

Pollokshields Heritage

Honorary President: Sir John Maxwell Macdonald Bt

Committee Annual Report for the Year 1st March 2019 to 29th February 2020

At the time of writing this in April 2020, the UK, indeed most of the world, is experiencing the coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak, together with the emergency measures put in place by governments to combat the effects of the disease. The restrictions placed on all UK citizens started to have an impact on how we lived our lives from early March 2020. Inevitably the Pollokshields Heritage [PH] Annual General Meeting, scheduled for 21st April 2020, was postponed.

Until the restrictions, PH continued to try and stimulate public interest in all aspects of our local environment. Our year started in March 2019 with a guided walk led by Dr Sam Ellis viewing the villas along the avenues of West Pollokshields. This is an ideal time of year to study the architecture of the villas before the many trees are in leaf.

The annual general meeting in April 2019 also marked the end of that season of lectures with guest speaker John Moore. The new lecture season started in November 2019 with guest speaker Dr Eleanor Herring and continued with guest speakers Niall Murphy and Nan Steele. The lectures have grown in popularity over time and were supported with attendances of 29, 89 and 48 during the current season. We welcome suggestions for speakers so please feel free to contact Elizabeth Jarvis or any committee member.

In September 2019 we again participated in the Glasgow Doors Open Days Festival. John Thomson led the Dumbreck and Hazelwood guided walk and Sam Ellis led a guided walk round the villas of West Pollokshields on a Saturday morning, and round the tenements and public buildings of East Pollokshields on the following Sunday morning. During the same afternoons PH laid on two bus tours of the district guided by our secretary, Janet Lamb. As the tours start and end at Maxwell Park Station, the event gives us the opportunity to open our station meeting room to a wider audience. Exhibition boards, designed by Roger Millar, are also given an airing and attract much attention. The station planters are stocked and maintained throughout the season by Ann Laing and colleagues.

The PH website, maintained by David Hart, continues to attract many visits from both home and abroad.

The committee continued engagement with statutory and other bodies to promote the protection and improvement of the historic architectural and natural environment. Planning applications in Pollokshields and Dumbreck are monitored each month by Helen and Roger Millar and are reviewed in committee. Roger Millar is a member of Glasgow City Council's Urban Design Panel and Ann Laing sits on the Pollokshields Ward Area Partnership and is a Pollokshields Community Councillor.

The eleven PH committee members held ten monthly meetings throughout the year. Meetings were well attended and, bar one, were quorate, though, another year on, we remain without a permanent Chair. Two committee members retired at the 2019 AGM, but we were delighted when subsequently John Thomson agreed to be co-opted and carry on as minutes secretary. We do need more committee members who can bring fresh knowledge and ideas to the table and assist with the organization of our events.

None of the foregoing would be possible without the tremendous support PH receives from members, and we thank you for your generous donations and participation in our events.

www.pollokshieldsheritage.org.uk

