



21 July 2020

Dear Members

ASCHB Events 2020/2021

We are looking forward to a new season of events. As uncertainty remains following the Covid-19 outbreak, it has not yet been possible to arrange meetings for the coming season at Cowcross Street. Accordingly we shall not be publishing an events card in August.

However, we shall commence **online webinars** this month which we hope you will join. These will begin with Alex di Valmarana's talk about the laser scanning of the Villa Rotonda in Vicenza carried over from the conference last March. We shall follow that with other talks scheduled for the end of last season that we had to postpone.

We shall put a link to each talk on our website several days prior to a live online question and answer session. That will enable you to view the webinar in your own time and email questions to us before the Q and A, which will include the speaker and a session chair plus perhaps one or two others socially distanced on camera in the same space. A link to the Q and A will also be posted. This is a very exciting innovation but experimental, at least to us. The committee has spent a lot of time, developing the webinar format and checking the technology that will support it and has external help from experts in the field. The links to the webinar and the Q and A will also be sent by Mailchimp to those of you who have provided us with emails. If you have not already done so, please provide us with your email address now.

I should also like to announce our next conference, **Conservation and Carbon**. That is a hugely important topic currently and many think policy could be heading in the wrong direction. As usual we aim to gather experts pre-eminent in their field to address this subject. We expect a lively debate amongst all who attend. However, we have taken the precaution to delay the conference until the autumn of 2021. Clearly we do not know how the outbreak will proceed or what regulation of meetings and travel will obtain at that time but we remain optimistic that sufficient normalisation will have taken place for us to gather once more by then. We shall however provide updated news on our website.

The committee has decided to delay the annual general meeting until that time too. Our constitution says that it will normally take place between December and March.

The Forum for All Aspects of the Historic Environment

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These however are not normal times. Committee officers and members have all agreed to continue to serve until election time in autumn 2021. We have been holding meetings via Zoom and will continue to do so until this autumn.

The next issue of **Transactions** is in preparation. It too has been affected by lockdown but with a copy date this September, it should be published well ahead of the autumn conference.

Thank you for bearing with us in these exceptional times.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sherry Bates". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Sherry Bates
Chair on behalf of the Committee of
The Association For Studies In The Conservation of Historic Buildings