murray, Chris Williamson and me of 7 renowned international architect invitees for Honorary Liverymen of the Company and was voted upon by members of the Court and subsequently formally approved by the Installation Court. The status will run for up to 5 years and once installed, the new Honorary Liverymen will be invited to attend either virtually or actually and take active part in Company events.

We look forward to receiving replies to our invitations early in the New Year, and installing some inspirational new members in 2021.

Commonwealth Association of Architects

Chris Williamson has taken up the baton on this initiative for us liaising with Peter Oborn. Disappointingly, the feedback so far, following several exchanges concerning the WCCA's offer of membership to CCA members, is that while the offer is greatly appreciated, many of CCA member sections are facing acute challenges as a result of the pandemic and don't feel that now is the right time to be taking up such an offer, particularly as much of the WCCA's activity is London centric and the subscriptions would be quite high for many. However, the CCA greatly appreciate the WCCA's interest in engagement with the CAA, and we have been asked to consider becoming engaged with the CCA's [Call to Action on Sustainable Urbanisation in the Commonwealth](#), which they have been pre-occupied with since the summer.

In addition the CAA has recently undertaken a [Survey of the Profession in the Commonwealth](#) which has revealed a critical lack of capacity in many of the Commonwealth countries which are urbanising most rapidly and are among the most vulnerable, together with a lack of educational capacity and a weakness in built environment policy. Peter Oborn has kindly offered to make a presentation of the results and discuss how the WCCA and this will arranged in our New Year Events programme.

Future Minds Group

The Future Minds Group comprising Nick Naidu, Albena Atanassova, Martha Grekos, Audrey Hesse, James Cheung and Layton Reid after several meetings and brainstorming sessions created a comprehensive series of briefing papers: Diversity, Universities and Schools, Wider Profession, Website and Social Media and Video Series. The Officers and members of the Committee are extremely grateful to all the members of the FMG for their time in preparation of this very detailed work which will help enormously in achieving the goal of expanding and attracting a wider membership of the WCCA. The papers were presented by Nick Naidu to the Committee and Installation Court in September, when it was agreed to instigate an Action Plan to consider and make recommendations based upon the FMG papers to the Finance and Strategy Committee for inclusion on the agenda of the March Court.

The initial Action Plan meeting was convened on 11 December attended by me as Chair, Chris Williamson (Group Manager), Valerie Owen (Observer), Nick Naidu (FMG), Chris Dyson, John Assael, John Bushell, David Green and Paul Weston.

The 5 FMG briefing papers it was agreed to consider these in 4 work streams managed and co-ordinated by Chris Williamson. These work streams would then be reported back via our standing Committees. As everyone in the Action Group sits on the WCCA Committees the overall Action Plan can be reported back in a fast track and efficient manner.

COMMITTEE NEWS

Committee Membership

As with the other committees the membership of the M&C Committee was changed allowing involvement of newer Court Assistants from its first meeting of the new livery year in September. After a combined service of over 25 years on the committee Court Assistants Nicholas Rowe and Chris Bicknell have stood down and the committee welcomed for the first time Court Assistant Karen Cook, Steward Nick Naidu and new Student Member Josephine Kawiche to the September meeting.

Phil Cooper, Upper Warden & Chair, Membership & Communications Committee



Nicholas Rowe (and his wife Diana)



Karen Cook



Nick Naidu



Chris Bicknell



Josephine Kawiche





Report from the Renter Warden



Chris Dyson, Renter Warden, Chair, Events

Events Committee Report

We held a series of successful on-line events over the last quarter and have a programme of interesting future events, planned for the next quarter. These are complemented by the events organised by Temple Bar Trust, to which all WCCA members are most welcome!

As has been reported earlier in this Newsletter, the Events Committee organised a series of Modern Practice visits, featuring:

- **12th October**, Tim Haedrich, co-Founder of Haptic Architects discussed the studio's new publication, 'The Haptic Way'.
- **9th November**, Nigel Ostime, Partner, Hawkins Brown, lead a discussion on the
 - 'RIBA Small Works Handbook,' which he wrote.
- **14th December**, there was an excellent Virtual Practice visit to Studio Seilern, when Christina Seilern described some of her recent work.

Future Events include:

- **8th February 2021**. Talk by Architect Hugh Broughton, who is designing *three* Antarctic stations for the UK, New Zealand and Australia, on Sustainability and Global Leadership. This will be followed by a special National Apprenticeships Week Panel Discussion, chaired by WCCA's Apprenticeships Ambassador, Student Member, Katherine Birkett.
- **End February 2021** (TBC) Discussion on Professional Indemnity Insurance
- **8th March 2021**, Modern Practice visit to Cousins & Cousins, led by Simon Cousins.
- **End March 2021** (TBC) Discussion on London, the Global Hub for Architecture.
- **12th April 2021**, Modern Practice visit to Lynch Architects, led by Patrick Lynch.

The Master of Students has also arranged bi-monthly discussion groups for Students, Mentors and other interested Company members, on:

- 16th September
- 4th November.
- These bi-monthly sessions will continue in 2021, for as long as they are needed.

Temple Bar Trust organised a series of on-line Talks and Virtual Walks:

- **19th September**, David Ogunmuyiwa, Principle of Architecture Doing Place, gave a compelling presentation on his practice's work.
- **3rd December**, Sumita Singha, founder of Eco=logic Architects, Charushila an environmental design charity, RIBA's Equality Forum and Architects For Change, gave an inspiring presentation.
- **5th December**, City Guide, Marilyn Greene, presented a virtual Stroll Along Fleet Street.

Future Events include:

- **9th January**, City Guide and Blue Badge Guide Rhys Thomas will present a virtual Guided Walk around Temple Bar and St Pauls cathedral.
- **6th February 2021**, City Guide, Ildiko Bitá, will present a virtual Guided Walk exploring the City of London's public sculptures in and around St Paul's Cathedral and Temple Bar

Members' Survey. We recently undertook a survey to determine what future events and wider activities members would like WCCA to organise over the coming year. The survey asked the following key questions:

- Which events have you attended over the last 12 months?
- Which Virtual Company offerings have you participated in during 2020?
- What sort of events would you like the Company to organise in 2021?
- Which of (a range) of planned events are you likely to participate in?
- How much would you be willing to pay for (a range) of company events?
- How frequently do you visit the WCCA website?

We also sought ideas from Members on how we can make the Company even more engaging and relevant, and received a wealth of good ideas. All these ideas and the feedback from the Members' Survey questions will be put to good use when we prepare future WCCA programme events and activities.

Emergency Services Day

9th September 2020



On 9th September I attended a virtual City of London Emergency Services Day event. Also known as 999 Day, this is a Government backed national day across the UK. It is supported by HM The Queen, the Prime Minister and First Ministers of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, as well as the Rt Hon Lord Mayor and the City Corporation.

999 Day provides an opportunity to support the heroic men and women of the NHS and emergency services, and I was pleased to join a virtual celebration hosted by the Lord Mayor, which seemed all the more relevant, given the added pressure placed on our emergency services as a result of Covid-19.

#999Day promotes the work of the emergency services, promotes using the emergency services responsibly, educates the public about basic lifesaving skills, and promotes the many career and volunteering opportunities available.

Volunteers are an essential part of the emergency services family and they play a core part in keeping Britain safe. 999 volunteer roles include Special Constables, Retained

Firefighters, NHS Community Responders, St John Ambulance, RNLI, Search and Rescue and Coastguard volunteers. Speeches and features were presented on-line throughout the event, and these included an uplifting talk by the City Police Commissioner Ian Dyson QPM (above):



To summarise, Emergency Services Day:

- Promotes our 999 heroes who serve / have served.
- Promotes career and volunteer opportunities across the emergency services.
- Promotes using the emergency services responsibly.
- Educates the public on essential life-saving skills.
- Promotes emergency services charities and the work they do.
- Promotes campaigns being run by frontline emergency services.

It was a wonderful event, and I felt privileged to participate in the City of London 999 Emergency Services Day.



City Giving Day

22nd September 2020



Each year the Lord Mayor champions City Giving Day and in 2020 – the Covid year – charitable giving, community spirit, fraternity and philanthropy never felt more important or worthwhile. Because of this, the Lord Mayor specifically asked every Livery Company to support City Giving Day 2020 and the Architect's Company 'signed up' on 13th August. Since then, our Learned and Gallant Clerk has encouraged members to form firstly, an Architect's Company Golf team and secondly, an Architect's Company Quiz team, to take part in inter-Livery events and raise charitable sponsorship. Unfortunately, neither opportunity was supported by members, so Marley (the Spaniel) and the Master, took on the task of raising funds to support City Giving Day themselves!

I will walk 500 miles and I will walk 500 more Da, Da, Da, Da! (Da, Da, Da, Da!)



Marley and the Master set themselves the challenge of **wearing red and walking five hundred thousand steps in five weeks** between the date the Architects' Company signed up to City Giving Day on 13th August, and the date of City Giving Day itself on 22nd September. So, although we didn't walk five hundred miles, we **DID walk five hundred thousand steps**, as shown by the Fit Bit tallies recorded below! We walked every day, always wearing something red, whether in rain or shine. We raised c. £1,500.00

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO MADE DONATIONS!

Date	Fit Bit Tally
Week 1 – 17 th – 23 rd August	105,130
Week 2 – 24 th – 30 th August	102,486
Week 3 – 31 st - 6 th September	99,905
Week 4 - 7 th - 13 th September	100,116
Week 5 - 14 th - 20 th September	101,714
Total	509,351



The Master and Marley at the Bandstand on The Strand, Walmer Seafront



151 Regiment Covid Support Force Lecture

26th October 2020

It has been the tradition of City livery companies to form links with units of the Armed Forces. For many years, The Marketors Company has maintained strong links with 151 Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps (RLC) - its first ever military affiliate. The RLC are the Army's professional logisticians who keep the Field Army marching, its helicopters flying, its vehicles moving and its tanks and guns firing, by supplying it with everything it needs, wherever it is deployed throughout the world. 151 Regiment is one of 11 Reserve regiments of the RLC and London's only logistics regiment. They have squadrons based at Croydon, Sutton, Southall, Barnet and Warley, with a depot in Maidstone.



On 19th October I attended a virtual lecture hosted by the Worshipful Company of Marketors. **151 Regiment is Back on High Alert**, when Commanding Officer, Lt Col Deborah Taylor (below), described the Regiment's work as part of the COVID Support Force.

Having served as a Regular in the army for 18 years – more latterly as a senior officer at Sandhurst Royal Military Academy – Lt Col Deborah Taylor transferred to the Army



The evening included student, staff and celebrity interviews and features the Lord Mayor, Alderman William Russell, culminating in a magnificent performance from the School orchestra directed by Jocelyn Watkins, Director of Music at Treloar's.

The School was delighted to bring the sparkle of a Treloar's Mansion House fundraising event to supporter's homes and I was delighted to attend! The concert performance was extraordinary and a real credit to the wonderful staff and pupils.

I thought it was truly was a magical evening with some amazing student interviews and a fantastic performance from our School orchestra together with a magnificent introduction from the Lord Mayor of the City of London, the Rt Hon. Lord Mayor William Russell. It was a privilege to share such a special evening.



Feedback from friends and family are shown below:

"Watched the fantastic Mansion House concert that was inspirational. My daughter Alex attended Treloar's and it transformed her life."

"The concert was very touching and a great reflection of the life-enhancing work you do – congratulations!"

"I just had to donate after watching tonight's concert!"

"It is truly a magical place. Well done to everyone who is involved in making Treloar's such a unique and special place."

"I used to be a student and without the help I wouldn't be where I am today."

Treloar's Mansion House, Virtual Student Concert

9th November 2020

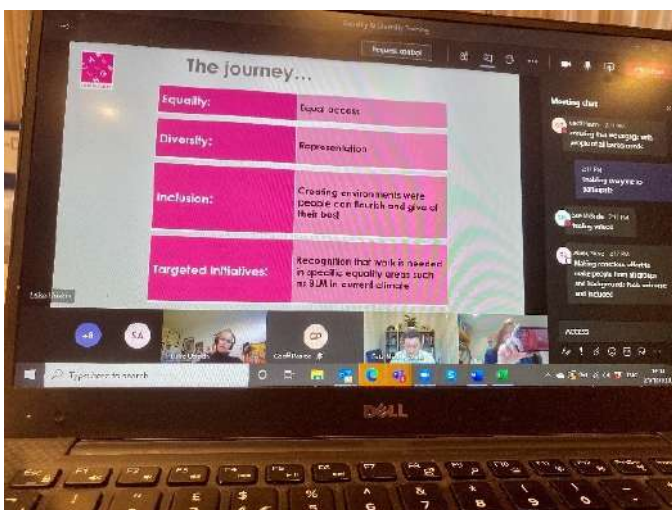
I thoroughly enjoyed Treloar's School Mansion House concert on 9th November. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic so many important fundraisers have had to be cancelled in the Treloar's calendar including the School's very special and unique annual Gala Dinner at The Mansion House, London.

Treloar's is very kindly gifted the use of The Mansion House by The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor of the City of London every year but, this year due to COVID-19, it was obviously unable to host a live event. So, for the first time the school created a 45-minute free virtual event. The school staff and pupils were thrilled to bring Treloar's and all the excitement of this annual fundraiser into homes and offices for the first time.



Reserves in 2015. She took command of 151 in October 2019. In December 2017 she delivered Women100, a celebration of 100 years of women in the British Army.

On March 19th 2020 the Ministry of Defence announced the formation of the **COVID Support Force** as part of its measures to help tackle the Coronavirus outbreak. The support force comprised 20,000 military personnel and was tasked with supporting public services. This included the training of 150 military personnel to drive oxygen tankers to support the National Health Service. In April 2020, an additional 3,000 reservist personnel joined the COVID Support Force.



The names of two military operations to tackle the Coronavirus outbreak are Operation Rescript, focused within the United Kingdom, and Operation Broadshare which focused on activities overseas.

Around 2,000 reservists from all three services were mobilised in response to the virus. They have been undertaking a range of tasks. For example, reservists have been involved in transporting vital PPE supplies to hospitals and care homes. They have been helping with logistics planning to ensure that equipment is moved efficiently from one location to another. They have also helped to set up Nightingale Hospitals around the country and to staff 'pop-up' COVID Testing Facilities. They are now back on alert due to the new tier situation.

It was an interesting lecture and a fascinating evening. I am sure we are in safe hands with 151regiment on the Covid Support Force!

The Actuaries' Company Annual Lecture: 'What lessons should we learn, as a nation, from Covid-19'

26th October 2020



On 26th October, I attended the Actuaries Livery Lecture hosted by Fiona Morrison, current Master of the Actuaries Company. Chris Hopson, Chief Executive of NHS Providers gave an excellent and very topical presentation "What lessons should we learn, as a nation, from COVID-19". Chris focused his talk on 5 key areas – (i) national risk management, (ii) international risk management, (iii) tackling inequalities, (iv) rebalancing government from national to local, and (v) the future of our public finances.



On national risk management he pointed to the need restructure government to look at the longer term, following the progress already made in setting up a National Infrastructure Commission. He urged politicians to devote more time to developing an international structure rather than the overwhelming current focus on just trade.

Chris presented some alarming statistics on the significantly greater impact of COVID-19 in the most deprived areas and how the pandemic was increasing the gap in wealth and health. To tackle this, he called for public services to be more devolved and less centralised, as local health organisations work better with local leaders, to improve track and trace as an example. He also pointed out that more devolved societies tend to be more equal.



Finally, he spoke about the impact of the pandemic on our public finances, with an additional £300 billion of additional public borrowing so far. He pointed to the financial parallels with the Second World War, yet out of that we built a fairer, more prosperous society and the challenge was to do that again. His talk was followed by a lively and engaging question and answer session.



The Plumbers' Company Annual Lecture: 'Use Less Water or Waste Water Less?'

28th October 2020

On 28th October, I attended the Autumn Lecture of the Worshipful Company of Plumbers, titled "Use less water or waste less water?" The evening was hosted by Richard Soper CBE, Chair of the Technical and Education Committee of the Plumbers Company. Richard introduced the evening by reminding everyone of the key aims of the Plumbers Company in encouraging excellence in plumbing and raising the profile of key future plumbing developments. He then introduced the first speaker, Julie Spinks, Managing Director of the Water Regulations Advisory Scheme.



Julie some interesting statistics on water use in the home and illustrated how most of the general public were unaware of how much water they were actually using. She highlighted four key areas that were critical to reducing future water use in the home, the use of complaint fittings, choosing products that used less water, certified installation by approved plumbers, and repairing leaking fittings.



The second speaker was Yvonne Orgill, Managing Director of the Unified Water Label. Yvonne explained how the Unified Water Label together with 3 calculators available to the public in November can help consumers identify the water, energy and carbon efficiency of products. These tools were already being used by developers and architects to improve the water efficiency of new homes.

However, there was also the challenge to retrofit more water efficient devices in existing homes, for example fitting the 6 litre tap in place of the 13 litre tap in 27 million homes across the UK could save billions of litres of water, but consumer buy in was required to drive retrofit projects

Finally, the evening concluded with the traditional lively question and answer session.



The Air Pilots' Company Tymms Annual Lecture: 'The Battle of Britain – After 80 Years is it still Important.'

28th October 2020

On 26th October, I attended an excellent virtual lecture "The Battle of Britain - After 80 Years Is It Still Important?" by Dr Michael Fopp, a Past Master of the Worshipful

THE MASTER'S NEWS

Company of Air Pilots, a keeper of the Royal Air Force Museum, and son of Des Fopp, a Battle of Britain pilot. The lecture was hosted by John Towell current Master of the Air Pilots.



Dr Fopp said: *'History tells us the Battle of Britain was a David-and-Goliath few months of valiant struggle against overwhelming odds by 3,000 young men forever known, thereafter, as 'The Few'. They were undoubtedly aided in their task by great men and women who ensured they had the political, military and life experience to do the job - men like Churchill, Park, Dowding, Tizard, Beaverbrook, and Watson-Watt, to name only the most prominent. However, ordinary people were as much a part of stopping Fascism in its tracks as either 'The Few' or the great and good. These civilians carried on with their everyday jobs whilst also acting as fire watchers, ARP wardens, rescue workers, auxiliary police and fireman, telephone engineers, and a whole host of occupations which were essential to keep Britain functioning. Recent events with the Covid-19 pandemic have drawn parallels with this period, rightfully pointing out that the important people in society are often those who carry out the mundane, the necessary, the low-paid and the really fundamental jobs for the greater good. So, it was in 1940.'*

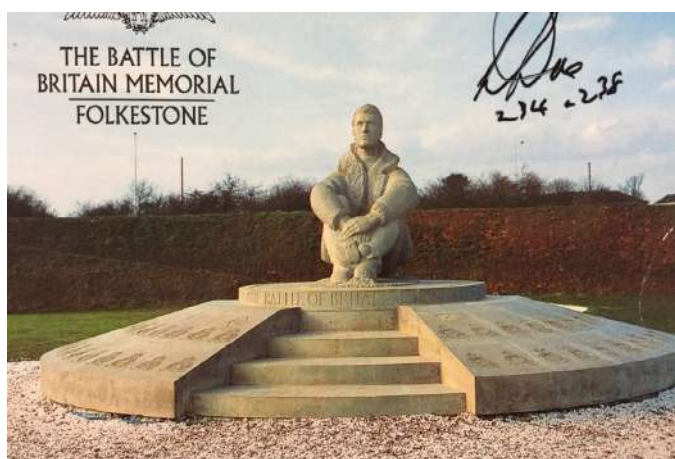


Dr Michael Fopp's knowledge of the events of the battle and the insights he gave were truly fascinating, right down to explaining the colour coding on the clocks in the Operations Room. He explained the events that led up to the battle and the factors that were key to our success, a combination of the pilots, planes, radar, control systems and of course errors by the Germans, but he hoped above

all we would remember the people. This was Hitler's first defeat. He also indicated what life might have been like if we had lost and recommended the 1964 film "It Happened Here" from the British Film Institute (BFI 1298) as well worth watching.

Towards the end of the lecture, Dr Fopp referenced the 'Memorial to the Few' at Folkestone, high on the White Cliffs, near to where I live in Deal, Kent. He said: *In a mere 20 years we shall celebrate the centenary of that moment in history when we took a national course of action which made the world a better place..... The Few were role models for a generation: let us not allow the detail of their achievements to fade, lest we face the risk that future generations will not have their example to follow.*

The lecture closed after a fascinating question and answer session covering everything from the politicians of period to those clocks in the Operations Room. My thanks go to Dr Michael Fopp and the Worshipful Company of Air Pilots for a splendid virtual event that was well worth attending.



The Worshipful Company of Horner's 23rd Ralph Anderson Lecture:

'Are Plastics Compatible with a Sustainable Planet?'

5th November 2020



The 23rd Horner's Ralph Anderson Memorial Lecture was held on Thursday 5th November 2020 virtually by Zoom on the first day of Lockdown2 and was given by Dr Marcus Gover.

Dr Marcus Gover has worked in the environment sector for over 25 years and has been Chief Executive Officer of WRAP since 2016. WRAP is an independent charity working with governments, businesses and citizens to improve the way natural resources are used and specialising in the sustainability of food, plastics and clothing.

Before WRAP, Marcus was Commercial Director of Biojoule, a small start-up renewable energy company making wood pellets from forestry residues and energy crops and a Director of AEA Technology Environment – an international technical services business that is now part of Ricardo.



Dr Marcus Gover, Chief Executive Officer of WRAP

The story of plastics is a remarkable one. The range of properties, ease of processing and costs of production are such that plastics have crept into all business and consumer sectors with astonishing speed. Of course, most plastics are made from extracted feedstocks, but their durability and lightness are considered a sustainability advantage over other materials.

However, David Attenborough's Blue Planet 2 TV series at the end of 2017 brought the world's attention to the problem of plastics leaking into the oceans, their impact on marine life, and onwards through the food chain. As a result, there has been an unrelenting focus on plastics from the public, the media and politicians in the last three years.

But the problem is not with plastics, but with the way that we all deal with waste. We cannot live without these materials in our world today. Plastics make vehicles safer, and more efficient, they make our hospitals safer and save lives, they have protected us all with PPEs during the pandemic and they preserve our food, allowing less waste. Most of all, plastics consume much less energy than traditional alternatives and are therefore a major contributor to saving our planet's precious resources.



Thank you, Master Horner, for a thought provoking and worthwhile evening, which I very much enjoyed.

Marketer's 10 Year Royal Charter Celebration Bowden Event

6th November 2020



On 6th November, I was delighted to attend a wonderful event hosted by the Marketor's Company, celebrating the 10th anniversary of the granting of the Marketor's Company Royal Charter, in the presence of the Lord Mayor and the Civic Party.

Guests were all encouraged either to wear Dinner Jacket (Black Tie) with equivalent attire for ladies, and the Civic Party dressed accordingly. Guests also wore their badges of office and everyone looked splendid!

There were a number of speeches, including excellent presentations from the Lord Mayor, the Rt Hon William Russell and the Master of the Marketor's Company, Lesley Wilson.

The part of the evening that I enjoyed the most, was watching video clips from the original Royal Charter Presentation event 10 years ago, which was supported by HRH Prince Philip, as it reminded me of our brilliant Architect's Company Royal Charter celebration earlier this year!

At the end of the of the event, guests were moved into pre-allocated breakout rooms for informal conversation and socialising. It was a marvellous evening, full of fellowship and fun!



The Green Horizon Summit

6th November 2020

The Green Horizon Summit – The Pivotal Role of Finance took place at Mansion House, as a virtual event from 9 – 11 November 2020, the original dates for the postponed United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), which will now take place in Glasgow in November 2021.

The Green Horizon Summit was hosted by the City of London Corporation, in collaboration with the Green Finance Institute, and supported by the World Economic Forum. It focused on the role of green finance in the recovery from COVID-19. So, between 9th and 11th November, I 'dipped in and out' of the Green Horizon Summit when my work diary permitted.

With a keynote address from Mark Carney, the summit concentrated on the role of financial services in supporting a green recovery and an economy-wide transition to net zero. It also explored how capital can be mobilised at the pace and scale needed to meet not only the UK's commitment to net-zero emissions by 2050 but also international climate commitments.

William Russell, Lord Mayor, City of London, said:

"COP26 may have been postponed, but the momentum towards a green future has anything but slowed. I hope this hugely important event in November will see the global financial community come together to collectively play its part in the fight against climate change."

Catherine McGuinness, Policy Chair, City of London Corporation, said:

"The UK is leading the fight against the global climate emergency having been the first major economy to commit to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050. The Green Horizon Summit will go some way to helping us achieve this, exploring how we can mobilise capital at pace and scale to fuel a green recovery from COVID-19, and the domestic and global transition to a net-zero future."

Dr Rhian-Mari Thomas, Chief Executive, Green Finance Institute, said:

"The Green Horizon Summit will provide an important opportunity to showcase green finance innovation and progress. We will convene both public and private sector actors to discuss how we maintain a high-level of ambition and action across the financial community in the year leading to COP26 in Glasgow."

Prof Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman, World Economic Forum, said:

"The Green Horizon Summit will be a key milestone en route to Glasgow COP26. It will bring together leaders of finance, business, government and civil society from around the world for a progress check on green finance for the Great Reset; and to showcase innovative finance solutions to accelerate industry's net-zero transition and for nature-based solutions."

It's time to reset the relationship between finance and the real economy. It's time for public and private finance to get behind the transition to a sustainable and resilient future for all – architects can help deliver this in the way building projects are commissioned, designed, procured, constructed and occupied.

The green transition is both an urgent existential imperative, as well as a significant commercial opportunity. Capturing this opportunity will drive job creation and speed the return to growth. But for now, there is a persistent financing gap between net zero ambitions and reality. The Green Horizon Summit helped to close this gap, with a key objective being to mobilise capital by converting momentum into action ahead of COP26.



The Summit covered five major themes:

- Reporting, Risk Management and Return
- Financing the Energy Transition
- Infrastructure and Green Growth
- Financing Resilience and Adaptation
- Nature and Net Zero

The Summit concluded with a focus on the concrete actions and commitments financial firms need to make ahead of COP26 in Glasgow.

The Green Horizon Summit was delivered in a hybrid format with some content live streamed from a recording studio in London. Attendees participated through an online platform to allow for virtual engagement and were offered to an array of presentations from internationally renowned speakers. It was a privilege to attend.

Featured speakers included:



Larry Fink
Founder, Chairman, Chief Executive Officer of BlackRock, Inc



Kristalina Georgieva
Managing Director, International Monetary Fund



Antonio Guterres
The ninth Secretary-General of the United Nations



Christine Lagarde
President of the European Central Bank



Michael R. Bloomberg
Founder, Bloomberg LP & Bloomberg Philanthropies



Christiana Figueres
Founder, Global Optimism



City of London Police Passing Out Parade

10th November 2020

On 10th November I attended the virtual City of London Police Passing Out Parade and Youth Police Cadet Q&A. The Parade featured 22 new officers and included speeches from the Lord Mayor and the Commissioner of the City of London Police, and music from the Band of the Grenadier Guards.

The Youth Police Cadet Q&A was led by Islington Volunteer Police Cadet, Cally MacDonald and focused on the experience of the new officers during their 15 weeks



of training, as well as what led them to join the police force, and their advice to those who may be interested in a future career with the City of London Police.



Water Conservators Webinar – The Long Winter

11th November 2020

On 11th November I attended the Water Conservators Webinar “The Long Winter: Where are we now on sewage-based detection of CV-19”. Court Assistant David Lloyd Owen gave a fascinating presentation on how Water Based Epidemiology (WBE) has emerged as a powerful tool for the early detection of Covid-19 in communities.



PC Joy Palmer, PC Lee Theakston and PC Guiseppe Vaccaro took part in the panel and it was chaired by Detective Chief Inspector Kate MacLeod.



Congratulations to all the officers who successfully completed their training and Passed Out on 10th November and thanks to the Corporation of the City of London for organising this memorable event.

David also gave an interesting insight on the history of Water Based Epidemiology, how it was developed to detect polio in the 1930s and in 1961 was used to target the deployment of polio vaccinations. The use of WBE during the current pandemic has shown that Covid-19 can be detected in wastewater at low levels up to 2 months before first symptoms were noted in a community. With daily WBE testing, a lead of up to 12 days can be obtained before symptoms re-emerge as seen in Paris this July. Monitoring is possible at a sewage treatment works or upstream in the sewer network to target local outbreaks.

The presentation was followed by numerous questions that made for a lively thought-provoking question and answer session. David certainly showcased why WBE is so important, not just now but for future pandemics and disease control around the world. He made a strong case for politicians and health officials to make the development of WBE an urgent priority.

My thanks go to the Water Conservators for an excellent presentation and an interesting evening.



Celebrating Diwali in 2020

18th November 2020

I was delighted to join a celebration for Diwali on 18th November.

The event began with a welcome from the Lord Mayor, Chair of Policy and Resources Committee, Catherine McGuinness, and Her Excellency Gaitri Issar Kumar, the High Commissioner for India.

A short film recorded for the event was aired, which featured traditional prayers and lighting of the Diya at the Shree Ram Mandir Temple, London, as well as a short dance performance by Ragasudha Vinjamuri.

This was followed by a panel discussion and audience Q&A, focusing on the importance of Diwali, how celebrations are being observed during COVID-19 and the impact that the pandemic has had on the community.

The panel was chaired by Dhruv Patel, Chairman of City Bridge Trust, and comprised:

- Satya Minhas, Co-Chair, Hindu Council UK
- Dipna Anand, Award winning Chef and Author
- Hemal Randerwala, Founder, Go Dharmic

It was an interesting event with some enjoyable music and dancing. I was delighted to be able to attend the event and share some of London's rich, diverse culture and heritage.

60 Minutes with Sheriff Christopher Hayward CC

19th November 2020



On 19th November, I attended a webinar “60 Minutes with Sheriff Christopher Hayward” hosted by Coachmakers Company. The event was hosted and introduced by Master Coachmaker, Sarah Jane Adams-Diffey and consisted of an initial 30-minute question and answer session between Liveryman Richard Haycocks and Sheriff Chris Hayward followed by a further session of questions from the floor.

Chris started by explaining how the City was governed. It consists of 125 elected members with 2 courts, 25 Aldermen and 100 Common Councillors. Aldermen are elected for life but offer themselves up for re-election every 6 years. The electors consist of City residents and businesses and the number of votes a business gets is determined by the number of employees. By tradition the Councillors and Aldermen are independent of political parties and are not paid. The City Corporation have recently commissioned a review of the governance of the City headed by Lord Lisvane. The report issued last year contains more than 90 recommendations, including increasing diversity and reducing the number of committees.

In response to a question on the impact of the pandemic producing a permanent change in working patterns on the City, Chris replied that pre COVID there were 513,000 people a day commuting into the City which dwindled to just 5,000 during the first lockdown, and was now back up to 60,000. However, the financial markets have continued to function with people working from home and he believed many would return to the office gradually after the pandemic as for many the facilities at home were not as good as the office and many would miss City life.

On Crossrail Chris said that the delays were unfortunate, but the project would transform accessibility to the City giving 1.5 million people the opportunity of getting to the

City within 30 minutes. He also outlined the future transport strategy with a move to driverless cars and e scooters.

With regards to the impact of Brexit Chris' view was that it was a huge mistake not to include financial services in the Brexit deal, but he hoped that future regulatory talks would build trust again to agree equivalence deals with the EU. In terms of any advantage Brexit might give to our competitors, he felt that the main threat to the City comes from the US and Singapore, not Europe. In response to a question on freedom of movement, Chris spoke of how the City has relied on attracting the best international talent and was looking towards a streamlined immigration system to deliver this in the future.

On local matters Chris spoke about the possible closure of Guildhall library and the need for the City Corporation to reduce its budget, as it was losing £7 million a month during the pandemic due to rent holidays etc. He urged Livery Companies to reach out to City businesses and get them involved in the Livery, and finally he spoke with pride about the continued development of the “culture mile” as the City was the 3rd largest funder of the Arts in the UK.



How quickly the hour passed in a most interesting and enlightening question and answer session! Thanks to both the Sheriff and the Coachmakers.

Discussion with the Lord Mayor on Property in the City of London

20th November 2020

The Lord Mayor invited a small number of representatives from Livery Companies in the property and construction sectors, to discuss his concerns about the City property market and, given there is a currently drop in demand for office space of around 10%, how the City can retain its competitiveness as a global financial service centre. The guests were: Master Chartered Architects, Master Chartered Surveyors, Ken Morgan, Master Constructors, Arthur Seymour, Master Builders Merchants, Stewart Pierce, CEO of the RICS, Simon Pritchard, CEO of the CBRE, Chris Vydra,

CEO of the City Property Association, Harry Badham, The City Surveyor, Paul Wilkinson, and the Deputy Chair of Planning, Sheriff Christopher Hayward. The afternoon started with each guest providing a 90 second summary of the impact of Covid-19 on their industry – particularly in relation to the City of London.

This was then followed by discussion on:

- The requirement for office space in the City in the 2020s.
- If Covid has changed long-term working patterns, with fewer people commuting daily into the City.
- The pipeline of work in the construction, surveying and architecture professions. Is there an expectation for significant projects in the City in the next decade?
- The sustainability agenda – both in terms of retrofitting older buildings and energy-efficiency standards for new ones.
- If Covid has changed the type of building businesses want in the City.
- What steps attendees would like the City of London Corporation to take to support their industry.

In general, meeting guests felt that although there is currently a reduction in demand for office space owing to COVID-19, it is likely this will be temporary, and that demand will 'level out' as tenants take more space per head, in order to provide healthier and safer workplaces.

A number of interesting concepts were discussed in relation to the location and the design of new office buildings in a post-Covid world, which I researched via Jones Lang LaSalle and raised during the meeting:

Office workers' biggest concern? Commuting! Distributed office models help relieve employee anxiety.

As offices gradually reopen, companies are making sure sanitation and social distancing protocols tick all the right boxes for people to feel as safe as possible when back in the workplace. But, for workers, there's a bigger concern before they even arrive: the commute.

The prospect of cramming into confined spaces on mass transit is testing their nerves. Which is why over a third of people who previously took public transportation to work are likely to seek other forms of travel in the immediate weeks and months after the pandemic.

But the convenience of working from home for the last few months has also had an impact. Many office workers say "less or no commute" had been the best part about working from home.

More people opting to drive as an alternative could translate into more congestion as people elect to take their cars to work. But some workers simply must rely on public transport.

As a result, some large employers are considering a more distributed office plan, with multiple options and flexibility in where the work gets done. This can include the option to



work from home, the leasing of flexible space, and satellite offices, often in the suburbs, where people can more easily commute.

Office leases are getting shorter. Coronavirus is amplifying demand for more flexible commercial real estate

In Hong Kong, an average office lease lasts three years. In the U.K., it's six. In the U.S., it fell 15% in the first five months of 2020 to seven years, and it's likely to fall farther. The trend toward shorter leases is riding an accelerated trajectory as office users exercise caution and avoid making long-term decisions in the age of COVID-19.

So far, office occupiers approaching the end of their lease are the primary drivers of the term reductions. Rather than searching for new space in such a fluid environment, corporations are choosing to renew or extend leases. Renewals as a share of leasing have jumped to 51% from 29% pre-COVID.

Many occupiers that hadn't incorporated flexible office strategies before the virus may explore them in the future as a way of maintaining a more fluid portfolio. In addition to shorter lease terms, practices may include coworking memberships, suburban outposts and shifting some employees to permanent work-from-home arrangements.

These trends are certain to challenge office markets. But landlords that recognize and fulfill office users' desire for agility will be best positioned to thrive in the future.

Companies are rethinking their corporate HQs. Companies are increasingly looking into how to provide spaces that encourage and support more flexible ways of working

Amid changing work styles and evolving expectations about the office environment, companies are exploring alternative models beyond big, densely packed corporate HQs. With non-territorial spaces now common in many offices, along with a growing shift towards flexible hours and greater use of technology to connect teams, models like *ub & Club* are becoming more viable – and appealing. The right space for the job. Many companies with several floors in a building already have workplace strategies in place that define spaces suited to social and collaborative activities, concentration work and meeting with employees moving around according to the type of work they're busy

with. The Hub & Club model provides the opportunity for organisations to offer this level of choice and flexibility to their employees above and beyond just an adoption of Work from Home policies, but also offers the chance for an intermediate third space in-between home and the main HQ or campus.

The club is where the big internal and client facing meetings would happen – akin in style and atmosphere to many of the private members' establishments that have surged in recent years in many global cities. Centrally located, they have limited desk space and are designed to encourage social interaction, support learning and knowledge-sharing all while promoting a company's brand.

Hubs, in contrast, offer employees the choice of avoiding the full commute, while still having the opportunity to get out of the house. Located outside of the core business districts, employees can book a variety of spaces on demand and access usual office facilities such as meeting rooms, pods and breakout areas.

Hubs could be more accessible than city centre buildings and reduce the amount of time spent commuting – one of the key factors around half of people have enjoyed while working from home during the coronavirus pandemic.



Building health is the new buzz-phrase. From light and temperature to ventilation and cleanliness, building health is now more in focus than ever

Today's spotlight on creating healthier workplaces goes well beyond implementing physical distancing and encouraging employees to use the stairs.

Building infrastructure and hygiene practices, closely monitored by new technology and live data, are being analysed and tested to ensure ventilation, lighting and heating systems are playing their part in safeguarding employees' health.

Indeed, all but one SARS-CoV-2 outbreak out of 7,354 analysed in China was contracted indoors, according to research from universities in China and Hong Kong. Ongoing monitoring of Building Health. Advancing technology, such as Envio or Iconics or IntelliCommand platforms, enable facilities managers to monitor building health in real time.



Sensors which monitor air flow and room temperature are managed by the platforms and raise the alarm on any issues immediately.

In Birmingham, business campus One Central Boulevard is using such technology, creating a live flow of actionable data to keep its buildings in optimal condition.

Elsewhere, new filtering methods are being added to the ventilation system in Glasgow's single largest office building currently under development at 177 Bothwell Street. Underfloor heating will replace air-based systems so that air no longer needs to be recirculated.

Different solutions for different buildings. As more buildings look closely at their ventilation and air quality, factors such as location, building age and design – not to mention budget – all play a part.

In large metropolitan areas, for example, pumping in outside air is often not an option due to pollution levels. Furthermore, in Europe's major cities more than 50 percent of the region's buildings are at least 100 years old, according to experts.

Floor layouts in older buildings can equally prove problematic with circulating air and letting in natural light with narrower corridors and smaller rooms than some of the more modern purpose-built office.

Tracking the number of people using spaces is one way to help keep a healthier workplace.

Space utilisation and air quality sensors can help build a better picture of how and when spaces are being used so factors like CO₂, temperature and humidity can be adapted or improved accordingly. Equally, cleaning teams can focus on the most heavily used areas.

COVID-19 has increased interest in air quality testing, so Landlords race to improve air quality in buildings.

Since the coronavirus pandemic began, reviews on the job site Glassdoor have increasingly focused on the health and

safety of workplaces — in addition to the usual discussion about corporate culture.

Prospective employees are not just looking for a cultural fit anymore: they are also reviewing the buildings in which they will be working. Of increased concern to everyone entering an office is the quality of the air they will be breathing.

Landlords and property managers are racing to implement best practices around indoor air quality in a bid to retain and attract tenants, involving everything from HVAC systems to particle monitoring technology. Many actions dovetail with existing sustainability goals, as COVID-19 accelerates and broadens the expectation that buildings can and should promote public health.

Keep it fresh. Many buildings simply move air from one indoor space to another, which can increase the risk of transferring airborne infections.

With growing concern from scientists about the need for protection from virus-carrying aerosol droplets in the air in addition to respiratory droplets spread among people in close quarters, improvements to existing ventilation systems are near the top of the list of most re-entry plans.

Opening a window can help, but many rooms don't have windows that open. ABN Amro Bank NV is pumping extra ventilation into conference rooms at its Amsterdam headquarters to offset the heightened chance of transmission during small group meetings.

Some buildings are employing ultraviolet UV-C light technology. When placed inside light fixtures or within HVAC systems, it can kill viruses in the circulating air. Wirth Research in the U.K. is developing a "viral furnace" that heats stagnant indoor air, killing any pathogens before cooling down the air and releasing it back into the space.

Adoption of technology that measures air quality is also on the rise, including airborne particle monitoring. The measurement of waterborne droplets is becoming more mainstream, said Raefer Wallis at MIT's recent World Real Estate Forum.

Healthy = sustainable. Retro-commissioning — a process that involves systemic evaluations of a building's HVAC and other systems — can help identify opportunities to improve air quality. But that process also has an added benefit: discovering new ways to cut energy consumption.

Improvements accelerated by the pandemic should ultimately lead to healthier occupants who will be happier and more engaged.

Sensory-driven design is gaining traction. Psychological and physical safety needs are driving new design theories

From certain paint colours or sounds triggering sensory overload, to the heights of cash registers, modern building design aims to accommodate everybody. But like so many things, COVID-19 is rewriting the rules.



Architects and designers are having to quickly pivot to the raft of new safety issues, both in terms of mental and physical health. Are the aisles too narrow for social distancing? The smells of bleach and other disinfectants too overwhelming? Is there enough sidewalk space for outside seating?

For designers and architects and even society at large, this fundamental shift has reshaped our understanding of inclusivity through design. The pandemic's repercussions are expected to be wide-ranging and will surpass just physical health concerns.

Empathy, inclusivity and design. Designing buildings and public spaces that work for everybody, no matter their needs, has become a priority over the last three decades. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in 1990 forced designers to pay attention to the ways people interact with environments inside and outside buildings, ensuring everybody could have similar experiences. The regulation spawned all sorts of new concepts around designing with empathy. COVID-19 is set to be the next evolution in this area of design thinking. To be sure, it remains early days, with uncertainty about how to make long-term decisions on spaces that will last decades given that regulations and buildings codes are often changing. Exactly how wide aisles will need to be, or how much outside seating restaurants and bars will need to accommodate for, remains up in the air.



However, more predictable are some of the physical safety and accessibility issues. The psychological safety aspect of design will be far more sensory-driven. For example, frequent cleaning and disinfecting, could trigger a psychological reaction and set off a chain of uncomfortable emotions that prompt a consumer to leave and not return. Or a person could be at a gym and feel unsafe due to ventilation or space concerns, despite the gym following all proper safety protocols. And then there are plexiglass shields, modified entrance and exit pathways, signage, and other precautions that draw attention to how drastically things have changed.

Industries will adapt differently and within varying levels of urgency. Most offices had an immediate focus on keeping their employees physically safe. Retailers, restaurants and other essential services and businesses had to do a quick pivot as well. But architects are quickly realizing that nearly every public space will need to be rethought and redesigned with psychological and physical safety in mind.



Companies want proof buildings are healthy. Certifications ranking health in office buildings are cropping up in major real estate markets as COVID raises the stakes on employee wellbeing

Ranking a building's health is increasingly in demand as the wellbeing of office workers moves to the top of the corporate agenda. Official certifications have cropped up in Singapore, Australia and India, following on from the WELL Building Standard and Fitwel that launched in the U.S. about six years ago. Companies in recent years have started paying more attention to promoting the health of their workers, in part due to a battle to attract top talent. Such efforts have come into sharper focus during the pandemic.

The certifications aim to show buildings meet science-backed standards for health, like air quality, access to daylight, or opportunities for employees' mental relief and physical movement. They are similar to green-building certifications that have also gained popularity.

New schemes to emerge over the past three years include Australia's NABERS IAQ (indoor air quality), Singapore's BCA-HPB (Building and Construction Authority-Health Promotion Board) Green Mark for Healthier Workplaces, and India's IGBC (Indian Green Building Council) Health and Well-being rating.

Making wellness visible. WELL Building is considered the international standard in commercial real estate for implementing, validating and measuring wellness features, which can include the materials used in construction, HVAC systems and air filtration, or tenant amenities.

Take-up is increasing. The International WELL Building Institute's 2019 annual report shows 82 projects were certified in 2018 – an increase of 78 percent on the previous year, while certified square footage grew 203 percent.

A positive knock-on effect has been greater transparency through access to data, considered an important factor in investors' decision-making.

Topping up on tenant amenities. Awareness around the role of wellness in attracting tenants and workers is gathering momentum. For over a third of workers, physical and environmental factors account for more than an hour of lost work per day, according to the 2019 study by Future Workplace and View.



As health and sustainability become some of real estate's most coveted attributes, landlords are stepping up. In Australia, Charter Hall last year swapped 1,000 square meters of revenue-generating offices in the lobby of one of its Sydney buildings for a wellness area with free yoga, an auditorium, arts studio and café.

The International WELL Building Institute is also upping the ante with its new WELL Portfolio certification. Lendlease has become the first landlord recipient, with certification across 14 of its Australian properties.

THE WELL BUILDING STANDARD™

SEVEN CONCEPTS FOR HEALTHIER BUILDINGS



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Sussex Heritage Awards

25th November 2020

On 25th November, I was delighted to attend the 2020 Sussex Heritage Awards, which were held on-line this year. Architecture, design, traditional building skills and craftsmanship were all celebrated as winners in this year's Sussex Heritage Awards. The annual awards ceremony was due to take place at a prestigious dinner in the summer but was delayed due to the pandemic. Despite lockdown, the Sussex Heritage Trust received over 70 award entries. As this is the ONLY Awards ceremony I have attended this year, I have recorded all the winning buildings here. Enjoy!

Chairman of the Trust, Simon Knight, said: "This good news story demonstrates the importance of excellent architecture and design, traditional building skills and craftsmanship and arguably without these the heritage we have in Sussex would be all the poorer."



The 2020 Award winners are shown below:

Building Craft Award

- Callum Jackson for Stonework to Old Goodwood



Estate Cottages

Submitted by Berry Stonework Ltd, Lavant

- Lion Roofing for work to Compton House,

Commercial Award



- Hanningtons Lane, Brighton

Submitted by Morgan Carn Architects, Brighton



- Lady Bee Enterprise Centre, Southwick

Submitted by ECE Architecture, Worthing, and Pilbeam Construction, Brighton



- The Old Stables, Nutley

Submitted by Pippingford Estate Co Ltd, Nutley

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Ecclesiastical Award



- **St Mary's the Virgin Church, Chichester**
Submitted by Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Mary's Church, Apuldram

Landscape and Gardens Award



- **Historic Stew Ponds Project**
Submitted by Arundel Castle Trustees Ltd, Arundel



- **Peach House Restoration, Gravetye Manor, East Grinstead**
Submitted by Gravetye Manor, East Grinstead

Mid-Scale Residential Award



- **Lower Barn and Fielder's Cottage, Christ's Hospital, Horsham**
Submitted by Valley Builders Ltd, East Grinstead



- **The Stables, Hove**
Submitted by River Oaks Homes, Hove

Public and Community Award



- **Aldingbourne Country Centre, Chichester**
Submitted by HNW Architects, Chichester



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- **Burgess Hill Library, Burgess Hill**
Submitted by NewRiver REIT plc, London



- **School of Science and Sport, Brighton College**
Submitted by Brighton College



- **Congress Theatre and Welcome Building, Eastbourne**
Submitted by Levitt Bernstein, London



- **West Dean College Roof Restoration, West Dean**
Submitted by West Dean College of Art and Conservation, West Dean



- **Denton Island Community Centre, Newhaven**
Submitted by Douch Partners Ltd, Forest Row

Small Scale Residential Award



- **Chalk House, Ditchling**
Submitted by Ben and Sam Ellis, Owners

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- **Conversion and Internal Alterations to Grade II Mill, West Sussex**

Submitted by Jane Jones-Warner Associates LLP, Chichester



- **Hove House, Hove**

Submitted by Baobab Developments, Brighton



- **Parsonage Farm, Kirdford**

Submitted by Nicholls Countryside Construction, Kirdford



- **Ringmer Passivhaus, Ringmer**

Submitted by Hazle McCormack Young LLP, Tunbridge Wells



- **St John's Street, Chichester**

Submitted by fiftyeight Architecture + Interiors, Chichester



- **The Grange, Slindon**

Submitted by Victoria Holland Architecture Ltd, Burpham, and RW Armstrong, Chichester

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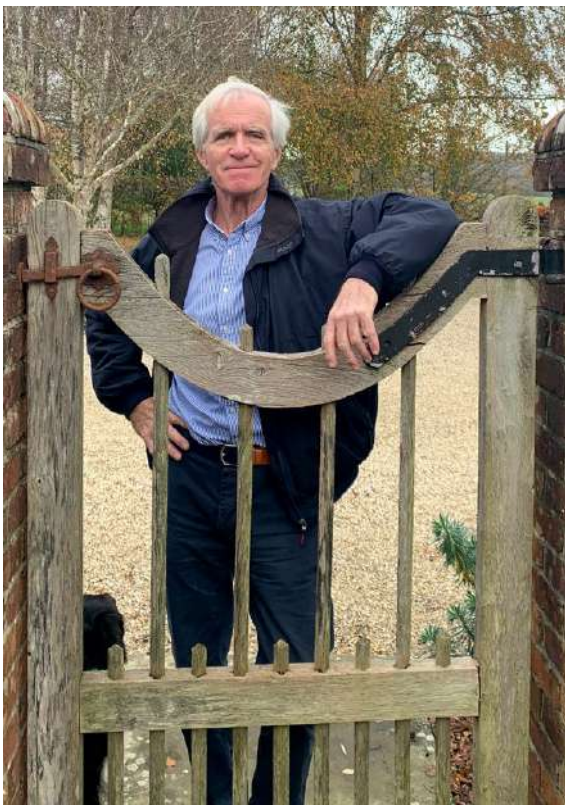
- **The Manor, East Sussex**
Submitted by Valley Builders Ltd, East Grinstead

The Sussex Heritage Person of the Year

- **Duncan O'Kelly**

Duncan is no stranger to the Sussex Heritage Trust having won awards in 1999, 2004, 2008 and 2013. Since establishing his practice in Sussex in the nineties, Duncan has developed a strong body of work that shows great sensitivity to the context in which he is working, with a particular emphasis on the Sussex vernacular.

One of his earliest projects, The Deer Tower in Shillinglee Park enhances and extends a romantic folly in an original Italianate Gothic style. An example of his work in the Sussex Vernacular can be seen at Grittenham Farmhouse, a 2004 Sussex Heritage Trust award winner. And, in the more formal setting of a large country house, Duncan has added a classical pavilion which was a 2008 award winner.



Duncan's life work has been spent enriching the built heritage of Sussex, the warmth of personality and strength of relationships he has developed and the generosity he has shown in passing on his knowledge. Some of Duncan's works are shown below.



Grittenham Farmhouse



The Deer Tower



Shillinglee Park; Hammerwood House

The Lord Mayor's Annual Address to the Livery

25th November 2020



On 25th November, the Lord Mayor Alderman William Russell gave the annual address to the livery. The event began with an introduction by Barbara Russell,

Chairman of the Livery Committee. The committee was formed in 1864 originally created with the purpose of organising and overseeing the elections of the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs at Common Hall. 150 years later, the Committee still fulfils this role whilst becoming the forum of communication between the livery and the officers at Guildhall and Mansion House. She explained that the Livery Committee was also responsible for training courses and had recently worked on a Diversity Charter signed by 36 livery companies. The committee has no budget and had relied on donations from livery companies to fund the recently commissioned Livery Committee website.

This was followed by the Lord Mayor's address. The Lord Mayor started by praising the community support given by livery companies during the pandemic quoting 3 key initiatives – "The Livery Kitchen Initiative" supported by 44 companies, "Securing Future Prosperity" lead by the Management Consultants, and "No Going Back" organised by the Pan Livery Committee to support prisoners on release. He mentioned how he was launching the Recovery Task Force with key actions to ensure the City recovers from the pandemic and the "London Recharged Report" to retain innovation and maintain business eco systems. He also mentioned that he had recently hosted the "Green Horizon Summit" with over 90 countries taking part.

Finally, he announced his theme for his second year of office "Global UK – The New Future" which would champion innovation, encourage opportunities for trade and continue to support culture.

The third speech was by the Town Clerk, John Barradell, who spoke about recently commissioned a review of the governance of the City headed by Lord Lisvane. The report issued last year contains more than 90 recommendations, including increasing diversity and reducing the number of committees. He also mentioned the Target Operating Model which will simplify how the City of London Corporation works.

The event ended with a question and answer session in which the Lord Mayor was asked how travel restrictions had affected his role as a global ambassador. The Lord Mayor replied that he had visited more countries virtually than he could have done physically but he was looking forward to many trips next year to re-establish personal relationships.

Prison Advice and Care Trust (PACT) Sir Harold Hood Memorial Lecture

3rd December 2020

On 3rd December, I attended an evening hosted by PACT, the Prison Advice and Care Trust. The evening started with a briefing from PACT's Chief Executive, Andy Keen-Downs, followed by a premiere of PACT's brand-new film

'Hidden Sentences: Voices of Prisoners' Families', created by Martin Freeth. *Hidden Sentences* gives a platform to prisoners' families to share their experiences and explore the impact that imprisonment had on them.



Then, Frank Cottrell-Boyce gave a fascinating lecture, entitled *'Some Things We Can't Think'* followed by a Q&A session, a message from Archbishop Wilson and a poem by Roger McGough a 'Everything Touches.'

Frank Cottrell-Boyce, an award winning story-teller, presented the eighth Sir Harold Hood Memorial Lecture: 'Some Things We Can't Think'. Frank gave an inspiring and moving talk on the power of words to bring about feelings and help each of us realise that others have noticed the same things as us: "'It's not just me', is a really powerful feeling." Frank said we talk about this pandemic as though we've had a prison-like experience... But I'm not sure that that has re-



sulted in us reaching out to prisoners. We've chosen to socially distance ourselves from 84,000 of our fellow citizens.'

The Sir Harold Hood Memorial Lecture is held most years by PACT as an opportunity to celebrate the life and memory of a great friend and champion, the late Sir Harold Hood. The lecture seeks to contribute to public knowledge and understanding of how we as a society can make our prisons places in which individuals can achieve personal change and growth, and leave to live good lives, in stable and healthy relationships with family and the wider community.

It was a thought-provoking evening, with a powerful message of support, which was made all the more relevant and compelling, because of the C-19 pandemic – Together, PACT stands side by side with families and children affected by imprisonment, and the people in prison who continue to live in "lockdown".

Carols for The City

8th December 2020



On 8th December, I attended a very beautiful virtual carol service "Carols for The City" organised by The Lord Mayor's Appeal, the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists (WCIT) and the City of London vocal group, VOCES8.

The prior to the service Mark Halford, Master of Worshipful Company of Information Technologists and Paul Smith CEO of the VOCES8 Foundation introduced a session explaining the work of the 4 charities sharing the proceeds of donations for the event, which had reached a total of £44,000 on the night. Both the Lord Mayor's Appeal and the WCIT Charity provide financial and volunteering support to charities throughout the UK. The VOCES8 Foundation last year worked with 40,000 students, including many schools in and around the City of London, while the Friends of City Churches supports all the churches in the City of London.

The Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally, DBE then talked about the important work of the City Churches supporting the homeless during lockdown, which was followed by a brief presentation on the history of the Livery Companies.

The service itself consisted of 7 carols and 7 lessons with a welcome from The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor of the City of London, Alderman William Russell and a message by HRH Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, KG, GCVO.



The carols were beautifully sung by pitch perfect VOCES8 and included well known favourites "Once in Royal David's City", "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" and "We Three Kings". There was also the Coventry Carol sung by group Apollo5, and a lovely rendition of "Away in a Manger" by the Elizabeth Selby Primary School in Tower Hamlets.



The lessons were read by a number of very distinguished guests including the Lord Mayor, HRH Prince Edward, Andrew Bailey, Governor of the Bank of England, Sir Kenneth Olisa, Lord Lieutenant of Greater London, and Mary Berry, TV personality.

The evening concluded with closing prayers by The Reverend Marcus Walker, and a Blessing by The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally, DBE, followed by an organ voluntary by Alderman Sir Andrew Parmley.



It was a very joyful and splendid event, a really great way to start the Christmas festivities.



Treloar's School Virtual Liveries Day

10th December 2020

I was delighted to participate in the Treloar's School Virtual Liveries Day on Thursday 10th December. It was a great opportunity to learn more about Treloar's and how the School students and staff have been coping with the pandemic, together with hearing more about Treloar's work with Liveries and an update on some of the School's forthcoming fundraising appeals.



In 1908 the then Lord Mayor of the City of London, Sir William Purdie Treloar, opened his school and hospital in Alton, Hampshire for disabled children. Today the Treloar's School continues this tradition caring for around 170 severely disabled children many of whom require 24-hour care. The Virtual Liveries Day provides an opportunity for the Masters of Livery Companies, who provide a vital part of the funding of the school, to see the work of the Treloar's charity and how the children are cared for and educated. Such are the high standards of education at Treloar's that they have achieved an "outstanding" rating from OFSTED.

The event opened with a welcoming address by Simon Birch, CEO at Treloar's who described the excellent facilities at the school and how the charity raises around £2m per annum to maintain them. He explained how the pandemic had meant significant additional costs to keep the school functioning and how the pandemic had also restricted their ability to raise funds via normal fund-raising events.

Martin Ingram, the school Principal, then talked about the anxiety amongst the students during the first lockdown when it was not clear whether local hospitals would be able cope with any patients from the school.

The school adapted well to the restrictions in place during the pandemic with some education being delivered remotely.

We were then given access to a class in progress via zoom. The children were acting out "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens, with each child playing a character from the story. The young boy in the centre of the photograph below played the part of the ghost of Christmas past. Finally, there was a question-and-answer session with the leadership team at Treloar's.



Treloar's is the only charity founded by a Lord Mayor of the City of London that is still in existence today, and flourishing. The support Treloar's receives through its continued links to the Livery movement is hugely important and the school was clearly very grateful for the generosity it receives.



As Treloar's is unable to welcome visitors to its site at the moment, the Virtual Liveries Day was a helpful way to keep in touch, and I was very pleased to take part, to support this remarkable school and its talented pupils. Overall, the Open Day was an amazing and moving experience, and I look forward to the possibility of actually visiting the school when the pandemic is over.

