

**CHARLES RENNIE MACKINTOSH SOCIETY  
MINUTE OF THE 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
HELD AT MACKINTOSH QUEEN'S CROSS, GLASGOW  
SATURDAY 3 JUNE 2017**

**1. WELCOME**

Carol Matthews, Chair of the Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society welcomed everyone to the 12th annual general meeting of the Society at Mackintosh Queen's Cross. Carol said that she loved our AGM weekends, as they are really something quite special. It's like a homecoming of good friends and she looked forward to catching up with everyone later. She thanked everybody for attending the AGM and coming along is a great way to show your interest and continued support.

Carol said that Stuart Robertson will take us through his report on the state of the Society and its activities. Carol then focused on two key aspects: some issues that are worth highlighting and second, the people within the Society, who make it all work.

**Mackintosh Buildings Survey:** the first major survey of its type to assess the condition of the surviving Mackintosh built heritage has been completed, thanks to an expert steering group and grant funding from the Monument Trust. It has been a two-year project resulting in a benchmark report on the condition of over 50 buildings and monuments and providing us with new understanding of Mackintosh's legacy. But the issue now is to ensure that this valuable piece of work is used to encourage better protection and preservation of Mackintosh's work in the West of Scotland in future - at all levels - from buildings and part buildings in private ownership to major public attractions, including those at risk from encroaching new-build developments, which can hide or detract from Mackintosh's work. Stuart will be working with colleagues to get this message across.

Another issue, which affects so many initiatives, is our lack of funding. It created a hitch in our partnership plans with The Willow Tea Rooms Trust. The Trust is steadily moving forward with its major restoration work at the Willow Tea Rooms in Sauchiehall Street and the Society intends to provide the front-of-house Mackintosh information service when the attraction opens to the public in summer 2018. The issue is to secure funding as well as more volunteers to deliver a consistent service. Of course we fundraise constantly and do so successfully to the tune of about £70K per year but that only enables us to stand still and to deliver current service levels, not to progress new projects.

From the sublime to the ridiculous! Another issue is the installation of new toilets here at Queen's Cross. Just two rather old toilets is inadequate and after consultation with Historic Environment Scotland and Glasgow planning department for well over a year, work has started on replacing the one ladies toilet at this end of the building with two new ones, to make matters more comfortable. We have over 10,000 visitors each year and half of those attend concerts, when the dwell time in the building can be three hours or so. Concert intervals have had to be extended to accommodate loo queues; the public complain and it makes it difficult for the Society to attract more of the bigger, commercial events. By the end of this year, in time for the next Celtic Connections music festival, this issue of conveniences or inconvenience will be resolved.

And a NEW issue, which I would like to flag up just to keep members in the loop is that we may well be launching a separate, special fundraising campaign later this summer to raise money to purchase the Communion Table and two Alms Dishes here from their current owners, Ruchill Kelvinside Parish Church. The Church of Scotland intends to sell these items, which were designed by Mackintosh to be right here in Queen's Cross and I assure you that every effort will be made over the coming weeks to secure ownership at a fair price so that the pieces remain here in Glasgow for people to be able to see and enjoy.

The reason I'm highlighting this odd collection of current challenges is to illustrate the diversity of scale and importance which our small team of only three staff has to manage. Most of our issues would be easier with better funding but that has always been the case with the Society and as a registered charity we continue to do our best to improve our development programme and donor schemes.

**And so to the People:**

Sadly, we lost our much loved and highly regarded Patricia Douglas in September. Patricia had a life-long engagement with Mackintosh: Honorary Secretary for 12 years from 1973; Director of the Society 1985 - 1998 and then again over 2000 to 2001; Honorary Vice President from 2000 and Trustee and

Patron of the 78 Derngate Trust. An account of Pat's life and her contribution to the Mackintosh world is given in the current issue of The Journal. If you haven't already spotted it, you may also like to view the commemorative plaque in the resource centre. It features Patricia's MBE and is here on permanent display by arrangement with her family.

On membership, we have improved communications with our 900 plus Members: primarily because of Sven Burghardt, our Heritage and Volunteer Officer, who gives more time to member recruitment and contact. The new website supports member information and more of our members are comfortable with receiving electronic newsletters. We only produce one printed newsletter each autumn in addition to the spring Journal - all other news is published electronically.

Our annual Visitor numbers are consistent at the 10-11,000 level. Feedback is also consistently excellent: people enjoy the beautiful building and we receive great comments on the quality of the events.

### **And then there are our Volunteers**

The events programme and much of our education, tours and fundraising programme is delivered by volunteers. About 2 dozen are regular supporters, helping with everything from weddings to the running of the library and the shop.

I'm going to take the time here to name some of our amazing volunteers:

You may have seen Ian McGhee helping out this morning he has given a great deal of time over several years; Elizabeth Crawford was also in the welcoming party at the door she normally manages the library, Audrey Shirra - comes in nearly every Friday of the year to guide visitors around and help out in the office; you all know Trish Ingram - she comes in at least one day every week to manage special projects including the tours programme. She's in Japan today- but thank you. Trish.

Furniture maker Bruce Hamilton gives us all his services for free including the provision of storage space and the loan of reproduction chairs for display. We thank Artist Avril Paton - for the painted piano project, her offer to help with tours and the loan of her GSA painting and Windows in the West print; Deirdre Bernard and Pamela Freedman for all their regular administrative work; Sheila Hart for her retail work including stocktaking and also Christine Sharp who help to stock-up the shop.

Moira Wadsworth - has been helping with research and tours and she donates any fees offered straight back to the Society.

Helen Crawford helps with fundraising research and applications and Doors Open Days; Tom Binns at Glasgow Piano City has been a big support in bringing new musicians here.

We've also had great support from Ross Wright and the Humanist Celebrants, which is helping to develop the wedding business - we are very appreciative of this relationship.

And, of course, this weekend, Garry Sanderson from House for an Art Lover is providing lunch for us and Michael Davis has kindly volunteered to lead the Sunday tours. Tomorrow's itinerary represents a lot of time and research.

Lorna Hepburn of the National Trust for Scotland continues to advise us on our fire safety; and Cathy Sommers and Feargus Hetherington volunteered to go on the Fire Call-Out List, if and when the alarm goes off in the wee small hours, which it does occasionally.

And Tom and Rose Carroll for their help at events, their attendance and support.

Please excuse this long list - so many names -It's like an Oscars thank you speech - and of course I run the risk of missing out somebody, so please don't be offended if that's the case. All our volunteers are special people who quietly get on with jobs and everyone deserves a big, appreciative thank you.

### **Council**

Our board members are also volunteers:

Vice chair Alison Brown, Mairi Bell, Helen Crawford, Pamela Robertson, Pamela Freedman, Garry Sanderson, Charlotte Rostek and Treasurer Kathleen Benham, who will present her report to you later this morning. We meet four or five times a year and give time to strategic development and management time to individual projects.

And my final 'People' group is the Staff.

Stuart Robertson, Dylan Paterson and Sven Burghart - This small team manages a tremendous programme of activity throughout the year. And all of it is delivered professionally and to a high standard. They work closely, creatively and with relative calm and good humour!

This weekend's event is a great example of Dylan and Sven devising a really entertaining and fascinating time for all of us, to mark the beginning of the 45th year of the Society. Last night's tour and talk at St Bride's Church in the west end followed by a reception at the stunning No 14 Kingsborough Gardens was a wonderful kick-start to our weekend.

But our greatest thanks go to Stuart Robertson. Managing the Society and our building on a shoe-string is challenging and pressured sometimes. Stuart juggles all aspects of his job ably, moving projects forward, working in partnership with the local community, funders, and the city agencies, including Glasgow City Council which intends to set up a Mackintosh Office by 2018. Although the management structure of the city's new office is still under discussion, Stuart's role within the senior operations group will ensure the Society is well represented and that its voice is heard. May I ask you to join me in offering Stuart and his team our thanks and congratulations. Thank you.

I'm pleased we all share our appreciation for the very many colleagues, contacts and Organisations who contribute to the Society and play a part in helping to protect, preserve and promote the Mackintosh heritage for the enjoyment of future generations.

THANK YOU - and now on with the meeting...

## **2. APOLOGIES**

The Chair reported that apologies had been formally received from a number of Council and Society members.

## **3. MINUTE OF SOCIETY'S 11<sup>th</sup> AGM**

Proposed by Andrew Murray and seconded by Peter Ranson

## **4. DIRECTOR**

Stuart thanked Carol for her introduction and welcomed everybody to the 12th AGM of the Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society (Limited Company).

### **Grants and Bequests**

This year fundraising has brought in over £60,000 with £44,275 from the Monument Trust (second part of the funding for the Mackintosh Buildings Survey), £6,000 from the Robertson Trust (£18,000 over 3 years), £3,000 from the MacRobert Trust (£9,000 over 3 years) and £10,000 from the Voluntary Action Fund.

In addition we received a bequest of £1,000 from William Dewar and £17,048.37 from the estate of our former colleague Irene Grundy Dunnett.

In January we received a donation of £10,000 from Sheila Walker and in March a donation of £20,000 from Richard and Angela Burrows. Both these donations were Gift Aided.

This funding has been of great benefit in allowing the Society to continue its extensive education and advocacy role in safeguarding and promoting the work of Charles Rennie Mackintosh.

Last month we also received the good news that we were successful with our application to Historic Environment Scotland and have been awarded £66,000 over three years.

This is towards the following areas (which are priority areas for Historic Environment Scotland, we are limited to applications within the areas of HES's priorities) -

**Community Outreach and Engagement** - working with the local community to encourage visits and education.

**Digitising Archive Materials** - a project to safeguard important archive materials and past Journals (currently held by the Society in paper form) for the future - over three years, a volunteer-led project to begin the process of preserving the Society's archives in digital form.

**Volunteering Project** - continuing the work instigated originally with the support of the Voluntary Action Fund.

This supports the position of a volunteer development officer (part time). Sven's part time post has been supported in this way.

The funds are split across the three areas. We had originally approached Historic Environment Scotland and discussed an application in the region of £150,000 over three years. So we have more work to do to raise the extra funds.

Stuart thanked Dylan and Helen Crawford for all their hard work in putting this application together.

Stuart also thanked The Monument Trust for their on-going support, which has allowed the Mackintosh Society to complete phase 2 of the Mackintosh Buildings Survey.

### **Education**

The Society continues to build on introductions to Mackintosh for our young people so that they can 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.

### **Staffing**

We have a small team at QX. Both Dylan and Sven are great assets and provide a diverse range of roles for the Society and Queen's Cross.

### **New Website and Email**

At the end of March we were informed by our website provider that they were in the process of trying to shut down this server due to major security issues. We were informed last year that this might happen, so we had already approached a couple of web design companies.

Stuart met with Nexus on the 5 April to discuss the look and content of the new website and that we had a short time to do this. After a lot of work in April, the new website went live on the 8 May.

We hope you like the look of the new site. We are still working on the site to integrate the membership database. So in the next couple of months you should see improvements that hopefully will make it much easier to renew your membership and access the members' section.

### **Journal**

Last month we produced our 101st Journal. Another excellent issue and I would like to thank Carol, Alison and the designer, Mandy O'Donnell for all their hard work in putting this together.

We are planning a bumper issue to celebrate Mackintosh's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2018. Charlotte Rostek will be the editor of this issue.

### **Coup de Fouet**

In the latest issue the Coup de Fouet magazine I have contributed an article on the Society. **The Art Nouveau European Route** is a non-profit association of local governments and non-governmental institutions that have joined together in a collective commitment to develop useful and efficient mechanisms for the international promotion and protection of Art Nouveau heritage.

### **OBITUARIES**

Carol has mentioned Patricia. We were also saddened to lose Professor Stuart MacDonald, a former Vice Chair of the Society and one of Scotland's best-known champions of the arts.

### **Exhibitions and Events**

The Society continues to participate in a number of informal events throughout the year, i.e. Doors Open and The Big Draw, 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.

It has been another busy year for the Society and Mackintosh Queen's Cross, with new audiences coming to visit the building for many reasons – as part of tours, weddings, during extended opening hours or for some of our various events – too numerous to mention, but the following stand out:

Last year our AGM programme included an evening reception at the Glasgow Art Club, with a talk on the Gallery and frieze restoration by James Macauley. On Saturday we had a special private view of Martyrs' School and then on Sunday we headed down to Helensburgh and Michael Davis took us on a walking tour which finished at the former Conservative Club. We then made our way to Cove and lunch at Knockderry House Hotel (designed by William Leiper) and finally we had a private view of Craig Ailey Villa (Alexander Thomson).

Again in June we played a major role in the West End Festival and at the end of June we had a very successful 3 day jazz workshop by Laura Macdonald. A repeat workshop is planned later this month.

In October we hosted a series of events as part the Mackintosh Festival, which included an Architectural Exhibition by Minty Sainsbury, Various talks, Lids Open Day, and Scottish Mask and Puppet Centre. We also had two classical concerts featuring the talented guitar duo of Laura Browne and Lewis Dunsmore and an evening of piano and violin classics by the Miller Nite Duo.

Another successful joint project with Glasgow Piano City is Avril Paton's decorated 'Beatrix Piano'. The renowned Scottish artist Avril Paton created a work of art from a piano. You can see the finished work in the Hall.

In November we hosted a special film day as part of the Glasgow Film Theatre's Hollywood Dreams of Scotland.

We ended the year on a high with our favourite choir Les Sirenes' Christmas Concert.

### **Celtic Connections 2017**

We were delighted to be part of Celtic Connections for the third year. We had six great concerts. For me it is so special when you have one of your favourite artists perform in this beautiful building. John Paul White did not disappoint, on his first visit to Glasgow since the breakup of the Grammy award-winning The Civil Wars. John Paul gave a memorable performance.

The naturally good acoustics of Mackintosh Queen's Cross lend themselves to this type of collaboration, where music and performance 'bringing the building to life'.

The Society is happy to work with young musicians, providing both a practice and performance space. In return, the musicians support the Society by helping with events held in the building.

We continue to develop ideas for events at Queen's Cross, as these attract new audiences, as well as enriching the educational programme because many visitors who attend the concerts and exhibitions have never visited the building previously: they are often being introduced to Mackintosh and his work for the first time. We see this as a great benefit to the Society and the area.

### **78 Derngate**

At the end of January Stuart reported that he had the opportunity to visit 78 Derngate, and meet the new House Manager, Liz Jansson for a preview of 78 Derngate's Centenary Exhibition. He also arranged for Friends of 78 Derngate to visit 49 Glebe Place in March. They loved it and hope to make another visit.

### **49 Glebe Place, Chelsea**

Over the last year we have had two more visits to 49 Glebe Place. The studio-house designed for the painter Harold Squire was one of the last architecture projects completed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh between 1920/21. It is of great significance as the only surviving built design from the post-war period of Mackintosh's career. It is of additional importance on a social level for its connections with the Chelsea circles in which the Mackintoshes lived.

Another visit is planned for September this year.

Stuart thanked Richard and Angela Burrows for their continued support and hospitality in allowing us access to the Studio.

### **Mackintosh Returns to Bath**

Later this month a suite of furniture designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh is coming home to Bath 100 years after it first arrived in the city and nearly 50 years after it became part of the V&A collection in London. This special exhibition at the Bath Museum of Work opens on 14 June and will run until October.

### **AGM Weekend**

Last night we kicked off our AGM weekend with a visit to St Bride's Episcopal Church with a talk by Alison Gifford & James Macaulay and then we walked along the road to get a private visit to Kingsborough Gardens. What a stunning house and Roy was a wonderful host.

This afternoon after lunch we head down to the Reid Building at the GSA for an update on the restoration of the Mackintosh Building.

Tomorrow we make our way over to the Southside of Glasgow and follow in the footsteps of Charles Rennie Mackintosh and Alexander Greek Thomson. This includes a visit to Thomson's Holmwood House and Moray Place with lunch at House for an Art Lover and a walking tour led by Michael Davis around CRM's family homes in Strathbungo and Queen's Park.

The visit to House for an Art Lover will also include a presentation on the Mackintosh Buildings Survey by Professor Pamela Robertson.

This weekend could not have happened without a lot of organising behind the scenes. Stuart made a point of thanking Dylan, Sven and Trish for their enthusiasm and all the work they have done in putting together our AGM programme and events throughout the year.

Stuart said that we currently have an exhibition in the Hall of Mackintosh Chairs created by Bruce Hamilton. Also this month we have a number of concerts and events as part of the West End Festival

We are currently working on a programme of events for the Mackintosh Festival in October and for Mackintosh's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2018.

### **Mackintosh Tours**

Tours have been integral to the CRM Society's work throughout the years. They give visitors an authentic and knowledgeable insight into the creative genius of Mackintosh and that of his significant contemporaries.

The tours also provide an important source of income. Our newly-designed tour for 2017 covers two full days and helps to put Mackintosh in context by including visits to Alexander 'Greek' Thomson's Holmwood House (2017 is the Thomson bi-centenary year) and the National Trust for Scotland's Tenement House in Garnethill. Queen's Cross is the venue for an exploration of architecture and art led by Avril Paton. This is all in addition to exploring the main CRM properties.

We're pleased to be working with the Carlton George Hotel, located in the heart of the city in George Square. As our partner, the Carlton George provides a superb base for our guests and, appropriately, it has a Mackintosh and Glasgow Style theme running through parts of the hotel. All our residential tours begin with an evening lecture and private dinner there.

In addition, and by popular demand, we're once again running a weekly walking tour (the Society ran these during previous Mackintosh Festivals). The Walking Tours run every Tuesday, April – October and takes 1½ hours and covers the city centre.

### **REGIONAL GROUPS**

Linda Ellis & John Barter have given an update on the group.

### **WEDDINGS**

Over the last year we have had 5 weddings at QX.

With the work by Dylan and Sven and with support from HAL we are getting more enquiries

## **MACKINTOSH QUEEN'S CROSS**

Based on the commissioned Condition Report on Queen's Cross by Simpson and Brown and the previous work completed, we have undertaken further work on the Mackintosh Church over the last year.

### **Roof:**

BCM Steeplejacks completed more work in December.

They carried out the following work.

- Slate patching and gutter cleaning on the main church roof.
- Cleaned vegetation and various other small plants on outer walls.
- Cleared hoppers and removed debris
- Carried out pressure jetting along with Drain-Clear.

### **Painting:**

In November we made repairs and painted the Vestry.

Further work is planned this year depending on funding.

### **Fire Detection**

The current wireless system is nearing obsolescence and spare parts are getting more difficult to source. The system will need to be replaced within the next 12 – 18 months and will cost in the region of £11k.

### **Research**

Later this month a post graduate student from the School of Art is undertaking a digital visualisation study of Queen's Cross. This will be of great benefit to us and hopefully we will be able to publish some her dissertation.

## **MACKINTOSH BUILDINGS SURVEYS UPDATE**

The Society has recently completed a major survey of the surviving Mackintosh built heritage. This is a landmark achievement as the first comprehensive condition survey of the Mackintosh built heritage and an important milestone in our understanding and preservation of Mackintosh's legacy.

The central aim of the Survey was to determine 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 was undertaken by Simpson & Brown Architects and Page\Park Architects and was led by Stuart Robertson and board member Pamela Robertson, former Professor of Mackintosh Studies at the University of Glasgow.

Phase One delivered detailed survey reports of 50 built projects, derived from the University of Glasgow's rigorous, evidence-based research website Mackintosh Architecture: Context, Making and Meaning ([www.mackintosh-architecture.gla.ac.uk](http://www.mackintosh-architecture.gla.ac.uk), 2014)

The Mackintosh Buildings Survey is one of the best examples of the Society's value and contribution to conserving Scotland's heritage. The project could not have been delivered without the support and generosity of The Monument Trust.

Stuart thanked Professor Pamela Robertson and the rest of the steering group for their support and commitment over the last couple of years to this major project. It has been a valuable experience and one that we hope will help kick-start some much needed conservation and restoration work to a number of key Mackintosh buildings.

Some key parts of phase two included:

- a) **Conservation plan and measured drawings of the Conservative Club, Helensburgh**  
Bruce and Nicola Jamieson, the new owners of part of the building and architects, are developing sensitive plans for the safeguarding of their portion of the building and have plans to expand into other areas. To date they have:

- 1) Secured planning permission and Listed Building Consent for a rear extension at upper level
  - 2) Established a 'Mackintosh Club' charity
  - 3) Set up a project Steering Group which includes myself
  - 4) Propose to continue student engagement with the Mackintosh School of Architecture
- b) **Updated conservation plan for Queen Margaret College**
  - c) **Conservation plan for the Daily Record building**  
Access to this property continues to be problematic. However a tenant has offered access to part of the building and this is being followed up.
  - d) **Investigation and recording of original Mackintosh elements at 49 Glebe Place**  
Survey has clarified that fewer Mackintosh features survive than was previously thought. The report, photographs and drawings provide a clear record of the current assessment.
  - e) **Development funding for research project into Mackintosh materials and finishes**  
Session connected to the American Society of Architectural Historians major conference in Glasgow is being held on 7 June at the Glasgow School of Art
  - f) **Design drawings and costings for reinstatement of settings for Orrock Johnston and Talwin Morris gravestones**  
East Dunbartonshire Council has shown an active interest in the proposals for the Talwin Morris gravestone. This is being followed up.
  - g) **Photographic record of Belhaven Church, Westdel, and McNair family gravestone (We did not get access to Auchinibert)**  
A full set of images is held on disc at Queen's Cross.
  - h) **Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society**  
The Society continues to monitor the built heritage through the newly-established Steering Group for senior representatives from the principal public buildings and collections. This is chaired by Glasgow Life. I have been appointed Chair of its new Buildings Group.
  - i) **Research into the building history/ conservation plan of Achamore House, Gigha**  
Valuable recording of the history of the house and discussion of the input of Mackintosh and Keppie.

We are continuing to take a pro-active role in monitoring the Mackintosh Heritage.

**Current developments include:**

- **The Hill House:** a temporary enclosure is to be built around the house to enable the building to dry out and to assist decision-making on how to tackle the harling. Work on the enclosure is scheduled to start later this year.
- **Scotland Street Public School:** a business park development is proposed for the adjoining vacant land. Plans are underway to do restoration work on the playground.
- **The Hunterian:** a refurbishment of The Mackintosh House is proposed; curatorial post not yet filled.
- **Gourock Parish Church:** proposals for alterations to the chancel are under development
- **Glasgow School of Art:** successful opposition to the proposed student accommodation planned for the site to the south of the School

Additional information is available in the current Journal and all the surveys are available to view in our Resource Library at Mackintosh Queen's Cross. You can arrange an appointment to view the surveys by contacting [sven@crmsociety.com](mailto:sven@crmsociety.com)

**THE WILLOW TEA ROOMS TRUST**

As you will have seen in the recent Journal work is progressing on the exterior of the Willow Tea Rooms. The contractor's hoarding has covered Mackintosh's building, hiding it from public view while the £10M restoration project gets underway. Like a magician's cape draped around a shabby grey object, it waits to reveal an outstanding sparkling jewel. The big unveiling is planned for 2018 when the city of Glasgow will celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mackintosh's birth with a programme of special events.

The Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society has been invited by the Willow Tea Rooms Trust to work in partnership on the delivery of the public services proposed for No. 215 Sauchiehall Street, adjacent to the tea rooms. The shared vision is for the Society to have a permanent presence in the building to offer visitors a high-quality Mackintosh front of house information service within a welcoming reception and orientation area.

A pilot 'Pop-up' Mackintosh information service was run in summer 2016 and proved popular with tourists. The findings gave insight into the level of interest shown in Mackintosh from around the world. During the one-month trial, the Society engaged with 1,717 tourists from 37 different countries.

### **MACKINTOSH BUILDING AT GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART**

You will have seen in the recent Journal that the restoration of the Mackintosh Building is progressing at a good pace.

Key milestones have been reached including the start of joinery work for the Mackintosh Library. Edinburgh-based specialist architectural joinery firm Laurence McIntosh have been appointed to craft the Mackintosh Library bay prototype. The structure will be based on a design researched and developed by the project's design team at Page\Park Architects.

The Mackintosh Building is set to reopen in 2019, and will be a new milestone in the history of the GSA and its campus. The spaces occupied by the School have evolved through the centuries, developing along with studio practice, programmes, industry, student numbers and the city landscape. The School's focus on specialist, studio-based learning and the facilities to support this, have remained in place throughout and continue to be central to the School's future vision and ambitions, and the fully restored Mackintosh Building will continue to be the heart of the Garnethill campus.

**The restoration of the Mackintosh Building has revealed many hidden changes. This excellent extract from the Architectural Review by Justin Fenton, Head of Conservation at Page\Park explains some of these fascinating changes.**

"The school has now settled on its future use and it is a remarkable concept, in tune with the original comprehensive use of the Mackintosh Building. On entering the art school, all first-year students will now be accommodated full-time in the Mackintosh building before moving to specialist buildings in later years. And amidst the sculptors, fine artists, digital and graphic designers, architecture comes back in and is going to occupy the originally designated studios under the library. What a setting to begin your training.

We have learnt a huge amount about the Glasgow School of Art building that we would never have known were it not for the disaster of the fire. We have, with the help of archaeologists, materials scientists, specialist historians, archivists and digital recorders excavated the story of the making of the original building and importantly understood how it has changed over the last 100 years. The changes are captured in myriad historical photos; changes that we had understood as being original to the building, have now subtly altered our perception of it. The original was different in many ways, for one it was coloured, not that brilliant white we all take for granted but in greens, blues and reds. The library was put together in a laminated form because tulip wood was not available in large enough sections, and it was laminated with square cut nails (and the occasional screw) for better adhesion, which were made to appear as Japanese dowels.

I doubt we will undo all the changes, but we will have a record for the future of what we understand was the original intention and what was adaptation. And for us, one of the most exciting dimensions of the restoration is to bring back into use the remarkable services spine hidden within the masonry walls. The fans were turned off soon after completion because they did not have heat recovery and were burning 19 tons of coal a week to heat the building inadequately. A hundred years on we have the technology, control systems and fans to make it work. That is exciting."

**Stuart said that during tomorrow's visit to the Art School we will learn more about the restoration.**

## **GLASGOW MACKINTOSH GROUP**

As a follow up to the Myerscough Report a **Strategic Forum, Senior Operation Group** has been setup to take Mackintosh forward. A 10 year plan is currently being developed which should bring a range of benefits to the Mackintosh Heritage, including capital investment.

**The Vision:** Glasgow is enriched, inspired and renewed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh's. The ambition is to use this remarkable architectural and design asset creating a rising number of visitors for Mackintosh and the City region, a point of learning, improvement and aspiration for all who live in the city, and especially for the young, employment growth in the Mackintosh infrastructure, conservation and building projects and expansion of the design economy from the Mackintosh skills agenda.

The objects of the group are:

To ensure that the assets and achievement of Charles Rennie Mackintosh are:

1. Sustainably maintained and conserved, safeguarded, and accessible to the public, and presented *as well as possible*;
2. Visited and enjoyed by more people from Scotland and around the world for the benefit of the city and Scotland's economy;
3. Understood and valued in Glasgow, Scotland, the UK and internationally
4. A source of pride and an inspiration for generations of citizens and visitors to engage with a unique urban heritage

The group has had a couple of meetings, but I am sure this will benefit the Mackintosh Heritage in the long term and link with our own aspirations and goals.

**We have done some amazing work this year in promoting and preserving the Mackintosh Legacy.**

**Stuart finished by thanking everybody for their wonderful support.....**

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

Due to unforeseen circumstances our Hon Treasurer, Kathleen Benham could not attend the AGM meeting.

Our Director, Stuart Robertson and Chair, Carol Matthew gave a report on the Annual Report and Accounts.

The CRM Society exists through the support and dedication of members, volunteers and a very small but hugely effective staff. The hard work of everyone involved has resulted again in a positive financial position for the Charity.

Looking at the accounts we can see the income generated in 2016 was £170,599 compared to £251,269 in 2015. This decrease is mainly due to a drop in donations and legacies.

Page 13 details £63k of funds received from Trusts and the Voluntary Action Fund Similarly expenditure on charitable activities and raising funds decreased to £170,084 (a decrease of 23% on the previous year £221,263) Despite this decrease we still managed a surplus of £515. This surplus is transferred to reserves – which sits at £980,403

All the reserves of the charity are Unrestricted. This means they can be used to meet the Society's aims and objectives.

However it is worth noting that this Unrestricted fund is split into two parts:

General	£88,175
Designated Fixed Asset fund	£892,228

The Designated Fund represents the amount of unrestricted funds tied up in Fixed Assets. The £892k is made up of the church which is shown at £874k and other equipment of £18k. It is the policy of the charity to maintain the General Fund at a level equal to 6 months unrestricted expenditure. The £88k is not a huge cushion so continued effort is needed to ensure that the charity can continue to deliver the very essential and valuable work it does.

Stuart and Carol thanked all the staff for their continued hard work.

The accounts were proposed by Beryl Graham and seconded by Paul Gilby

## **6. REGIONAL GROUP**

Linda Ellis & John Barter sent an update on the CRM Society London and SE Regional Group

The team met last August to discuss the future of the group in London and the South East.

They have decided at this stage to organise one major lecture a year, continuing the 'Christmas' event on the first Saturday in December.

Since taking over the organisation of events for CRMS members in London and the South East in 2006 they have managed to organise over sixty lectures and about fourteen visits in the last ten years. They have also been able to donate a substantial sum to the CRM Society during this period. Unfortunately the team is now ten years older and have difficulty in maintaining this level of involvement due to increasing personal commitments and responsibilities. They have also noticed that attendance at the evening lectures has gone down over the years, averaging about fifteen to twenty-five members from the forty plus in the early days. The Christmas lecture continues to achieve an attendance between forty-five and sixty.

They have been fortunate to have been allowed use of The Gallery by Alan Baxter Associates in Cowcross Street for the last ten years but there is greater competition from other organisations for lecture slots at the venue, resulting in the London Group only being offered Friday evenings in the week. The team will continue with just the one lecture a year, unless there is a number of enthusiastic members prepared to come forward to take over. There is a good sum in the bank account to keep the group solvent and the annual Public Liability Insurance has been paid for the year. They have been fortunate that Helen Challinor volunteered this year to find and follow up suggestions for speakers.

They would welcome new blood to take over as they did ten years ago but if no-one comes forward they will run the one lecture a year.

Update 1/6/17

The L&SE Group have not arranged anything since the December 2016 'Christmas' lecture and lunch. A new team is to be formed to become the L&SE Events Committee. Due to health issues, Linda and John have not been able to arrange a committee meeting.

The rest of the Team were asked to arrange a meeting to pass the baton onto the new recruits but we have not heard when and if this is to happen as yet. After eleven years the existing Committee decided that new blood should take it on, though we all will continue to support. John still holds the Treasurer's hat until another person from the new Team volunteers.

Linda and John apologise for not being able to attend the AGM, but hope to make it to Glasgow next year.

**Stuart thanked the London and SE Group for their report.**

## **7. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS**

### **Honorary Officers of Council**

Our Honorary President, The Rt Hon The Lord Macfarlane of Bearsden KT DL FRSE is standing down after almost 20 years. We are enormously grateful to him for his advice, support, time and generosity over two decades of substantial change.

Lord and Lady Macfarlane were thanked for their support and were presented with a small gift to show our appreciation.

The Chair was pleased to announce that Sir Kenneth Calman will be the new Honorary President. Professor Sir Kenneth Calman began his medical training at the University of Glasgow in 1959. He did a BSc in Biochemistry before graduating in medicine in 1967.

- In his career Sir Kenneth has been:
- Chairman of the Executive Board of the World Health Organisation
- Chairman of the Executive Board of the European Environment and Health Committee
- Chief Medical Officer at the Scottish Office Home and Health Department
- Chief Medical Officer in London

In 1996 he became a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath. He was Vice-Chancellor and Warden of the University of Durham from October 1998. He then became Chancellor of the University of Glasgow in June 2006. He is currently Chair of the National Library of Scotland

This was approved by acclaim.

The Chair also formally thanked our Honorary Vice Presidents, Roger Billcliffe and Bailie Liz Cameron who had all indicated that they were prepared to remain in office.

This was approved by acclaim.

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

### **Directors who served during the 2016-2017 session**

- Carol Matthews
- Alison Brown (Vice Chair)
- Kathleen Benham (Hon Treasurer)
- Mairi Bell
- Helen Crawford
- Pamela Freedman
- Professor Pamela Robertson
- Charlotte Rostek
- Garry Sanderson

### **Directors who stand down from Council at 2017 AGM**

- Pamela Freedman

Pamela was thanked for her work on the Society Council.

### **New Nominations for Council**

Two new nomination were made to Council: Ian Elliot and Ruairidh Moir  
Ian is an Associate of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and Fellow of the RICS.

Ian was a Junior Partner at James Macaulay and Son from 1968 and a Senior Partner from 1977. He was a consultant from 2002 – 2016. For over fifty years, the major part of his surveying activity has been involved with all aspects of Quantity Surveying work, ie Cost Control, from Probable Cost to Final Account/Conditions of Contract/Conditional Surveys/Preparation of Tender Documents/ and Valuation of Variations for all types of buildings, including acting for the CRM Society during the Repairs and Alterations of 2006 to Mackintosh Queen's Cross.

Ruairidh is an architect living and working in Glasgow undertaking work across Scotland through his practice, BARD Ailteir. He also teaches in the design studio of the Strathclyde School of Architecture and is a nationally elected council member and trustee of the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland.

Both nominees were Proposed by Pamela Robertson and Seconded by Robyn Calvert

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

- Carol Matthews
- Alison Brown (Vice Chair)
- Kathleen Benham (Hon Treasurer)
- Mairi Bell
- Helen Crawford
- Professor Pamela Robertson
- Charlotte Rostek
- Garry Sanderson

All Directors were approved by acclaim.

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

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

**9. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

Deirdre Bernard asked if members could be sent information on events taking place at Queen's Cross. SR said that this happens for all Society events, but sometimes we get very little notice from outside bookings.

Carol Hardie mentioned some issues with setting up an account on the Members Section of the website. SR said that we have had some teething problems with the new site, but we hope to resolve these issues.

Robyne Calvert highlighted the event on Wednesday at Glasgow School of Art - Mackintosh Restoration Research presents Mackintosh: Materials & Materiality.

Before the end of proceedings, Lady Macfarlane and Lady Calman were both presented with a bouquet of flowers.

Carol thanked everybody for attending the AGM.

The meeting concluded at approximately 11.50am

The next AGM will take place on Saturday 9 June 2018