

**CHARLES RENNNIE MACKINTOSH SOCIETY
MINUTE OF THE 4th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE
MACKINTOSH CHURCH, GLASGOW, SATURDAY 6 JUNE 2009**

1. WELCOME

The Chair of Council, Dr. Evelyn Silber, welcomed members to the Mackintosh Church for the Society's 4th AGM as a Company Limited by Guarantee.

ES gave warm tribute to the volunteers and particularly to Karin Otto in bringing in new volunteers from taster days throughout the year. A recent first study of volunteers in the historic environment carried out by Volunteer Development Scotland had found a staggering total in hours given which, translated into a modest per hour value, added up to many £millions.

The Mackintosh Society was no exception. Not the least of this work was put in by members of CRM Council, not only in attendance at Council meetings but also in additional work such as that by Lesley Dunlop in support of education and other activities, supporting the very hard work of Stuart, Trish and Irene

ES made special mention about Stuart who has been with Society since 2001 and has made an extraordinary contribution. The many-armed, dancing Shiva of Hindu mythology was an apt image of the many aspects of Stuart's work for the Society's membership, in moving forward Society's activities and business planning, in managing the Church and volunteers, liaison with Council, production of Journal and work with the Mackintosh Heritage Group.

Greatly helped over the past year by Dylan Paterson - developing wedding business - and by Sha Nazir whose 3 year term with the Society as Development Officer working on education and outreach. This has now reached 650 school pupils and built relationships with education officers at other sites. Sha's post has been funded by HLF.

It was announced that Council had been joined by new Hon Treasurer Judith Patrickson, head of finance at Scottish Opera – who has brought with her considerable experience of charity accounting and fundraising.

The Society had also received the resignation of Jo Lamb on personal grounds including health. Jo was elected to Council in 2007 and had been especially active in urging the review of the Society's constitution as it affects the relationship between the Society and local members groups. Jo was a founder member of the Society and has been active in London and SE Group organising events. She was thanked for her contribution and wished well both in health and in ongoing work with London and SE Group.

Evelyn emphasised the Society's priorities over the coming year. Good news – completion of new visitor facilities at School of Art, but there were concerns about state of some Mackintosh buildings – Martyrs' School was now closed and there was no news as to its future use. There were also some concerns over the condition of The Hill House, particularly in view of the financial difficulties being experienced by the National Trust for Scotland. However, Society Council and Director continued to need to devote most of its attention to income generation, and the overriding objective of reducing operating deficit. As had been reported previously here and in the Journal, the Society receives no more than 15% income needed for annual operation from membership, further 15% or thereabouts from Glasgow City Council. A substantial sum therefore must be generated each year through surplus on tours, retail activity, church visits, weddings, grants, etc.

The Society has no endowment funds on which to draw and as was made clear from the accounts its reserves were very modest. If we do not attract more funds through gifts, bequests, grants and recurrent income the Society would sooner or later become insolvent and have to close down. In addition to its impact on our staff and all our members and volunteers that would throw the future management and care of this building into jeopardy and have a serious impact on the MHLG and its

initiatives to develop and market CRM's legacy. The present economic climate did not make the challenges any less. ES appreciated the pressures affected everyone. The Society already kept tight control of costs and this year had also reviewed mailing lists to reduce numbers of people who had complimentary membership in some cases stretching back many years in thanks for past help. That helped with mailing costs. The more members who use the web site and can help save on postage the better. But many costs, such the utility bills for the church and paying salaries are not reducible and in fact tend to rise. So the primary attention is on generating additional income.

New measures: Review of membership subscriptions, increase with effect from 1 August. Junior and family memberships have been left untouched, but individual membership has been increased from £30 to £35, concessionary membership from £20 to 25 and Library from £70 to 80, and overseas subscriptions postage increased. Further review in 2-3 years time.

Exploring options to increase membership. Support in this especially at regional level. A leaflet and web information will be produced to encourage members of the Society who love and care for this vital heritage to give gift memberships, and to leave a legacy to the Society in their will. As a bequest to charity the sum would be tax exempt. Options would be to leave work of art or shares to be sold to benefit the Society.

A patron scheme will also be introduced to encourage those who can to support Society with higher annual donation (eligible for gift aid) at graduated levels.

Evelyn had now been in the Chair for the past three years and reflected on how much had happened in that period – Church project completed, re-inhabited and reopened, development of new activities, redesign and re-launch of the Journal, negotiation of new benefits of CRM Society members, surge of joint promotional activity, several important exhibitions, such as Doves and Dreams, SLU between local groups and Society, new branch in Merseyside.

The Chair commented on the condition of Mackintosh buildings and that although Charles Rennie Mackintosh's reputation stands high, there is still a need for our vigilance and advocacy to make sure that his built legacy is protected, conserved and made accessible.

The Mackintosh Heritage Liaison Group has been working for several years on the case for Mackintosh buildings to receive UNESCO World Heritage Site status. Other progress to report; major restoration and improvement project, part funded by the Heritage Lottery and led by Council member, Peter Trowles, is under way at the School of Art. A building survey is in progress at Scotland Street School following concerns we have expressed about a lack of maintenance over recent years.

Glasgow Museums (now under the governance of the trust, Glasgow Culture and Sport) are now beginning a consultation process in which members of the Society will be invited to participate, about the long term conservation, research and presentation of Miss Cranston's Ingram Street Tea Rooms.

Martyrs' School, the Mackintosh building leased for some years to Glasgow Museums, is to be vacated by the end of this year as the lease building expires with no apparent decision or strategy announced for its future care and use. A storage building where the Ingram Street material has been kept is also to be vacated shortly with the possibility of interim storage for the material before it hopefully goes to a third phase of Glasgow Museums' purpose built Resource Centre in 2010 or thereabouts. The Society will be writing to the City Council to request information on the future of Martyrs' School and urge that the risks to the building should not be increased by it being left derelict.

2. APOLOGIES

The Chair reported that apologies had been formally received from the Society's Honorary President, Lord Macfarlane of Bearsden and Honorary Vice President, Baillie Elizabeth Cameron.. Apologies had also been received from a number of Council and Society members.

3. MINUTE OF THE RECONVENED 2nd AGM and 3rd AGM.

The minute of the reconvened 2nd AGM was adopted as a true record.
Proposed by Paul Gilby and seconded by Beryl Graham

The minute of the 3rd AGM was adopted as a true record.
Proposed by Aileen Somerset and seconded by Beryl Graham

4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director, Stuart Robertson thanked the Chair.

Since the last AGM he outlined a number of exciting initiatives that have taken place.

CRM SOCIETY

Membership

As Evelyn mentioned we have been sorting through the Membership list and have weeded out a good number of the complimentary members that have built up over the years. Evelyn has outlined we are now focusing on ways to develop the membership, including the Patron Scheme.

Society Membership benefits continue at various Mackintosh sites:

- The Mackintosh Church – Free admission
- The Mackintosh House - Conc. rate £2.00 admission
- House for an Art Lover - Free admission
- The Glasgow School of Art - Free admission
- The Lighthouse - Half price admission
- The Willow Tea Rooms - 10% discount
- 78 Derngate, Northampton - Conc. rate £4.00 admission
- Stereo Café (Daily Record Building) – 10% discount

Stuart thanked the Membership team of Drew Sommerville, Elspeth Kidd and Jo Davis for all the work they have done in managing the membership and the database.

MARKETING

The Society continues to be involved with a number of organisations including the Arts & Business Development Forum, the Association of Scottish Visitor Attractions and the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce.

Paul Gilby asked about the mentoring scheme. Stuart said that the support and guidance from the mentor has been excellent. Fundraising and Volunteer training programmes have been areas we have seen benefits. Unfortunately due to illness some parts have slipped. Review of business plan, marketing strategy and time management are areas we still have to develop.

New marketing collateral has been produced:

- Gift Membership
- Visions Tour
- Volunteer Support
- A Patron Scheme is planned
- Other items are planned

JOURNAL

The new style Journal has been well received and is now being sold at a number of the Mackintosh venues. The printers went into administration in December, so we are looking for a new printer. Work is underway on the next Journal and it is hoped to be finished by the end of the month.

OBITUARY

We were saddened to hear about the death of Shiela Betterton, CRM's great niece, who died suddenly but peacefully on Boxing Day 2008, aged 88. We were grateful for a donation of £300 we received from the Bath group, which was given in fond memory of Shiela, and all she contributed personally.

Waveney Miller who died last year, left £500 in her will to the Society.

Former QX congregation member, Mrs Agnes Byers Crombie, died on 22 June last year and had her funeral at QX. From her estate she bequeathed £4,427.19 to the Society.

Other Donations

Stuart thanked Bruce Hamilton for making the new lectern for the Society.

The London and South East Group managed to sell £413.79 of Society goods at their Christmas event.

Stuart thanked everybody concerned for their generosity in supporting the Society.

A report on the Regional Groups will be covered by Peter Trowles.

Tours/Events

The Society continues to work with The Glasgow Pond Hotel offering a fantastic four day Mackintosh Tour package. This year there has been a number of mid-week tours. The tour on the 8-11 October is fully booked.

Mackintosh Walking Tours

A number of walking tours will take place on various dates throughout June and September.

Events

Last October Stuart gave a talk on the refurbishment of The Mackintosh Church to the Friends of 78 Derngate.

In December we hosted a Christmas Carol Concert by members of The Les Sirènes Female Choir (RSAMD).

In January we kick-started the Homecoming celebrations with a fabulous evening with Whyte & Mackay Master Blender Richard Paterson. In February Alex Strachan gave a fascinating insight into the Restoration of Blackhall Manor.

In May we were delighted to have Gareth Hoskins give the Douglas lecture. Gareth's gave an assured and sensitive talk on **Arts, Crafts and Architecture**.

This years AGM weekend began with the special a preview of two gesso panels designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh and Margaret Macdonald Mackintosh for Fritz Wandorfer in Vienna lovingly **created by** Dai and Jenny Vaughan for Jack Lawson.

Following the AGM there would be a talk on the Necropolis by Nigel Willis, Chairman of the Friends of Glasgow Necropolis.

On Sunday the weekend programme would continue with a tour of the Necropolis and Glasgow Cathedral.

Future Events include:

Tuesday 9 June 2009 Roger Billcliffe will give a talk on Mackintosh Furniture Revisited:

This marks the publication in September of the fourth edition of his definitive work Charles Rennie Mackintosh: The Complete Furniture, Furniture Drawings and Interior Designs.

Wednesday 10 June, Dai Vaughan will give a talk that illustrates the processes of recreating the two gesso panels designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh and Margaret Macdonald Mackintosh for Fritz Waerndorfer in Vienna. "The Seven Princesses" and "The Return of Prince Marcellus".

Saturday 20 June 2009 Strictly Songtime will perform at The Mackintosh Church

In September there will be a number of extra events to coincide with Doors Open week. This includes our successful walking tours and on the 17 September a talk by Nanzie Mcleod on the Scottish artist John McGhie.

A big thank you, as ever, goes to Trish Ingram for the work she does on the Tours and Events. This is a very important role.

Volunteers

Karin Otto continues to develop our volunteer programme.

Volunteer Events:

Nov. 2008 First Volunteer Open Day – recruited over 10 new volunteers

Spring Clean at the Mackintosh Church in March 2009

May 2009 Second Volunteer Open Day – recruited 5 new volunteers

Operational:

- Expanded volunteer information on www.crmsociety.com
- New volunteer brochure
- New volunteer application
- Creation of training materials
- Designated volunteer to organise volunteer recruiting and projects

Contributions:

- Increase in much needed Sunday cover and event support volunteers
- Completed library database and working on the addition of book synopses
- Weekly volunteers to assist with; visitor support, admin help, mailings, shop transactions, event support and education programmes
- Increase in membership team support
- Formation of a research team; ongoing meetings since December 08. Projects include: developing journal content, exhibition info, educational and marketing materials, Fundraising Etc, Check out the panels at the back of the Church.

A big thank went to Karin and all the volunteers who give up their valuable time to ensure we are open on Sundays. We are also indebted to the volunteers who help out during busy periods and stand in through illness and holidays.

RETAIL

Stuart thanked Irene Dunnett and Margaret Craston for all the work they do in operating the shop, with support from Dierdre Bernard.

Buildings and Interiors

The Buildings and Interiors Committee has been resurrected.

The Willow Tea Rooms: Simpson and Brown have completed a conservation plan and repairs were scheduled to start, but due to the recession this has been put on hold. The original doors for the Salon De Luxe have now been installed.

Queen Margaret Medical College: Detailed planning permission has been obtained for the Category B-Listed properties to be developed into a stylish 85-bedroom boutique hotel.

The centrepiece of the hotel development is the fabulous collection of Renaissance, Charles Rennie Mackintosh and Art Deco B-Listed properties located on the north of the site. These handsome buildings overlook Glasgow's world famous Botanic Gardens and the River Kelvin.

Dysart: Dysart Kirk is extremely fortunate in having four restored murals executed by Charles Rennie Macintosh. The building is also in need of extensive restoration, both inside and out. They are now making a final push to raise the £60,000 shortfall that will see them with a beautifully restored church for their congregational needs and a proper setting for the Charles Rennie Mackintosh murals.

Martyr's School: Culture and Sport have now vacated the building, so the building is lying empty. The latest news we have is that Central College are still expressing an interest in temporary use although they have still to confirm.

The Glasgow School of Art: December 2009 marks the 100th anniversary of the completion of the Mackintosh Building at The Glasgow School of Art. A century on, 2009 also marks the completion of Phase 3 of the GSA's £8.7m Mackintosh Conservation and Access Project, an ambitious restoration and reinstatement of parts of the Building, the development of new spaces including a new shop, exhibition space and furniture gallery and a new archive and collections centre to house the School's newly conserved, and extensive, archives and collections.

THE MACKINTOSH CHURCH

The refurbishment in 2006/2007 has allowed the CRM Society to build on strong and established foundations, giving The Mackintosh Church an opportunity to engage further with the local community; through delivering a variety of informal art workshops, talks and open days to more than 3000 people. Successfully engaging with more than 650 school pupils through our first ever Schools Education programme for 2007/08. As part of the Mackintosh Heritage Group, we have just started rolling out the projects ambitious Five Year Plan for the development of Mackintosh and his legacy in Scotland; this ties in with many city wide community and educational initiatives.

List of successes:

- Wedding & Commercial Bookings
- School education programme
- Continuing Professional Development Training for Teachers
- Kimono Mackintosh Mothers Day Events 2007/08
- Doors Open Day 2007/08
- Volunteer Open Day 08
- Mackintosh Prize 2008
- Exhibitions programme 2008
- Partnership delivery with:
- Strathclyde University, Hunterian Museum & Art Gallery, Scottish Japanese Residents Association, Glasgow Museums, Queens Cross Housing Association, The Lighthouse, The Hill House, RSAMD, GCC Arts Development, Glasgow Theatres Ltd, Impact Arts

As a tourist venue, around 6,000 people make the journey to Maryhill every year, specifically to enjoy Mackintosh's only built church and resources.

In March **Admission Charges to the Mackintosh Church** increased to £4.00 and £2.00 but we have now incorporated free entry on Wednesday afternoons.

Weddings/Hall Hire

On the Wedding front Stuart thanked Dylan Paterson for his professionalism and invaluable support to all the weddings he has managed at The Mackintosh Church. Dylan has been a fabulous ambassador for the Society. In future Margaret Craston will be taking over the administration side of the wedding business. We will also need to consider some sort of 'hall keeper' post to ensure we continue this level of professionalism.

Currently there is 9 weddings booked in 2009 plus a couple of options. We already have bookings for the following year.

We have 2 blessings and some hall bookings

Annie'sland College have booked their Graduation Ceremony for the second year running.

Council have agreed to keep the Wedding numbers to 12-15 per year to avoid impacting on the operation.

We now have reached the 'magical' £1,000 wedding (the amount charged for the wedding on 30th May). There's certainly the opportunity to achieve £15,000 in a year with minimal disruption.

EXHIBITION

In September the Society is planning an exhibition to mark the 110th birthday of Queen's Cross. Research work is taking place on the history of the Church and surrounding area and Stuart asked members to contribute their views, memories and any photographs they may have.

On 10 September 2009 The Mackintosh Church will celebrate its 110th birthday. The exhibition will focus on the social history of the Mackintosh Church, its growth in the community and its place in the birth of the CRM Society. The exhibition will be accompanied by a booklet, a series of talks and events and links into the 09/10 school programme. This event will be part of the Mackintosh 100 programme.

Education and Learning at The Mackintosh Church

This year The Mackintosh Church has further established itself as a venue for hosting and delivering formal education workshops for schools, with almost 500 school children participating from 16 schools across the central belt. Further to this we have developed learning programmes for teaching professionals which have begun to see fruition.

Next academic year we hope to build upon this success, by developing workshops and resources tied into the 110 year exhibition of the Mackintosh Church.

As part of our ongoing strategy to open the venue to new audiences, we are working more closely with local communities, encouraging more local visitors through new initiatives like, Free Wednesday afternoons, discounts on events & entry to QX residents and including local people's involvement and stories into our 110 year exhibition and book. We continue to host informal art classes, talks and special events for children and adults.

Our main focus over the next two months is the realisation and delivery of the 110yr Mackintosh Church exhibition and production of the buildings first ever visitor guide book, which will include the venues social history, art & architecture and the growth of the CRM Society.

The CRM Society and Mackintosh Heritage Group

As a key stake holder representing the CRM Society within the Mackintosh Heritage group, we are successfully building working partnerships in education, learning and participation across all of the Mackintosh venues, setting up a network of venue based professionals who share ideas and resources; all working together to increase Mackintosh's identity as a core educational resource in Glasgow and Britain. This is highlighted by the recent publication of our "Education by Design" resource leaflet and poster, which promotes formal education activity for primary, secondary and tertiary establishments. Later this year we will be publishing an Education resource pack for sale, free downloadable resources on the revamped CRM Society website as well as taking part in community and conference events to promote the role that CRM can play in educational development, fun and informal activity.

THE MACKINTOSH HERITAGE GROUP

Charles Rennie Mackintosh Birthday Celebrations:

Across Glasgow and the West of Scotland attractions linked to the Scottish artist, architect and designer Charles Rennie Mackintosh are celebrating his 141st birthday.

Mackintosh properties and exhibitions are opening their doors with free entry and a new line of Mackintosh gifts is unveiled. There is also a giant birthday card, face painting for children, talks and tours and the AGM of the Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society.

This year's events are part of Mackintosh 100 - a Homecoming Scotland programme - taking place in the build up to the centenary celebrations of the Mackintosh building at the Glasgow School of Art.

Stuart reported that details can be found in the Mackintosh 100 brochure, or on the website.

The Charles Rennie Mackintosh Heritage Group unveils its new 'signature' range of official merchandise available exclusively in Mackintosh attractions this weekend.

For Mackintosh's birthday, there is free entry to the Mackintosh Church at Queen's Cross, House for an Art Lover and the Mackintosh Furniture Gallery at The Glasgow School of Art, where the school's students are painting children's faces.

The Hill House in Helensburgh is opening a giant birthday card to Mackintosh so well wishers can leave their own messages and sketches.

A summer programme of public architectural tours run by the Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society begins on the 8th of June. Tours leave from The Lighthouse in the city centre. The tours run throughout June and September.

Mackintosh 100

Mackintosh 100, a Homecoming Scotland event celebrating the life and works of Charles Rennie Mackintosh, starts in April. Over 100 exhibitions, workshops, talks, music, theatre, and tours take place across Glasgow as the city prepares to celebrate the centenary of his architectural masterpiece, The Glasgow School of Art.

Mackintosh 100 focuses on the life and artistic legacy of Charles Rennie Mackintosh and his contemporaries. Most of the events are free and take place at 12 Mackintosh visitor attractions in Glasgow and Helensburgh.

Lasting for eight months, Mackintosh 100 includes many different experiences and ways to discover one of the world's most iconic and versatile artists. If the events were organised consecutively it would take a visitor two weeks to enjoy everything on offer.

Mackintosh Experience Bus Tour

The Mackintosh Experience bus tour was launched on the 22 May and will run till the 30 September 2009, giving visitors the chance to discover some architectural and design gems. The hop-on, hop-off bus provides an audio tour that gives an insight into the life and work of Mackintosh while taking in attractions such as The Lighthouse, Scotland Street School Museum, House for an Art Lover, Kelvingrove Art Gallery, The Mackintosh House, The Mackintosh Church, The Glasgow School of Art and the Willow Tea Rooms.

This year is a pilot for what is hoped will become a regular seasonal tour. It was initiated after fact-finding trips to Barcelona and Chicago, where similar services have boosted numbers visiting Gaudi and Frank Lloyd Wright attractions.

The bus tour is part of Mackintosh 100, a Homecoming Scotland campaign celebrating the build-up to the centenary of The Glasgow School of Art in November.

Web

The Mackintosh website is currently undergoing a major upgrade and redesign.

Legacy Leaflet

The latest Legacy Leaflet has recently been updated and printed. The Society coordinated publication of the Mackintosh Heritage Leaflet, which is funded by the partners and SE.

Mackintosh Trail Ticket

The Trail Ticket continues successfully and details are included in the new Legacy Leaflet.

Visit Scotland & Glasgow City Marketing Bureau

We continue to enjoy a good working relationship with VisitScotland and the Glasgow City Marketing Bureau.

UNESCO World Heritage Update

In light of the current Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) review on UK World Heritage this informs us on the priorities for progressing the Charles Rennie Mackintosh (CRM) World Heritage Site (WHS) Bid through the inscription process between now and Spring 2009.

The earlier comments from ICOMOS UK and DCMS indicated some areas where the CRM bid needed strengthening including Statement of Outstanding Universal Value. Consequently, more research is needed on some areas and further work with the individual experts.

Last weeks Sunday Times reported that the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Journal had announced the results of a poll to find the best British designed building of the last 175 years. Charles Rennie Mackintosh's Glasgow School of Art was named the RIBA Journal's Stirling of Stirlings in a vote to find the best building of the RIBA's 175 year existence.

The School of Art has featured frequently in the news lately due to the competition to design a new building for Glasgow School of Art opposite Mackintosh's original.

Voters were asked to choose buildings from categories broken down into seven categories each covering a range of 25 years beginning with 1834, the year the RIBA was founded.

The shortlist was drawn from a public vote with the final decision being made by a team of eight judges including RIBA Journal editor Hugh Pearman.

This can only help our World Heritage application.

CONCLUSION

The Mackintosh Society continues its role as the gateway to everything Mackintosh by promoting the legacy of Charles Rennie Mackintosh to a world-wide audience. From organising members' events and study tours, publishing a quality Journal, to developing weekend tours which have introduced visitors to the delights of the Mackintosh venues in and around Glasgow.

Since the completion of the Mackintosh Church refurbishment project in 2006, the building now houses a plethora of events for the CRM Society and has provided Glasgow with a new venue for weddings, concerts, meetings and seminars. The CRM Society continues to deliver lively learning experiences, workshops and activities for schools, students, adults, families and children.

We have achieved a great deal for such a small organisation, but our main priority in the current financial crisis is to ensure the sustainability of the Society. This means we need to focus heavily on revenue and fundraising to ensure the objectives of the Society are met.

Stuart thanked his team, who support these efforts. A big thank you must go to the Society Council to my staff, Trish, Irene, Margaret and Sha and not forgetting Dylan and Karin and the membership team of Drew, Elspeth and Jo and all the other volunteers who give up their time, energy and expertise to furthering the cause of the Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT 2008

Judith Patrickson welcomed everyone to the meeting and then summarised the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2008. From the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) on page 5, there is income of £125,354 & costs of £163,505 giving a net deficit of £38,151. This is still showing the influence of the capital project – the restricted fund – which accounts for most of the deficit. This is due to the funds that have already given being used up with snagging etc and for Sha's salary.

The Society itself shows a small surplus £2,909, however a proportion of the costs for the full time staff have been allocated to the project. These costs reflect the work done by the staff. Once the capital project has finally been brought to a close these costs will have to be borne directly by the Society, pushing it into deficit. Such deficits can only be sustained for a very short period before the Society becomes insolvent. The reserves of £899,253 would appear to be substantial, however as can be seen from the Balance Sheet (page 6) £877,534 of these reserves relate to the value of the assets. This leaves only £21,719 of current asset reserve – not very much at all.

It is recognised that CRM does amazing work on a slim budget and definitely punches above its weight, however to enable it to continue to do so it must find ways to bring more income into the Society.

Dr Primrose asked about Gift Aid. SR said that member's benefits are too high to be eligible for Gift Aid.

Paul Gilby said that if we have lost £3,000 from Gift Aid, surely it is possible to get new members to cover this amount. This would amount to 100 new members.

The Education Officer salary was also discussed. The Society has been funding this for the last 2 years and we will get this back when we submit our final claim to HLF.

The Accounts for 2008 were accepted.

Proposed by Beryl Graham and seconded by Dr. Primrose.

6. REGIONAL GROUPS

The various affiliate and associate groups within the UK and overseas continue to play an invaluable role in supporting the wider aims of the Society. The following lists the activities of the various groups from June 08-June 09.

Bath and the South-West: The group organised two well attended events during the year. In October 2008, Dr Wendy Hitchmough gave a talk about Arts and Crafts gardens (an event supported by Land Use Consultants in Bristol) and in April 2009 Alison Brown talked about Mackintosh and the Glasgow tea rooms. In January 2009, the Bath branch made a £300 donation to the Society (£150 of which was to repay a loan made to the branch in 2004) and a further £300 donation to The Hill House. The branch had also been in discussion with the Society's director about a future co-ordinated fundraising event.

London and the South-East: The London group continued to deliver an extensive programme of lectures and associated events including a visit to the Silver Studio Archive at the Museum of Domestic Design and Architecture, Middlesex University; two events held at The Millinery Works

gallery in Islington; and an all day tour of Woldingham in Surrey, in association with the Woldingham Historical Society. The Christmas Lecture was given by Dr George Rawson on Mackintosh and 'Fra' Newbery. Over 50 people attended this event and shop sales on behalf of the Society generated a total of £443.

North-East: With a new organising group in place (chaired by Aileen Somerset as a replacement for the long-serving Paul Gilby), six successful and varied talks took place during the year at the Elmbank Hotel, York, the group's preferred choice of venue,. These covered subjects such as the Vienna Secession, Phillip Webb and Walter Crane. Although numbers were slightly down on the previous year, average attendance per event was a little over 50 – a more than respectable figure. Based on profit generated from these events, the group was able to make a donation of £200 to the Society.

North-West: Unfortunately, due to personal circumstances, Pat Marsden had been unable to organise any events during the year. However, she was hopeful that things would improve later on in the year. Future developments would be posted onto the Society's website as and when available.

Roussillon (France): It had been a particularly successful year for the *Charles Rennie Mackintosh en Roussillon* associate group. Early in June 2009, the mayor of Amélie-les-Bains-Palalda officially opened a new Mackintosh Interpretation Centre, as part of the museum complex in the château of Palalda. A planned second centre will replace the current temporary exhibition in Port Vendres and should be completed by spring 2010, whilst it is hoped that renovation work to the Maison Gai in Ille-sur-Têt will start before the end of the 2009 and once complete will be the site of a third interpretation centre. The group's other activities during the year included artist painting classes and tours.

Carol Hardie suggested the NW Group work with the Victorian Society on joint initiatives – so crossing boundaries. Peter said there is geographical problems getting groups up and running.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

The Chair was pleased to announce that The Rt. Hon. Lord Macfarlane of Bearsden had agreed to remain the Society's Honorary President. The Chair also formally thanked our Honorary Vice Presidents, Roger Billcliffe, Patricia Douglas, Professor Andy MacMillan and Eleanor Taffner who had all indicated that they were prepared to remain in office. This was approved by acclaim.

8. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS (Council Members)

Directors who served during the 2008-2009 term were:

- *Deirdre Bernard*
- *Lesley Dunlop (Vice-Chair)*
- *Charles Hay*
- *Gareth Hoskins*
- *Jo Lamb – Resigned on the 11 May 2009 due to ill health*
- *Judith Patrickson (Co-opted onto Council)*
- *Catriona Reynolds*
- *Evelyn Silber (Chair)*
- *Peter Trowles*

Note: Council would like to thank Jo for her dedication and hard work on events for the Society and the London and the South East Group and wish her a speedy recovery. It was suggested that a card could be sent to Jo.

ES and several other Council members mandatorily resigned, after 3 years on Council, but were eligible for re-election, if the meeting wished. The members were willing and looked forward to continuing to work for the benefit of the Society and its members.

Re-election of Directors

Evelyn Silber was nominated as Chair of Council

Proposed by Tom Carroll and seconded by Paul Gilby

Lesley Dunlop was nominated for Vice-Chair

Proposed by Carol Hardie and seconded by Joyce Campbell

Deirdre Bernard and Peter Trowles were proposed by Drew Sommerville and seconded by Paul Gilby

Appointment of Honorary Treasurer

Judith Patrickson was proposed as Honorary Treasurer

Proposed by Evelyn Silber and seconded by Beryl Graham

Directors who were available for re-election were:

Charles Hay and Catriona Reynolds

Both were proposed for re-election and were approved by acclaim.

Mairi Bell was informally co-opted onto Council

JS Thom as the Society auditor was approved by acclaim.

9. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Anne McNicol asked if the membership card can have the name and membership number on the back, plus a place for a signature.

Drew Sommerville said this meant the card would be sent as a blank card with no signature. Security issues in sending by post. After discussions Council agreed to look at membership cards.

The next AGM takes place on Saturday 5 June 2010. It was proposed to relocate to another part of the country where a regional group could be host.

Meeting ended at 12.20pm approximately