

**CHARLES RENNIE MACKINTOSH SOCIETY
MINUTE OF THE 8TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT THE HOUSE FOR AN ART LOVER, GLASGOW
SATURDAY 8TH JUNE 2013**

1. WELCOME

Carol Matthews, chair of the Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society welcomed everyone back to House for an Art Lover which was such a popular venue with members last year, especially those who had travelled a distance, from Wiltshire, York and Japan. She commented this year is particularly special as the Society enters its 40th year and we prepare to celebrate the anniversary in October with a programme of special events.

Carol spoke about the responsibility of the Society, both as a membership organisation helping to protect Mackintosh's unique heritage and support Scotland's extraordinary Mackintosh legacy and also as owning and managing the Society's headquarters as a city visitor attraction. She talked firstly of the "highs". This year, for the first time, The Mackintosh Church attracted over 10,000 visitors, due to the tireless work of the director and his team on a new Events Programme to reach new audiences and increase visitor numbers. She mentioned how our communications are improving; our printed newsletters, e-updates and more social media promotions. And this year's Journal was exceptional, a professional production and high quality content, special thanks to co-ordinator and editor Alison Brown. Carol then referred to the "lows": the Society suffers from continual low resource: we have few staff, our excellent band of committed volunteers cannot cover all the gaps and the lack of funding thwarts stability, future planning and much needed developments. Despite this, the energy, vision and optimism within the Society have never been stronger.

As our financial report declares, we ended our year with a deficit. We ran at a loss of over £5,000 and Carol emphasised that it is only because of the incredible creativity and hard work of the team that the deficit isn't much larger. This state of low resource is something we have lived with, but **it has to change**. Carol outlined how we might address this issue. Mackintosh gives a lot to Glasgow and the West of Scotland economy, and the Society contributes substantially to this economic regeneration from tourism by contributing advice and expertise, creating and delivering events, helping to improve the marketing of the product, and providing a constant flow of facts and information to the media. Stuart Robertson is a key spokesperson for Glasgow whenever a Mackintosh expert is needed to speak to media contacts and visiting VIPs. The city continually uses the Society, and the Society needs both support from the city to protect and develop the Mackintosh legacy as a shared responsibility, and a commitment for continued support.

This process has already started. The Society set up several meetings this summer to explore how we might gain more support from other partner organisations. We met with Scottish Enterprise and are in liaison with Glasgow City Marketing Bureau and Glasgow Chamber of Commerce. We plan to meet with Glasgow Life and Glasgow City Council

shortly. The potential list of supporters is long, but the reality is, it's lean on ready offers of cash. Carol doesn't believe there's a lack of interest or of individual will. Individuals across the city understand the need and appreciate the value of Mackintosh but there is a lack of collective will to act. It seems no single agency wants to step forward and commit to the Society. Because of a growing joint interest in a major Mackintosh exhibition event for 2018 (150th anniversary of CRM's birth), it's easier for funders to delay any decisions on support until those project plans are in place. No-one wants to make a move without the others, so it's our job to bring key decision-makers together, to state our case and how urgent it is.

But this strategy to secure major collaborative support is longer-term and we have to address our budget now: the Society is very much focused already on raising money from the private sector and this is already beginning to show some results. Roger Billcliffe brought home the message in his talk at the opening event of this AGM weekend, that for as long as the Society has been in existence, the Mackintosh buildings have always been under threat. What is different now is that for the Society to continue to be the voice which speaks out to save our legacy, the Society must first protect itself and its very existence. It was very sad to see the Mackintosh Group in the North East of England cease this year and a reality check of our own fragility.

Carol thanked individuals who have helped us recently, in particular, Rose and Tom Carroll for sponsoring the winter issue of The Journal and ensuring quality was retained. It made us rethink how we could continue to cover the costs of the Journal and this year we are beginning to raise funds through advertising. We are also improving the design of the membership letters and materials and for this we have secured the in-kind services of a senior designer, Mandy O'Donnell. The printed letters and envelopes are also being provided through sponsorship in-kind from this summer. Also, Deirdre Bernard, who stepped down from Council last year, is contacting the Society's Life Members to ask for one-off support in this special year and we are grateful to the responses so far from that appeal. Other members made donations with their AGM bookings. Paul Gilby and friends gave the Society a cheque last night of the balance of their funds from the NE Group – all of this support is very much appreciated. Carol also acknowledged the Society's team of dedicated volunteers, and thanked them for their work in fundraising research, giving tours, membership administration, retail work, photography and preparing the publications. The full Council meets five or six times each year but Council members also give their time meeting regularly in sub groups to manage finance, newsletters and the Journal, and are forming retail and membership sub groups to support the volunteers working in those areas. Special recognition goes to Margaret Craston, a part-time employee and a volunteer, who is retiring at the end of June after more than eight years with the Society. Margaret has worked on admin, the shop, on events and on wedding promotions and is an inspiration.

Carol closed by emphasising our greatest strength – the staff: Stuart, Dylan, Irene and Margaret. Our professionals work tirelessly and we are incredibly fortunate in having such multi-talented people on board. We have the right team in place. But there is no

doubt that the energy and passion which fires and drives the Society most definitely comes from our director: Stuart Robertson.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were formally received from the Society's Hon President, Lord Macfarlane of Bearsden, and apologies were also received from a number of Council and Society members.

3. MINUTE OF 7TH AGM

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

Proposed by Catriona Reynolds and seconded by Graham Roxburgh.

4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Stuart thanked Carol and welcomed everyone to the 8th AGM of the Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society (Limited Company), saying it is good to see so many members have made the trip to Glasgow.

2012 was a great year for the Society and the Mackintosh Church. The Creative Mackintosh Festival in October was a big highlight. During the two week festival the Society ran a wide range of events, from puppet shows, workshops, walks, talks, dinners and various exhibitions. Stuart especially thanked Dylan for all his contribution and time in making this such a success.

All the events were well attended and for the month of October we had an increase of more than 1000 visitors compared to 2011. In fact our visitor numbers for 2012 has broken all the records, with more than 10,000 people visiting The Mackintosh Church. This is an increase of 57% compared to the previous year and even more surprising as tourists visiting Scotland fell by 12% last year.

Our current successes can be attributed to the tireless efforts of our small team 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. This is even more astonishing as at times last year both Irene and Margaret were not around due to illness.

We would like to thank the Monument Trust for their second year of grant funding towards salary support for running and the development of the Society. We also continue to receive some grant funding from Glasgow City Council.

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

We continue to develop our collaboration with Maryhill Burgh Hall Trust on the development of the Maryhill Trail.

Our partnership continues with Queens Cross Housing Association to host and promote the New Mackintosh Choir. The Mackintosh Choir continues to utilise the building for their rehearsals and special performances. 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 continue to work 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.

Our partnerships with the Glasgow Comic Convention and the Yarn Cake (knitting/crafting community), continues to open up the building for new and diverse audiences (1200 people at Comic Con, and more than 200 at the craft event).

MACKINTOSH SYMPOSIUM

Following on from the success of the Mackintosh Symposium last February, a regular audit of the buildings is now underway.

Since the symposium a number of key Mackintosh buildings have been threatened:

- **The Willow Tea Rooms** in March announced that Henderson's would close its shop at 217 Sauchiehall Street by June. The proprietor, Anne Mulhern who sub-leases the Tearooms, is determined to preserve this important part of Glasgow's culture and history. She has managed to negotiate a short-term lease for the building, which is owned by a pension trust in Northern Ireland, as is the block in which it is housed. However, although talks are underway regarding purchasing the building with Lloyds Banking Group, the long-term future of The Willow Tea Rooms will continue to be uncertain, as the Mackintosh building is badly in need of urgent repair.

The building is not fully wind and water tight and a survey in 2008 highlighted work required. But this was postponed as a result of the economic downturn, with little prospect, of it being undertaken in the future.

The Society has recently provided a Mackintosh Information Point within the Willow Tea Room, to promote membership, walks, tours and events. It's a good location as the Tea Room is on the walking tour route from the GSA. We plan to staff this with CRM Society volunteers on days when the Mackintosh Church is closed. This gives the Society a city-centre exposure and also helps profile the Tea Room.

- **Craigie Hall** has recently sold at auction. Concern has been expressed about the condition of the property and recent photographs have revealed significant water penetration and outbreaks of dry rot. Several ceilings have come down since Christmas, windows and glazing are smashed etc. The mosaic tile floor in the winter garden is breaking up. The Mackintosh Music Room still seems to be intact, but is at risk. We have been trying

to get access to the house, but a significant amount of conservation works is required to bring the building back into an acceptable condition. As Graham Roxburgh is here, he might be able to throw a little light on the situation.

Graham Roxburgh: Unfortunately the house is in the hands of the liquidators of the company that owned it. The value of the site without Craigie Hall is much greater than its value with Craigie Hall. The house has previously been used as business premises with public access, and Graham knows people who are prepared to use it like that, but they can't match the value of the cleared site, and the liquidators are legally obliged to maximise the money they can raise.

- **Scotland Street School** has undertaken some remedial work, but further work is needed in the playground, boundary walls, playground shelters, metalwork, leading, roof works, plasterwork and stone. Unfortunately the area around the School is like a war zone.

Alison Brown: GlasgowLife recognises the importance of the building and the need to do remedial repairs. There is an intention to do the essential work before 2018, but a great lack of funds. Discussions are ongoing at a high level.

- **The Mackintosh House, Hunterian Art Gallery**: The proposed plans to move the Hunterian Museum and Gallery to the Kelvin Hall and turn it into one of the UK's biggest museums will have a major impact on the future of the Mackintosh House. We will be carefully watching this situation.

- We continue to monitor the former **Queen Margaret Medical College**

G1 Group has purchased North Park House, designed by Glasgow architect John Thomas Rothead and is being turned into their headquarters. The complex also includes a building QMMC designed by architect John Keppie with input from Charles Rennie Mackintosh, and they hope to change the use of part of the building so that it could potentially be a home.

As you know the Mackintosh heritage is small, fragile and precious, and action is needed to ensure this is protected. 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.

It is imperative that this internationally important heritage continues to receive the attention it deserves. A full report appeared in the most recent Society Journal and is available on www.crmsociety.com

MACKINTOSH TOURS

Our tours have been affected by the economic climate, 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.

EXHIBITIONS/EVENTS IN 2012

In June Roger Billcliffe launched his excellent new pocket guide to Mackintosh at the The Mackintosh Church. For those who want to find out more about Mackintosh and his work this guide will direct you to all of his key properties and collections with an enlightening commentary by Roger. Each entry is accompanied by recent or contemporary photographs, full addresses and directions and, for those difficult to find commissions, a full GPS location. This book is an indispensable addition to the Mackintosh literature.

Last year's AGM programme was another great success, with the highlights the visit to Glasgow Museums Resource Centre, Fairfields Shipyard Offices and the history of the Grand Central Hotel.

Some of the Event Highlights of last year included:

22 June	Croc Roc (Fundraiser)
30 June-1 July	Comic Con
15 – 16 Sept	Doors Open
Sept - Dec	Supper Clubs
September	Cinderella Panto Promo
October	Comedy Unit Filming

In October Stuart was invited by the Association of Cultural Enterprises to take part in a study tour of three museums in Lille, including Les Piscines. On the way to Lille he arranged a meeting with the 20th Century Society in London to look at their membership system and discuss some collaborative ideas. We agreed to move forward with some joint events and the first of these was a lecture by John McAslan at The Gallery in London in the spring.

In October we participated in the first ever Creative Mackintosh Festival. The Festival was part of Year of Creative Scotland and was supported by Creative Scotland, Scottish Enterprise, Glasgow City Council, Heritage Lottery Fund and Glasgow Airport. The event was a great success in profiling the Mackintosh Church. For the duration of the festival we had over 1250 visitors at the Mackintosh Church, and most were first time visitors. This is an amazing achievement for a small team and could not happen without everybody pulling together and especially the support of key volunteers.

Our year finished on a high with a talk by Prof. Sutherland on Maria Callas, the Mackintosh Choir and just before Christmas we had the Choir of the Year 2012, **Les Sirènes** Female Chamber Choir, performing a sell-out concert at The Mackintosh Church in December.

Mackintosh Award for Creative Design 2013

At the end of last year we launched a special competition in partnership with the Glasgow School of Art to inspire young designers to create a contemporary piece of Mackintosh-inspired design to celebrate the 40th anniversary of The Mackintosh Society.

The winner of the competition was Morna Darling, a third year student of GSA Silversmithing + Jewellery. Morna was attracted to Mackintosh's textile designs and from this she developed these ideas further. Within the silver piece there are forty squares representing every year of the Society. The four cut-out squares along the bottom also represent the four decades.

(This special commemorative pin/brooch was available to buy on the day of the AGM.)

An exhibition of the competition designs took place at The Mackintosh Church in April. The competition was open to Contemporary visual artists, fashion & textile designers, graphic artists, 2D & 3D makers and art students all who have a keen idea for creative thinking and interpretation. This could be an annual event.

AGM Weekend

This year's AGM weekend began last night with an "In Conversation with Roger Billcliffe" at The Mackintosh Church. Roger was in sparkling form.

After lunch we will have a sneak preview of the new Steven Holl building at the GSA, and then tea and coffee at The Willow Tea Rooms.

Tomorrow our weekend concludes with visits to The Hill House and Windyhill and lunch at the Beacon Arts Centre.

We also have a fabulous dinner arranged for Monday evening, Mackintosh's Italian Dinner, with three ten-minute talks by George Rawson.

Future Events

Over the next few weeks we will be very busy at the Mackintosh Church

June	Bill Blackwood Exhibition
14 June	Dinner and visit to Windyhill for Friends of 78 Derngate
16 June	Summer concert by the Mackintosh Choir
September	Doors Open weekend

October is our 40th Anniversary Events and Exhibition: Much of this depends on funding. It will include
Talks and presentations by Murray Grigor, Andy Macmillan etc
Creative Mackintosh Festival
Yarn Cake

November: Special performance by Kara Wilson
Supper Club

December: Horse, Les Sirènes etc

MEMBERSHIP

Membership has dropped slightly over the last year, but the overall revenue from membership is holding up well despite the economic downturn. We are looking at improving the membership system and processes. We have been in discussion with the 20th Century Society and getting advice about their membership system. We are looking at a new membership system, but this is dependent on funding.

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

We currently have 9 Patrons of the Society.

Stuart thanked the membership team of Elspeth Kidd and Norma Butler for managing the membership and the database.

REGIONAL GROUPS

Unfortunately our regional group in the North East of England closed at the end of last year. This was due to a combination of reasons, difficulties with getting speakers (they thanked the Society for its efforts in helping with this), dwindling attendance and commitments of the existing committee and no volunteers to take over. A number of the members of NE of England group are here today and last night the group donated £350.00 to the Society from the closing funds. So thank you very much.

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 Ian McGee and Deirdre Bernard.

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. A journal/newsletter team has now been setup and the latest Journal was well received by the membership.

We are really grateful for Tom and Rose Carroll for funding the printing of the last Journal. Only with this kind of support can we produce such a high quality Journal.

We have now produced a schedule for future Society publications:

Newsletter: October 2013: Copy deadline 14 September 2013
 January 2014: Copy deadline 14 December 2013
 April 2014: Copy deadline 14 March 2014

Journals: The 2013 Journal will be distributed in late August 2013 subject to funding.

A big thank you must go to Alison Brown, and to Nijole and Evita.

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.

We have recently developed a new role play workshop linked to "The Amazing Mr. Mackintosh" book. This is designed for Primary 1-7. This workshop uses Curriculum for Excellence focused activities that encourage group-working & individual investigation techniques, develops problem solving, communication & performance skills, and brings together the teaching of history, technology, and expressive arts subjects. A pilot workshop was undertaken with a primary school from Motherwell. The feedback will allow us to make some adjustments to the workshop.

The Society continues to participate in a number of informal events throughout the year, i.e. 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.

In March Stuart attended a House Banner Ceremony at Shawlands Primary School in Glasgow. The pupils had voted for Charles Rennie Mackintosh as an inspirational Scot and therefore one of the eight Houses was named after him. This was a result of attending one of our workshops.

VOLUNTEER UPDATE

Our current successes can be attributed to the tireless efforts of all our staff and a handful of dedicated volunteers. 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.

We have developed a great group of Volunteers;

Membership Team:	Elspeth Kidd and Norma Butler
Retail:	Ian McGee
Events/Exhibitions:	Deirdre Bernard
Weddings:	Lisa Hornel, Tom Carroll and Margaret Buchanan

Journal:	Nijole Ukelyte and Iveta Jaugaitė
Research/Library:	Elizabeth Crawford
Research	Trish Ingram, Michael Cassells/Bianca Scotti
Fundraising:	Sharon Gilmour
Database/Bookwhen:	Pamela Freedman

Stuart also made a special thank you to our Chair for providing the services of a marketing person, Michael O'Rourke for a day a week over a 12 week period. This has been invaluable in helping marketing events and activities, social media etc. Carol has offered to extend this offer until the end of August. This is great news.

During the summer we also have the services of a French Student intern, Sebastien Masson.

Although we have a number of new volunteers we still need a Volunteer Coordinator to help manage the volunteers.

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.

Over the last year we have made improvements and repairs to the Building:

- The interior of the Hall, Side Gallery and east corridor were painted
- Roof repairs have been implemented
- Lighting improvements to the interior
- Boiler overhaul
- Repairs to lightning conductors
- Repairs to the front entrance
- A pigeon infestation in the Tower
- New banners to promote the venue have been installed

We are aware of immediate and continuous needs for this unique Mackintosh building, but this cannot be achieved without additional funding.

We have also applied to Creative Scotland for Capital funding to help develop facilities for arts and performance use. Again we would need to match this.

GLASGOW MACKINTOSH GROUP

We are continuing to develop our partnerships through Glasgow Mackintosh (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.

The Website

The Glasgow Mackintosh group is currently represented by <http://www.crmsociety.com/> using the redirect www.glasgowmackintosh.com on promotional items such as leaflets and posters. Recent reconfiguration of Glasgow Mackintosh group (formerly Mackintosh Heritage Group) call for the identities of the CRM Society and Glasgow Mackintosh to be split and a new website is to be designed for Glasgow Mackintosh to reflect this change. The overall aim of the site is to create a gateway to direct target audiences to, marketing member attractions as a group, and generating visits to these venues in order to generate income.

The current annual costs of the existing website are far too expensive and the service provider will not negotiate. So this has major implications on our own website and we cannot afford these costs, so a new cut down version will need to be created.

Although this will create more work, especially for Stuart, it gives us an opportunity to look at what we really need to have on this site and profile the work of the Society and our increasing need to generate income.

New Legacy Leaflet/New Trail Ticket

A new leaflet has been designed and just printed. This is a simple cut down version and links to both websites for opening times and admission costs. SPT have also agreed to continue the Mackintosh Trail Ticket.

MACKINTOSH STRATEGY 2018

In January and February the Society was invited to attend two strategic meeting on Mackintosh. The first meeting was hosted by the Glasgow City Marketing Bureau and included all senior stakeholders with involvement in CRM collections, buildings, interpretation and the marketing of tourism in Glasgow.

Aim: To maximise the impact and importance of CRM as an iconic figure via an integrated and coordinated approach to CRM developments including 2018, relevant exhibitions within the city and environs and marketing. The group will also look at lobbying for conservation, building maintenance and integrated sympathetic development of CRM assets in the city and environs.

Glasgow Museums agreed to explore the costs and feasibility of a 6-venue Mackintosh world tour from 2018 for 3 years, starting in London and returning to Glasgow eg Kelvin Hall. The

tour could attract funding and conservation for specific Mackintosh venues, including Scotland Street School and the Willow Tea Rooms.

The second meeting hosted by Glasgow Museums was more the operations side of the 2018 Strategy covering:

- A scoping exercise on a Mackintosh World Tour.
- Audience research overview
- Conservation was discussed and Scotland Street was highlighted as critical.

Conservation Audit: An in-depth conservation audit is required for all the CRM buildings.

The Society is prepared to manage the project if proper funding is available. £200,000 is required for the audit, probably £2 million for Scotland Street School and the same for The Hill House. There is an expectation by the Strategy Group that the World Tour will finance the conservation, but the CRM Council thought it unlikely such a large sum could be raised in addition to the costs of the exhibition and tour itself. Alison Brown, Pamela Robertson and Peter Trowles have been asked to scope a potential World Tour. A proposed tour to Japan in 2015 by Roger Billcliffe might be re-arranged to be part of this World Tour.

1973-2013: Celebrating 40 years of protecting Mackintosh's unique architectural heritage.

Further Community Development of The Mackintosh Church Arts and Heritage Centre.

We have exciting and community-directed projects planned for this year. But this is all subject to funding. As part of our 40th anniversary we are planning an exhibition geared towards greater community outreach, and have a focus on working with children in this disadvantaged area which suffers from multiple forms of deprivation. Following the great success of Creative Mackintosh in 2012, we are planning a further event, broadening the scope to tell the story of Mackintosh and the Society's involvement in Glasgow, the West Coast of Scotland and Maryhill. This will tie in with our anniversary celebrations of forty years of the Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society. Our activities will also help serve as a prelude to Scotland's Year of Homecoming (2014) and the 150th Anniversary of Charles Rennie Mackintosh's birth (2018).

Our planned projects will help capture local memories and map the social history of the area. Following the great success of "The Amazing Mr Mackintosh" children's book, we are planning a new book that will also be non-academic and accessible, and will encompass contributions from the local community. We will also run school workshops which will introduce primary school children to art, design and the context of this building in the local area.

A funding application is currently being prepared by Dylan Paterson and Mairi Bell.

Conclusion: The Future

In 2010 the Feasibility Plan undertaken by the Society viewed that there are few, if any, modestly sized heritage bodies, comparable to CRMS, which are also running a major heritage building primarily as a visitor attraction on such a small resource base. The responsibilities associated with owning and operating The Mackintosh Church are now beginning to outweigh the initial purpose of the Society, i.e. promoting and encouraging awareness of CRM.

This is a difficult situation for the Society, as we are currently using up our reserves at a fast rate and without additional funding may well be in financial difficulty by the end of this year. We have discussed this dilemma with Historic Scotland and while supportive it is unlikely they can help financially.

This is not a new situation for the Society, looking through our records:

In 1992 Notes for Council Meeting, Patricia Douglas says *"I have to work in isolation, this sometimes means not enough discussion and never enough time to implement ideas in the most satisfactory way."* It also mentions... *"applying to GDC for grant aid of £5,000 per annum otherwise I do not think we will be able to continue to maintain Queen's Cross."*

In January 1995 the Chair, Sir William Gray wrote *"... our continued existence over the last 21 years has only been possible due to the dedicated efforts of our members who have worked hard to raise money so that we are able to offer a comprehensive tours programme, an extensive and expanding range of activities for members, while at the same time maintaining Queen's Cross, which it must be said is a burden on our resources.As a result in spite of prodigious efforts our expenditure can exceed our income."*

On Thursday evening at the GSA Degree Show Stuart met up with *Alan Horn* Director of Development at GSA and he said it is tough out there.

78 Derngate have the same problems and are trying to create an endowment to secure the future of the building. The 78 Derngate Northampton Trust had a launch event at the House of Commons at the end of April.

In his twelve years at the helm of the Society, Stuart believes this must be the toughest year for the organization. It is even more ironic in a year we should be celebrating the success and achievements of preserving the legacy of Charles Rennie Mackintosh.

Stuart ended by saying we are preparing to fight for our existence and anything you can do to help will be much appreciated. Stuart thanked everyone for their continuing support, and was thanked by the Chair for his presentation.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

You hopefully have all had sight of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2012.

Stuart has given a detailed summary of what the Society has achieved over the last year.

Our income is marginally up on last year but our overheads have risen this year by £9,582 on last year. (page 7). The subscriptions, retail and use of premises have all held up well despite the recession.

This year we received £20,000 from the Monument Trust. We targeted £25,000 but realistically we need to target around £30,000 per annum to allow us to operate properly. We did not receive any Bequests in 2012. It is good that we now have a volunteer working on this and we hope see a steady improvement. In addition we continue to receive funding support from GCC Integrated Grants Fund. For 2012/13 we received £9,935.

The Society has a deficit for the year of £5,409 (page 7). Net assets at 31 December 2012 were £56,244 of £930,486 (prior year £61,653 of £935,895).

Looking forward to 2013 financial year, the Society faces tough challenges with very limited resources and income, plus increased overheads in maintaining an A-listed historic site.

The Society continues to be very frugal in keeping its overheads in check, but this is getting more difficult each year with the rising costs of maintaining and running The Mackintosh Church.

Currently we need around £30,000 a year from funders to help meet our annual overheads. We now have a new Fundraising volunteer, Sharon Gilmour working one day week with Stuart to develop applications, and we have been approaching a number of key grant bodies and trusts to assist with our running costs and to help fund a number of projects linked with our 40th anniversary.

We have received notification from Glasgow City Council that they have agreed in principle to award funding to the Society over the next two years, but this has been reduced to £8,900 pa.

We have recently received a commitment of £18,000 over 3 years from The Robertson Trust for an education workshop programme. A further £7,500 commitment from The Hugh Fraser Foundation for an education project. Both are subject to raising match funding. This week we received £2,000 from the Sylvia Waddilove Foundation.

We would like to thank those that have made a donation along with their AGM booking and to Life Members who have responded to Deirdre Bernard's letter.

Judith thanked Stuart and his dedicated team within the Society who continue to work hard for the benefit of the Society, the Church, and for Charles Rennie Mackintosh.

Judith is happy to answer any queries from members.

The accounts were approved by acclaim.

6. REGIONAL GROUPS

Charles Rennie Mackintosh London & South East Events

The CRM London & South East Events team organised a full programme of lectures and visits during the year to 8th June, 2013.

We started the year with a visit on 7th July, 2012 to Charleston Farmhouse and Berwick Church in Sussex, finding out about the Bloomsbury Group, Vanessa Bell and her extended family. Then on 8th September 2012, to Leighton House in Holland Park, London, Frederick Lord Leighton's house.

The winter lecture series began with Diane Haigh on *The Architecture of M. H. Baillie Scott*, 19th October, 2012; Dr Scott Anderson on *The English Renaissance in Art Nouveau*, 2nd November 2012; Wendy Hitchmough on *Charleston: The Rebellious Off-spring of Arts and Crafts?* for our Christmas lecture and lunch, 1st December 2012; Mary McMahon on *G.F. Watts & The Watts Gallery*, 25th January 2013; and lastly Alan Powers on *The Architecture of Oliver Hill*, 26th April 2013.

We were also invited to attend the lecture by John McAslan on Charles Rennie Mackintosh which was part of the Twentieth Century Society Lecture Series - Reputations Reassessed.

We were able to raise funds for the Society by selling some of its merchandise from the Queen's Cross Shop at our Christmas lecture and will be sending the profits on the year to the Society in due course.

We hope to arrange a visit to a Voysey Arts and Crafts house in Surrey during the summer together with the Watts Gallery and Chapel. We are in the process of organising the winter lecture series and visitors are always welcome. Information on the lectures will be on the website and if you are interested in coming along please email us at crms-londser@hotmail.co.uk.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

Honorary Officers of Council

Honorary President

The Rt Hon The Lord Macfarlane of Bearsden KT DL FRSE

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 Bale Liz Cameron who had all indicated that they were prepared to remain in office.

This was all approved by acclaim.

8. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS (Council Members)

Directors who served during the 2012-2013 Session

- Mairi Bell
- Alison Brown
- Pamela Freedman
- Charles Hay
- Carol Matthews (Chair)
- Judith Patrickson (Hon Treasurer)
- Catriona Reynolds (Vice Chair)
- Sabine Wieber

No directors are standing down, all were approved by acclaim.

New Nominations for Council

There was one new nomination, Garry Sanderson, who runs the House for an Art Lover as a visitor attraction, events venue and restaurant. He is the most supportive of all from Mackintosh Heritage, and provided the canapés and staff for last night's event at The Mackintosh Church. Most importantly, he is a business-person!

Garry's nomination onto Council was proposed by Stuart Robertson and seconded by Carol Matthews, and approved by acclaim.

The Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer all agreed to remain in post, again this was approved by acclaim.

The Society auditor, JS Thom, was approved by acclaim.

9. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Brad Pitt: John Gerrard mentioned that when Brad Pitt was in Glasgow filming he visited Hill House with his family. Is there a PR opportunity there for the Society? Stuart Robertson had offered him a personal CRM tour. Carol Matthews said he is a keen photographer and also a furniture designer with a nod to CRM, so we won't give up – but we need a personal contact in California. Catriona Reynolds mentioned that Brian

Ferry was involved in fundraising for Glasgow School of Art, which had good PR value for GSA.

Craigie Hall: Trish Ingram asked Graham Roxburgh what will happen to the interiors. Graham responded that the liquidators claim they have sold the building and expect to close the deal within 2-3 weeks, but this has happened before with no sale being concluded. In the meantime they are allowing the building to fall into disrepair. Someone (?) asked if it was possible to get Glasgow City Council (GCC) to demand repairs as it is "A" listed, but they would be unwilling to do this as they may end up with the bill. Graham stated that GCC has the power for a compulsory purchase order, but no funds.

Commonwealth Games: John Reilly (Riley?) asked if we can exploit the opportunity to promote CRMS as part of the Commonwealth Games programme of events. Carol replied that Mackintosh will be included in the entertainment, but each time we ask, we are told "too early!" so we expect it will be a scramble at the last moment. We also put in an application for funding for the Homecoming Scotland 2014 Events Programme.

Carol then thanked everyone for coming to the AGM, reminding them of the vulnerable state of the Society, and asking them to please retain their membership, come to events, come to Croc Roc, buy from the shop, buy a 40th anniversary pin, or make a donation, as all these help.

Catriona gave thanks to Carol for her time, her staff, and all her efforts for the Society.

The meeting concluded at approximately 12.30pm.

The next AGM will take place on Saturday 7th June 2014 in Glasgow.