

## MERSEYSIDE CIVIC SOCIETY

### Rita Cheesman Award for Heritage Interpretation 2020

#### **Richard Moore**

Richard Moore is an eminently deserving recipient of the Merseyside Civic Society Rita Cheesman Award for Heritage Interpretation 2020 for his research examining key aspects of the background to, and the design and construction of, Liverpool's Piazza Fountain and its viewing platforms. The Fountain's ingenious series of hoppers conceived and designed by the notable artist-engineer Richard Huws, randomly tip water (hence the popular local name of the 'Bucket Fountain'), with their sounds and movements replicating 'a stormy and tempestuous sea; a particularly apt symbolism in the international port city of Liverpool.'

A graduate of the University of Liverpool's School of Architecture and first-year student tutored by Richard Huws (in 1959-60), Richard Moore was assisted in his research by other former first-year students, particularly Stewart Denham and Derek M. Hudson who both peer reviewed successive drafts of the report, which was updated earlier this year ([link](#)). The resulting comprehensive, wide-ranging and forensic published research report formed the basis for a Listing Application to Historic England by Richard. Identifying and thoroughly evidencing the range of key architectural and historic interest points specified as 'Reasons for Designation', the application was described by Historic England as 'exemplary'. The Fountain received Grade 2 designation, giving Richard Huws' unique design public recognition as a 'rare and important example of mid C20 water-architecture'.

This recognition has substantially increased the Piazza Fountain's profile as one of Liverpool's most distinctive heritage assets, with Historic England publicising it as one of the most notable of over 500 structures newly listed in 2019. Dr Moore's published research and the subsequent Listing form a strong foundation to underpin future grant funding applications for the restoration of the Piazza Fountain which, together with the addition of new seating, will ensure its future and wider public appreciation and enjoyment.

Sue Carmichael

(Former MCS Council member and first-year student of Richard Huws, 1959-60)

Link: [http://www.merseysidecivicsociety.org/media/79844/lpool\\_fountain\\_history\\_v3x-comp.pdf](http://www.merseysidecivicsociety.org/media/79844/lpool_fountain_history_v3x-comp.pdf)