

**CHARLES RENNIE MACKINTOSH SOCIETY  
MINUTE OF THE 9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
HELD AT MACKINTOSH QUEEN'S CROSS, GLASGOW  
SATURDAY 7 JUNE 2014**

**1. WELCOME**

Carol Matthews, Chair of the Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society welcomed everyone to Mackintosh Queen's Cross. She said how wonderful it was to be holding the meeting in the Mackintosh Church on Mackintosh's birthday - he would have been 146 years old - and Carol invited everyone to sing a heart-warming, rousing rendition of Happy Birthday accompanied by Geoffrey Tanti on the Society's recently purchased Steinway, before commencing the business of the morning.

Carol stated that the last two AGMs have been held at House for an Art Lover and we were exceedingly grateful to council member Garry Sanderson for his hospitality over the past couple of years, but it was good to be 'At Home' this time: the Church is looking splendid; it has a warm and comfortable ambience and Carol hoped for a good meeting followed by a lovely lunch in the hall.

Carol referred straight away to the catastrophic tragedy of the fire at the Glasgow School of Art. Just two weeks ago, this heart-breaking event had a huge effect on everyone - students; staff; residents and visitors to the city; the arts, design and architecture sector; culture, heritage and tourism contacts; Society members and the wider Mackintosh community - everyone shared the same deep feelings of loss. Carol said that it seemed shocking to her that the overwhelming sense for a building was like one of bereavement. She thought that people would have seen, heard and read much about the fire already but mentioned that she had copies available to share of a particularly beautifully written piece by Glasgow architect David Page.

Carol spoke about how the Society became a central point of contact, almost for 'grieving' and certainly for information. Many people called in and emailed from Scotland, across the UK and abroad to get updates and to offer support where possible. Carol had gone to the Glasgow School of Art on the Friday of the tragedy and via constant communications with the Society, Dylan Paterson was able to provide updates on all the messages and contacts flowing in - the Society became family. Carol emphasised that Stuart Robertson was a wonderful spokesperson - his interviews from the scene were broadcast on a number of news bulletins and online mediums.

The Society had stepped into gear. Its role to help protect, preserve and promote Mackintosh and the very need for the Society became all the more evident when we witnessed the vulnerability of our small precious legacy.

Carol said that we had been proactive and had called a meeting of the city's Mackintosh venue curators and managers. Led by Stuart Robertson, the Glasgow Mackintosh Group discussed a raft of ideas on how best to support The Glasgow School of Art. The building is insured and the Scottish and Westminster governments have pledged to help resolve the funding but we are able to help with simpler practicalities: offering space, taking on bookings and tours, extending our opening hours over the coming months; providing more access to Mackintosh and helping to minimise disappointment of the many additional tourists to Glasgow expected to visit this summer for the city's major events, who might also wish to take in a visit to the GSA. Our next issue of the Journal will focus on GSA, including the joys of the new Reid building, where the AGM weekend reception should have been held, but mostly to feature contributions, memories and stories of the Mackintosh building.

Carol moved on to the considerable money worries of 2013 and the increasing effort to maintain service. Stuart Robertson declared it had been his "Most Challenging Year". The Society was running at a loss and had to move forward or sink. The team set up a series of strategy and planning meetings with a few key objectives for the year: to improve the financial position; provide better terms for the staff; review membership and communications. Carol acknowledged that to a degree, we have achieved all of these.

Carol recalled last year she advised the Society had put in place a number of talks with city and national agencies to try and gain financial support towards the Society. We wanted to work towards

creating a partnership ring of support. We held a number of meetings over six months. We talked about how much Mackintosh gives to Glasgow and to the economy of Scotland. We explained the Society's contribution through its advice, expertise, events and activities. We highlighted the shared responsibility of protecting the Mackintosh legacy and the need for commitment. And she reported that there was interest; acknowledgement of and respect for the Society's work; and goodwill. But no money had been forthcoming nor a top-level round-table forum as hoped. Fortunately, at the same time, we had set about a major fundraising drive ourselves. The business of fundraising is time-consuming but we have raised over £150,000, completely transforming the short term position; and the mid-term is also stronger.

Carol stated the intention to continue to fundraise. However, she also said the Glasgow School of Art tragedy has underlined the Society's case for support and it is timely to revisit Holyrood and local government to discuss support.

Substantial sums have been raised but managing this prestigious building as the Society's headquarters and as a visitor attraction comes at a price. We must generate more income from every available source and this includes our membership. A review of the membership income and costs was conducted this spring - the first review by Council since 2009. It was inevitable that we would have to increase annual subscription in line with rising costs and from this autumn individual membership will become £42.00 per annum - a rise of £7 over the five year period. It might be that we can hold it at that level for the next five years because we hope that gradually all members will opt for electronic communications – the event updates, newsletters and so on. The Journal will continue to be printed but is also available online and it is hoped that international members will move towards downloaded versions or alternatively, in time, pay a supplement for a hard copy to be posted. Carol hopes members will understand and support this practical and necessary step.

Through business sponsorship and a grant from Arts and Business, we have been able to upgrade the look and style of our materials which will help to attract and, we hope, retain members. The matching grant through Art & Business is also helping to run additional events in the autumn programme.

Carol emphasised that as we draw to the close of our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, we can be proud of many achievements. The director's report covers the planning to help safeguard the condition of the Mackintosh buildings and so many other core Society matters but she highlighted a few particular results which have brought her, personally, a lot of pleasure:

- The beautiful Steinway Piano - one of the results of fundraising – has made a huge difference to the events programme. Performers have told us this building has tremendous acoustic quality and some very high calibre concerts and events have been held recently, bringing new audiences to the Church;
- The Journals and our newsletters are fabulous quality. The Journal is an exceptional publication and the result of the excellent writing and editorial skills of council member Alison Brown;
- The growing Mackintosh community she meets through events - visitors, members and guests of our Mackintosh hospitality.

Carol recognised that all of these things and more are made possible by the Society's council, staff and volunteers: we deliver a far bigger job than could be imagined from the small team. Carol thanked all the volunteers who work with us on education, fundraising, tours and membership: every contribution is so valuable. The Society relies upon them and appreciates them all.

Carol also referred to the Council members - the full Council meets just half a dozen times each year but also meets regularly in sub groups to manage finance, communications and operational reviews.

The final tribute was to the staff: Irene, Dylan and Stuart - a wonderful team and the Society is very fortunate indeed to have their skills, professionalism and enthusiasm in place. It may have been a challenging year but the staff is always energetic and positive. Carol concluded that on Mackintosh's birthday, we can all be proud that we are making every effort to protect his works and to share the experience and pleasure of Mackintosh.

## **2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were formally received from the Society's Honorary President, Lord Macfarlane of Bearsden, Bailie Liz Cameron, Roger Billcliffe and from a number of Council and Society members.

## **3. MINUTE OF 8<sup>TH</sup> AGM**

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

Proposed by Catriona Reynolds and seconded by Peter Ranson.

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

Stuart thanked Carol and began by saying that, as ever, the Society continues in its role as the gateway to everything Mackintosh.

Since our last AGM a lot has happened, some good, some bad and some very sad. He said that in his thirteen years as Director of the Society, 2013 was definitely his Annus horribilis. The strain of steering the Society out of a financial crisis had been a major part of the last twelve months.

At the last AGM the Society had been struggling financially, and we realised the focus was very much about fund raising to meet our funding deficit.

A lot of hard work has been done and will continue to be done, to ensure the future of the Society and our role to preserve, protect and promote the work of Charles Rennie Mackintosh.

Stuart wanted to specially thank Dylan Paterson who has kept his spirits up, worked closely with him and done a fantastic job in completing a number of successful funding applications. He also thanked the volunteer Michael Cassell who has helped with the funding applications.

The Society has continued to play a leading role in promoting Mackintosh through exhibitions, events, marketing, visitor services, academic queries and education programmes. This has included the instigation of the city-wide Mackintosh Heritage Group, running education workshops for children and adults and dealing with visitor, student and research queries from around the world.

As you know all of this happens without any core-funding and through the support and dedication of members, volunteers and minimal staffing. An ever-increasing pressure on resources, with growing demand for advice and information, against dwindling resources and increasing costs has always put the organisation under a lot of strain and we are looking to build capacity and resilience for the future.

We are looking at ways to make our charity more sustainable and robust, and therefore more secure for the decades to come. We aim to continue our important work as a unique Visitor and Arts Centre (Mackintosh's only Church), information service (dealing with over 100 information requests each month) and key player in promoting, preserving and explaining Mackintosh's work – often as an introduction to the other great Glasgow architects and architecture.

Annually, the Society currently generates £24,000 (memberships, patrons, donations, admissions), with a further £33,000 through commercial activities and, on average, supplements this by £20,000 through trusts and foundations. The shortfall it faces is in the order of £30,000 - £40,000 on an annual basis. In truth, the Mackintosh Society gives huge value to the country in the services it provides to visitors, locals, schools, students etc as well as its national and international reach via its publication, the highly-respected Journal, subscribed to by institutions and individuals throughout the world - and the value-for-money it provides in the efficient and effective way it is managing and maintaining the category A listed Queen's Cross building.

As Carol highlighted, our fundraising has brought in around £97k for 2014 and £70k for 2015.

Stuart thanked:-

- the Monument Trust for their ongoing support;
- Glasgow Area Committee and Robertson Trust for funding towards our piano;
- Big Lottery Celebrate Fund;
- Carol Matthews for her support and;
- Arts & Business for matching Carol's support.

Stuart also thanked members who have supported our Fundraising Activity. We have received good support through letters sent out by Deirdre to Life Members, our Fundraising Concerts and the Indiegogo campaign.

### **The Mackintosh Church**

Although a refurbishment project was undertaken to the building in 2006, there is still some work required for the building to complete that initial project. Despite continued maintenance works and 'running repairs', the building has suffered from some of the wettest and coldest weather conditions we have seen in the last few years. The weather, and damage caused during lead theft etc. has really taken its toll. There are urgent repairs required to simply to keep the building wind and watertight and secure. For example - pointing and mortar repairs, lead work and roof repairs, security concerns mean that security upgrading is required, drainage repairs. The building is not currently watertight and is suffering as a result. Repairs in the region of £20,000 a year for each of two years are considered necessary to bring the building up to a safe and acceptable standard of repair – and this is before any interior decorative work to repair water damage. The remedial works include:

- Lead works to roofs, skews, copes etc.
- The tower, in particular, is no longer watertight and this is causing problems in lower areas of the building – there are buckets in several parts of the church and hall and resulting damage
- Slate works to all of main church roof area and leaks in hall.
- Drainage work/downpipes/gutters
- Rot works to doors and other areas
- Exterior paintwork to prevent decay
- Repairs to damage to windows/leading/glazing
- Major mortar works to pointing, roof copes etc.
- Replacement of rotted exterior metal ventilation grills throughout – for prevention of animal infestation etc.
- Exterior Mackintosh sign boards and metal works in poor repair
- Upgrading security to cope with increased vandalism and metal theft (insurance costs rising rapidly as a result of theft). Both physical security, lighting and alarm cover.

A condition report has been prepared by Simpson & Brown and this amounts to £100k to bring the building up to spec (£45k is the cost of scaffolding)

### **Investing for the Future**

We see the opportunity to develop the building to increase revenue through concert and event hires. The building has new potential to operate (in addition to the visitor attraction, study, research, education, lecture element) as a venue for performance. We have been raising money via crowd funding and charity concerts in order to develop this area – which has huge potential in allowing the building to get used more for community, local, national and international events- but also to have commercial hires once we have the correct equipment in place.

Mackintosh Queen's Cross, with its superb natural acoustic already plays host to the highly successful and increasingly accomplished Mackintosh Choir and has provided a performance venue for Les Sirenes choir for a number of years, during which time they progressed from fledgling start up to their 2012 achievement, being crowned the UK Choir of the Year.

We had applied to Creative Scotland, Cameron Mackintosh Foundation and many other trusts towards this project but all have turned us down. Works required include lighting/electrical improvements (lighting in the building is poor and restricts evening use), wc upgrades – and purchasing a piano. Moving forward in this area also requires the upgrading of fire alarm systems - we already know that the specialist vesda fire safety system to protect roof from fire risk no longer

operates and the equipment is now obsolete. In addition, detectors have failed in various parts of the building and the full fire system requires a major overhaul and partial replacement in order to be effective. The costs in this area are £40,000.

As you can see we have already started to implement the improvements

- Electrical and event lighting improvements with the help of Karen Bryce
- Our beautiful 1904/5 Steinway Piano, thanks to Alastair McLean for sourcing this.

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

#### **Managing the process**

The staffing levels are now at their lowest, having cut back to just one full time (Director's Post) and two part time posts (one 2 days per week employee and one 3 days per week employee). This is far less than is required to move forward. Through the Monument Trust we have secured support for essential staffing salaries over the next two years.

We see this as the start of a new beginning for the Society.

#### **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 tour package with the Grand Central Hotel has been well received by all those who have participated.

#### **Exhibitions and Events**

Last year's AGM weekend began with a sparkling conversation with Roger Billcliffe at The Mackintosh Church. On day two we had a sneak preview of the new Steven Holl building at the GSA, and then we had tea and coffee at The Willow Tea Rooms. Our weekend concluded with visits to The Hill House and Windyhill and on the Monday we had a wonderful Italian Feast with Dr George Rawson giving us a fascinating tour of Mackintosh's Italian Sketching Tour.

Highlights this year included the fabulous *Architecture of Nature* exhibition of paintings by Frances Law and the beautiful Mackintosh Music Cabinet which was on display during the 40th Anniversary celebrations in October. These two artistic works were the inspiration for our musical evening on 4 October with a stellar cast including Robert Sutherland, Paul Keohone and Elaine Gould. The evening event was hosted by the wonderful Judith Ralston and hospitality was provided courtesy of the House for an Art Lover. Other fabulous events were the Burns Evening and the Broadway Show.

We plan to continue to develop the venue to ensure that our aims and visions are met for years to come. However, the Society and the Church does not currently seem to fit into traditional funding streams like Creative Scotland (turned down on three occasions), Heritage Lottery Fund (turned down in October). We have attracted limited funding from Glasgow City Council, which is specifically for exhibitions/events and education programmes, and this is unlikely to continue. This has put plans to further develop the Church for arts and cultural use 'on hold' until we can find ways of raising funds.

The Society only survives by raising funds from its own sources via membership, some commercial activities, and external trusts. You can help by giving a donation, volunteering or planning a legacy.

#### **Partnerships**

The Society continues to participate in a number of informal events throughout the year, i.e. Easter Workshops, Mackintosh Birthday, Doors Open and The Big Draw, Creative Mackintosh Puppet Theatre and Workshops, 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.

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

Our partnership continues with Mackintosh Choir. The Choir continues to utilise the building for their rehearsals and special performances.

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. We are currently working with QCHA on a summer education project.

Our partnership with the Yarn Cake (knitting/crafting community), goes from strength to strength.

### **AGM Weekend**

This year's AGM weekend began last night with an informal evening at The Willow Tea Rooms.

Tonight we will have Kara Wilson in the wonderful Deco Diva.

Tomorrow our weekend concludes with visits to the Old West Kirk and the beautiful Quarriers Village

### **Future Events**

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

Our current show is the wonderful Galloway Artisans

13 June	Movies at the Mack
15 June	Summer concert by the Mackintosh Choir
23 July	Mini Doors Open
September	Doors Open weekend International Music Series
October	Creative Mackintosh Festival Yarn Cake Mackintosh Italian Dinner Croc Rock Night
November	Textile Exhibition
December	Mackintosh Choir and Les Sirenes etc

Next month the University of Glasgow's Hunterian will launch a freely accessible online resource, providing users with an authoritative list of Charles Rennie Mackintosh architecture, a catalogue of associated drawings, and biographies of related clients and contractors. The launch will also coincide with a major Mackintosh Architecture Exhibition at the Hunterian, which has been drawn from the research project.

On the 19 September there will be a one day symposium Mackintosh Architecture: A New Study at The Hunterian, University of Glasgow organised by The Hunterian in association with the Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society

It is imperative that this internationally important heritage continues to receive the attention it deserves.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership has dropped slightly over the last year, but the overall revenue from membership is holding up well despite the economic downturn.

Stuart thanked Matthews Marketing for all their work in creating a new suite of membership material, which you should start to see appearing in the summer.

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 nine Patron's of the Society.

We are looking at a new membership system, but again this is dependent on funding.

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

### **REGIONAL GROUPS**

London Group has been running an excellent series of events over the last year.

### **RETAIL**

Stuart thanked Irene Dunnett for her 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 is in place and the latest Journal was well received by the membership. With such high postage costs we will have to do more digital publications in future. Stuart thanked editor Alison Brown.

### **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.

With the help of Marie Hand we have developed an exciting new workshop programme for 2014.

We are absolutely delighted to have Rachel Barron as our new tutor. Rachel is an artist based in Glasgow whose practice encompasses printmaking, installation and community engagement. Rachel uses alternative printing techniques to create colourful geometric compositions. She has developed a highly effective method of printmaking using handmade stamps and inkpads which is enjoyed by children of all ages and abilities.

Stuart thanked a number of trusts who have helped with our education programme - Robertson Trust, Hugh Fraser Foundation and the McRobert Trust.

### **VOLUNTEER UPDATE**

We have developed a great group of Volunteers, but we need more:

Membership Team:	Elspeth Kidd and Norma Butler
Retail:	Ian McGee
Education:	Marie Hand
Events/Exhibitions	Deirdre Bernard
Weddings:	Tom Carroll and Margaret Buchanan
Research/Library:	Elizabeth Crawford
Research	Trish Ingram, Michael Cassells
Fundraising:	Michael Cassells
Database/Bookwhen:	Pamela Freedman

Stuart made a special thank you to our Chair for providing the services of a marketing person, Michael O'Rourke. This has been invaluable in helping marketing events and activities, social media etc.

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

## **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.

### **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**

Unfortunately this seems to have stuttered. Stuart asked Pamela Freeman for an update on the Mackintosh tour, Pamela said that this was under discussion but was looking unlikely.

### **Mackintosh Buildings Update**

#### **The Hill House**

An evening symposium was held at NTS in Edinburgh to discuss the problem and possible solutions for the harling around The Hill House.

#### **The Willow Tea Rooms**

There have been no updates and we do not know what is going to happen beyond September this year.

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 near future.

#### **Craigie Hall**

Work has been taking place to repair the years of neglect, but currently the building is the subject of a new planning application which includes a proposed division of the main building into two apartments. The application further asserts that the Mackintosh Organ must be removed "to a place of safety", a questionable step, which seems designed to downgrade the Music Room for conversion to a domestic kitchen (for which no detail is provided). No mention is made of the stained glass window behind the Organ, an obvious component of its design.

In this way, the Mackintosh-inspired composition of Entrance Hall/Music Room/Conservatory would be lost for ever.

The planning application appears to deny the A-listed status of Craigie Hall, which is nowhere referred to in the text nor within the very rudimentary drawings supplied. The absence of any reference to the listed fittings and the "remarkably complete interiors" implies that no account has been taken of these, which include The Mackintosh Library and all of the extensive design features.

It is said that the Organ might be donated to Glasgow Museums. This would not only rip the heart out of Craigie Hall, it would destroy the essential character of this veritable treasure trove of Mackintosh's design development on his path to international acclaim.

To take the Organ out of the building would certainly contravene grade A status.

We will be submitting an objection to the current planning application.

**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.



Glasgow Life recognises the importance of the building and the need to do remedial repairs, but there is a lack of funds at the moment. There is an intention to do the essential work before 2018. Discussions are ongoing at senior level.

**The Mackintosh House at the Hunterian:** 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 are carefully watching this situation.

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

#### **The Mackintosh Building at the GSA**

With the devastating fire at the GSA, it highlights that the Mackintosh heritage is small, fragile and precious, and action is needed to ensure this is protected.

The Society is working closely with the GSA and using all our resources to help in any way possible, from handling press and media, to meeting all representatives of the Mackintosh buildings and coordinating a city strategy. We will keep you informed when new information is available.

#### **Conservation Audit:**

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

Through discussions with the Monument Trust, we are looking at the feasibility of developing a Conditions Report of all the Mackintosh Buildings. A meeting is planned with Pamela Robertson, Stuart Robertson, Page and Park and Simpson and Brown and then this will be discussed with all the Mackintosh partners.

**On a thoughtful note Stuart finished his report with a beautifully written quote from the British architect, Denys Lasdun on the GSA Library:**

*"It is an atmosphere of frozen excitement, a place of assembly like a Japanese temple".*

Stuart thanked everybody for their Support.

## **5. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Judith Patrickson, Honorary Treasurer apologised for not being able to attend the meeting. Stuart Robertson summarised the report on her behalf.

Stuart presented the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2013, which he hoped everyone had received.

Stuart referred to the treasurer's report, starting on page 3, this has been a busy 40<sup>th</sup> year with lots going on including a significant increase in fundraising activity, especially looking at trust income. This began to bear fruit at the end of the financial year, with the approval of some of our applications, which are detailed on page 5. Unfortunately this income only managed to partly replace a reduction in the society's 'Incoming resources from Charitable Activities' (see page 7 and the notes on page 9). On the positive side, the costs have also reduced, in line with the reduction of some of the income.

Ultimately, however, the Society has, once again, had a deficit for the year reducing the reserves still further. This cannot continue. As can be seen in note 8 (page 13) the society has only £43,564 of 'free' or general reserves which is not enough to sustain the society.

The society needs to grow its membership and build on the excellent start made on fundraising. A growth in income will enable the society to continue its superb work, which is needed now more than ever.

Stuart took questions from the audience:

Q: What was the total expenditure for last year?

A: £111,396

Q: What was the total income?

A: £100,958

Q: What was being done to reduce the deficit?

A: There was a meeting with the Monument Trust discussing the impact on Mackintosh if the Society disappeared. This year's £20,000 to £30,000 deficit has been helped with a pledge from Monument Trust. There was a feasibility study carried out in 2009, which found that Mackintosh Queen's Cross was a threat to the Society and ways of how to develop the building would have to be looked at. There have been discussions with the Scottish Government but no financial support has been given. The Society has never been in a comfortable financial position and has nearly gone under previously.

The accounts were proposed for approval and were proposed by Tom Carroll and seconded by Evelyn Silber.

## **6. REGIONAL GROUPS**

**The London Group continue to run a series of lectures and events throughout the year.**

## **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

Bailie 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 McMillan and Bailie 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 2013-2014 session

- Mairi Bell
- Alison Brown
- Pamela Freedman
- Charles Hay (resigned on 3 October 2013)
- Carol Matthews (Chair)
- Judith Patrickson (Hon Treasurer)
- Catriona Reynolds (Vice Chair)
- Garry Sanderson
- Sabine Weiber

Directors who stood down from Council at the 2014 AGM

- Catriona Reynolds

- Sabine Weiber

Stuart thanked Catriona and Sabine, on behalf of the Council, for their services to the Society over the years.

### **New Nominations for Council**

Two nominations were made to Council: Pamela Robertson and Helen Crawford.

Professor Pamela Robertson has been Senior Curator at the Hunterian Art Gallery since 1998. She was appointed Professor of Mackintosh Studies in 2003. Pamela is a former Chair of the Society and worked with Stuart on the major restoration and development project of the Church in 2006.

Pamela's nomination onto Council was proposed by Carol Matthew and seconded by Dylan Paterson.

Helen Crawford is Head of Community Development at Queens Cross Housing Association. Helen has over 30 years experience as a Youth and Community Development Worker. Fundraising and service provision is at the core of her post and she has been successful in raising substantial funds to support the work of the Association.

Helen's nomination onto Council was proposed by Stuart Robertson and seconded by Dylan Paterson.

Both nominations were approved by acclaim.

Directors who were available for re-election at the AGM were:

- Mairi Bell
- Alison Brown
- Pamela Freedman
- Garry Sanderson
- Judith Patrickson (Hon Treasurer)
- Carol Matthews (Chair)

All Directors were approved by acclaim.

The Chair and Treasurer agreed to remain in post, this was approved by acclaim. Alison Brown was nominated as Vice Chair, this was approved by acclaim.

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

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

Deirdre Bernard asked what fire protection contingencies there were at the Church following the fire at Glasgow School of Art. Stuart Robertson advised that when refurbishment was carried out in 2006 fire detection systems were installed. It is very difficult within all Mackintosh buildings to put fire protection in place and there would also be cost implications. As such, he was not sure where the Society would find the money for this.

Evelyn Silber mentioned that the Fire Brigade visit listed buildings to note high priority items if a fire was to take place and asked if such a visit had taken place at Mackintosh Queens Cross. Stuart replied that the Fire Brigade had visited the building on several occasions, taken copies of layout drawings etc, and checked access in the event of a fire. We may need to discuss this in more detail.

Lorna **Hepburn** said that with National Trust Scotland properties, prevention of fire and fire awareness with volunteers were key - everybody has to know what to do and what not to do. Fire extinguishers should be checked to ensure they are working. Lorna suggested that a professional fire

audit should be commissioned with a written report being obtained. Stuart asked Lorna if she could give him a summary of this, Lorna agreed to do this.

Evelyn Silber mentioned that at a meeting of the Archive Committee, a week after the School of Art fire, it was stated that three out of four archives had survived. Some textiles have been water-damaged but these are drying out under controlled conditions. The School of Art will look at ways of how to fundraise to rebuild the collection.

Carol thanked everyone for attending the AGM.

The meeting concluded at approximately 11.45am

The next AGM will take place on Saturday 6 June 2015 in Glasgow.