

Pollokshields Heritage
SC030101
Committee Annual Report
(A shortened version was delivered by the vice-chair to the Annual
General Meeting on 23rd April 2019)

We're glad to report that Pollokshields Heritage has continued its presence in the neighbourhood, and we hope continues to fulfill a core aim, namely, to stimulate public interest in all aspects of our local environment.

The committee held its usual eleven monthly meetings throughout the year. All meetings have been well attended and always quorate.

The annual general meeting in April 2018 marked the end of that winter season of lectures, and the new season of lectures, which started in November 2018 with guest speaker Fergus Sutherland and continued with Gerald Blaikie and Nan Steele, will end this evening with our guest speaker, John Moore. The lectures have grown in popularity and have been well supported, with attendances of 55, 71 and 54 during the current season; and we thank Elizabeth Jarvis for engaging our speakers. We welcome suggestions for speakers, so please feel free to contact us.

In June 2018 we participated in the popular biennial event, *Ready Steady Grow*. As in previous years, we ran a stall at Maxwell Square, and encountered encouraging interest in our Trail Leaflets and display material. A pleasant summer event which attracts many people from the local community and which we're happy to support.

In September 2018 we again participated in the Glasgow Doors Open Days Festival and organized two bus tours of the district - ably 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 continue to be maintained throughout the season, by Ann Laing and colleagues – no easy feat up and down the stairs with planting materials and water! Thank you to Ann and her team.

It had been suggested last April, by outgoing chair, Niall Murphy, that a meeting of the committee be facilitated by an outside third party. Accordingly, in November 2018 a meeting was arranged with Euan Leitch, director of Built Environment Forum Scotland. A pre-meeting established the following priorities for discussion: Succession planning, incorporating expertise and demographics; Communications, incorporating modernising and raising profile; and Planning. It was undoubtedly a useful and worthwhile exercise and we remain grateful to Euan for his guidance. However, in order to carry out Euan's recommendations a lot of dedicated work will be required. This may become increasingly burdensome for a committee made up entirely of volunteers, some of whom feel they have reached their 'sell-by' date!

For example, it was suggested that the website, "be refreshed.

“As part of the refresh a consistent design could be applied across future printed material and emails.
“Mailchimp could also provide a means of understanding readership and managing membership communications.

“This could benefit from getting paid advice and an opportunity for a task that may be part of an appeal for new committee members.”

The report suggestions remain on our monthly agenda but currently are short of action.

The committee continues engagement with statutory and other bodies to promote the protection and improvement of the historic architectural and natural environment. Planning applications to Glasgow City Council are monitored each month, and Ann Laing sits on the Pollokshields Ward Area Partnership. We’re indebted to Helen and Roger Millar who have, together, taken on the committee task of planning convenor.

They were also instrumental in the installation of our first memorial plaque – to Kate Cranston – which can be seen at 34 Terregles Avenue.

12 committee members have served this year. Our minutes secretary, John Thomson, has indicated he will not seek re-election at the annual general meeting; and Alison Taylor, who has so willingly carried out ‘Acting Chair’ duties recently, is also standing down. We thank them both for their congenial and diligent work with committee colleagues over many years.

Report Ends

April 2019