

## **CHARLES RENNNIE MACKINTOSH SOCIETY**

MINUTE OF THE 5th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE BATH ROYAL LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTION, BATH, SATURDAY 5 JUNE 2010

### **1. WELCOME**

The Chair of Council, Dr. Evelyn Silber, welcomed members to Bath for the 5<sup>th</sup> AGM of the CRM Society as company limited by guarantee and also welcomed those attending their first CRM AGM weekend. The idea of meeting outside Glasgow came about as a result of comments from some members at previous AGMs who had come long distance regularly to Glasgow AGMs and sought a variation. We have some years past met in London but this is our first meeting in Bath. We were happy to try this and are looking forward to a fascinating weekend. ES thanked Mike, Angela and Trevor who has helped Stuart and Trish organise the week end and special thanks to Trish who has as always handled the many administrative arrangements with aplomb.

It is particularly happy coincidence that this meeting coincides with the launch of a new book on Mackintosh by James Macaulay who is one of the founding figures of Mackintosh studies and indeed was one of the select group who began championing CRM and campaigning to save Mackintosh buildings back in the 1960s with what I may call the proto-Mackintosh Society that preceded this Society founded in 1973. We are especially looking forward to hearing him this evening.

For this meeting I have apologies from several members of Council – Peter Trowles, Charles Hay, Judith Patrickson, Mairi Bell and Catriona Reynolds - who are abroad or have conflicting engagements over this weekend and are unable to be with us. I especially lament the absence of Lesley Dunlop, our Vice Chair, who steps down from Council of which she has been a member since 2004 and thus was one of the Council members who saw us through the transition to company limited by guarantee status. Lesley is a creative teacher and facilitator of creative educational projects, who works full time for Glasgow City Council. She has been an unstinting supporter of the Society over many years, giving generously of her time and expertise. Typically she has made it clear she continues to be happy to be called on as and when needed. We thank her warmly for all her work as we do all the many volunteers who help open the Church, administer membership, help research new projects, arrange local events and visits.

As you will hear from Stuart we have again achieved much this year. As always there are three main components of our activity, first as a membership society promoting the work and reputation of CRM and his contemporaries, second as the owners and operators of an important Mackintosh site, the church at Queen's Cross and, thirdly, as part of the Heritage Liaison Group of Mackintosh sites across Glasgow and the surrounding area which means acting as a move and information portal for Mackintosh marketing. However, underlying all this has been an overriding need to generate more funds especially recurrent income to ensure the sustainability of our activities.

We have held up well in the face of the financial turmoil and economic problems of the last year. We have launched our Patrons scheme and recruiting the first 12 patrons, we have considerably increased the rate of our grant applications and achieved some notable successes, we continue to market the new wedding business and events which help offset the operational costs of the Church. We have completed the three year Heritage Lottery funded

education programme and worked on a book about the Mackintosh Church. There is much more.

However, as you will see when we review the accounts, we are effectively running ever faster while remaining in roughly the same predicament. Our rising costs effectively consume the extra funding we raise thus leaving us with an ongoing operational deficit and no reserves. Council has spent much time and effort to devise and support the efforts of the staff but we must acknowledge we are at maximum capacity. For this reason we have decided we need some external assistance and are currently working with Jura Consultants to look at options for our future management and operation. This work is ongoing with a final report expected during the autumn. We will of course communicate through the website, Journal and newsletters and may well be seeking to consult members through a questionnaire.

The Mackintosh brand is an extremely powerful one but we need it to work for us economically as hard as we work in disseminating information, brokering projects and managing a major piece of the Mackintosh legacy.

## **2. APOLOGIES**

The Chair reported that apologies have formally been received from the Society's Honorary President, Lord Macfarlane of Bearsden, Honorary Vice Presidents, Bailie Liz Cameron and Patricia Douglas. Apologies have also been received from a number of Council and Society members.

## **3. MINUTE OF THE 4<sup>th</sup> AGM**

The minute of the 4<sup>th</sup> AGM was adopted as a true record.

Proposed by Nancy Sommerville and seconded by Sally Gallagher

## **4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director, Stuart Robertson thanked the Chair.

Since the last AGM we have completed a number of significant landmarks. In September Queen's Cross celebrated its 110 birthday and in December we completed the Mackintosh 100 programme with the celebrations for the GSA. On the funding front we completed our HLF project in March and have since started an ongoing fundraising programme. Unfortunately this increased workload has had an adverse affect on other Society work.

Evelyn has covered a number of key points.

This morning I am going to give you a snapshot of the extensive work of The Society. This is in three distinctive areas:

1. The CRM Society
2. The Mackintosh Church
3. Mackintosh Heritage Group

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 organizing members' events and study tours, the 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. The Society has an excellent volunteer programme offering new recruits a range of opportunities to get involved in supporting the organisation.

## **CRM SOCIETY**

### **Membership**

This year with support of the MHG and Matthews Marketing we have undertaken a membership campaign to try to develop the membership. This has included promotions in Preview Magazine, NADFAS magazine, a stand at the Glasgow Art Fair, competitions and a special event at Queen's Cross next week.

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Total Overseas: 221 | 215 |
| Total UK: 1024      | 993 |

We currently have 12 Patron Members

We are pleased that the Society Membership benefits are continuing, so you still get free or concessionary admission to or discounts at some 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 – Now has free admission to everybody  
The Willow Tea Rooms - 10% discount  
78 Derngate, Northampton - Conc. rate £4.00 admission  
Stereo Café (Daily Record Building) – 10% discount

A special thank you must go to our Membership team of Drew Sommerville, Elspeth Kidd and Jo Davis for all the work they have done in managing the membership and the database. Drew has been at the helm of the membership team for over 15 years. I believe he only intended to do this for 2 years, so he has decided this year to stand down. What are you going to do on a Tuesday morning? Drew you will be missed as you have been a great ambassador for the Society. So on behalf of the Society please accept this gift as a token of our appreciation and best wishes. **Thanks Drew for all your support over the years.**

## **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.**

New marketing collateral has been rolled out:

Membership  
Gift Membership  
Visions Tour  
Volunteer Support  
Patron Scheme  
Weddings  
Other items are planned

Glasgow and Mackintosh have featured on national and international television this year. First, with French National Broadcaster 'France 2' which broadcast a three-minute feature on 'Mackintosh's Glasgow' on its Breakfast TV show 'Telematin'. This was based around the Hunterian, Mackintosh Church, Willow Tea Rooms and Glasgow School of Art.

The Second was on BBC's 'The One Show' which also featured the Hunterian, Mackintosh Church and the School of Art.

Recent article in the Architectural Heritage of Scotland magazine

Next week there will be a 2 page spread in the Evening Times on the new downloadable walking tours.

### **JOURNAL**

We are hoping that the next Journal will be a special on the GSA symposium.

### **REGIONAL GROUPS**

Unfortunately Peter Trowles could not be here today, so I will cover the activities of the Regional Groups later.

### **Tours/Events**

Last year the tours were very successful, but so far this year it has been a lot slower, mostly to do with the economic slow down and lately with the disruptions caused by the volcanic ash. The Society continues to work with The Glasgow Pond Hotel offering a fantastic four day Mackintosh Tour package.

### **Events**

Last October I was invited to give a talk on Mackintosh as part of Bath University's Adult Learning Programme and in April I gave a talk to the Bath Group.

Last June Roger Billecliffe gave a talk on the **Mackintosh Furniture Revisited and Dai Vaughan gave an artist talk on creating with Gesso.**

On the 10 September 2009 The Mackintosh Church celebrated its 110 birthday with an exhibition that focused on the social history of the Mackintosh church, its growth in the community and its place in the birth of the CRM Society.

Also in September we participated in Glasgow Doors Open.

December was a busy month, with a Christmas light ceremony for Queens Cross Housing Association. As part of the Glasgow School of Art centenary celebrations we hosted the awards ceremony. Also in December The Les Sirènes Female Choir (RSAMD) performed their Christmas Concert by candlelight and we finished the year with Mochi tsuki, a traditional Japanese event to prepare for New Year

In January and February we hosted the St George's Road Art Group Exhibition. In March we hosted the Fejes String Quartet and in May we hosted the Mack Lamp project.

This years AGM weekend began last night with the tour of Bath Works. After lunch there will be a Walking Tour of **Bath**. Our guide today is David McLaughlin MSc (Cons Hist Bldgs) CAABC IHBC Conservation Architect. We will leave from Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution at 3pm.

**The highlight of the weekend is the talk by Dr. James Macaulay "Another book on Mackintosh!! Why?". Definitely not to be missed.**

James will also be signing copies of his new book on Mackintosh. This will be followed by dinner. The talk starts at 6.30pm followed by dinner.

On Sunday morning our weekend programme continues at 10.00am with a tour of the architectural delights of Bristol. Bristol, the largest city in South West England, has an eclectic combination of architectural styles.

The walk will include Bristol Central Library 1906, designed by Charles Holden. Our guide tomorrow is Alastair Brook, from Centre Projects and Urban Design Bristol City Council Please note that we meet next to 29 Queen Square, Bristol.

### ***Future Events include:***

#### ***Bon Anniversaire Monsieur Mackintosh!***

On the 8 June we are hosting an exclusive party for Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society members. Celebrate Mackintosh's life in France with lively music, guest speakers and tasty French treats. New members who join on the night will receive a special gift.

As part of the West End Festival we are hosting a number of events. On Friday 11 June we host Tales from Europe which is performed by the Scottish Philharmonic Orchestra and pupils from Williamswood High School. The third part of Wiszniewski and Rigby's trilogy of 'Tales from Europe', set in Scotland. Along with the concert there is a Children's Creative Literacy Project exhibition, Inspired by Edwin Morgan's poem Foundation (1979) and in collaboration with the University of Glasgow and junior secondary school pupils from the west of Scotland.

On the 15 June Tamas Fejes (violin) will perform a Bach Recital and on 23 June we have Lunchtime in Vienna concert by the acclaimed Fejes String Quartet. The second half will move to the less formal setting of the smaller hall where coffee, cakes and other goodies will be offered, along with waltzes and other popular music from Vienna.

On the 30 September, Julie L. Sloan from the USA will give a talk on The Rose and The Sumac: The Stained Glass of Charles Rennie Mackintosh and Frank Lloyd Wright

A big thank you, as ever, must go to Trish Ingram for the work she does on the Tours and Events and to Karin Otto for her help with the Exhibitions. This is a very important role.

#### **Volunteers**

Karin Otto continues to develop our volunteer programme and has developed an overview of the Society, job descriptions, roles, membership, volunteers, training plan etc.

With this growth in programming schedule, new function venue business and a general increased interest in the life and work of Mackintosh, the Society has been working to redesign its' internal operational structure. In doing so the following areas are being addressed: Programming - this includes all events and venue utilisation; Staffing – full-time, part-time and volunteer; Marketing and Business Development – new avenues for revenue generation as well as impact; and Membership Attraction and Benefits.

There is still much work to be done so that we may realise the Society's full potential. The financial viability of the Society and its ability to develop and expand its' role in the community depends on the ability to make the most of available resources and revenue streams. It is essential that we implement these strategies to gain more programme funding and attract new members. We must develop our existing membership base by fostering increased participation and retaining talented volunteers with specific skill sets required for the advancement of the Society. To this end, it is more important than ever that we continue an ambitious PR and marketing campaign and take advantage of the growing interest in cultural tourism.

Our current successes can be attributed to the tireless efforts of all our staff and a handful of dedicated volunteers. Their ability to accomplish so much with so little is a testament to the importance of the Society's mission. It is our hope that a collaborated effort will be made by the Society's members and affiliates to help us find dedicated individuals to fill some of the complex roles defined above. The development of a comprehensive volunteer programme not only hastens the Society's growth and public visibility, but it will also bring increased revenue and greater opportunity to impact regional and global heritage and conservation efforts. Ultimately, we expect to

see increased membership, richer member benefits and an expanded level of awareness for Charles Rennie Mackintosh and his contemporaries.

Our volunteer research team did a great job in sourcing material for the exhibition on the 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Mackintosh Church. The group gathered data on the history of Glasgow and Maryhill, the design and inspiration behind The Mackintosh Church, social history of the Maryhill area as well as conducting interviews with several local people who were parishioners of The Mackintosh Church as well as active participants in the local communities.

In January and February we hosted the St George's Road Art Group Exhibition and in May we hosted the Mack Lamp project. This could not have been done without the time and commitment that Karin spent organising both of these events.

The Society continues to run its Volunteer Open Day as this has provided the Society with a rich vein of new talent.

### **Fundraising Coordinator**

Last autumn we were delighted that our new volunteer Jonny Stevenson had taken on the role as Fundraising Coordinator.

The role of Fundraising Support includes:

- Sort through Trust Funding subscription on-line and other resources for funding opportunities
- Outline application requirements
- Co-ordinate with Director completion of applications
- Review existing trust documents for ideas
- Monitor and follow-up with application submissions
- Help market Patron Programme
- Assist in the development of additional fundraising programmes

Already we are seeing some success from a number of trusts.

|                                      |        |
|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Gannochy Trust                       | £5,000 |
| The Hugh Fraser Foundation           | £5,000 |
| W.M. Mann Trust                      | £1,000 |
| D.W.T. Cargill Fund                  | £1,000 |
| The Scotshill Trust                  | £2,000 |
| Gordon Fraser Charitable Trust       | £650   |
| James Wood Bequest Fund              | £500   |
| The Mary Andrew Charitable Trust     | £500   |
| The Merchants House of Glasgow       | £500   |
| The Apelt & Lazarus Charitable Trust | £600   |

Other volunteer activities in 2009 included; Spring Clean Day, Sunday Rota training, Exhibition set-up, Event coordination ie. set-up, cleaning, service etc.

In addition to the Volunteer Open Day the CRM Society is now registered with Volunteer Scotland and has listed opportunities with the Volunteer Centre, Glasgow. The effort has generated several inquiries. We are also participants in Community Lifestyles volunteer taster programme.

The Society is grateful to all our volunteers continued interest and efforts. Much of what we have accomplished would not be possible without their help.

A very big thank you must go to Karin and all our volunteers who give up their valuable time.

## **RETAIL**

Irene Dunnett and Margaret Craston were thanked for all the work they do in managing the shop. Also the support of Dierdre Bernard.

## **Buildings and Interiors**

See report in MHG Section

## **THE MACKINTOSH CHURCH**

As mentioned last year 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.

List of successes include:

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 7,000 people make the journey to Maryhill every year, specifically to enjoy Mackintosh's only built church and resources.**

## **Weddings/Hall Hire**

On the Wedding front I would like to thank Margaret Craston for her invaluable support to the weddings she has managed at The Mackintosh Church.

Currently we have 6 weddings booked this year plus a couple of options. We already have bookings for the following year.

## **Education and Learning at The Mackintosh Church**

In January 2007 Sha Nazir was appointed the Mackintosh Development Officer, this contracted finished on the 30 December 2009.

A key part of the Project was to extend access to and use of the building, primarily by the local community, through the employment of an Education Officer and the development of an education and outreach programme over a three-year period.

Sha has done an excellent job in establishing an education programme and we now have 3 tutors available to continue our Education programme etc.

Our activities have attracted keen support from local groups and local schools. In addition we will continue to be involved in a 'Mackintosh Summer Art School' programme which encourages young people aged 5-12 to attend art classes and events held at the Church every year. In January 2010 The Mackintosh Church held the first of many collaborations with local community groups/associations and individual artists. We are also planning to introduce a Mackintosh Design Competition in 2010/11, with the aim of engaging with local artists and inspiring them to design objects in the Mackintosh tradition.

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.

### **The CRM Society and Mackintosh Heritage Group**

As the chair of the city's Mackintosh Heritage Group which supports and promotes Glasgow's Mackintosh legacy through visitor attractions, festivals and events programmes. An independent survey conducted during the Mackintosh 100 event programme June – September 2009 makes very interesting reading.

Visitors from 27 overseas countries participated in Mackintosh 100 events;

- 37% of visitors were from overseas; just over one third from Scotland and 26% of the sample were from England.
- Mackintosh promotions definitely secure visitors to Glasgow's attractions
- Satisfaction levels for Mackintosh events remains high with quality of content rated at 8.64 out of 10; quantity of programme scored 8.07 and overall enjoyment reached 8.71. The Mackintosh Church scored well above average at 9.67. People continue to rate Glasgow's Mackintosh product highly and state an intention to return.

The conclusion within the draft report states that, '*Charles Rennie Mackintosh has tremendous appeal and remains an iconic figure across the UK and overseas and, for many people, he is a figure synonymous with Glasgow. His legacy of designs and exhibits is clearly a very marketable asset for Glasgow to help differentiate the city's product offering in what is a very competitive market as destinations vie for visitors*'.

The Mackintosh events programme, and the Mackintosh Heritage Group managers who create and deliver it, play a very positive role in reinforcing Mackintosh's connection with Glasgow which is critical in terms of promoting the city of Glasgow.

### **THE MACKINTOSH HERITAGE GROUP**

This year the Society and The Mackintosh Church are the main recipients of support from MHG.

Charles Rennie Mackintosh Birthday Celebrations:

Glasgow is celebrating the birthday of Charles Rennie Mackintosh with a variety of events and activities at his spectacular buildings. There's a free birthday party at Scotland Street School Museum, craft workshops at the Hill House, a drop-in family day at the Hunterian Art Gallery, an exhibition at The Mackintosh Church and much more!

### **Downloadable Tours**

The Charles Rennie Mackintosh Heritage Group has recently launched 3 new downloadable walking tours: Glasgow and Modernity, Second City and West End. The tours can also be downloaded to mobile phones via QR (Quick Response) codes.

### **Glasgow Landmarks Scheme**

The Mackintosh Heritage Group is developing a Glasgow Landmarks scheme which will identify and promote the City of Glasgow's most significant buildings in order to enhance awareness and understanding of Glasgow's rich architecture and to encourage additional visits to the city. It is projected that the scheme would have a life of at least ten years. The selected buildings should be significant in terms of their place in architectural history and the history of the city, as well as 'much loved' and 'popular' buildings.

A Children's Book on Mackintosh is also planned.



## **Web**

The redesigned Mackintosh website is now up and running. It is now easier for Regional Groups to add news or event to the web site themselves.

The Members Forum has not worked in the past. Need to look at this?

## **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 has recently been re-launched 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.

## **MACKINTOSH BUILDINGS**

At the last Mackintosh Heritage Group meeting we discussed the future plans for and condition of various Mackintosh buildings.

Scotland Street School – unchecked decay

Martyrs' School – uncertain future since closure

Daily Record Building – uncertain future

The Willow Tea Room – unchecked decay and water ingress

The Lighthouse – future plans for the building since Trust went into administration

The Hill House – unchecked decay and water ingress

### **Scotland Street School**

The Group is deeply concerned about the condition of Scotland Street School, which appears to have been allowed to deteriorate with no planned maintenance programme. I first raised this in 2006 when the Society was based at the School during the refurbishment of the Mackintosh Church, but little if anything seems to have happened. The longer this decay continues it will no longer be a maintenance problem but a major restoration project.

### **Martyrs' School**

Since Culture and Sport staff moved out of the building last year, there has been no new tenant. Steve Inch informed me that a number of potential tenants were looking at the building including Strathclyde University, Central College and RSAMD, but nothing has happened.

### **Daily Record Building**

We are pleased that the Stereo Café is using the ground floor of the building, but the rest of the building is still lying vacant.

### **The Willow Tea Rooms**

In May 2008 Simpson and Brown completed a conservation plan for The Willow Tea Rooms which highlighted a range of remedial actions but so far no real progress has been made.

### **The Lighthouse**

We were saddened that The Lighthouse has gone into administration. This has now been taken over by Glasgow City Council and it is important that an architecture and design centre in Scotland continues in some form in the city and that a long-term, secure use for the building is established.

## **The Hill House**

The Hill House has been suffering from water penetration of walls and windows (occasionally roof) resulting in damage to interior decoration, also resulting in damp walls and in dry rot. A survey is now taking place, however the fabric of the building appears to have deteriorated through long term water saturation and there are ongoing issues with the harling. A proposed action list is being drawn up.

Last summer I met with the Chairman of VisitScotland, Peter Lederer, and we discussed the issues affecting the maintenance and long-term condition of the Mackintosh properties in and near Glasgow. Peter was very concerned that many of the properties integral to our Mackintosh heritage and the visitor experience do not appear to be receiving the appropriate levels of care, investment or are otherwise under threat. Charles Rennie Mackintosh is an internationally important architect and designer, with an instantly recognisable style, imitated and emulated throughout the world, and particularly associated with Glasgow. These buildings are extremely important to both our heritage and the visitor economy on a local, national and international level. Those visitors who currently come to Glasgow on the strength of our Mackintosh heritage will not continue to do so if such an integral part of the city's tourism offering is diminished.

Our Mackintosh heritage has the same importance as our castles, historic houses and art collections in that it requires appropriate levels of care and investment to protect it for future generations. This principle is threaded throughout the national Tourism Framework for Change and The Glasgow Tourism Action Plan in Architecture.

Good work can and has been done – most recently at The Mackintosh Church at Queen's Cross and at the Glasgow School of Art. This needs to continue. With the ongoing consultation and work related to the bid for World Heritage status for The Glasgow School of Art and The Hill House, a failure to take action amounts to a massive blow to the city's Victorian heritage. I realize this is a difficult time in the economic downturn, but it is imperative we do not lose any more of Glasgow's architecture treasures. **A recent article appeared in the Evening Times, headed "Our Neglected City Jewels"**

There is a perception that given Mackintosh's international reputation all must be well with his built legacy. This is not the case and action must be taken now!

## **UNESCO World Heritage Update**

Work continues on the World Heritage recognition for Mackintosh.

## **Glasgow School of Art: Phase 1 - Design Consultation**

Steven Holl Architects (New York) working with Scottish based JM Architects have been selected, as the result of an international competition, to lead the team to design a new building on the site opposite the world famous Mackintosh Building in Garnethill, Glasgow.

Several meetings are being planned to present the design proposals and to hear feedback before the scheme is submitted for planning in August.

## **CONCLUSION**

Life seems to get tougher but the success of our volunteer programme is evidence of the importance of our aims and the passion of our members to engage with the local community and promote arts and culture through our education and event programmes.

The CRM Society has big plans for the next 3 years. Last year Queen's Cross celebrated its 110<sup>th</sup> birthday and we have recently hosted an exhibition highlighting the social history of the church and its role in the local community. The 'Mackintosh in Maryhill' exhibition was largely compiled and created through the efforts of our committed volunteers. The Society's core aims for the future centre around harnessing the enthusiasm of our volunteers and the local community to continue to inspire

all visitors through Mackintosh's legacy. This is likely to involve the publication of a related booklet and other follow up events.

Based on the feedback and success of our informal and formal learning programmes, we will continue to deliver events as part of the Mackintosh Heritage Group programme, ensuring that the Society works with other arts and heritage institutions such as The Glasgow School of Art, The Hunterian Art Gallery and Culture and Sport Glasgow.

We believe that the Society and The Mackintosh Church has the potential to deliver something unique to provide an exciting programme of entertainment and artistic events for the whole community to enjoy, as well as promoting Mackintosh to a wider audience worldwide.

I am fortunate to have a great team, who support these efforts. A big thank you must go to the Society Council to my staff, Trish, Irene and Margaret and not forgetting 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 2009**

Evelyn Silber presented the Treasurer's Report on behalf of Judith Patrickson. The accounts for the year ended 31 December 2009 show a total net deficit for the year of £20,578 (page 6). This has arisen in this financial year with the expending of income received in advance on the restricted fund. This restricted fund related to the refurbishment of Queen's Cross Church.

The total unrestricted funds amount to £912,665 at the end of the financial year (page 6), however an analysis of these funds on page 12 shows that £875,532 of these reserves are tied up in fixed assets, primarily Queens Cross Church, leaving only £37,532 as reserves for the activities of the company.

This situation leaves the company very vulnerable as some of the costs currently being picked up by the restricted fund will occur on a regular basis and have to be borne by the society's funds. Thus putting considerable strain on the income generation of the society, which is running and maintaining a heritage building.

The income for the year has held up well despite the economic climate, with unrestricted income of £122,422 compared to £101,394 in the last financial year. Please note that there was restricted income of £23,690 included in 2008 accounts giving the total of £125,354. This increase is due to an increase in the donations & grants received in the year, however the drop in bank interest is significant (£2082 down to £70 – page 9)

The costs are being well managed, with a decrease over last years costs. It should be noted that the majority of these costs relate to the upkeep of Queens Cross Church.

The Accounts for 2009 were accepted and approved Nem Con.

## **6. SPECIAL RESOLUTION**

### **SPECIAL RESOLUTION TO ALTER THE MEMORANDUM & ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION**

A proposal that Clauses 51 and 52 of the Articles of Association be replaced with the following Articles:

“AUDIT OR INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION

- 51 Once, at least, in every year, the accounts of the company shall be examined, and the correctness of the accounts ascertained by one or more properly qualified and registered auditor or independent examiner.
- 52 If required by law or by the members, the company shall appoint an auditor or independent examiner, whose duties will be regulated by applicable law."

Proposed by Evelyn Silber and Stuart Robertson and seconded by Deirdre Bernard and approved En Bloc

## **7. REGIONAL GROUPS**

Evelyn Silber gave a report on behalf of Peter Trowles for the Regional Groups.

### **North East of England**

There have been lots of new people coming to the talks but some past regulars seemed to have stopped attending. We will need to check our database and work out how we can ensure numbers are increased. This year finances have been tight and we have not been able to give a subsidised buffet, which has been a way of thanking those who have supported us.

We continue to promote membership of the main society at each talk. We know this created a couple of new members. The Society leaflets are always on display (any updated or new leaflets would be welcome for future meetings).

Due to our sound system failing part way through the season some visitors complained of not hearing the talks clearly enough. This has resulted in us having to invest in new voice amplification equipment, which has taken some of our basic float as the season has ended at breakeven. This means there is unfortunately no spare money this year to donate to the Society.

A busy season with 7 varied subjects, one of which was a film. Douglas Annan gave his "Old Glasgow through the Lens" talk. Dai Vaughan gave us a fascinating step-by-step description of a recent gesso panel commission. Peter Trowles updated us on the conservation and development work at GSA. George Rawson talked about his research on Mackintosh's sketching tour in Italy. Liam O'Neill came over from the Isle of Man to tell us about the work of Archibald Knox. Barbara Floyer came up from Northampton to update on 78 Derngate which tempted many to plan a visit.

### **Bath**

Mike Collins reported that finances were okay, but attendees have dropped off this year. They have around 120 contacts on their list. They have had 3 talks over the last year, Alison Brown on the Mackintosh Tearooms; a talk on Frank Lloyd Wright; and Stuart Robertson on Hidden Mackintosh, plus Stuart gave a talk at Bath University. Mike and Angela are needing more local help running the Bath Group.

### **France**

Robin Crichton continues the good work of promoting Mackintosh in the South of France.

## **8. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS**

### **Honorary Officers of Council**

Honorary President

The Rt Hon The Lord Macfarlane of Bearsden KT DL FRSE

### **Honorary Officers of Council**

Honorary Vice-Presidents

Professor Andy MacMillan OBE RSA MA FRIAS RIBA

Roger Billcliffe

Baillie Liz Cameron

Patricia Douglas MBE FRSA

Eleanor Taffner

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.

## **9. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS (Council Members)**

Directors who served during the 2009-2010 Session

- Mairi Bell (Co-opted onto Council)
- Deirdre Bernard
- Lesley Dunlop (Vice-Chair)
- Charles Hay
- Judith Patrickson (Hon Treasurer)
- Catriona Reynolds
- Evelyn Silber (Chair)
- Peter Trowles

Directors who stood down from Council at the 2010 AGM

- Lesley Dunlop

Council thanked Lesley for her services and expertise for the Society.

### **New Nominations for Council**

**Mairi Bell:** Mairi is a tourism business consultant and Arts and Culture Manager for Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. Mairi was previously Head of Tourism with Scottish Enterprise Glasgow for 10 years to 2007 and has been closely involved with many tourism and arts developments in Glasgow. She was on the steering group which established the Glasgow Art Fair and Glasgow International Visual Arts Festival and is currently chair of An Lochran Glasgow's Gaelic arts organisation.

**Alison Brown:** Alison Brown is curator for European Decorative Art and is based at Scotland Street School Museum. She is responsible for decorative arts and design from 1800 including furniture and interiors, ceramics, glass, stained glass and design education, with particular focus on the work of Charles Rennie Mackintosh, the Glasgow Style and decorative art and design c.1860-1920.

Both nomination were approved En Bloc

Directors who were available for re-election at the AGM

- Deirdre Bernard
- Charles Hay
- Judith Patrickson (Hon Treasurer)
- Catriona Reynolds
- Evelyn Silber (Chair)
- Peter Trowles

All Directors were approved En Bloc

The Society auditor, JS Thom was approved by acclaim.

#### **9. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

There was no other competent business

The next AGM takes place on Saturday 4 June 2011 in Glasgow.

Meeting ended at 11.45pm approximately