

CHARLES RENNIE MACKINTOSH SOCIETY

MINUTE OF THE 7th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT THE HOUSE FOR AN ART LOVER, GLASGOW
SATURDAY 9 JUNE 2012

1. WELCOME

The Chair of Council, Dr. Evelyn Silber, welcomed members to the 7th AGM as the CRM Society enters its 39th year. Evelyn thanked Garry Sanderson and his staff for enabling us to hold the AGM at the House for an Art Lover.

Evelyn said that ahead of the AGM programme on Thursday, some members had attended the launch of Roger Billcliffe's excellently illustrated and informative guide to buildings by CRM and his contemporaries around Glasgow. Yesterday we had a fascinating visit to the Mackintosh related material in Glasgow's reserve collections, led by Alison Brown. The programme continues today with a visit to Fairfield Shipyard Offices in Govan, followed by a visit to the Grand Central Hotel. On Sunday we visit the newly restored Maryhill Burgh Halls and heritage walk. Evelyn thanked and congratulated Stuart and Dylan for organising this great programme. She also thanked Roger Billcliffe, Alison Brown, Abigail Morris, Suki Mills, Gordon Barr and others for contributing to it.

Evelyn said that it hardly seemed possible that this is the end of her sixth and last year as Chair of the Society. She said it has been a privilege and a great experience getting to know so many members volunteers and supporters and managers of other Mackintosh sites and to work with everybody as we have taken the Society forward. In particular she thanked all the members of Council, both present and those who have stepped down at the end of their terms of office over the years. Council members do not just turn up for meetings every now and then, and disappear – even those with busy fulltime jobs - many are themselves volunteers at the Church helping with membership and so on, or have given their time and expertise to advise and help with a special project or new initiative. Their knowledge, skills and wise counsel has supported her and Stuart and she is sure they will do the same with her successor.

Evelyn went on to say that we have negotiated the odd sticky patch but can look back on the 6 years since the Society team reclaimed the Church after the £1m restoration, as a period of learning and many achievements. Some we have done on our own, others in partnership with other venues through the Mackintosh Heritage Group. People often ask her about the Society and how we operate, not least people leading other heritage bodies. They are always amazed at how much we achieve with modest resources and so few staff ; that is a testimony to Stuart and his team and shows clearly that the Society still punches well above its weight

There have been some big changes over the past 6 years – principally re-experiencing living in and running the Mackintosh Church as a venue once the big restoration project was complete, and 2nd, adjusting to the increasing financial and work pressures by undertaking a major review of our activities to make the best possible use of our resources. The results have been almost entirely positive. We have re-orientated how we use the Church from its being principally a Mackintosh venue open to visitors with a few events some of which represented a loss rather than net income to the Society, to being a venue focussed on a

range of events that will bring in new audiences and be profitable, while also opening in a more restricted but structured way for visitors. As a result visitor figures have held up very well and we have hosted a number of diverse events, of which Stuart will say more – that have brought in an entirely new audience as well as essential income. This has been a steep learning curve and she paid tribute to the creative thinking, networking and hard work put in by Stuart and Dylan Paterson, to develop the event business.

For our wider membership who rarely or even never make it to Glasgow, we have undertaken a review of how we operate in relation to local groups, but have also even more importantly, in response to the member survey 2 years ago, revised our communications. The new Newsletter seems to have been very widely welcomed and the annual and new look Journal similarly, though we acknowledge there is still some way to go. The website has again been upgraded but we are aware not many members use the members' section of the site and would like to know from you suggestions as to how to encourage a better take up.

Our wider advocacy of Mackintosh and on behalf of Mackintosh buildings has strengthened this year, with the symposium in Feb attended by many major heritage stakeholders and specialists, at The Lighthouse, though the letters and campaigning undertaken by our Director and by one of our Vice Presidents, Roger Billcliffe, on behalf of those Mackintosh buildings suffering from long term neglect of regular maintenance, or as at The Hill House with serious technical problems still requiring decision on the best possible course of action. Other advocacy has been more public and more fun – the publication of The Amazing Mr Mackintosh which has been a great success, the launch of the Glasgow Landmarks scheme in which the Society were prime movers, and the downloadable walking tours.

There is much still to do and as next year is 40th anniversary some special new ideas are even now under discussion. ES said she looked forward to attending and supporting as a Society patron and wished her colleagues and her successor, of whom more anon, best wishes for the future.

2. APOLOGIES

The Chair reported that apologies had been formally received from the Society's Honorary President, Lord Macfarlane of Bearsden, and apologies had also been received from a number of Council and Society members. This was noted.

3. MINUTE OF THE 6th AGM

No issues were raised by those present - and as a result, the Minute was accepted as a true and fair reflection of the sixth AGM.

Proposed by John Gerrard and Seconded by Joyce Campbell

4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Stuart thanked Evelyn for her support and guidance over the last 6 years. He welcomed everybody and was delighted that Andy McMillan and Graham Roxburgh could attend the AGM.

Stuart said last year was a special year, as he celebrated 10 years in his role as Director of the CRM Society. The last ten years has been a challenging and eventful Journey in moving the Society forward, working to establish The Mackintosh Church as a quality venue and contributing to the success of the Mackintosh Heritage Group.

Our current successes can be attributed to the tireless efforts of Evelyn and the Society Council, 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.

As ever the Mackintosh Society continues its role as the gateway to everything Mackintosh.

MACKINTOSH TOURS

We continue to organise a wide range of bespoke Mackintosh tours throughout the year to introduce visitors to the delights of the Church and Mackintosh venues in and around Glasgow. Our new tour package with the Grand Central Hotel has been well received by all those who have participated. *"Thanks for making us so welcome in Glasgow and organising a magnificent tour of all things Mackintosh. You opened our eyes to so many more details!"* Friends of Yorkshire Sculpture Park 2011

EXHIBITIONS/EVENTS

The Society continues to generate opportunities for artist contributions through exhibitions and showcases. In June we hosted an Exhibition entitled "Adorn" by Degree students from Glasgow North College. This collaborative event, showcased the talented artists work, which blended the traditional with new technology in jewellery.

We're now at the stage of having hosted a variety of events which are new to the Church - from dinners to special concerts with additional sound and lighting: - and events by the Mackintosh Choir which has based itself at the Church and is proving very successful. In addition, we've had local groups hosting cookery demonstrations and lunches, evening receptions etc.

A new events leaflet has been produced for the Mackintosh Church. This new leaflet joins our 'suite' of leaflets. We have improved our message around the building to show what the Society and the building have to offer. We are constantly re-enforcing the messages around the building.

Through the Mackintosh Church website we are getting more inquiries for the use of the building to new audiences. It has been a learning-curve, in seeing what new things work in the building - with surprisingly positive results.

EDUCATION

We continue to build on introductions to Mackintosh for our young people so that they can continue to be inspired both by the creativity and the fabulous interiors of the Mackintosh Church. Our exciting workshops are designed to cultivate participation and arts involvement in order to develop a long term relationship with artistic pursuits for young people. We hope to encourage children to involve themselves in arts programmes so that they can develop an interest and understanding of their cultural heritage.

The Society continues to participate in a number of informal events throughout the year, i.e. Easter Fun Events, Mackintosh Birthday, Doors Open and The Big Draw, Christmas Lights Switch on Celebrations and our free openings on Wednesdays - and Children's Programme are all good examples of our community involvement. We recognise that the local housing association works with various communities including disadvantaged groups, asylum seekers etc. We welcome all groups through our continued policy of free admission on a Wednesday afternoon.

CRM SOCIETY

We are in our second year of grant support from the **Monument Trust** towards salary support for running and development of the Society. We also continue to receive some grant funding from Glasgow City Council.

This has definitely been a boost to our work and has made a big difference to our plans in developing the Mackintosh Church and allows the Society to continue its extensive advocacy role safeguarding and promoting the work Mackintosh.

Membership

Membership has dropped by 5%, over the last year. 1096 compared to 1157. We currently have 8 Patron members.

The visitor figures for all the Mackintosh venues have also seen a downturn of 5% last year. We bucked the trend, last year we seen an increase of 17% for our visitor numbers at the Mackintosh Church. This is despite not having any large Mackintosh events in the city. The downturn has had a similar effect on our Tours.

We are pleased that the Society Membership benefits are continuing, so you still get free or concessionary admission to or discounts at most Mackintosh sites.

We are currently in conversation with the NTS regarding giving members of the CRM Society some kind of incentive to visit The Hill House.

We are looking at improving the membership system and processes. We have been talking to the 20th Century Society and getting advice about their membership system. We plan to go down to London in October to meet the 20th Century Society and see how their system works. We also hope to discuss some kind of joint event with them.

The membership team are also looking at improving processes and are currently making changes to reminder notices.

In the meantime, Pamela Freedman's husband has supplied us with 2 PC's and monitors, which came from offices they were closing in England. They have also put us in touch with their IT engineer, who has cleaned up these 2 pc's, plus one of our own. The benefit of this is that we now have 6 excellent machines around the building, which has a great advantage, especially on busy days we can accommodate all our volunteers.

Stuart thanked the Membership team of Elspeth Kidd, our new member Norma Butler and Jo Davis for 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, Association for Cultural Enterprises and the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce.

Glasgow and Mackintosh have featured on national and international television this year. Most recently the BBC Four programme; Sex and Sensibility - The Allure of Art Nouveau.

JOURNAL/NEWSLETTER

The format and regularity of the new style Newsletter seems to be very popular and we are receiving more articles for this publication. Alison Brown has managed to enrol Abigail Morris and Lorna Hepburn onto the Newsletter/Journal editorial team. The next Journal is planned for the summer.

Tours/Events

Our tours have been affected by the economic climate this year. But we are pleased with our repackaged programme which is in conjunction with the Grand Central Hotel, Glasgow. The feedback from our customers has been excellent.

Events

Last year's AGM programme was very successful. With the highlight a preview of the Riverside Museum.

EVENTS

13-18 June – Comic Con Festival

21-25 June - Adorn Exhibition

17-18 Sept – Doors Open

26-30 September – Creative Design Award

8 October – Big Draw

21-22 October – Yarn Cake

30 October – Charity Tea Event

3 December – Horse Concert

11 December – Mackintosh Choir

16 December – Christmas Carol Concert

3 February – Mackintosh Symposium

12 April – 18 May – Ceramics Exhibition

Currently we have a Watercolour Exhibition by Susan Christie

Study Tour: Isle of Man

The sell-out Study Tour to the Isle of Man in April was a great success. Liam O'Neill, chairman/founder of the Archibald Knox Society and Trish Ingram organised a superb programme, where we were able to get access into a number of Baillie Scott houses, see some beautiful Archibald Knox pieces. We were also introduced to the work of the painter John Miller Nicholson and fabulous stained glass by Harry Clarke. Stuart said that a number

of members have asked to see more of his photos. Some of these can now be seen on the Blipfoto website.

Mackintosh Birthday Event

On Thursday at the Mackintosh Church we had the book launch for Roger Billcliffe's new pocket guide to Mackintosh.

AGM Weekend

This year's AGM weekend began yesterday with a tour of Glasgow Museum's Resource Centre in Nitshill. Stuart thanked Alison and her team.

After lunch a private visit to the offices of Fairfield Shipyard has been arranged, then we head to the Grand Central Hotel for afternoon tea at 4.00pm and a talk on the history of the Hotel.

Tomorrow our weekend continues with a visit to the newly restored Maryhill Burgh Halls, followed by a heritage walk taking in Ruchill Church Hall, led by Gordon Barr.

Future Events include:

The next few weeks are going to be very busy, but very exciting.

17 June – Mackintosh Choir Concert

Our second Comic Con takes place on the 13-17 June 2011

September is Doors Open weekend

In October there are a number of events linked with Year of Creative Scotland, which runs from 15-28 October.

- The Lighthouse is hosting Unbuilt Mackintosh
- Glasgow School of Art are running a number of city walks
- Mackintosh and Me. Musical by Andy Park
- A range of events at the Mackintosh Church

Future events include a Glasgow Vienna Exhibition.

Volunteers

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 collaborative 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.

The Society will be running another of its Volunteer Open Days as this has provided the Society with a rich vein of new talent.

Fundraising Coordinator

This is a very important role and we need to find a replacement who can co-ordinate and process applications

Other volunteer activities in 2011 included; Guide training, Event coordination, Lunches and Weddings etc.

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 all our volunteers who give up their valuable time.

RETAIL

Stuart thanked Irene Dunnett and Margaret Craston for their continued work in managing our shop and helping with key events and weddings. They have also been supported by Dierdre Bernard and Elspeth.

THE MACKINTOSH CHURCH

Our reduced opening hours to the public on a 'walk-in' basis, which was implemented from the Feasibility Study has worked well and has allowed us to focus on strategic planning, advocacy and promotion of the venue for events and income generating activity. Our visitor numbers have not been affected; in fact we have seen a rise in visitor numbers.

Improvements to the Building

We are drawing of a wish list for the building. This includes:

- Stonework repairs interior and exterior work is required.
- Roof repairs
- Lighting
- Painting

TV/Monitor in Hall

Trish Ingram has recently donated a 42" plasma screen to the Society, which has fantastic benefits for us to develop our film library.

We continue 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 a wide range of people.

List of successes include:

- Wedding & Commercial Bookings
- School education programme
- Doors Open Day
- Special Dinners
- Concerts
- Exhibitions programme 2011/12

Weddings/Hall Hire

On the Wedding front Stuart thanked Margaret Craston for her invaluable support to the weddings she has managed at The Mackintosh Church.

The recession has affected us, we have seen a drop in weddings in 2011. With only 3 but we currently have 5 bookings this year and booking for 2013 and 2014.

SPECIAL HALL HIRE EVENTS

In January and February we hosted 3 Supper Clubs, with a total of 150 happy diners, and in March we held an Italian Pop-up restaurant. We also hosted a special event organised by the Mackintosh Choir.

QCHA

Developing the partnership with Queens Cross Housing Association to host and promote the New Mackintosh Choir. The Mackintosh Choir was launched in October 2011. The Choir is community based and its aim is to show that anyone can enjoy singing. It is part of a unique partnership between local singers, Queens Cross Housing Association and the Mackintosh Society.

We are working with the Local Housing Association - and reaching out to their residents through regular communication with the Housing Association Team and we are communicating with residents directly through features on news and events in the Mackintosh Church via the Queens Cross Newsletter.

THE MACKINTOSH HERITAGE GROUP

We are continuing to develop our partnerships through the Mackintosh Heritage Group Venues and this has been strengthened with agencies such as the Glasgow City Heritage Trust, Historic Scotland, Glasgow Building Preservation Trust, and Scottish Civic Trust etc.

Glasgow Landmarks Scheme

Phase 1 of the Glasgow Landmarks scheme to celebrate Glasgow's architecture is now complete. We have developed new partnerships as part of the team behind the Glasgow Landmarks initiative. We have worked with a number of new organisations to promote the architectural heritage of Glasgow and the local area. www.glasgowlandmarks.org.uk/

Legacy Leaflet

Last year we produced a new style Mackintosh Legacy Leaflet and we have strengthened our core marketing literature and have increased its circulation - we have also produced a series of walking guides in print and download format - including QR code readers. These all help to develop our audience and we are currently working towards the publication of our third tour, and a Mackintosh-specific tour - as well as working with Maryhill Burgh Hall Trust on the development of the Maryhill Trail.

Mackintosh Architecture Project (MARC):

Work has continued in line with the six-month plans drawn up in July 2011 and January 2012.

GLASGOW MACKINTOSH RESEARCH

Two major research projects have been undertaken on the value of Mackintosh. Matthews Marketing undertook a research project to find out the real number of visitors who visit the Mackintosh and the Glasgow Style at Kelvingrove. The survey was conducted over a six-month period and that the true current average percentage of visitors to the Mackintosh and the Glasgow Style Gallery lies consistently between 40% and 60%. Therefore the study team reached a comfortable conclusion to be conservative in its future calculations, applying a percentage of 40% of Kelvingrove's total visitors to the Mackintosh visitor records.

The other survey was undertaken by Lynn Jones Research. The MHG visitor research project ran from April – September 2011, to secure qualitative feedback from six Mackintosh attractions:

The Hill House
Mackintosh Church
The Mackintosh House, Hunterian Art Gallery
The Glasgow School of Art
Scotland Street School Museum
House for an Art Lover

Stuart ran through a number of the key findings of the research findings. Ratings of the attractions were consistently high – particularly for the overall experience, cleanliness, customer service, the quality of exhibits / galleries and the information / service provided by guides. Visitors reported a high likelihood to recommend the attraction to others (9.09 out of 10).

MACKINTOSH SYMPOSIUM

The buildings of Charles Rennie Mackintosh form a major component in Glasgow's cultural heritage and are celebrated internationally. Concern however is growing about the condition and long-term future of a number of the Mackintosh buildings. The symposium on 3 February 2012 was organised by the Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society in partnership with the Mackintosh Heritage Group to assess what has been achieved to date and what is required for the future.

"The surviving buildings of Charles Rennie Mackintosh are of huge economic and cultural value to our country and I am delighted that you have arranged a conference to explore ways of ensuring this internationally-important heritage continues to receive the attention it deserves."

Fiona Hyslop MSP

Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs

The event was very well attended with over 70 delegates from a range of organisations, including Glasgow Building Preservation Trust, Glasgow City Council, Glasgow City Marketing Bureau, Glasgow Museums, Historic Scotland, National Trust for Scotland, Royal Commission for the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland, Scottish Civic Trust, Scottish Enterprise, the University of Glasgow and a representative selection of architectural and design practices. The ten presentations included discussion of the role of the Buildings at Risk Register, which currently carries four Mackintosh properties; the role of Historic Scotland; the significance of Mackintosh for the marketing of Glasgow; structural issues at The Hill House; and future plans for the Ingram Street Tea Rooms and Scotland Street School.

The symposium acknowledged that significant investment has been made into a number of the properties; in the past ten years over £9 million alone has been invested in the Glasgow School of Art, Queen's Cross Church, and Scotland Street School Museum, through a wide range of public and other support.

Particular issues were identified in relation to specific Mackintosh properties:

- Attention needs to be paid to potential future developments at two properties: Craigie Hall, which has now been sold and Queen Margaret College which has also recently been sold to G1 group for conversion to their HQ.
- The Hill House: a solution needs urgently to be agreed for the failing harling which continues to cause significant problems, internally and externally.
- Ingram Street Tea Rooms: if funding is forthcoming for the development of Kelvin Hall as a shared Study and Resource Centre, the Tea Rooms would have a valuable public face, but essential ongoing research and conservation work will require financial investment and decisions will, in the longer-term, need to be made about future display options.
- Martyrs' School: a secure long-term use needs to be found for the building.
- Scotland Street School: urgent repair work is required. The conservation report by Page & Park in 2008 identified widespread areas of need in the playground, boundary walls, playground shelters, metalwork, leading, roof works, plasterwork and stone.
- The Mackintosh House, Hunterian Art Gallery: careful discussion and consultation would be required should proposals develop to relocate the interiors from their current configuration within the Hunterian Art Gallery to the Kelvin Hall.
- Willow Tea Rooms: Mackintosh's most important commission for Miss Cranston and the one tea room still in operation, if only in part, is in a parlous state. The current management company, Wilson Group, states that the following extensive repairs are required: 'complete overhaul of roof covering, render renewal in part, decorations and overhauling windows, rainwater pipes and additional sundry works'. A full conservation plan is in place, dating from 2008, but funding could not then be put together. The continuing decline in Sauchiehall Street also has a deleterious impact. The owners have recently put the property up for sale.

It is clear the Mackintosh heritage is small, fragile and precious, and action is needed. 2014 provides a catalyst with the launch of the Hunterian's major research project into

Mackintosh's architecture, with a website, exhibition and conference, and the Commonwealth Games with its supporting Cultural programme. It was seen as important that steps should be taken to ensure that the latter included a celebration and promotion of Glasgow's built heritage, and guidance would be sought on how to take this forward.

The Society and the Mackintosh Heritage Group will develop a communications strategy to keep these issues under review;

- We plan to continue to monitor and maintain awareness of the needs of the Mackintosh heritage, through communications with owners and stakeholders.
- To monitor progress in particular in relation to future plans for The Mackintosh House at the Hunterian, Scotland Street School and the Willow Tea Rooms and to be proactive and/or give support as appropriate.
- To raise awareness of the built heritage through features in the Mackintosh Society Journal, Newsletter e-blasts, and the Heritage Group Newsletter, website, and other media and outlets.
- To campaign for the Mackintosh buildings to be in good condition for 2014 (Commonwealth Games) and 2018 (150th anniversary of Mackintosh's birth).
- To continue to support the World Heritage campaign.
- Mackintosh's architectural heritage is of international importance and a major asset for the city of Glasgow. Much positive investment has been made over the past years, with notable success, both in safeguarding and conserving the buildings and in enhancing the visitor experience. At the same time, there remain major questions over the structural integrity and long-term future of other Mackintosh buildings. The legacy is small, vulnerable and irreplaceable.

Ruby Celebrations

We have just celebrated the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Next year the Society reaches another landmark in its history, our 40th anniversary. We are planning a number of special events, along with a membership drive. It is imperative that the Society continues its important advocacy role in supporting the conservation, preservation, maintenance and improvement of buildings and artefacts designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh and his contemporaries.

Stuart thanked everybody for their continued support. The Director was congratulated for his presentation.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

Judith Patrickson apologised for not being able to attend the meeting. Evelyn summarised the report on her behalf.

Following the feasibility study undertaken last year, many of the recommendations have now been put into place and are already starting to bear fruit – a major achievement for such a short time. The Society has established partnerships with Glasgow Comic Convention and Yarn Cake (a knitting society) which spread the message about the beautiful resource that is the Mackintosh Church, available in Glasgow. These partnerships enable people who would not normally come into the building to see the fantastic space, which in turn produces further hires. This is a slow process but networks are being established to spread the message.

The results in this financial year are an almost doubling of events & functions income (as seen on page 10)

The tours are still struggling due to the economic climate but are managing to generate income of £9,788 (page 10)

The Society has received a fantastic grant from the Monument Trust of £40,000 over 2 years in support of the running and development of the Society.

The Society also received 2 bequests in the year, which will be used to complete a number of improvements to the fabric of the building.

Overall the Society has had a good year resulting in a small surplus of £3,631 (page 7).

Looking forward to the 2012 financial year the Society has made a good start. Although the grant funding from Glasgow City Council has been reduced, the Society has a very positive outlook for future events which will bring much needed income and public exposure to the building and the society.

Judith acknowledged the very dedicated team within the Society who have worked hard and are working hard for the benefit of the Society, the Church, and for Charles Rennie Mackintosh.

Evelyn Kennie raised the issue regarding the condition of some of the buildings. Evelyn Silber said this was the reason for holding the Mackintosh Symposium to draw attention to the lack of maintenance. Evelyn pointed out that the Society has no power etc.

The accounts were proposed for approval and were proposed by Beryl Graham and seconded by Paul Gilby.

Evelyn thanked Judith for her hard work in this area.

6. REGIONAL GROUPS

Stuart presented a report on the Regional Groups.

Report from North of England Friends - 2011 / 2012 Season

It has continued to be a challenge to continue the high standards set in previous years. Attendance is consistently lower but occasional high attendance or low cost speakers help to balance the financial situation as shown in the figures. Overall loss this year is manageable due to the healthy float, but losses are unsustainable. To help counter this we have increased our charges.

We continue to promote membership of the main society at each talk.

We have had 5 successful talks, all given at the Elmbank Hotel at York, our usual venue:

James Macauley kindly kicked off the season in October with an interesting discussion of his biography of CRM.

In November **Nicky Imrie** told us about the survey of Mackintosh architecture that she had been working on as part of a team.

In February 2012 we welcomed back **Claire Longworth** from the De Morgan Centre in London who talked about William and Evelyn De Morgan's work on display there, with the accent on "Themes of the Sea".

Regular **Robert Donald** came to us in March with an interesting look at Arts & Crafts in Russia and the revival of crafts there echoing the work of William Morris in the UK.

Thanks to the persistence of our group secretary Virginia we finally welcomed **Professor Barbara Van der Wee** from Brussels in May. This was quite a coup. She was able to describe the restoration work of the famous Art Nouveau Victor Horta buildings in Brussels. We shared the organising of the talk with the Architectural Association in London thanks to Virginia's contacts as an architect.

We have two talks booked for the autumn and are now actively seeking speakers for 2013.

Friends of Mackintosh Society, North of England Organising Group :
Aileen Somerset, Michael Fisher, Kathryn Smith, Virginia Wedgwood, Paul Gilby

Charles Rennie Mackintosh London & South East Events

From April 2011 to May 2012 we managed to organise eleven lectures not only covering matters connected with Charles Rennie Mackintosh such as *The Transformation of Queen's Cross Church* by Stuart Robertson FRSA; *The Mackintosh Sketchbooks at the Hunterian Gallery* by Dr. George Rawson; *Mackintosh Furniture* by Roger Billcliffe; *In the Public Eye, Miss Cranston's Glasgow Tea Rooms* by Alison Brown and *Mackintosh, Glasgow and the Scottish Arts & Crafts Movement* by Elizabeth Cumming but also *The Architecture of Alexander Thomson* by John McKean *The "Ideal Home" and the Davisons* by Jan Ward; *The Arts and Crafts Movement and the impact of William Morris* by Mary Greensted, AMA; *The Book Covers of Talwin Morris* by Jerry Cinamon; *William Morris and Co, the Business and its People* by Caroline Bennett-Jane and *In the Palace of Art: Lord Leighton, his art and his home* by Dr Anne Anderson.

We also visited Red House, Bexleyheath, the only house commissioned, created and lived in by William Morris, with a tour of the house and gardens, and the fabulous 78 Derngate in Northampton, decorated by Charles Rennie Mackintosh. Here we had an illustrated talk about the restoration of the house from Robert Kendall, chair of the Friends and a Trustee of 78, and after lunch there were special guided tours, one of which was led by a descendant of W. J. Bassett-Lowke who had employed Mackintosh to restyle the house.

Although attendance was varied during the period, we generated enough monies to be able to send £500 to CRMS and also raised funds for the Society by selling some of its merchandise at our Christmas lecture.

Our next two events will be visits on Saturday, 7th July, 2012 to Charleston House, Lewes, with Berwick Church and, on Saturday, 8th September 2012, Leighton House Museum, in London. Our first lecture of the winter session will be Diane Haigh on Ballie Scott. Friday, 19th October. Visitors are always welcome. If you are interested in coming along, please email us at crms-londser@hotmail.co.uk.

Bath and the South East

Unfortunately due to family commitments, Mike and Angela Collins are planning on taking some time out from organising CRM Society talks in Bath this year. They have had a good seven years and countless great speakers and brilliant turnouts for the talks. They will be in touch in the future, but in the meantime if anyone would like to organise talks in 2012 feel free to get in touch with Mike.

We would like to thank Mike and Angela for their contributions to the Society and wish them all the best for 2012.

Mike Collins email: crmbath@hotmail.com

L'Association Charles Rennie Mackintosh

The Third and Final Interpretation centre at the UNESCO World heritage site at fort Liberia, Villefranche de Conflent is now operational. Housed in the old barracks, this is the biggest of the three centres in Rousillion and it is open every day.

Room 1, presents a 9 minute film in French and English on Mackintosh before his arrival in France.

Room 2 focuses on Mackintosh as a designer and architect with examples of furniture, textiles, glass, ironwork and some of Mackintosh's unbuilt designs.

Room 3 tells of the winter of 1924 spent at Ille-sur-Tet and of the Mackintosh's subsequent discovery of the Upper Têt valley and the area around Mont Louis in the summers of 1925 - 1927.

The final section explores some of the influences on Mackintosh and some of Mackintosh's influences on others.

This year's Artists in Residence will be showing their work and talking about their ideas.

Bill MacArthur, a graduate of Edinburgh College of Art and former fisherman, works and lives on the island of Sanday in the Orkney.

Frank Convery, RSA, a graduate of Edinburgh College of Art, and former Head of the School of Painting, Gray's School of Art, Aberdeen.

Landscape Painting Courses

3-10 October 2012

See www.crmackintoshfrance.com for more details. Robin Crichton can be contacted by email: crichton.efp@virgin.net

7. 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

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 Baillie Liz Cameron who had all indicated that they were prepared to remain in office. Stuart reported that Patricia Douglas had been in touch since her illness, and would like to thank Council for asking her to continue as an Honorary Vice-President. She views this as an honour and she shall do her best to help in whatever way possible.

This was all approved by acclaim.

8. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS (Council Members)

Directors who served during the 2011-2012 Session

- Mairi Bell
- Deirdre Bernard
- Alison Brown
- Charles Hay
- Judith Patrickson (Hon Treasurer)
- Catriona Reynolds
- Evelyn Silber (Chair)
- Sabine Wieber

Directors who stood down from Council at the 2012 AGM

- Evelyn Silber (Chair)
- Deirdre Bernard

Note: Council would like to thank Evelyn Silber for her input and drive in chairing the Society over the last six years. Council would also like to thank Deirdre Bernard for her services to the Society over the last six years.

New Nominations for Council

We had two nominations on to Council.

Carol Matthews has over 20 years of senior management experience at the helm of visitor attractions and then as an agency director marketing tourism product, she has a wealth of experience to give to the Society.

Her previous roles have included Head of Marketing for Glasgow Museums; Chief Marketing Officer for the City of Glasgow; and Director of Operations and Marketing for the multi-award winning Glasgow Science Centre.

Since setting up her own marketing agency, Matthews Marketing, in 2002, she has worked predominantly within events, arts and tourism. The award-winning company delivers high profile communications work via online and traditional print mediums across design and brand development; advertising; copy writing; PR and social media; events planning and delivery and broad marketing campaign strategy and implementation.

In a professional capacity, she has contributed to Glasgow's promotion of Charles Rennie Mackintosh since the major Mackintosh exhibition at the Mclellan Galleries in 2006, which later toured the United States. Matthews Marketing then won the European tender to promote the Glasgow Mackintosh Festival in 2006, which met its marketing objectives and commercial targets. Three years later, her agency was appointed once again to collate, package and promote Mackintosh 100, the special festival contributing to Scotland's Homecoming campaign in 2009. Each of these involvements has resulted in national accolades and awards.

She believes that her personal love of Mackintosh's work, her enjoyment of working with the individuals and teams who safeguard our Mackintosh heritage and her professional background and experience provide an excellent combination to steer and support the work of the Society over the next few years.

Carol's nomination onto Council was proposed by Stuart Robertson and seconded by Evelyn Silber.

Pamela Freedman has good IT skills and a logical mind. She has worked as a Systems Analyst, with a special interest in Legacy Systems, converting data from old systems to feed into new ones. This has already been useful in her Volunteer work, and will be in future when the Society is able to upgrade its Membership system.

She has been surrounded by self-employed business people all her life so she has a common-sense approach to life and doing things in a business-like-manner.

Being made redundant eight years ago led to the opportunity to retrain as a Stained Glass artist; the three-year course included a lot of Art History and was great fun. Her original artwork won a gold medal in the UK Skills competitions in 2005 and 2006, and CR Mackintosh has been the inspiration for much of her glass work.

She has a great love of art, paintings, ceramics and glass, especially the Glasgow School, Glasgow Style, the Vienna Secession, the Scottish Colourists and the Arts & Crafts movement.

Pamela's nomination onto Council was proposed by Stuart Robertson and seconded by Evelyn Silber.

Both nominations were approved en bloc

Directors who were available for re-election at the AGM

- Mairi Bell
- Alison Brown
- Charles Hay
- Judith Patrickson (Hon Treasurer)
- Catriona Reynolds
- Sabine Wieber

All Directors were approved En Bloc

Carol Matthews was nominated as the new Chair - again, this was approved by acclaim.

Judith Patrickson agreed to remain in post as Hon Treasurer – approved by acclaim.

The Society auditor, JS Thom was approved by acclaim.

9. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Evelyn Silber was presented with a gift on behalf of the Society.

There was no further Business and the meeting concluded at approximately 12 noon.

The next AGM takes place on Saturday 8 June 2013 in Glasgow.