

LIW Acting Chair/Secretary Report 2019-2020

Mark Lawton stood down as Chair prior to the 2019 AGM and the position of Chair remains vacant.

In the interim Ray Edwards and Olwen Maidment agreed to cover the Chair role, with assistance from other committee members. Very sadly, Ray suffered a heart attack in May and remains in a serious condition. As a result, he stood down as Branch Rep later in the year & Mary O'Connor has temporarily covered this role since July. LIW offer him and his family our best wishes for his long-term recovery. Olwen Maidment has since been covering the Chair role, with the support of other committee members.

As Acting Chair & Branch Secretary of LIW for 2019-2020 I would like to thank the LIW Committee for their support this year:-

Ray Edwards & Mary O'Connor – Branch Rep
Louise Ball – Branch Treasurer

Emma Hayes – Website & Social Media Co-ordinator

Committee Members
Christofer Smith
Steve Mann

Although committee numbers have remained stable, we will continue to seek new members. The use of the WebEx platform may assist in enabling members remote from Cardiff to participate more easily, although there have been problems with accessing WebEx effectively.

We have received valuable support from the LI, with visits from Adam White, Ben Brown and Lynn Mentiply and policy support from Theo Plowman during Ben's paternity absence.

The LI90 Summer Event in Bute Park, Cardiff was successful but with very limited attendance. The AGM, Christmas Social and CPD Event in February 2020 were by contrast very well attended and there is a sense that evening events, including those where there is a charge, attract good numbers. Weekend events are less attractive unless there is an extremely well-known speaker. Wales's geography and the difficulties of travel remain a constraint, however we continue to aspire to achieving events in North and West Wales and to improve committee membership in these areas.

Connecting with other professional bodies

We have also connected with LISW, RTPI Cymru and Design Commission for Wales and aim to collaborate with them on joint events in the future. We aim to re-establish connections with RSASW and Designcircle Wales.

Website & Social Media

Our profile on social media, including Linked In, Instagram, has improved significantly and the website is being enhanced following the LI refresh.

Funding

LIW were successful in the bid for LI funding in March of £3,405. The funding supports our programme of events and ongoing projects. LIW have applied for £3,490 for 2020-2021. See Branch Treasurer's Report for details.

Events

We have continued to aim to diversify the range of LIW events to attract more members and interested parties from associated organisations. Events comprised:

Branch AGM, Chapter Arts Centre, Cardiff

LI90 Summer Event, Bute Park, Cardiff

Christmas Social, Brewdog, Cardiff

Sustainable Management of Natural Resources & Climate Change CPD Event, Cardiff
(sponsored by Tobermore)

P2C Group

We continue to provide support to the P2C Group and aim to assist this through the appointment of a P2C Rep on the committee. We hope to improve contacts and collaboration with LISW & The University of Gloucestershire to help P2C members.

Promoting the Landscape Profession in Schools /Colleges

We aim to work with LI centrally to enhance educational and apprenticeships in Wales and through #chooselandscape and the Ambassador's project. There are currently no accredited landscape courses in Wales.

LI90 Trees and Photo Gallery

We launched these two projects as part of the LI90 Celebrations. We now have a good number of photographs for inclusion on our website and aim to continue this project, perhaps with particular themes. The LI90 Trees has had some interest, but little update to date and has since been stalled by the Coronavirus outbreak. We aim to continue this project when conditions allow.

Placemaking Wales Charter

Welsh Government have published a Draft Placemaking Wales Charter, facilitated by Design Commission for Wales. Olwen Maidment and Theo Plowman attended and provided input to the consultation. The Landscape Institute intend to sign up to the Charter. Unfortunately, the launch event has been postponed due to the Coronavirus outbreak.

Future Direction of the LIW

Planning for a programme of LIW events for the year ahead has been stalled by the Coronavirus outbreak, however we aim to continue with ongoing projects, diversify the range of events and seek to partner with other organisations to raise our profile. We would like to continue to develop all the areas identified above especially supporting the LI in their focus areas and the P2C Group. We hope to collaborate with Dyffryn Gardens (NT) & RTPI Cymru on the 2023 centenary of Thomas Mawson's presidency of the RTPI.

We aim to hold our forthcoming committee meetings via Webex and to increase contact with members across Wales.

The roles of both Chair and Secretary have been extremely rewarding, but they do require two people to carry out these roles. The role of Chair remains vacant and I would encourage members to volunteer/nominate for this role.

Olwen Maidment CMLI
Acting Chair/Branch Secretary 2019 - 2020