

# NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 10  
AUTUMN 2016



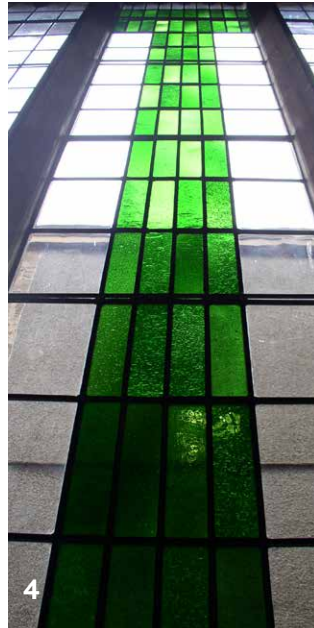
The charity that protects, preserves  
and promotes the nation's  
Mackintosh heritage for the  
enjoyment of future generations.

CHARLES  
RENNIE  
MACKINTOSH  
SOCIETY™

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### Schedule for your Society publications

Please send us news, reviews and articles to meet the following timetable:  
The next Journal will be the spring 2017 issue, copy deadline  
9 December 2016.

We are always interested to receive features, articles and new research for  
inclusion in Society publications. Please email the Director with notes of  
interest and a short abstract summarising your intended submission.

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# GSA Mackintosh Restoration Progress Report

Liz Davidson  
Senior Project Manager, Glasgow Restoration,  
Glasgow School of Art

In July 2016, contractors  
Kier Construction Limited  
started on site after a  
lengthy, EU procurement  
process.

Kier demonstrated that they  
had the necessary strength  
in depth and logistical ability  
to manage the project at the  
Mack, bringing in experienced  
and highly skilled sub-  
contractors and working to  
achieve best value and the  
highest quality on specialist  
contractor designed elements  
of the restoration works.  
The programme will extend  
to January 2019 when the  
School hopes to enter a careful  
commissioning phase and then  
be able to open to the public  
for a number of months prior  
to full student occupation  
in September of that year.

Main works at present are  
concentrated on stabilising  
the west tower facade of the  
building prior to selective  
dismantling next month.  
Massive, specially fabricated  
steel braces have been



East stairwell.

Opposite: Plaster casts salvaged from  
the building, now in off site storage.



Stripped out former 'junior  
architecture' floor.

clamped to the stone piers of  
the Library windows whose  
frames are now removed.  
Once complete the work will  
commence to take down all the  
stone that once framed these  
windows. Already, the close  
inspection that the scaffold  
allows us is revealing hairline  
fractures on the stone, as a  
result of the extremes of heat  
and the stresses put upon the  
structure by the expansion  
and rapid cooling of metal  
element; the effort to retain  
as much of the carved and  
tooled original surface of the  
masonry will be a challenge.

Elsewhere on the top floor  
of the former professors  
studios - the new timber  
framework of the flat roofs  
is being constructed and the  
temporary roof being modified  
to allow the lifting shortly  
of the first of the new steel  
beams that make up this  
space. On reopening the top  
floor will be used as studios  
for the design school so whilst  
the form of the professors  
studios will largely be  
recreated, they will be put to  
a new, student-focussed use.

## Happy 20th Birthday to House for an Art Lover

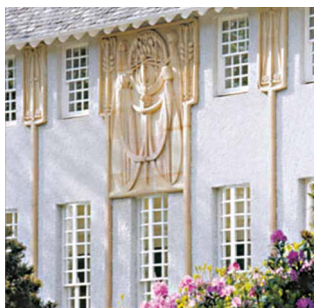
House for an Art Lover celebrates its 20th Anniversary this year and there has been a whole host of events taking place at the House to celebrate. So far these have included Mackintosh-inspired recitals, talks, tours and special art classes, with plenty still to come including murder mystery evenings!



The December programme is equally packed with festive concerts, recitals, the annual Festive Fayre and Hogmanay celebrations.

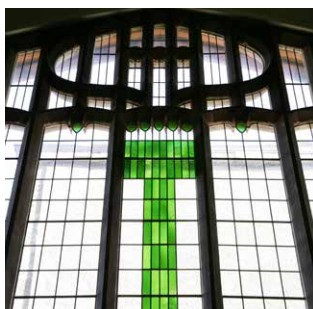
New head chef, Andy Temple, also joins the team from his position as head chef at Cail Bruich so try out the new café menu soon. Set in the glorious surroundings of Bellahouston Park, House for an Art Lover offers an excellent day out.

Book events online at [www.houseforanartlover.co.uk/whats-on/highlights](http://www.houseforanartlover.co.uk/whats-on/highlights)



### Glebe Place, London

One of Mackintosh's last architectural projects has become a popular tour for Society members only. A further 50 members will visit The Studio House, Chelsea (1920–21) in November. To book or reserve a place on the next tour in 2017, contact 0141 946 6600.



## Mackintosh Buildings Survey

The first-ever assessment of the Mackintosh built heritage of over 50 buildings and monuments was initiated by the Society last year. The survey determines the current condition of a range of prioritised Mackintosh buildings and related works, including interiors and gravestones, within public and private ownership. The survey work is being undertaken by Simpson & Brown Architects and Page\ Park Architects and is being led by the Society's director Stuart Robertson and board member Pamela Robertson, former Professor of Mackintosh Studies at the University of Glasgow. The first phase of survey work is complete and phase 2 is underway – the next issue of The Journal in 2017 will provide a fuller report.

"One of the best examples of the Society's value and contribution to Scotland's heritage is the Mackintosh building conditions survey, which is being delivered with the support and generosity of The Monument Trust."

Carol Matthews,  
Chair, CRM Society



The east window at Queen's Cross, one of the buildings in the survey project

## The Second Greatest Scot!

The public voted in a poll set up by the National Trust for Scotland this summer to determine the nation's favourite historical figure. Five people were proposed by the charity: Mary, Queen of Scots, Flora MacDonald, Charles Rennie Mackintosh, Sir Hugh Munro and Robert Burns – each credited with having left an enormous legacy. The online poll was free to enter. Mackintosh attracted 19% of the votes, placing him as runner-up to Robert Burns who secured 44%! The result was most appropriate because the NTS used the campaign to raise donations towards the repair of the Burns Monument in Kilmarnock.

Checking out the most popular Great Scot at the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum



## In Quest of Beauty

The fabulous temporary exhibition 'Alphonse Mucha: In Quest of Beauty' is on show at Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, Glasgow until 19 February 2017.

## Safeguarding the Legacy

The Society took a stand and urged others to protest too when it learned of a planning application for an unsympathetic development at 294 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow. The demolition of an existing building to make way for student housing would obscure the magnificent view of The Glasgow School of Art, enjoyed from Sauchiehall Street and Dalhousie Street. The proposed new-build would also affect the daylight to south-facing studios in the iconic Mackintosh Building.

For more details and updates see [www.crm-society.com](http://www.crm-society.com)



## In the Spotlight

Mackintosh Queen's Cross featured well in the STV broadcast on 10 October promoting Glasgow's Mackintosh Festival 2016. The programme highlighted artist Avril Paton's work and the guitar concert with Laura Browne and Lewis Dunsmore.



## 78 Derngate celebrating 100th anniversary

The Charles Rennie Mackintosh House at 78 Derngate was famously remodelled by Mackintosh in 1916–1917 for his client W J Bassett-Lowke, though in fact the house was built 100 years prior to its transformation. 78 Derngate is open until 18 December or plan your visit for 2017 when it re-opens on 1st February.

Check the website for opening hours and details at [www.78derngate.org.uk](http://www.78derngate.org.uk)

Scottish artist Avril Paton painted a piano at Mackintosh Queen's Cross during the Mackintosh Festival.

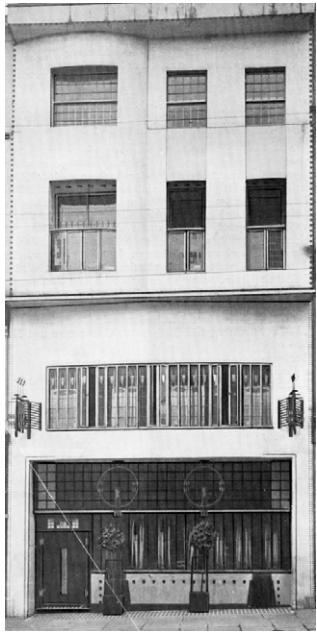


## Kelvin Hall Glasgow

Refurbished by Glasgow City Council, the University of Glasgow and National Library of Scotland, Kelvin Hall is now officially open, providing public access to 400,000 objects including Mackintosh archives and tea room furniture. See [www.kelvinhall.org.uk](http://www.kelvinhall.org.uk)



# Creating a future for the Willow Tea Rooms



The Willow Tea Rooms circa 1903  
© University of Glasgow



**There is huge excitement about the announcement made in October 2016 that the Heritage Lottery Fund has awarded a Development Grant of £250,000 to enable the Willow Tea Rooms Trust to progress its plans and apply for the Stage 2 pass of £3.7 million to deliver the project.**

This is a significant step towards the restoration of the Category-A listed Willow Tea Rooms at 217 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, to its original 1903 condition and the additional development of the Exhibition and Education Centre in the adjoining building at No. 215.

The Heritage Lottery Fund's Head of Scotland, Lucy Casot, said; "What better way to celebrate The Year of Architecture than devising a plan to save the famous Tea Rooms by one of Scotland's

greatest and influential designers who is admired around the world. This project will rejuvenate and restore the Willow Tea Rooms so that their unique ambiance and design can be enjoyed as it was first intended."

The Willow Tea Rooms Trust has also secured £250,000 from Glasgow City Council, £200,000 from Glasgow City Heritage Trust and £175,000 from Dunard Fund. Other Charitable bodies supportive of the Trust are being approached to secure the 40% "Match Funding" required for the developments scheduled for 2017.

Now that detailed planning permission and Listed Building Consent has been granted, advance works have commenced on the restoration of the entire external elevations of both 215 and 217, which includes roofs, chimneys and windows. The building will be wind and watertight, the frontage restored, the

project de-risked and very importantly the construction programme pulled forward to enable the project to complete and open in June 2018, the 150th anniversary of Charles Rennie Mackintosh's birth.

**Celia Sinclair, Founder and Chair of The Willow Tea Rooms Trust**



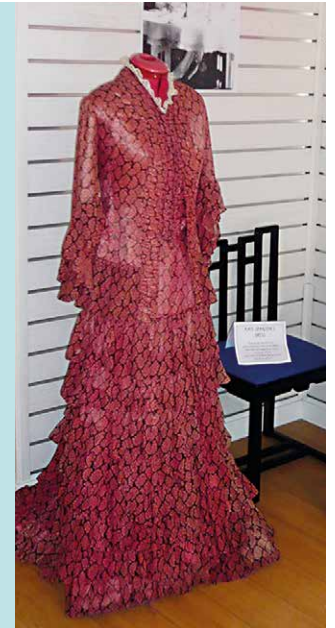
The overall project cost is almost £10 million, the project construction and fit-out costs are £6.8 million.

Celia Sinclair, Chair and Founder of the Trust, concluded; "This is a complex and challenging project but with support from funders, Glasgow City Council and Scottish Enterprise we will meet that challenge and deliver a world-class Mackintosh venue with an enduring legacy for generations to come."

**Watch the website [www.willowtearooms.org](http://www.willowtearooms.org) for news.**

## Miss Cranston's dress

When the Tea Rooms closed in June 2016 the international and local interest in the building from Mackintosh fans, tourists and the general public was so great that a 'Pop Up' information Centre was set up for one month in the Willow Tea Rooms project office at No. 215 Sauchiehall Street. This featured information panels and floor plans to tell the story of the project to date and also displayed Mackintosh furniture and an original dress of Miss Cranston, pictured. In just one month, 1,717 people visited the Pop Up, meeting staff and volunteers from the CRM Society. A further 560 people visited on Doors Open day in September.



## Trish Ingram

This summer Trish was one of about a dozen volunteers who helped the CRM Society to deliver a Pop-Up Mackintosh Information service with the Willow Tea Rooms Trust from their project office at 215 Sauchiehall Street. The outcomes of the one-month trial gave a

valuable insight into the level of interest shown in Mackintosh by visitors from around the world. The Pop-Up attracted a total of 1,717 people from 37 different countries including 996 international visitors, 348 from across Scotland and 378 from elsewhere in the UK.



**"I'm amazed at the fascinating mix of people I meet when I'm volunteering for the Mackintosh Society."**

Trish Ingram



## *Mackintosh Queen's Cross makes the perfect setting for your Wedding ceremony*

Queen's Cross is a truly unique building, offering a stunning backdrop for your special day. Here, the simplicity of the design is inspiring.

The Mackintosh Hall provides an attractive venue for a Champagne reception and other celebrations.

We also offer a unique partnership with House for an Art Lover making your day extra special by having the ceremony at Queen's Cross, followed by the reception at the House in Bellahouston Park.

Please contact us for further details.

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[www.mackintosh.org.uk](http://www.mackintosh.org.uk)



© Mirrorbox Photography

## Patricia Douglas MBE

Sadly, our Honorary Vice President Patricia Douglas died in August. Patricia was the mainstay of the CRM Society for many years, devoting time and energy to the restoration of Queen's Cross. Her commitment was pivotal in ensuring we have a Society and strong Mackintosh legacy to enjoy today.

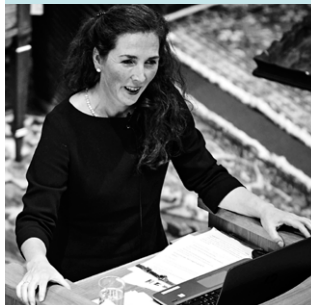
Patricia's family arranged an event at Mackintosh Queen's Cross to celebrate her life and it was a joy for so many family and friends to gather in her honour on what would have been Patricia's 86th birthday. Roger Billcliffe and Pamela Robertson shared warm recollections, giving real insight to Patricia's talents, drive and humour. Her achievements and contribution to our lives with Mackintosh are totally remarkable – not just in Scotland and UK-wide, in particular by helping to establish 78 Deragate, but also through her connections with scholars, architects, designers and friends of Mackintosh internationally. What gifts Patricia has given us. Our thoughts are with the family.

**Patricia Douglas MBE**  
Honorary Secretary, 1973–1985  
Director, 1985–1998 & 2000–2001  
Honorary Vice President, 2000–2016



## VOLUNTEERS

Charlotte Rostek joined the Society's Council this summer and said that coming back to volunteer her services to the Society was "like slipping on a well-loved coat"! Many members will already know Charlotte from her roles at The Hill House in Helensburgh and Dumfries House. She is currently Head of the Glasgow division



of Lyon & Turnbull, the oldest auction house in Scotland.

We all want to shout a massive thank you to **Ian McGee** who has volunteered his time and skills to the Society for over five years (pictured right and on Page 2). For two days almost every week, Ian has contributed to each aspect of administration and front-of-house services. He will be hugely missed as one of the welcoming faces at HQ but is moving on because of career progression. Having secured a promotion at work, Ian can no longer give so much time to the Society but he intends to continue to enjoy Mackintosh evening events as a member. We offer our congratulations to him for his new role at Glasgow Museums and give heartfelt thanks for his fabulous contribution to the Society over the years.

Thank you to **Melanie Thomson** who began volunteering her marketing and communications skills last year by supporting the production of the annual Journal and helping to set up and manage a members' event. Melanie is now working on promotional ideas for 2017 events and the wedding business at Mackintosh Queen's Cross. Another professional offering help in 2017 is **Colette Keaveny**, a communications manager who is completing an MA (Distance Learning) on Antiques and writing her dissertation on The Glasgow Style.

If you would like to volunteer to help out at events or in the office, please contact **Sven Burghardt**, Heritage, Outreach and Volunteer Officer on 0141 946 6600.



New volunteer, **Matteo Fiore** from the Light on the Path programme (left) with **Ian McGee** (centre) and **Sven Burghardt**, Heritage, Outreach and Volunteer Officer supported by The Voluntary Action Fund.





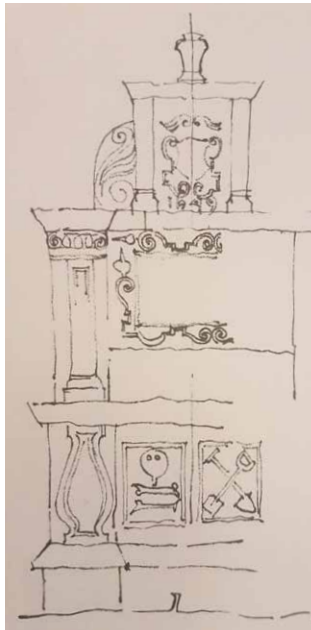
# Mackintosh in Crail

By Elizabeth Crawford

Like many other artists, in Mackintosh's early years he kept notebooks in which he made drawings of architectural and natural things he saw. Several drawings were of tombs lining the walls in Crail churchyard at St Mary the Virgin.

These tombs are amongst the finest in Scotland, and Mackintosh may have viewed Crail's Anglo-Dutch sculpted stonework as worthy of his visit and sketches. Two were mentioned and reproduced in a book called 'Beginnings: Charles Rennie Mackintosh's early sketches', by Elaine Grogan, National Library of Ireland, 2002. Elaine found that Mackintosh had been to many rural villages in the east of Scotland and in Northumberland.

As a frequent visitor to Crail, and to the churchyard, I became interested in the tombs which Mackintosh had



**Tomb of Bailie Patrick Hunter (died 1649), St Mary the Virgin, Crail, Fifeshire**  
© National Library of Ireland

sketched and I checked in the Crail museum for information about the tombs. They had detailed information about them but not of Mackintosh's visit there. They were interested to hear of the connection so we now have



**Tomb of Bailie Patrick Hunter, present day**

a point of interest there which they hope to publicise and will add a copy of the book to their collection.

*Elizabeth Crawford is Society volunteer who manages the Library and Research unit at Mackintosh Queen's Cross.*

The tours, talks and social events of the Society's AGMs are always fascinating and fun.

This June, the Sunday trip to Helensburgh and West Roseneath Peninsula was exceptional.

Architectural historian, Michael Davis, gave us a really enjoyable and informative guided walk in Helensburgh before delivering us to No 40 Sinclair Street, part of which was designed by Mackintosh in 1894-5 for the local Conservative Club. All is about to change for this little-known and rarely-seen building because its new owners, Nicola

hidden details of the rooms and working towards evidence of collaborative work at No 40 from the Glasgow Four. Bruce, an architect, gave a marvellous and well-prepared talk and it was a privilege to see a 'new' Mackintosh treasure at this stage, offering so many insights and fresh theories.

The Jamieson's plan to run their architecture practice from the Mackintosh Club and intend to make the property publicly accessible via venue hire and special events.

**Nicola and Bruce Jamieson invited members to toast the Mackintosh Club at a champagne reception**



and Bruce Jamieson, have set about intensive research intended to put it firmly on the map. Now renamed the Mackintosh Club, the property is likely to have been one of the first key building projects that 26-year old Mackintosh took charge of in 1894. Certainly, Nicola is unearthing previously

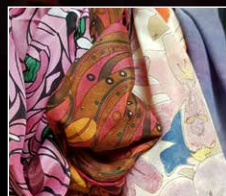


Over lunch at Knockderry House, Cove, members enjoyed talks on the B-Listed hotel from owner Beth MacLeod and historian Michael Davis who spoke about William Leiper's work and in particular the major extensions to Knockderry c1890. We had a chance to explore the fine examples of stained glass (pictured on page 2), woodwork and fireplaces throughout the building.

Our final visit was to Craig Ailey Villa where owner Murdo MacDonald gave a guided tour of his family villa from top to bottom. Designed by Alexander Thomson, the A-Listed summer residence is a fine example of Thomson's early villa work and we enjoyed its magnificent setting overlooking the Firth of Clyde near Kilcreggan on a gloriously sunny day.

**Join us at the next AGM on 3 June 2017 and ensure you book the special events.**

Craig Ailey Villa



# Christmas at Mackintosh Queen's Cross

Check out the festive events programme with its lovely offer of a film night on 26 November; piano and violin recital on 16 December and the award-winning Les Sirenes choir Christmas concert on Friday 9 December, when doors will open early to give you time to browse for Christmas books and gifts in the Mackintosh shop.

Membership of the Society is a wonderful Christmas or birthday gift for friends and families, to be enjoyed all year round. The benefits include many social opportunities such as visits, tours, concerts, private views and other events offered exclusively to members – plus 10% off at our shop – a great place to find special gifts of good design.

Call Sven on 0141 946 6600 today  
to book your event tickets and purchase  
membership gift packs.  
[info@crmsociety.com](mailto:info@crmsociety.com)

*Have a very happy festive season.*

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