

Chairman's Report AGM 2015 presented at the Fotheringay Centre 21st April 2015

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

Pollokshields Heritage trails

As the Trail leaflets have been such a success we're now on to our second printing having received monies from the South Area Committee in March. We've therefore taken the opportunity to modify and reformat some of the text and include some new information as part of the second edition.

Lecture Series

Now into its 6th season the Lecture Series has continued through the winter and spring months of 2014 -2015 with lectures from:

- Richard McBrearty on *Scotland and the Birth of World Football* - Richard illustrated how Scotland has played a significant role in shaping the global game, with professional footballers and coaches who advanced the Scottish short passing game abroad and thousands of emigrants who travelled and settled across the world taking their love of football with them.
- Dr Gordon Barr on *Glasgow's Canals Unlocked* - Gordon, former Heritage Development Manager, Maryhill Burgh Halls, used maps, archive photographs and the latest technology to explore and bring to life the past, present, and future of the three main canals that once served the city of Glasgow.
- Stafford Waters on *Travels in the Glasgow Style* - Stafford is former drugs investigator, diplomat and European Commission expert on Organised Crime, Stafford the work of the famous Glasgow furnishing house Wylie and Lochhead during the seminal years of the Glasgow Style.

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. We have again offered one less talk this year with a well attended Walking tour of West Pollokshields instead of a talk in March.

Walking tours and Doors Open Day

As a result of last year's successful we again hosted a winter walk around the Avenues this year, this time on Sunday 22 March. We hired Sherbrooke St Gilberts as a venue and to cover our costs levied a fee of £5 for a two and a half 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 nearly 40 attendees and was well received.

We also provided walk around East Pollokshields, as well as hosting a stall as part of this year's Ready Steady Grow Event on the weekend of 14 -15 June 2014 and will do so again this year should Ready Steady Grow take place.

As part of the 2014 Doors Open Day event we hosted two walking tours of both East and West Pollokshields, a walking tour of Dumbreck, and, due to popular demand, Bus Tours of the whole Garden Suburb on both the Saturday and the Sunday. We also put on a lecture on the Evolution of

Pollokshields. All events were fully booked with the walks receiving a joint Excellence Award for Glasgow Doors Open 2014.

Further Capacity Building

Hilary Stanger has worked with local schools on the Scottish Civic Trust's My Place Photography Competition in 2014. Roger and Helen Miller worked on 'the Big Draw' at Maxwell Park Station which was part of the Open Museum's 'Round in Circles' event last year. We also made a presentation on Pollokshields at the Scottish Civic Trust's AGM in 2014.

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 and councillors. 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. Due to water ingress to the booking office this winter we are currently pursuing repairs to the lead flashings and are still trying to ascertain when the Station will be painted!

The platform planters continue to be nurtured by our Head Gardener, Ann Laing with assistance from Karin Currie and we continue to collaborate with the local Fotheringhay 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. I mentioned last year that we were looking to install a water butt for the building so as to assist Ann but in the event, even though we had prepared drawings for the proposal showing how it would be bolted to the side of the station building, Network Rail would not entertain it as they were concerned about vandalism.

City Development Plan

The draft City Development Plan was open to Public Consultation between May 1 and 28 June 2014 so we supplied comments on the former Gas Works at Maxwell Road which the owners want re-designated from Mixed Use / Residential to a large footprint supermarket. The draft City Development Plan is a very different beast to City Plan 2 being more aspirational in tone and slighter in content and as a result it is difficult to object to much of it.

However, the one area that we are seeking clarification on is what has happened to the East Pollokshields Planning Study that we argued for in the City Plan 2 Inquiry and formed part of the proposals for City Plan 2? Though it appeared in the Main Issues Report that preceded the published draft City Development Plan it has disappeared from the draft content of the plan document. This is disappointing as it means that key developments such as the new health centre and new Glendale / Gaelic School Campus are emerging in a local policy vacuum that the planning study was meant to fill. Therefore, this is something we are working with Pollokshields Community Council on. Both we and the PCC are keen to explore the idea of a community led charrette as a way of concluding the planning study and have secured support from Nicola Sturgeon MSP, Anas Sarwar MP and the three local councillors to this end with all parties attending a meeting with Glasgow City Council Development and Regeneration Services to stress this point. The officers from DRS have made clear that there is no money available to complete the study so it is unlikely to happen for the best part of a decade. However, DRS will support us in any Community led bid to secure funds for a study.

In addition we have still to see sight of the draft Heritage and Design Supplementary Planning Guidance that is to replace the Heritage and Design Policies in City Plan 2. This was meant to be published in Autumn 2014 but has still to appear so we will be keeping an eye out for this.

Craigie Hall and the Removal of the Mackintosh Organ

As you may have noticed from our website we've had something of a campaign over the future of Craigie Hall with a planning application in May last year for the removal of the Charles Rennie Mackintosh organ from the Craigie Hall Music Room and the conversion of the room into a kitchen. The pretext for this was the serious outbreak of dry rot in the house which needed to be tackled but not at the expense of the special interest of the 'A' listed house. It was pretty astonishing that the Council would even consider this in the same year that we lost one of Mackintosh's key interiors at the Glasgow School of Art. We did our utmost to argue our case but it went to the Planning Applications Committee who voted 7-6 in favour of the proposal. It was most frustrating not to be able to voice our concerns before the committee – something that happens elsewhere in Scotland but not in Glasgow and an anachronism that needs rectified. It is hoped that the organ will be relocated into the new Kelvinhall where it will be housed in a full recreation of Mackintosh's Craigie Hall Music Room that, at a time of austerity and cutbacks the public purse will have to fund. This was reported on in an article in the AHSS's Spring magazine 2015 which we hope to reproduce on the website.

Reform of Glasgow Urban Design Panel

Projects the panel has reviewed over the last year have gotten rather contentious with proposals such as the removal of the Concert Hall Steps as part of the extension to the Buchanan Galleries and the roof top extension to the Millennium Hotel which is meant to conceal the new car park to the Buchanan Galleries. However, the panel was also re-organised last year with the Glasgow amenity bodies having been very much sidelined in favour of national and professional bodies. In future, amenity bodies will only be invited to attend if there is a project in their patch of the city which limits their input. We have written to the council and pointed out that all those who live in Glasgow pass through the city centre so major projects there, such as the new Queens Street Station, affect everyone in Glasgow not just national and professional bodies. Though this has been acknowledged no action has been taken as yet. Instead there will be an annual review of the new working arrangements in September 2015. However, it is worth remembering that the Glasgow Urban Design Panel has its roots in the Glasgow Amenity Liaison Committee and the Glasgow Architecture Panel so has a forty year plus history of working effectively for all parties.

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 and for also working with local schools on the Scottish Civic Trust's My Place Photography Competition, 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 representative on the South Area Committee, David Hart for his work on the website, Roger Millar for helping with the trail revisions and to both Roger and Helen Miller for their working on 'the Big Draw' at Maxwell Park Station which was part of the Open Museum's 'Round in Circles' event last year, Elizabeth Jarvis for organising 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.

Niall Murphy 21st April 2015