

Chairman's Report AGM 2014 presented at the Fotheringay Centre 22nd April 2014

I'm pleased to report that it has been a busy year for Pollokshields Heritage

Pollokshields Heritage trails

Though the trail leaflets have now been published there are still conditions of grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund that have to be satisfied. We therefore have to continue to promote and distribute the trail leaflets with events including walks and talks so you will see information about this appear on our website from time to time. We have also, in conjunction with First Scotrail, put up the posters of the winning photographs from the competition we organised with the local primary schools. You can now see these at Maxwell Park, Pollokshields East and West Stations. Such was the success of this competition that it is something we hope to organise again in future years. I am also pleased to report that we have just received a letter, today, from the Heritage Lottery Fund confirming that we have met all our conditions of grant and they are now releasing the last £1000 of the grant.

Lecture Series

Now into its 5th season the Lecture Series has continued through the winter and spring months of 2013 -2014 with lectures from: Gordon Barr on the 'Cinemas of Glasgow's Southside' – which turned out to encompass a broader area and revealed just how many of these former structures we pass everyday oblivious to their former use; Abigail Howkins on 'the Albert Drive Project' – Abigail is an award winning producer who has been collaborating on 'Albert Drive' an exploration of the idea of 'neighbor' and what it means to live alongside each other from the perspective of a single street in Glasgow; May Miles Thomas on 'The Devil's Plantation' – May won as Creative Scotland award to create 'The Devil's Planation' an interactive website and multi-media project which explores the secret geometry and ancient paths of Glasgow which has since won a BAFTA award and been re-worked into a full length film. You can find reports on each of the lectures on our website.

The talks have been well received and speakers uniformly excellent. Audience numbers seem to have settled around the 40 mark. The talks continue to run at a loss so as part of our review of this we have decided to offer one less talk this year and instead substitute the March talk for a Walk.

Walking tours and Doors Open Day

As part of the Launch of the Heritage Trail leaflets last year we decided to host a walk around the Avenues of Pollokshields. This proved particularly successful partially because it was relatively easy to see the villas as there were no leaves on the trees. As a result we decided to host a walk again this year, this time on Sunday 16 March. We hired Sherbrooke St Gilberts as a venue and to cover our costs levied a fee of £5 for a two hour guided walk with a coffee and teas and home baking at the end as well as a further talk about the superb modern stained glass in the church. The walk had 29 attendees and was well received.

We will be doing a follow up walk around East Pollokshields as part of this year's Ready Steady Grow Event on Sunday 15 June.

As part of the 2013 Doors Open Day event we also hosted two walking tours of both East and West Pollokshields, a walking tour of Dumbreck, and a Bus Tour of the whole Garden Suburb on the Saturday. The events were fully booked and such was demand that the Doors Open Day organisers asked us to put on a second bus tour on the Sunday afternoon which we duly obliged. As ever with

Doors Open Day there are always issues over booking with people booking places then not turning up and vice versa so we try our best to accommodate. We will be taking part in Doors Open Day again this year but with the addition of a lecture on the evolution of Pollokshields. This will be held in a venue in the city centre (to be confirmed), possibly on Tuesday 16 September – please keep an eye on our website for details. We've opted for the city centre so we don't just speak to the converted!

Maxwell Park Station

As well as holding our summer committee meetings there, the former booking office serves as a base camp for our Doors Open Day walks and continues to act as a meeting HQ for a number of local amenity groups. It has also been let for small exhibitions. So this is a reminder that it is available on request!

The subgroup, with John Thomson leading the charge, have continued to liaise with the Railway Heritage Trust, ScotRail and Network Rail, about the restoration of amenities necessary for its development but funds as ever remain at the bottom of this. We are currently trying to ascertain when the Station will be painted. John is also currently trying to convince Scottish Water – who are insisting otherwise - that the Station does not have water. Given that access to water would solve many of the station's problems we would very much like to know where it is so if you see anyone divining at the station it is probably John!

The platform planters continue to be nurtured by our Head Gardener, Ann Laing, and we continue to collaborate with the local Fotheringay Road residents' group to control the weeds on the pavement side of the embankment. We remain keen to do more but as ever the health and safety issues associated with railway line – live overhead cables, running trains etc - act as an impediment with regards to access to the embankments. Though the local Fotheringay Road residents' group organised a meeting with Nicola Sturgeon, Network Rail, the three local councillors, the community council and ourselves last year with Network Rail promising to respond with proposals, we have yet to hear anything. However, to assist Ann with the maintenance of the platform planters we are now looking at the installation of a water butt that will be bolted to the side of the building. This is so it cannot pose a health and safety problem for passing trains; however, this will also entail securing Listed Building Consent so we are currently preparing drawings for a submission to GCC.

City Development Plan

The draft City Development Plan (formerly known as City Plan 3) is to be published Public Consultation between May 1 and 28 June this year. Until the document has been published we are unable to fully comment on the implications of it for the three Conservation Areas. However, we do have advanced notice of certain key changes that are likely to be implemented. GCC is taking an 'if it ain't broke' stance towards the new plan meaning policies from City Plan 2, that they consider to be successful, will be continued but only in the form of Supplementary Planning Guidance. This means that the City Plan 2 Heritage and Design Policies will no longer appear as policy in the new plan rather they will be produced in a Supplementary Planning Guidance document on Conservation Areas. This is not scheduled to be published before the Autumn. We will be following this carefully and will be keen to hear the City Development Plan team thoughts on this approach and whether or not it is a downgrade. We will also be monitoring other key issues emerging from the process such as whether or not that planners have accepted an application to have the site of the former Gas Works at Maxwell Road re-designated from Mixed Use / Residential to a large footprint supermarket. For obvious reasons this may have implications for the neighbourhood particularly with regards to traffic, as it is likely to generate more traffic and large delivery vehicles (which could be especially problematic given the issues over the Albert Drive Bridge); and with regards to the impact on small shops lining Albert Drive and Kildrostan Street / Nithsdale Road.

The Committee

I also want to take this opportunity to thank the other committee members for their support in particular Iain Dyer as deputy chair, Hilary Stanger our treasurer, Janet Brand our secretary, John Thomson both as minute secretary and for his work at Maxwell Park Station, Ann Laing for being our head gardener at the station and for all her, and Hilary's, hard work dealing with the Heritage Lottery Fund grant application, David Hart for his work on the website, Roger Millar for helping orchestrate the lecture series, Alison Taylor for her work as events co-ordinator and Helen Barnard our planning convener. I also want to thank everyone who has helped out at the various events be it lectures, Doors Open Day, walks, bus tours etc.

Evelyn Lennie

Finally I also want to thank Evelyn Lennie who is retiring from the committee this year having served on since 2000. Evelyn was instrumental in organizing the photographic competition with the local Primary Schools as part of the Heritage Trail Leaflets conditions of grant and took time attending each school and reviewing the results as part of the judging committee. Evelyn also helped out with delicious home baking for last month's walking tour of West Pollokshields. Evelyn has also helped out at many events and lectures and her counsel will be much missed. Please join me in thanking Evelyn for all her contributions over the last 14 years and we wish her the very best.

Niall Murphy 22nd April 2014