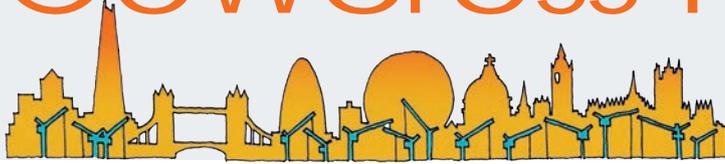


Cowcross Newsletter

March 2018



[www.alanbaxter.co.uk /shared-workspace](http://www.alanbaxter.co.uk/shared-workspace)

Welcome to the March Community Newsletter!

With so many new buildings rising into the skyline it would seem that London remains a real hive of business. Cowcross Street is busier than ever and keeping the designers, makers and creatives central to Clerkenwell is even more important now than ever before. In a tide of change, our buildings seem a rock of stability. The whole community is working adventurously using their design talents to truly make a difference to what London looks like in the coming years. There's a great deal to be positive about – especially here.

Poundbury: The “Toytown” that grew up

It's surprising how many architects and engineers within the building have had a hand in creating Poundbury, the urban extension to Dorchester and brainchild of the Prince of Wales. Richard Morton, Liam O'Connor and Alan Baxter were all asked to advise on how to create liveable streets and places. From the outset it prompted ridicule from Modernists for its vernacular architecture borrowed from cottages in Dorset or Piazzas in Florence. But how has it fared 20 years on from the initial Phase I?

Architecture aside, our latest field trip revealed an interactive and growing community, which has fostered a high level of entrepreneurial, independent business activity. The car, though accommodated, does not reign king: creating places for people comes first. Streets are naturally calmed through design and engineering; car parking does not dominate; and a legible street network means there is little need for bewildering signage.

People have voted with their feet and the property prices are above average for the county

with a good mixture of people from all social backgrounds and walks of life. Social housing is handled inclusively and sensitively within beautifully-crafted buildings and the community (which it's certainly become) plays a vital role in managing communal spaces and facilities. It's not perfect (where is?) but it's definitely not a place to write-off.

Poundbury's quality-builds and well-thought-out infrastructure has created a thriving, distinctive extension to Dorchester with a “village-ey” lifestyle but 21st century facilities. It's well worth a visit if you are in the area. If you'd like to know more about Poundbury, please speak to Clare Coats, ABA Director of Urban Design.



Emmeline Pankhurst memorial

This year celebrates 100 years since the hard work and sacrifice offered by suffragettes and suffragists led to votes for [some] women in the UK

Liam O'Connor Architects was commissioned to design a memorial to Emmeline Pankhurst in Parliament Square to be completed and unveiled to celebrate 100 years of women's suffrage. The memorial will be located adjacent to the Abraham Lincoln memorial and will face the Palace of Westminster. It is planned to be unveiled in December 2018.

Key to this project is the removal of a small figure of Pankhurst currently located in Victoria Tower Gardens. This will be de-listed and re-located as a focal point in front of the

main building of Regent's University, in Regent's Park, originally Bedford College and the first British institution to offer degrees to women.

Project team

Architects and Planning Consultants: Liam O'Connor Architects – Takako Kugo, Khalid Seydo, Nabeel Shehadah, Liam O'Connor

Structural Engineers: Alan Baxter – Jim Gardiner, Hannah Butlin

Sculptor: Angela Conner



'Meet-the-Neighbours'

November 2017: This was a lively lunch-time session with three extraordinary organisations taking centre stage. These included Sara Dilmamode from Citiesmode, Alexandra Steed from URBAN and Catherine Croft from Twentieth Century Society. Sara has recently created an innovative planning tool to make the British planning system more inclusive. URBAN's work on large (and smaller) scale projects was fascinating in the clever use of design and deep knowledge of plants to create stunning urban places. Catherine's talk about the C20 generally was inspiring given the level of detail and breadth of interest they have and the opportunity to join their work. Charlie Peel was also with us and there was huge interest in his Urban Good London National

Park City map. If there's anyone who wishes to have one, please let Angela Whitehead know.

February 2018: last month's session was equally well attended with three organisations sharing their unique work with us. Linden Grove from the Gardens Trust challenged us on ways to unite the charitable and private sectors whilst The Hopps Partnership explained the meaning and relevance of Party Walls in plain English. Phil Jones who already works with several organisations within the building, offered his forthright vision on the importance of infrastructure, transport and well thought out masterplanning.



Phil Jones

Joining shortly ...

Campaign for Better Transport is a national charity that has been working for more than 45 years to make transport greener and fairer.

We've had many successes, saving vital bus routes, protecting precious green spaces from colossal new roads and persuading the Government to invest in new rail lines and stations.

We lobby national & local government to change policy, but we also help local groups with their own campaigns, supporting them in person, online & on the phone.

Ruth Chappel (Deputy CE) said: "The lovely building and facilities will make for a great working environment, and the flexibility will really suit us - we'll be able to use the meeting rooms and the gallery to do things that we simply can't do in our current space.

We're also looking forward to meeting our new neighbours and forming links with the many like-minded organisations in the building."



We too look forward to working with the CBT and to welcoming them to our Community. With so many transport engineers, masterplanners, the ITC, and Sustrans in the building we can get a great dialogue going for better transport systems for all.

Richard Morton Architects: Well designed homes to meet our ageing needs

Traditionally those over 55 qualify to live in specialist older people's housing. This is a huge number – about 20M people in the UK – and a huge range from the extremely fit – Tom Cruise would qualify – to the very frail and infirm. The immediate architectural reaction when asked to design for this age range is to reach for the 'Wheelchair Design Guide' but, important though this is, it is not the central issue.

As people retire and their children grow up, they spend more and more of their time, not rushing around, but in their own home. So an estate house with views only of endless cars and everyone else out at work or school can easily become a place of frustration, ill-health and – the biggest problem of all – loneliness. What most older people need is a really well designed house or flat in a great setting, not too big but with a few spacious rooms, adaptable, well-lit and well heated, really secure, with a certain amount of support available and a real sense of community to combat loneliness. It sounds very obvious and straight forward but there is a chronic lack of such housing and a great opportunity for those with the commitment to get things right.'



Earls Manor, Winterbourne



Carysfort Close, Elton

ITC Why we travel

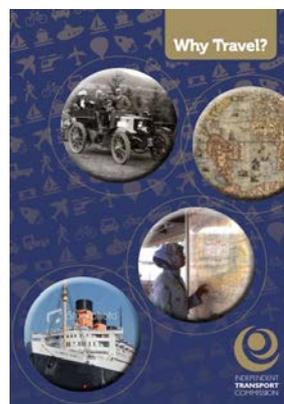


The Independent Transport Commission (ITC) research charity has been extending its influence on strategic policy issues. Following recent visits by the Secretary of State for Transport and the Chairman of the Transport Select Committee, the ITC released a major new report at the end of 2017 exploring the future prospects for UK aviation strategy.

This followed a nationwide Call for Evidence. The report was covered in *The Daily Telegraph* and launched with leading industry experts at a special event hosted by ITC Patron Lord Adonis.

The ITC will this year be preparing a major new publication with leading academic publisher Policy Press, exploring the fundamental motivations that drive human travel. Entitled *Why we travel*, the book will, for the first time, bring together expert insights from a wide range of fields, including evolutionary biology, psychology, sociology, economics and philosophy, to show the kaleidoscope of reasons that drive our desire to travel and its importance for our well-being. The book will be launched in 2019 and is being edited by Kris Beuret OBE and ITC Director Dr Matthew Niblett.

The ITC is currently seeking a part-time events manager to join its Cowcross Street team. Please email director@theitc.org.uk for further information.



RCE1851 Alumni Science Evening



On Tuesday evening the Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851 returned to the Gallery for their annual Alumni Science Evening event. The Commission was

established in 1850 to organise the Great Exhibition of 1851, and used the considerable profit from the event to purchase 87 acres of South Kensington for it to become the home of the V&A, the Natural History Museum, the Science Museum, Imperial College and the Royal Albert Hall.

It also awards scholarships, primarily for scientific research. We heard from several current scholars who are part-way through their projects. There was a wide variety of subjects, including research into earthquakes caused by tectonic plates in bending (rather than plates sliding past each other); methods of using light therapy for cancer treatment; improving the properties of batteries; and a particularly interesting talk on the discovery of a material which gets thicker when stretched! There was a fine display of industrial design prototypes too. Highlights include a device which monitors a user's breathing to help with meditation training, and an advertising stand which uses water vapour to filter out air pollution.

Professor Peter Higgs, who identified the eponymous boson, was due to talk on theoretical physics but unfortunately was unable to attend. Instead Professor Sir Richard Brook gave a fascinating talk on his thoughts on the world of research science, and as usual the event finished with dinner. It was great to have this event here in the Gallery again and we were assured Professor Higgs intends to give his talk in the future.

Just joined



Shankar Kothapuram

Shankar Kothapuram is an Architect and Landscape Architect who is in the process of starting out on his own. His current work,

primarily based in India (in Kerala and Tamilnadu), is exploring the urban and social manifestations of digital design, whilst working closely with traditional craftsmen and materials.

His previous experiences have been with design studios of Zaha Hadid Architects and Tom Stuart-Smith. At Tom Stuart-Smith he is also presently leading the landscape design projects at Cannon Street and Whitechapel



Masterplan in London and the Hepworth Wakefield Garden in Wakefield (left).

Community Interest Forums

We've been running some general interest forums to give some guidance and debate on specific topics. These have included basic IT (essentials you need-to-know) and Cloud based accounting.



The social media forum was held on 13 March with Abigail Wall, the Social Media Manager of the Dogs Trust. The session was well attended and brought social media people from different organisations together.

The forum coming up in April will be on "office health and mindfulness" led by an osteopath/naturapath Joshua Fein-Brown who will talk us through posture, movement, exercise and ways to relax & tackle stress.



Gallery

Gallery events to watch out for in the coming months include Dr Ayla Lepine on "Women Artists and the Modern Church in Britain" and Philip Davies on the lives of two British soldiers who were active in the Burmese resistance in the Second World War. The latest exhibition was "Colouring London", an innovative crowdsourcing platform being built by Polly Hudson at The Bartlett Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis (UCL). It will encourage individuals to contribute to a much needed database on the capital's built stock, to support sustainable policy making.



Large graphics platform!

Print Farringdon are launching a Large format graphics platform on their website.

It has a wide variety of products from Pull up Banners, Vinyl banners, outdoor displays and Exhibitions displays. You can also download the templates direct and also has a price calculator tool on selected materials. Lodgers will be able select their product and email the Print Farringdon production team:

city@printfarringdon.co.uk.



Welcome to Cowcross St.:

New arrivals:

- **The Campaign for Better Transport (RG)** – see their profile on p.2
- **Line Planning (R1)** – Liz Loughran and Kay Pallaris
- **SBGD (RG)** – James Spencer, Ines de Santiago & others
- **Shankar Kothapuram** – see his profile above
- **Survey & Design** – Carol Lang, John Knepler & Ian Taylor (joining in April)

Coming events

Early Spring Drinks: join us at ABA on the rooftop terrace to celebrate the beginning of spring. The Early Spring Drinks will be held on **Monday 21 May** so please put the date in your diaries now. We'll look forward to seeing you all then. Look out for a book and magazine sale to be held by **The Twentieth Century Society** shortly. It will be the ideal opportunity of "bagging a bargain" with lots of amazing books to buy and an even better opportunity to support them and sign up to join their Society.