

CHARLES RENNIE MACKINTOSH SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE 14TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT MACKINTOSH QUEENS CROSS 870, GARSCUBE ROAD, GLASGOW G20 7EL

SATURDAY 8 JUNE 2019 10.30am

1. CHAIR'S WELCOME

Carol Matthews, Chair of the CRM Society, welcomed all friends and members to the 14th annual general meeting of the Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society. Before stepping down from the role after seven years, Carol used this last formal opportunity to talk about the privilege of working alongside the Mackintosh team and highlighted several projects which she found particularly rewarding.

First, Carol explained the timing of her departure: "Two terms of chairmanship is normally six years but in 2018 we were in the midst of several major developments, including the purchase of the Mackintosh chancel furniture; the staff restructure; and the Mackintosh at The Willow launch – it was not a good time to step down and I was grateful to the Board for its approval to continue in the role for a further 12 months to complete those tasks."

Carol said there have been many achievements for the Society over her term in office and each has been delivered as a result of partnership and teamwork. She listed a few:

- **Stabilising the Society's financial position:** Raising substantial sums of grant funding, including the £1M gift from the Monument Trust, removed considerable pressure from day-to-day business operations. However, Carol emphasised the ongoing fundraising need of the Society, "because our ambition to deliver on our promise of protecting and promoting the Mackintosh heritage for future generations can't be achieved on a shoestring". Fundraising, sponsorship, retail, venue hire and events income plus member contributions of fees, patronage and ongoing donations are all vital towards the continuing work of the Society.
- **The chancel furniture.** "We delivered on our 2017 pledge that we would do everything we could to purchase the Communion Table and Alms dishes. Members contributed to the Appeal to ensure ownership so that these pieces are now safe in the place for which they were designed.
- The overhaul of the **Fire Prevention System** at Mackintosh Queen's Cross was prioritised following the first fire at Glasgow School of Art. The works were funded by Glasgow Life and the investment in fire prevention rose in value as we witnessed the horrendous loss of the Mackintosh Building in a second fire.
- **The Mackintosh Buildings Survey.** The Society delivered the first major survey assessing the condition of the Mackintosh built heritage of over 50 buildings and monuments. The work is being used to help protect and preserve buildings whether they are in private or public ownership.

- **Increased public use of Mackintosh Queen's Cross** over the past seven years. The Society has partnered with Celtic Connections annually; the West End Festival; Lids Open days; Glasgow Film Festival – all great community links bringing in new audiences. Local events and private hires for occasions such as weddings are encouraged. Carol applauded Tom Carroll and others who manage guests and audiences on these occasions. She added: “**Mackintosh Queen's Cross is 120 years old this year** and I'm confident that we have the right architectural knowledge and skill on the Board to steer us towards a sound maintenance and development programme over the next 12 months.”

Turning to internal matters, Carol said that the Board had developed by identifying its experience and skill sets and directing them towards appropriate projects to support the Director, including Business planning and investment; Fundraising; Building maintenance, Restructuring of the accounts; and Publications.

The staff structure has also been reviewed following further personnel changes to ensure that the right resource is in place to meet the needs of the organisation and to give employees increased job security.

Carol commented on the start of the AGM Weekend itinerary and our support for another city project. She said: “Yesterday afternoon I stood on the roof terrace at **Mackintosh at The Willow** and realised I was literally leaving my role on a high! I am proud that we had contributed in some significant way to the success of the project. It's almost five years since discussions began with Celia Sinclair, Chair and founder of the Willow Tea Rooms Trust and the driving force who brought the project to fruition. Celia is inspirational in her telling of the many building and business challenges and her recognition of how her trustees, staff and volunteers have overcome them. The result is a world-class attraction and tea room product, meeting its objectives to educate and inspire. Mackintosh at the Willow and Celia Sinclair are both assets to the City and we should endeavour to continue to provide an excellent information service and support the project where possible.”

Before handing over to Stuart Robertson to present the annual report, Carol thanked the many people – especially volunteers, staff and members – that it takes to achieve such positive results. She apologised for the long list but wanted to show her appreciation to many by name:

“**Thank you to Elizabeth Crawford**, who looks after our library resource and responds to Mackintosh queries from around the world.; **Sheila Hart** , who develops the shop and retail displays to increase income and improve the visitor experience. **Ken Bray**, a volunteer who travels from Dunkeld to help every week; **Trish Ingram**, long-serving, practical, always cheerful – she handles the Gift Aid claims, having taken them over from **Deirdre Bernard** who managed them for many years. It was lovely to see Deirdre and Stan last night at the Mackintosh at the Willow event and we all thank Deirdre for her many years of significant support. **Moira Wadsworth**, who manages the tour enquiries and runs some of the tours, giving her tour fees straight back to the CRM Society; **Tom and Rose Carroll**, **Audrey Shirra**, **Christine Sharp**, **Cathy Sommers**, **Fergus Hetherington** and **Moira Hallet** who all welcome visitors and support the delivery of the events programme at Queen's Cross.

Carol also thanked the volunteer Board members individually and Sir Kenneth Calman, Honorary President, who attends the quarterly meetings, injecting advice and humour.

Finally, the Chair's gratitude was to the staff: **"What a team!** Dylan Paterson, Heritage and Development Manager is exceptional and our new Administrator and Membership Manager, Ewan Mill Keith, has brought tremendous experience to his role. Both are dedicated, hard-working professionals and we are very fortunate to have them. Our team of volunteers is led by two professional volunteer co-ordinators, **Alice McBride and Jade Sturrock**, who recruit, manage and train over 40 volunteers. My final tribute is to our director, **Stuart Robertson**, whose role is diverse, exciting and challenging. Stuart is an excellent spokesperson for the Mackintosh Society, managing an array of stakeholders from visitors, funders and the media to national agencies and heritage organisations worldwide."

The attendees joined the Chair in offering Stuart and his team thanks and congratulations.

Carol closed by saying that Mackintosh had been a huge part of her life since her days as an art student when she first visited Queen's Cross in 1979. She said that she looked forward to continuing her enjoyment of the Society via her membership and through future events. Carol said it had been a privilege and pleasure to contribute to the Society and that she wished **David Cairns** well in his new role of guiding the Society through its next chapter.

2. APOLOGIES

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

3. MINUTES OF THE SOCIETY'S 13TH AGM

Proposed by Andrew Murray and seconded – Alison Brown

Carol advised that after seven wonderful years as Chair it was time to appoint a new Chair as she was standing down.

Carol invited our Director Stuart to deliver his detailed report.

4. DIRECTORS REPORT

Stuart Robertson thanked Carol Matthews for her dedication as Chair for the past seven years and said he was delighted that she would still be actively involved. He also thanked all the trustees for their continued devotion and commitment to the Society. Stuart extended his own welcome to the 14th AGM of the Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society (Limited Company). He said it was great to be back at Queen's Cross, and to see so many members who had made the trip to Glasgow.

Carol has already covered several key points and the people involved in making this happen.

Grants and Bequests

This year we had the second year of funding from our three-year Historic Environment Scotland grant of £66,600 and we secured a VAF grant of £26,000 over 3 years.

In addition, we received a bequest of £10,472 from the Estate of Alan Prue.

We have recently been successful with a £15,000 application to the Hugh Fraser Foundation for facilities, lighting and sound improvements, updating our visitor interpretation and engagement with local community.

In March 2019 we received a special bequest from Roy and Anne Nicholson. Anne was a headmistress in Glasgow and received the MBE for her work in education.

They bequeathed this special mirror by MARION HENDERSON WILSON (1869-1956)

GLASGOW STYLE BRASS WALL MIRROR, CIRCA 1900

Stuart held up the mirror with the round framed repoussé decorated with beautiful tendrils and figures which has the phrase: 'Looking Glass Upon the Wall Who is the Fairest of Them All'

Stuart said "We plan to have it on permanent display when we receive more history from the family".

Donations

Over the last year, we received very generous donations from the following people:

Charles Scott's family charitable trust donated £1,500 towards a musical event linked with Lids Open.

Prof. Pamela Robertson gave £1,000 towards the restoration of the finial at Mackintosh Queen's Cross.

Deirdre and Stan Bernard donated £25,000 as part of a series of architecture competitions.

We also received £12,500 as Gift Aid from Edward Le Bas Properties Limited as part of our licence agreement for Glebe Place.

He also thanked the London & South East Group for a recent donation of £500.

This funding has been of great benefit in allowing us to explore new ways in developing Mackintosh Queen's Cross and enabling the Society to continue its extensive education and advocacy role in safeguarding and promoting the work of Charles Rennie Mackintosh.

The Treasurer will cover the accounts in more detail.

Education

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

The Society continues to participate in a number of informal events throughout the year, i.e. Education Workshops, Mackintosh Birthday, Doors Open, Strathclyde University Life Long Learning, Mackintosh 150, Puppet Theatre and Workshops and Queens Cross Housing Association Christmas Lights Switch-on 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 to local residents on a Wednesday afternoon. Volunteer opportunities are more structured and wide-ranging than ever before.

The volunteer programme at Mackintosh at the Willow has been a great success in growing our volunteer pool and this has benefited our events programme at Queen's Cross.

Obituary – Last year we sadly lost Carol Hardie who was a great supporter of the Society.

New Website

Early 2019, we launched a new website for Mackintosh Queen's Cross. This brings it in line with the CRM Society website, which we revamped in 2017. The new website is about highlighting the beauty of this stunning venue to a wide range of audiences and promoting Queen's Cross as a quality venue for concerts, exhibitions, weddings etc. "I hope you like it"?

Journal

This years' Journal will be published a bit later in the year to incorporate memories of the Mackintosh Building at GSA. It will also include a special section on Queen's Cross, which will celebrate its 120th birthday on the 10 September.

We are currently in discussion with National Libraries of Scotland (NLS) to see if we can have all our Newsletters and Journals digitally scanned.

The NLS are interested in the CRM archive generally (photos, tapes, event, and anniversary brochures) and there is potential to donate our archive material to NLS, to 'best preserve it for the future'.

It is our intention to involve volunteers in this process, whether that is through the cataloguing and indexing of each article with author contact details, and starting the process of contacting authors - through to taking a group of volunteers to the NLS in Edinburgh to see the scanning process and learn best-practice in this area.

Mackintosh Architecture Competition

As part of the celebration of the 120th anniversary of Queen's Cross, the Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society is launching an open architectural idea competition.

Based on two hypothetical 'ideal' houses for artists, envisaged by Mackintosh in 1899, the competition will invite participants to contribute designs for a contemporary pair of houses which explore variations on a theme.

The architecture competition is being sponsored by Deirdre & Stan Bernard. So a big thank you must go to them.

Exhibitions and Events

In 2018 we celebrated the 150th anniversary of Mackintosh's birth, with a year-round programme of events in and around Glasgow.

We were absolutely delighted to have the installation 'Museum of the Moon' at Mackintosh Queen's Cross as part of Mackintosh 150. The moon has been a major influence on artists, musicians, and poets throughout the centuries. A young Charles Rennie Mackintosh was no different; in 1892 he created his first symbolist watercolour, *The Harvest Moon*.

Luke Jerram's stunning 'Museum of the Moon' installation was a daring concept for the Society, but the effect within Mackintosh Queen's Cross was totally breath-taking and mesmerising. This combined by a conceptualised programme of events created a unique and intimate experience where visuals and music became one. Truly outstanding in every way and a big thank you must go to everybody concerned in the project.

We had some amazing reviews during 'Museum of the Moon'

"It's not every day that music lovers get to experience their favourite bands live in intimate spaces, even less so with stunning art that is conceptualised to fit a gig's experience."

"It's a rare experience when the music and the venue become one"

The Moon may have left the building, but it has left a lasting impression on everybody who witnessed it.

The comments in our visitor book say it all:

"It is such a true representative of the moon, with every dent, every shadow and every crater. It is so incredibly overwhelming in this beautiful space".

Over the six weeks the 'Museum of the Moon' was in place we welcomed nearly 6,000 day visitors to Mackintosh Queen's Cross! When we combine this with the complementary programme of evening events, we attracted over 11,000, which surpassed last year's total visitor figure.

Last year's AGM programme started with a preview of Mackintosh at the Willow. On the Saturday before the AGM, we enjoyed a private view of the Mackintosh Exhibition at Kelvingrove '*Charles Rennie Mackintosh - Making the Glasgow Style*'. On Sunday we welcomed back architectural historian Michael Davis. Michael was the guide for the day's visits to three private houses of the period around 1900, but all with startlingly different styles - Finlaystone House, Windyhill and Rowantreehill. We would like to thank all owners for their hospitality in allowing the Society members access to these wonderful buildings.

Again, in June we played a major role in the West End Festival.

During the year we hosted a variety of exhibitions and events. In October we staged an exhibition by Kieran Austin and Duncan Legate as part of the Mackintosh 150 programme, followed in November by an exhibition by Siobhan Healy. Our year finished with the fabulous Christmas concert by the Les Sirènes Female Chamber Choir.

Celtic Connections 2019

In January, the weekend before Celtic Connections, Queen's Cross was used as a recording studio for the folk group Rant. The album is due out soon.

During Celtic Connections we had 12 superb concerts, plus 3 rehearsals with around 3161 visitors to the venue. The production company Bees Nees also booked space for filming during the festival.

Stuart thanked all the staff and volunteers who helped make Celtic Connections concerts a great success. We really appreciate your support.

We look forward to Celtic Connections in 2020.

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.

49 Glebe Place, Chelsea

Over the last year we have had two more visits to 49 Glebe Place. The recent visit last month was for Friends of 78 Derngate. 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.

Stuart is currently planning an evening event in the autumn for the London Group. He thanked Richard and Angela Burrows for their continued support and hospitality in allowing the Society access to the Studio.

Stuart also told those attending the AGM that the Mackintosh plaque is back in place outside the studio he used in Glebe Place.

AGM Weekend

Last night we returned to MAW to see the final phase of the completion of Mackintosh at Willow. Members had the opportunity to see how the building's multi-million-pound restoration has developed since our Members' visit last summer.

After lunch we will visit Kelvin Hall, now home to shared collections of the Hunterian, Glasgow Museums and the Scottish Screen Archive. This unique collection gives us an opportunity to find out more about the CRM archival works cared for in these collections as well as viewing Murray Grigor's 1968 film of Mackintosh (in the presence of Mr Grigor himself). Joseph Sharples, the recently appointed Curator of Mackintosh Collections and Applied Art will reveal some fascinating items from the collection.

This will be followed by an update and discussion about the GSA fire.

Tomorrow we have a full-day tour to Helensburgh and district, in the company of Michael Davis, Architectural Historian.

Stuart reminded everybody that the Coach departs George Square at 9.20am from the City Chambers. He pointed out that this will be our first opportunity to see the 'box' that has been built to protect The Hill House.

After lunch in a local restaurant we take the opportunity to view the interiors of three private houses – featuring the work of architects and designers of Mackintosh's era.

- The White House by Baillie Scott
- Lynton and Red Towers by Leiper
- The Longcroft by A N Paterson

After which we return to Glasgow by coach at about 17.15hrs. approximately.

This weekend could not have happened without a lot of organising behind the scenes. Stuart thanked Dylan, Ewan, Trish and Michael for their enthusiasm and all the work they have done in putting together the AGM programme and events throughout the year. Stuart asked everybody to join him in giving a big thank you to them.

Currently we have an exhibition by John Cairney in the Hall. The Mackintosh Series depicts seven stories of Charles Rennie Mackintosh's artistic journey. Our events programme continues with several concerts as part of the West End Festival.

In October we are delighted to have a major exhibition by Jephson Robb.

Jephson is a Glasgow-based artist and designer. He has created large-scale public artworks for sites across central Scotland. His sculptures and installations range from the transient to the monumental, but they share common themes: change, healing, and the power of love and collective human endeavour. These themes may be interpreted at multiple levels – from the deeply personal to the universal – and are often reflected in the titles of his works.

Robb draws inspiration from his own experiences, the histories of the places where his works are sited and the parallels between the two. But while his work is sensitive to the past and materially located in the present, it also looks to the future with hope and optimism.

Stuart said he had been fortunate to get a sneak preview of some of the Maquettes, and they look fabulous.

As usual we will finish our year with the wonderful Les Sirenes Female Chamber Choir with their Christmas concert.

The events programme is an amazing achievement for a small team and could not happen without everybody pulling together and especially the support of key volunteers.

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.

Since May with the support of Alice & Jade we have been running a series of architecture walking tours.

WEDDINGS

Queen's Cross is the ideal building for weddings of many kinds.

In 2018, we were host to seven beautiful weddings. These were conducted either by Humanist Celebrants or by Church of Scotland Ministers.

The number for 2019 is down, with a handful of provisional enquiries and dates held and one confirmed. We are hoping to convert these enquiries and provisional dates to firm bookings. However, it's clear that hosting weddings is a more competitive business than ever. We're grateful to Garry & House for an Art Lover for their continued support towards the wedding business here at Queen's Cross.

To make the wedding opportunities at Queen's Cross more 'visible', we've a large-format wedding poster outside the building and a wedding promotional leaflet on the reverse side of our Opening Times leaflets (which are distributed via Mackintosh at the Willow, Queen's Cross and other venues).

In addition to the House for an Art Lover wedding link, we have met again with the Maryhill Burgh Halls team in order to offer a 'package' with them.

Visitor Numbers

2018 was a record-breaking year for Mackintosh Queen's Cross with 'Museum of the Moon' making a big impact on visitor numbers and revenue in May and June. We welcomed more than 22,000 visitors over the year.

LONDON GROUP

The London Group is currently going through a transition and needs an injection of new blood. Marion Downie, who is here today, has taken over the reins. So I hope to arrange a visit to Glebe Place for an evening event in the autumn.

We recently received a donation of £500 from the London Group.

L'association Charles Rennie Mackintosh en Roussillon

Robin Crichton did so much in putting Mackintosh on the map in the south of France. Robin has now stepped down and a new committee has been elected. Alison Brown, Pamela Robertson, David Cairns and I met with the new committee at QX to discuss their plans and how we can be of assistance. We look forward to continuing the good work that Robin started.

Mackintosh Buildings Survey

The MBS is complete and there continues to be vital and essential work undertaken in safeguarding and developing the Mackintosh heritage. As outlined in the MBS report, the Society is continuing to take a pro-active role in monitoring the buildings and monuments and working with the information obtained and, on the progress, made through the Survey and its recommendations for each site.

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

The Glasgow School of Art

Last year we celebrated Mackintosh's 150th birthday and Paul Gilby at our AGM said '*It is a Golden Age of Mackintosh.*' Only 6 days later on a late Friday evening, nobody would have believed that a second catastrophic fire would destroy our beloved Mack.

Stuart said it was like a bad dream and that he would wake up in a cold sweat. But no, it was not a dream, Mackintosh's masterpiece had gone. Like a lot of people, he felt a sense of loss like mourning for a loved one.

The following morning he said his phone did not stop ringing with calls to talk to the media and press. It was an emotional and exhausting experience, dealing with the media frenzy on a wet Saturday morning in Glasgow, especially in front of the burned-out shell of the Mack. The whole experience was surreal but at the same time cathartic.

On Sunday, all the newspapers covered the Mackintosh fire on their front pages. It looked like we had lost a head of state.

We did not only lose the beautiful architecture, the intricate details on wood, metal and stone, the delicate pieces of furniture and interior design, we lost an emotional connection to this creative genius. His work touches our soul in so many ways; we recall the moments we spent there, the

people who studied between those walls, the time and passion that went into creating such a masterpiece.

We still cannot understand how this could have happened a second time.

You will have seen in the press and social media the fallout from the fire, the effect it has had on local businesses and the many people who were displaced from their homes. This was a totally devastating experience for everybody concerned.

The building has now been stabilized and shored up with scaffolding.

There have been a lot of recriminations and questions after the second fire. The press has been looking for answers and have been investigating the events leading up to both fires. Questions have been asked of the other Mackintosh Buildings and what Fire Preventions are in place.

In September 2018 the Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee of the Scottish Parliament opened an inquiry into both fires at the GSA. The Committee held a series of four evidence sessions, hearing from the GSA Board; architects; contractors; Mackintosh scholars, including the CRMS; fire safety experts; GSA alumni and Historic Environment Scotland. The Committee's scrutiny was also supported through receipt of a wide range of written evidence.

The Committee's report was published in March 2019 and covered:

1. Fire risk management and the Mackintosh building prior to the 2014 fire
2. Fire Safety during the Mackintosh Building Restoration Project
3. Governance issues
4. The role of Historic Environment Scotland, and
5. The future of the Mackintosh building

The Committee's inquiry concluded that the evidence they gathered raises a range of issues which go beyond the cause of the fire itself and require further examination. The public inquiry, which the Committee is calling on the Scottish Government to establish, should also look at the risks posed by fire in historic buildings nationally to establish what lessons might be learned.

The Chair, Muriel Gray and the former Director, Tom Inns have said: *"The Mackintosh Building will be rebuilt and will be a working art school. We will rebuild so that 'the Mack' can continue to provide creative inspiration to students, staff and visitors."*

Since the fire, the Society has been trying to give a balanced viewpoint.

A year has nearly passed since that fateful day in June, and we still do not have an answer to what caused the fire. We are not sure when the fire report will be published. The latest information we have, is that the report may come out in September.

Later today we can discuss in more detail the aftermath of this horrific fire.

The Willow Tea Rooms Trust

It has been wonderful to see the rebirth of Miss Cranston's original tea rooms (Mackintosh at the Willow) in Sauchiehall Street. The restoration looks amazing and Celia Sinclair and her team should be congratulated for taking on and delivering such an ambitious project to this high standard.

The Society's partnership with the Willow Tea Rooms Trust has been a rewarding journey. Our main role in this new venture is that for the first time, the Society is now operating a 7-day public information service about Mackintosh from a city-centre location. The Society has set up an excellent volunteer recruitment and training programme to operate the information desk, support the exhibition area and conduct internal tours.

After all the delays and staged openings, October 2018 was the first full month offering all elements of the WTRT plan. To the end of May 2019, the team have conducted tours for 1663 people, 639 of which were free or promotional offer. Several of them were MAW staff members looking to expand their knowledge.

- Since October the team have engaged with 4723 people at the Information Point and handed out 2780 legacy leaflets.
- 6 volunteers are now confident enough to conduct tours alone or with Alice and Jade shadowing to answer additional background questions.
- 3838 visitors have been through the exhibition and given overwhelmingly positive reviews.
- The 'Time for Tea: 1903' celebration day on 28 October saw over 100 visitors pass through the exhibition while it was free for the day. 75 of these also dressed up and chatted with volunteers about the programme and project. The team talked to roughly 1035 people about the project, giving out leaflets on the Society and signposting to Mackintosh Queen's Cross and other Mackintosh venues.
- Volunteers also took part in the launch night for the RBS Kate Cranston £20 note on 22 October, assisting Alice with brief tours and providing additional information at the beginning of the networking event.
- We now have a pool of 60 volunteers and since October our volunteers have contributed over 2500 hours towards the Willow project.

Last September, the Duke and Duchess of Rothesay officially opened the beautifully restored tea rooms.

As you will have seen in the press, the restoration project has won several prestigious awards.

For those who attended the visit last night, you will have seen that the building looks fabulous.

A big thank you must go to Alice, Jade and all the volunteers for all the work they have done. Stuart asked everybody to join him in thanking Alice & Jade.

The Hill House

Mackintosh's domestic masterpiece has suffered over the decades, with driving wind and rain saturating the walls of The Hill House. The building's long-term survival, including its unique interior finishes, is threatened. Over many years, solutions have been attempted by the property's various owners, but none has solved the problem. It now falls to the National Trust for Scotland to take radical steps to stop further deterioration and restore the property.

Construction started at the end of last year on a Carmody Groarke £4.5 million scheme for a huge, transparent shelter to protect The Hill House during its restoration. According to the team, the chainmail structure will help The Hill House 'to dry out after more than a century of absorbing rain' and paves the way for further conservation work to be carried out on Mackintosh's domestic masterpiece.

Tomorrow we will have the opportunity to see the 'box' in situ. Stuart mentioned that he managed to get a sneak preview on Thursday evening.

MONUMENT LEGACY PROJECTS

Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society and Mackintosh Queen's Cross

We have developed our financial strategy and targets for 'CRM 50' (the Society will have been in existence for 50 years in the year 2023) recognising the conservation requirements of the building and the opportunities for the Society's heritage and engagement role in the years leading up to the 50th anniversary.

In 2006 we completed the last major restoration project on Queen's Cross and after 13 years we need to take stock and look at other major restoration and development work needed on the building.

In winter 2018 we took advice from an independent fire safety consultant to undertake an initial review of the building. We were presented with a list of initial recommendations, all of which we have acted upon. In May 2019, we underwent a full independent audit of the building's fire safety. As a result of both these inspections, we have commissioned/undertaken the following actions:

- A number of electrical upgrades, changes fittings, sockets etc, all with the aim of reducing risk – in all, several thousand pounds worth of work.
- A full review of the emergency lighting within the building, including various upgrades
- A full review of the fire detection system (which itself is only 12 months old)
- Various housekeeping actions have been undertaken, with thanks to volunteer support from Ken Bray.

We have commissioned a full Risk Assessment – and will review this (with external audit) again in October 2019 and April 2020 – then we will move to a yearly audit by an external specialist.

We have recently had an audit of our IT services at QX. Our current systems are creaking and in need of a total overhaul.

Mack120

We are about to start work on a new conservation and development project on Queen's Cross using the Monument Grant as match funding. This needs scoping with potential funding from HLF, HES, Pilgrim Trust, Glasgow City Heritage Trust etc.

Furniture Appeal

In 2018, through funding from The Monument Trust and our Members Appeal, we secured the purchase of the Communion Table and the two Alms Dishes at Queen's Cross. We would like to thank everybody for their kind contributions and especially Charles Hay of Brodies LLP for his legal advice and support in handling the purchase from Ruchill Kelvinside Parish Church.

SENIOR MACKINTOSH GROUP

As I outlined last year a Strategic Forum, Senior Operation Group has been setup to take Mackintosh forward. A 10-year plan is being developed which should bring a range of benefits to the Mackintosh Heritage, including capital investment.

A key part of 2018 was the Mackintosh 150 celebrations:

Mackintosh 150

2018 was a milestone year for Mackintosh heritage partners in the city and beyond, with Mackintosh 150 – a year-long programme of events and exhibitions – celebrating the 150th anniversary of the birth and incredible architectural, artistic and design legacy of one of Scotland's great cultural icons.

Led by Glasgow Life, the Glasgow Mackintosh Group, ScotRail and supported by a £40,000 VisitScotland Growth Fund award, the campaign – which ran from June 2018 until March 2019 – which helped to attract 1.2m people to Mackintosh venues.

The Mackintosh 150 and beyond campaign was focussed on promoting Mackintosh venues and events in and around Glasgow and the west of Scotland to visitors in Aberdeen, Edinburgh, and Dundee. It was also aimed at encouraging UK short-break visitors to consider making a Mackintosh-inspired trip to Glasgow in 2019.

As well as commemorating his remarkable achievements, Mackintosh 150 has been the springboard for the implementation of Glasgow's ambitious new 10-year Mackintosh Plan to 2028 – which seeks to promote and recognise Mackintosh as Scotland's national architect – with the leaders of the city's Mackintosh buildings, collections and organisations coming together to form a senior operations group, managed by Glasgow Life.

The plan aims to safeguard Mackintosh's legacy for future generations; inspire more young people to take an interest in art and design; and promote his unique portfolio to more international visitors, enabling the economic contribution of tourism in the city to grow. With a target of attracting one million more overnight leisure tourism visits over the next five years, the significance of Mackintosh is one of the principal drivers of Glasgow's Tourism and Visitor Plan to 2023.

Some highlights from Mackintosh 150 included:

Charles Rennie Mackintosh – Making the Glasgow Style

A major temporary exhibition of Mackintosh's life and works, featuring several works that had never been displayed publicly before or seen in Glasgow for more than 30 years alongside key loans from The Hunterian, The Glasgow School of Art and the V&A in London. The exhibition attracted more than 60,000 visitors to Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum between March and August.

The exhibition has now transferred to the Walker Gallery in Liverpool. It looks great and well worth a visit. It will then travel to 4 locations in the USA – Baltimore, Nashville, Chicago, and Florida.

Additionally, further highlights include:

- Mackintosh at the Willow
- The Box for The Hill House
- Museum of the Moon at Queen's Cross

The Lighthouse hosted an exhibition by Glasgow-based and leading UK milliner, William Chambers. It also featured an exhibition of interiors and furniture from The Hill House

The Great Big Mackintosh Bus Tour was a special edition of Glasgow Museums' popular Great Big Heritage Bus tours.

The Charles Rennie Mackintosh Express - Virgin Trains named one of its Pendolino trains the Charles Rennie Mackintosh Express. Adorned with Mackintosh's trademark moustache on the front and the name displayed in Mackintosh lettering on plaques on either side of the driver's cabin. It was the first time in more than 20 years that Virgin had named a train in Scotland. Two other trains were previously named Charles Rennie Mackintosh in 1982 and 1996.

Stuart said that on his recent trip to London he had the good fortune of travelling on the Mackintosh train.

Mackintosh statue unveiling – On the 10th December to mark the 90th anniversary of his death a 2.7m tall bronze statue of Mackintosh on a 2m plinth and weighing three tons was unveiled in Glasgow by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and the city's Lord Provost, Eva Bolander. The statue was designed by Kelpies sculptor Andy Scott and shows Mackintosh sitting on one of the famous high-backed chairs he designed for the Argyle Street Tea Rooms.

A Mural of Mackintosh was created next to the Clutha Bar by Rogue One.

On the marketing front a suite of new digital assets was developed, including the App and two short Mackintosh videos. And not forgetting the BBC documentaries.

Meanwhile, significant investment in Mackintosh's built heritage outside of Glasgow has continued throughout the year, most notably with the opening of the Oak Room at the heart of V&A Dundee's Scottish Design Galleries.

As the largest interior that Mackintosh designed for Miss Cranston's Ingram Street Tearooms in Glasgow in 1907, and completed in 1908, it is acknowledged as one of his key tearoom interiors, which had gone unseen by the public for nearly 50 years. Mackintosh's experimental ideas in the Oak Room informed his design for the Glasgow School of Art Library, which was completed a year later in 1909.

V&A Dundee and Dundee City Council worked in partnership with Glasgow Museums, who took the dis-assembled interior into Glasgow City Council's museum collections after it was rescued from destruction in 1971. The scale of this collaborative £1.3 million conservation and restoration project required the expertise of architects, curators, conservators and craftsmen in order to research, reassemble and display this historic interior for generations to come.

The last year has certainly been a rollercoaster year for the Mackintosh family. The restoration of Mackintosh's only surviving Tea Rooms on Sauchiehall Street is a wonderful achievement. The 'Box' around The Hill House is now in place. But the catastrophic fire in June that destroyed the Mackintosh Building at the Glasgow School of Art was a devastating blow to the world of Mackintosh.

We will work to return to that, celebrating Mackintosh's genius and ensuring his legacy is not lost for future generations. We are proud of what we have achieved, and we could not have done it without your support!

Thank You!

5. TREASURERS REPORT

Kathleen Benham said - It was her pleasure today to present the accounts for the year to 31 December 2018

The accounts for the year to 31 December 2018 make for particularly pleasant reading.

This is primarily due to the £1 million grant received from the Monument Trust and discussed last year. This grant as you know; is to be used specifically by the Society for the Legacy Projects. The over-riding aim of which is to protect, preserve and promote Glasgow's Mackintosh heritage for the enjoyment of this and future generations.

In addition to this wonderful grant, however, the Society secured other grants of £42,534.

Income from Donations and Legacies increased to £134,411 (previous year £75,564). Included in this is £19,800 which was raised specifically for the purchase of the furniture.

Other trading activities generated £106,205 (previous year £34,717)

Expenditure in the year totalled £261,100. This meant there was a surplus of £1,022,050.

Added to this the Society secured the purchase of the Communion Table and Two Alms dishes and stands. These have been capitalised in the accounts.

In order to try and make the Monument grant “work “ for us the Society have , after research and meeting with investment companies, appointed Barclays Charity Investment Team to advise us on investing part of that money . John Williamson has kindly offered to attend today to discuss the investment and will address you all after my report.

To get back to the accounts the balance sheet is looking very healthy.

Total Funds are sitting at £1,937,816.

As Stuart has previously said 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. Can I thank all the staff for their continued hard work. It has been my privilege to work with them all.

However, the Society cannot rest on its laurels. Fundraising to secure the future work of the Society and the Mackintosh Building for the public to enjoy is ongoing and vital. The Society is however in a very good place to do that”.

The Accounts were proposed by Tom McCallum and seconded by Marion Downie.

Barclays Wealth and Investment Management Report

John Williamson, Charities Team, Barclays Wealth and Investment Management reported that Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society has £400,000 invested at moderate risk. £442,000 is a good capital performance and income generation. Barclays fee is 0.5%. Income yields invested in approximately 30 UK companies, only 20% in Sterling and UK. For Governance reasons we prefer UK Companies.

The world economy is growing; fact is multi-asset delivers solid positive returns.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

Honorary Officers of Council

Honorary President
Sir Kenneth Calman

The Chair was pleased to announce that Sir Kenneth Calman has agreed to remain the Society's Honorary President.

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

This was approved by acclaim.

7. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS (Council Members)

Directors who served during 2018-2019 session

- Carol Matthews (Chair)
- Mairi Bell (Vice Chair for 150th Anniversary)
- Alison Brown (Vice Chair)
- Kathleen Benham (Hon. Treasurer)
- Helen Crawford
- Ian Elliot
- Ruairdh Moir
- Charlotte Rostek
- Garry Sanderson

Directors who stand down from Council at 2019 AGM

- Carol Matthew stood down after seven years.
- Mairi Bell
- Kathleen Benham stood down as Treasurer

New Nominations for Council

David Cairns (Chair 2019)

Peter Trowles

All Directors were approved by acclaim.

Stuart Robertson – Executive Director

David Cairns – Chair (Appointed 2019)

Alison Brown – Vice Chair (Appointed 2010)

Helen Crawford (Appointed 2014)

Ian Elliot (Appointed 2017)

Ruairdh C Moir (Appointed 2017)

Charlotte Rostek (Appointed 2016)

Garry Sanderson (Appointed 2013)

Peter Trowles (Appointed 2019)

Hon Treasurer – Vacant Position

Carol Matthews nominated David Cairns as Chair and this was unanimously proclaimed.

Outgoing Council members were thanked and presented with flowers for their dedication and commitment by Stuart.

8. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Questions from the floor:

Peter Brown asked “Where is the mural and the statue?” Stuart advised the mural is at the Clutha Bar on Stockwell Street and the statue is at the bottom of Argyll Street at Finnieston.

Deirdre Bernard asked if there was any progress on the future of the Mackintosh House at the Hunterian and was advised there has been no further progress.

Scotland Street School: What is happening there? Alison Brown, Curator for European Decorative Art – Said the School is currently partly hired by the Citizen’s Theatre for 2 years. (The theatre is currently located across three different sites around the City). Scotland Street School remains a museum and is long identified for continued maintenance and upgrading. Before the 2009 Credit crunch, Tiger Developers planned for hotel development, but this idea has collapsed.

Paige\Park are the responsible architects. Scotland Street School is greatly valued by the City but there is no further information. It is being talked about a lot, but nothing is committed to paper for future plans.

Glasgow City Council are paying out salaries, honouring huge bills and trying to offload and re-mortgage. Scotland Street School is not top end of plans but in transitions.

It was agreed that the Society would contact Glasgow Life expressing interest and concern. Stuart assured everybody that we are keeping a watchful eye and monitoring the situation.

Deirdre – “We are inundated with people asking what you are doing? Members need more information. The Society needs to tell members what is happening”.

Carol explained that due to workload news had been circulated quarterly. Stuart promised more regular e-newsletters.

Sheila Walker followed on both comments and then asked “What about the School of Art? It was reported in the Evening Times two weeks ago Fire Officers not allowed into the School of Art”. There are all sorts of rumours?”

“Should this be taken out of the control of School of Art?”

Stuart advised, “There are lots of rumours, we are not sure on full facts about any obstruction to Scottish Fire and Rescue Service fire officers. There are so many delays and yet no discussion with Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society” and The School of Art Shop is now closed.

Carol said “there may be legal proceedings – this will be discussed with the Board. There must be a Public Debate at timing when the Scottish Government deliberate.”

She added, “I am on-board with questions being asked. We have a strong voice and must be mindful of the timing. Stuart has met with senior officials within Scottish Government – he is in the right position to lead on this”.

Stuart introduced Joseph Sharples, the recently-appointed Curator of Mackintosh Collections and Applied Art who gave an update on the Mackintosh House and the arrangements for the afternoon visit to Kelvin Hall.

Joseph said at the main task was funding for interpretation, including Gallery and understanding the Mackintosh House. There is no real interpretation. How is Mackintosh House to be reconstructed? Steph Scholten, Director of The Hunterian will be at Kelvin Hall, so there will be an opportunity to ask him questions on the Mackintosh House.

Meeting Closed 1pm and Lunch was served.