



THE Craftsman

issue 40 WINTER/SPRING 2010

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KEEP IN TOUCH

Welcome to the 40th edition of the Craftsman – our Winter/Spring 2010 issue. Once again we would like to extend our many thanks to all contributors who have made this publication possible. We hope you enjoy your read.

Please take a note now to send us your news and photographs for the Summer/Autumn 2010 edition by our copy deadline, Monday 19 July 2010. We require high resolution digital photography that can be emailed to us as jpeg attachments, or post them to us on CD or a USB. Although jpeg photographs are preferred, if you do not have access to a computer, prints by post are also acceptable. We also prefer text by email please.

Please forward your material for consideration to:

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DIARY DATES 2010

Glasgow Ball - Glasgow Hilton, Saturday 8 May 2010

Beneficiaries Tea Party - Trades Hall, Wednesday 12 May 2010

School Craft Awards - Trades Hall, Monday 7 June 2010

Schools Citizenship Award - Trades Hall, Monday 7 June 2010

Craftex 2010 - Trades Hall, Thursday 10 to Sunday 13 June 2010

Craftex Awards 2010 - Trades Hall, Friday 11 June 2010, 7.30pm



DRESSED FOR THE OCCASION

September is always a busy time at the Trades Hall of Glasgow, home to the Trades House and its 14 Incorporated Crafts, as it throws open its doors to the public for the Glasgow's Built Heritage Festival, Doors Open Day.

The Glasgow Building Preservation Trust, a charity established in the early 1980s, has organised Doors Open Day for two decades to encourage interest in the city's brilliant architecture amongst citizens and visitors alike.

Situated in the Merchant City in the heart of Glasgow, the Trades Hall is one of the most important historic buildings in the city and a proud part of the city's heritage. Designed and built from 1791 to 1794 by Robert Adam and his brothers, it is one of only two buildings in Glasgow still used for its original purpose. The other is the mediaeval Glasgow Cathedral.

Dressed for the occasion at the Trades Hall and all set to meet Doors Open Day visitors are (pictured above) Norman Hamilton - Ex Deacon Hammermen, Aldis Hamilton, Ian Gray - Late Collector Skinners, Carole Nelson and two staff from Grooms Catering.



A MEMORABLE VENUE

If you would like to book a social or business event or find out more about the Trades Hall of Glasgow function rooms, please contact Elaine Gilchrist, Sales and Catering, the Trades Hall of Glasgow
Tel: 0141 552 2418 (Option 2), Email: info@tradeshallglasgow.co.uk.
You can find out much more about the Trades Hall at www.tradeshallglasgow.co.uk

TRADES HOUSE EVENTS

For all events and ticket details, contact Trades House Administration Centre, North Gallery Trades Hall, 85 Glassford Street, Glasgow G1 1UH
Tel: 0141-553 1605, Email: annette.wright@tradeshouse.org.uk, Website: www.tradeshouse.org.uk.

VIEW FROM THE PLATFORM

The Platform is the executive committee of the Trades House of Glasgow, chaired by the Deacon Convener and includes the Collector, the Late Collector and the Late Convener. They are advised by the Clerk to the House and his assistants when dealing with the day to day running of the organisation. Meeting on a monthly basis, the Platform is chaired by the Deacon Convener, who then reports back to the House at its quarterly meetings.



The Trades House of Glasgow elected retired stockbroker J Michael Low as its Deacon Convener, and retired chartered civil engineer, John R Steele (Jack), as Collector, in an historic annual ceremony that stretches back more than four centuries. Michael, who will hold office throughout this 404th year of the Trades House, also takes on the role of Third Citizen of Glasgow for one year.

A member of the Incorporation of Masons since 1975 I was invited to join the Master Court in 1992 and became Deacon in 1998. It is only when one reaches the highest position in their chosen Craft that one fully appreciates the many facets of the workings and role of the Trades House of Glasgow.

Following my year as Deacon I felt honoured to be invited to serve the House as a nominated director on the Glasgow Building Preservation Trust, thereafter on the Dean of Guild Court Trust, but two of the many honorary appointments within city institutions that mark the regard held for the House. Satisfied by these opportunities I happily moved into the background yet was delighted when my wife Anne was invited on to the Master Court of the Incorporation of Barbers and became Collector in 2008 with the prospect of being Deacon in 2010.



However, come July 2009 I received the unexpected telephone call from the then Deacon Convener David Dobson inviting me to become the next Collector of the Trades House of Glasgow. Anne and I pondered the situation overnight before my acceptance knowing that we would have successive years supporting each other in our respective offices. This we decided was a challenge we could cheerfully look forward to. The opportunity to serve the wider community through the highest office within the Trades House of Glasgow is indeed a great honour.

Having returned to the House life has not been dull - not that it was beforehand. As Collector and ultimately Deacon Convener one serves on all the committees and there is the inevitable round of Craft functions and other social occasions. Anne and I have already met so many interesting people and are most grateful for the bounteous hospitality that has been extended to us.

With the merger of the Trades Hall and the Trades House there is much to do to ensure success in these challenging times. And yet, I am confident this new era will see the House shine with the support of its individual Crafts. There is, however, a need to ensure that the wider community beyond our beneficiaries, in whatever capacity, are aware of the existence and role of the Trades House of Glasgow.

Hopefully the media will help us get the message across that we are a thriving organisation ready to serve and ready to receive new members to our individual Crafts. It is here that there is much fun to be had and I would encourage individual Collectors within the Crafts to make every effort in enlisting a new generation of craftsmen and craftswomen to support their chosen Craft and ultimately the work of the Trades House as a whole.

I am enjoying and look forward to my continuing role on the Platform of the House and thank you all for the honour that has been bestowed on me.

JOHN R STEELE, Collector



Last time I was invited to write a short piece for the Craftsman I was Late Collector and becoming more and more aware of my taking office and the rapidly approaching date of my elevation. That date was 14 October (now last year) and most certainly a day to remember as all who have had the privilege of being Deacon Convener will I am sure confirm. With the formal meetings having taken place in the morning, the entire emphasis of the day turns towards the Deacon Convener's Dinner, the most prestigious and formal

occasion in the calendar of the City of Glasgow. I was indeed fortunate to have a group of fine speakers which meant that I could to some degree relax and enjoy a great evening. The evening concluded for the principal guests and the Chain Gang by joining those attending the Lady Convener's Dinner, held in the Western Club. I believe that upholding the traditions of the House by having such splendid occasions further emphasises our support for what the House represents and the many charitable and educational activities in which we engage.

During the past weeks leading up to Christmas I and the Collector of the House, together with our Ladies on a number of occasions, have had the pleasure of attending a substantial number of Craft functions. These have ranged from Choosing Dinners to Master Court Dinners and dinner dances. All splendid occasions each one within the pattern of Trades House tradition and yet also reflecting the deep individuality of Craft and Deacon or Visitor. I am sure Collector of the House Jack Steele and I, together with Anne and Patricia, realise how fortunate we all are to have the pleasure of meeting so many great people in the Chain Gang of 2009/10.

Outwith the immediate precincts of the Trades Hall there have been responsibilities to undertake in connection with the City Chambers and the Deacon Convener's status as Third Citizen of Glasgow and therefore having the right to attend Council Meetings. There have been many events in the City Chambers since October, in the form of receptions, buffets and dinners, each different, to accommodate the diverse organisations which benefit from the patronage of the City. I have attended many of these social events along with Patricia. It is a great honour to represent the House and the City on these occasions and pleasing to have confirmation that the Trades House of Glasgow is held in high regard.

However, the Deacon Convener does not spend all his time socialising – there is work to be done! The merger between the Trades House Trust and the Trades Hall Trust while agreed, has yet to have the usual mountain of paper completed and signed off. The Trades Hall Trustees are at present looking at the possibility of altering the office accommodation to suit the combined staff. Meanwhile, the two shop units are attracting interest and could soon be let.

Preparations are underway for the annual Modern Apprentice of the Year Award (MAYA) together with the School Craft and School Citizenship Awards, and for Craftex. A very busy time for the Co-ordinators and their committees and they have our grateful thanks for all their hard work.

Looking ahead, we have the Glasgow Ball on Saturday 8 May, which will raise a substantial sum for CHAS our chosen charity for this year. Many craftsmen will be familiar with the Children's Hospice Association Scotland which does so much for children with life threatening disabilities. The Chain Gang are giving their whole-hearted support to this good cause, and the Ball. Please come and join us.

It is a great honour to have been appointed Deacon Convener. Patricia and I look forward to the remaining eight months in office with pleasant anticipation. We hope to meet many of you.

J MICHAEL LOW, Deacon Convener

HOUSE DINNERS HOSTED BY DEACON CONVENER & HIS LADY

The impressive setting of the Grand Hall was the venue for the first formal duty for newly installed Deacon Convener Michael Low, as he hosted the 404th Annual Dinner of the Trades House of Glasgow in October 2009.

Just a stone's throw away from the Trades Hall on the very same evening, Michael's wife Patricia hosted the Lady's Dinner in the Western Club. It was attended by Ex Conveners' Ladies and wives of the Deacon Convener's principal guests and Chain Gang.

Here is a round up of photographs from both events.



APPRENTICE INSPIRATION

Only three years after arriving in Scotland from Somalia unable to speak English, Fuad Warsame (pictured right) joined forces with the Trades House of Glasgow to help launch its Modern Apprentice of the Year Award 2010.

Since moving to Scotland in 2006, Fuad, now 20, has studied English for speakers of other languages (ESOL), mathematics and computing at Anniesland College and passed his National Certificate in Engineering. Now a modern apprentice mechanical engineering technician with the University of Strathclyde, Fuad won the Trades House Modern Apprentice of the Year Award 2009. He is more than half way through his apprenticeship with the Mechanical Engineering Department, where he will be employed on completion of the programme.

"We could not think of a better ambassador of the modern apprenticeship programme to help us launch our awards this year," said Michael Low, Deacon Convener of the Trades of Glasgow. "Fuad has proved inspirational, demonstrating a real determination to succeed, from his command of the English language to developing skills as a mechanical engineer. He was a very worthy winner of our 2009 title and we are delighted that he has been able to help us launch the 2010 initiative."

Fuad said: "It is absolutely fantastic. I never expected to win the Trades House of Glasgow title. The candidates were all excellent and I imagined each competitor would be the winner. For me to win the award is hugely prestigious and I appreciate it very much. It has changed my life. Once I won, the University of Strathclyde offered me a job.

"I believe mechanical engineering skills are needed, both nationally and internationally, and could allow us to tackle global warming by creating renewable and marine energies. It's a broad and beautiful subject that could enable us to tackle poverty, create crops and grow food.

"I really appreciate the opportunity I have been given here. It would be useful if I were able one day to do something that could change lives, whether that is here in Glasgow or back in Africa."

Judges are already busy sifting through entries to select the short list. Just like Fuad, the 2010 winner will be chosen from one of six finalists and presented with an inscribed quach - which will remain on display in the Trades Hall - an inscribed replica, a cash prize of £500 for further study and a certificate. Two runners up will be awarded £250 and a certificate, with the three remaining finalists receiving a certificate of commendation.

The Award is open to people working towards a Scottish Modern Apprenticeship or those certificated no earlier than 1 April 2009, who are employed by any business in the Glasgow post code area. It completes the skills cycle promoted by the Trades House today, which includes the annual schools craft competition and citizenship award for pupils across Glasgow, and the Craftex awards and exhibition aimed at students in the City's further education colleges.

The winner will be announced at an awards ceremony and celebration dinner in the Trades Hall on Wednesday 31 March 2010, with guest speaker Dr Peter Hughes OBE, Chief Executive of Scottish Engineering.



SPONSORSHIP SUPPORT

The Trades House of Glasgow Modern Apprentice of the Year Award 2010 is being sponsored this year by Arnold Clark, Europe's largest independently owned motor dealer and winner of AM's Retailer of the Year 2009, one of the most sought after motor industry awards. Founded over 55 years ago by Sir Arnold Clark, the business has expanded from a single car showroom in Glasgow to a UK wide organisation employing and training over 8,000 members of staff.

The award is also being supported by CD Media, Skills Development Scotland, Glasgow City Council and the Incorporation of Masons' Lady McDonald Fund.

The apprenticeship system was first established in the City to ensure high quality workmanship and customer service in medieval times by the 14 historic Craft Guilds, which united to form the Trades House of Glasgow in 1605. Now in its fourth year, the Trades House of Glasgow Modern Apprentice of the Year Award showcases the commitment and capability of candidates who have chosen this route to gain core skills and further their careers today.

Tickets for the awards ceremony are available from the Trades House of Glasgow Administration Centre - please see page two for details.

NEW LOOK FOR MAYA FILM

A new decade has brought with it a new look to the Modern Apprentice of the Year Awards - or at least to the film which is traditionally shown prior to the announcement of the winners. The film, which features the six finalists and outlines a brief history of the role of Trades House in Glasgow's commercial growth, has been filmed, produced and sponsored by CD Media.

The company, based in Glasgow, was formed less than a year ago and specialises in providing high quality videos for TV and the internet, along with media training. One of the founding directors, Andrew Cassell is the former Scotland correspondent for BBC TV, and a member of the Incorporation of Wrights.

Delighted to help sponsor MAYA 2010, Andrew said: "I began my journalistic career as an apprentice on a local newspaper in the West of Scotland, so I know how important apprenticeships are in developing new talent and skills for the future. The MAYA ceremony provides vital encouragement and recognition to the young men and women who will safeguard Glasgow's future prosperity."

Andrew, and his fellow director, lighting cameraman Alan Dickinson, who will be working with him on the MAYA project, continue to work on broadcasting projects for the BBC and ITN as part of their expanding business.



WHAT A DIFFERENCE A

Since it was established in 1605, the Trades House of Glasgow and its 14 Incorporated Trades, the Crafts, have helped shape Glasgow into the city it is today, but not solely by playing a pivotal and progressive role in training, or fostering trade and industry in the past. Benevolence has also been at its very foundation.

Now a registered charity widely viewed as a centre of excellence in the administration of trusts and legacies, the Trades House manages funds in excess of £14 million - considerable resources are also devoted to general benevolent work. Donations of more than £400,000 are awarded each year to deserving causes and individuals across the city of Glasgow.

Here the Craftsman provides a glimpse into just some of the great charitable work of the Trades House, its Crafts and associated organisations, and the many good causes that are benefiting from their benevolence.

Marie Curie's Big Build Appeal
CHAS Robin House
Calum's Cabin
Alzheimer Scotland
Weaver's Cottage
Drapers' Fund
Glasgow City Mission
Breast Cancer Care...
and many, many more

COOPERS' 100K BOOST TO BIG BUILD APPEAL



Deacon Alastair Campbell (left) hands over the big cheque to Graham Goodridge-Cox.

Marie Curie's Big Build Appeal has been given a massive £100,000 boost to its fundraising pot by the Incorporation of Coopers, one of the 14 Incorporated Trades that make up the Trades House of Glasgow.

The Coopers' substantial donation covers the cost of an entire patient suite within a new hospice building, which is on schedule for completion this spring near to the existing Marie Curie facility in Springburn, Glasgow. Each individual patient suite includes an en-suite shower room, piped oxygen, state of the art medical facilities and easier access to the outdoors. To mark the Incorporation's generosity, one of the suites will be called the Coopers' Room.

The Incorporation's annual Box Opening Dinner provided the setting for the cheque presentation to Graham Goodridge-Cox, a member of the Big Build Appeal's Fundraising Committee and a former Deacon of the Coopers.

Handing over the cheque to Graham, Deacon of the Coopers Alastair Campbell said: "We are delighted to be able to make this donation to the new Marie Curie hospice, and are very grateful for all of the support we have received since we began our fundraising drive for the Big Build. We are particularly grateful to the Worshipful Company of Coopers of London for their support. Marie Curie Cancer Care does such great work and we are very proud to support the charity."

The Coopers' launched its fundraising drive in 2007 with a £50,000 donation from its own funds and the remaining money donated by members, friends and family.

"This is a great boost to our fundraising challenge and we are very grateful to the Incorporation of Coopers for such a sizeable donation," said Karen Milne, Marie Curie's capital appeal fundraising manager. "In these last crucial months of fundraising for the Big Build Appeal, donations such as this make a huge difference to us reaching our £16.1 million target."

"The new hospice will ensure care provision for the people of Glasgow for the future. It is through the generosity of our loyal supporters, like the Coopers, that we are making the dream of a new hospice a reality."

Marie Curie Cancer Care has two hospices in Scotland - in Edinburgh and in Glasgow - offering specialist end of life care for people with cancer and other life-limiting illnesses and their families. The charity provides a combination of day services, in-patient care, care in the home, social, spiritual and family support, as well as bereavement support.

The current Marie Curie Hospice in Glasgow has served the needs of patients throughout the city and surrounding area for 32 years. As the building was showing its age, a new, modern hospice was required to ensure the continued provision of quality end of life and terminal cancer care for the future.

While the considerable donation from the Coopers brings the charity one mighty step closer to its fundraising target, Marie Curie's Big Build Appeal still needs support to help raise the remaining £2.2 million to reach target. Find out how to help by calling 0141 531 1383 or logging on to www.bigbuild.org.uk.

TAILORS' SUPPORT FOR CALUM'S CABIN



The Incorporation of Tailors has donated cash to Calum's Cabin on the Isle of Bute.

Calum Speirs was just 12 when he lost his brave fight for life a little more than a year after being diagnosed with a brain tumour. Brave Calum, a first year pupil at Rothesay Academy, died peacefully at home in February 2007.

In the 13 months since his diagnosis until his death, Calum proved an inspiration to all who knew and met him. He left not just his family but many others with a host of happy memories. Calum always laughed and smiled, and his priority was always to think of others.

Before his death, Calum and his family decided that they would like to help others by having a holiday cabin in his name. Calum's Cabin was created to allow families dealing with a child with cancer, or a cancer related illness, to have a wonderful holiday for a week on the Isle of Bute. Even ferry travel together with spending money is covered by Calum's Cabin.

A DONATION MAKES...

HAVING A BALL FOR CHAS



Robin House, which supports up to 200 children and their families each year, will benefit from the Ball. Photograph courtesy of Paul Hampton

The Children's Hospice Association Scotland (CHAS) has been chosen by the Deacon Convener and his Chain Gang, as the charity that will benefit from major fundraising events in the busy Trades House calendar this year.

With a target of more than £30,000, funds will be raised for the charity's Robin House hospice in Balloch through a wide variety of events, with the highlight being the ninth Glasgow Ball on Saturday 8 May 2010 at the Glasgow Hilton.

Guests at the prestigious annual event are certain to have a ball. A cocktail reception will welcome them on arrival and following dinner in the Grand Ballroom, they will be entertained by the Dave Wilson Jazz Quartet, the Stephen Duffy Big Band and John Carmichael Ceilidh Band.

"Robin House is a most special place," said Deacon Convener Michael Low. "Your generosity will allow the work of their specialist team to continue across a wide range of innovative projects. We hope to enjoy your support for the ninth annual Glasgow Ball that will help bring our fundraising project to fruition this year."

All funds raised on the night will go towards the cost of the Robin House bereavement support service, which includes Remembering Day, Dragonfly and Waterbug Groups that also offer face to face support for both parents and siblings within their own communities. In addition, it will contribute towards the charity's telephone support service and cover three weekends away for bereaved siblings.

As well as proceeds from ticket sales, the charity fund will be boosted by the ever-popular tombola and auction. Tickets, priced at £75 each, are available from the Trades House Administration Centre – please see page two for details – and donations are also being welcomed for both tombola and auction.

BLANKET FOR BURNS

Like many of the Incorporated Trades, the Weavers donate to a number of charitable and educational bodies. One recent recipient of a £2,500 donation towards a unique Burns project was Christine MacLeod, Property Manager and Handling Weaver at the Weaver's Cottage in Kilbarchan, a National Trust for Scotland property that is helping to keep the country's industrial heritage alive.

Christine has worked at Weaver's Cottage for 25 years, as a volunteer, handling weaver and latterly property manager, still providing demonstrations to the public. She was taught to weave in the Cottage by Jimmy Clark, the last of the famous Calton Weavers of Glasgow, and took over its running when he died in 1990.

Read more about Christine's project to make a special blanket for Burns' bed in Craft News...Weavers.

PORTFOLIO OF FUNDS

One of the key funds that make up the portfolio managed by the Trades House of Glasgow is the Drapers' Fund. The Craftsman takes a closer look.

The Drapers' Fund was created between 1918 and 1925 with three bequests from James Inglis. His intention was that income from the Fund should be directed not to a great number of large charitable institutions but, instead, distributed as the fund manager thought best for the benefit of poor and distressed children. Originally small amounts were given to those who adopted young people into their family.

Despite the changes in the social structure of Glasgow over the years and the advent of the NHS, the Drapers' Fund is as relevant today as it ever was, supporting children up to 18, as well as parents and grandparents who are in poor living accommodation and impoverished.

To the year ended May 2009, the Drapers' Fund disbursed more than £71,000 and helped more than 200 children. Some of the cases were quite harrowing and it was important to keep a balanced view between the needs of the children and the responsible disbursement of the money. Over the last year alone, deserving applications amounted to twice the available funds.

Out of all the appeals received, 95% are from Glasgow City Council Social Work Services with requests ranging from £200 to £1500. Money goes towards bedding, children's clothing, furniture, flooring, decorating materials, white goods and respite holidays in the UK. Other requests for larger amounts came from nurseries, playgroups, youth organisations and disadvantaged parental groups.

FIND OUT MORE

In the present economic climate, demands for support from the Drapers' Fund and others like the Commonweal Fund are unlikely to diminish. To find out more about both funds, how to contribute or make an application, please contact the Trades House of Glasgow Administration Centre – see page 2 for details.

LADIES' FASHION SHOW DOUBLE



The Association of Trades House Ladies committee came together to present not one but two cheques for £1,100 to charity at its annual dinner. Funds were raised at the group's popular Fashion Show Lunch.

A cheque was presented on the night by President Mhairi MacLennan (centre) to the Marie Curie Big Build Appeal. Jan Dobson (centre right) also accepted a cheque on behalf of her husband, Deacon Convener David Dobson, for last year's chosen charity, Alzheimer Scotland.

Read more about the Crafts and their benevolent work in Craft News – pages 8 to 11.

CRAFT NEWS...

You can also find out more about the history and work of each Craft online at www.tradeshouse.org.uk and also download past issues of the Craftsman.

HAMMERMEN...



Deacon Convener Michael Low and Late Collector James Miller are joined by their wives Gillian Miller (left) and Patricia Low, as the Hammermen Service Group enjoy an outing to Dunkeld.

The Hammermen Service Group enjoy a quick flick through the programme before curtains-up on Aladdin starring Gerard Kelly and Karen Dunbar at the Kings Theatre. Pre-theatre dinner was also enjoyed by the party of 120 at the Marriott Hotel – an evening that was enjoyed by all and attracted a great turnout despite the severe winter weather at the time.



The next event for the group will be the summer outing on Saturday 21 August 2010 to Crieff Hydro.

BONNETMAKERS & DYERS...

Beaming Bonnetmakers

Deacon Roy Greer and his team were all sporting broad smiles when they managed to create a record attendance at their Annual Dinner. Their guests enjoyed a fun filled evening with two witty but contrasting speeches from Paisley vet Neil McIntosh and Ayrshire accountant John Kerr, which was rounded off by a hilarious performance of slapstick comedy from Deacon Greer and visiting Deacon Alastair Campbell of the Coopers. The Dinner was featured in the Scene Around section of Scottish Field in January 2010 and Neil's speech was commented on in the Herald Diary.



Deacon Roy Greer and Collector Karen McKenna-Shand.



Deacon Alastair Campbell, wearing his Noddy Holder hat, which had just been presented to him by Deacon Roy Greer.

The Bonnetmakers and Dyers' traditional St Mungo Goose & Turkey Club Dinner in December raised sufficient funds to purchase 50 hampers for distribution by members of the Master Court to deserving pensioners and other nominees.

WEAVERS...

Story continued from Blanket for Burns, centre spread...

Christine MacLeod, well known in the craft of weaving, was invited to make a bed blanket for the bedroom in which Robert Burns was born, along with other interior furnishings such as rag rugs and linen curtains for Burns Cottage, which was being refurbished. The £2,500 donation from the Weavers, helped make that possible.

Using a loom that would have been very familiar to Burns, Christine designed a tartan for the blanket, which is now registered and known as The Burns Birthplace Tartan. She also brought together more than 100 people to contribute to the weaving.



"Rather than weave alone, I wanted to take the opportunity to get as many people involved as possible in what is a very special piece," said Christine. "Along with our Weaver's Cottage Support Group volunteers, we had all ages from nursery children through to our oldest visitor aged 94, helping to wind the pirn, which I used to weave into the blanket. We also had Janet Elsie-May Coom, the great, great, great granddaughter of Burns.

"The Incorporation of Weavers was well represented by Ex Deacon Archie Holmes, Charlie Newlands, Hamish Brodie and their partners, including Aileen Brodie who will become Deacon later this year. The first shuttle was thrown by Nat Edwards, Director of the new Robert Burns Birthplace Museum, and the very last one by my 17-year-old son Ruairidh, symbolising the craft moving on to the future. The piece was cut off by Mike Russell MSP, the Minister for Culture and Gaelic at that time."

When the blanket was completed and handed over, Christine was invited to Burns Cottage to literally make the bed, and attend its official reopening with First Minister Alex Salmond in November.

"This was a huge honour for me and a proud moment for all our contributors," said Christine. "Burns was very familiar with every aspect of the weaving process, which he wrote about in his poetry and song. It was a wonderful way for us to contribute during Scotland's Year of Homecoming.

"The Weavers have been a tremendous support on many projects at Weaver's Cottage; none more special or emotional than the Burns' blanket. Such support not only enables our work to continue. It also helps ensure we are able to provide a very high quality experience for our visitors, which is about history and remembering weavers of the past. You can't put a price on that. I'd like to truly thank them for all their support in this project, along with Gardiners of Selkirk Ltd for donating the woollen yarn."

With original working looms and spinning wheels, the traditional weaver's craft comes vividly to life in Weaver's Cottage. Built in 1723, it houses the last of 800 handlooms that were once put to work in the village of Kilbarchan. Visit Christine and her team at Weaver's Cottage between 1 April to 30 September, Fridays through to Tuesdays, from 1pm to 5pm.

CORDINERS...

Glasgow City Mission

The Incorporation of Cordiners supports the Glasgow City Mission, an organisation that works with vulnerable and disadvantaged adults and children. They cover a wide range of issues including poverty, addiction, family breakdown, prostitution, emotional concerns and the homeless.

Just two of their ventures are the Child and Family Centre Project, working with children and their families in Govan, and the City Centre Project, which works with vulnerable and homeless adults.

GARDENERS...

A Special Year of Conjunctions

For only the fifth time since the Trades House was founded in 1605, Deacon Convener Michael Low is a former Deacon of the Gardeners. Also, for the first time since the Trades House Lodge was founded in 1920, the Worshipful Master and the Deacon Convener are both Gardeners. Fittingly, the Gardeners' Choosing Dinner was the first of the new Deacon Convener's year.

Five cheerful Gardeners pictured (right) after the Trades House Lodge dinner are, from left, Ex-Deacon Douglas Anderson, Deacon Roger Kinns, Worshipful Master Rory Kennedy, Deacon Convener Michael Low and John Park, Ex-Deacon and former Lord Dean of Guild.



Principal guests at the Deacon's Choosing dinner are, from left (above), Collector of the House Jack Steele, Mike Thornley, who proposed the toast to the Incorporation and the Deacon, Richard Maudslay, who proposed the toast to the Trades House and the City of Glasgow, Deacon Roger Kinns, Louise Robinson, Master of the Worshipful Company of Gardeners of London who replied to the Deacon's toast to the Company, and Deacon Convener Michael Low. There was a gentle theme linking gardening, engineering and architecture in a sequence of entertaining speeches. Mike Thornley was architect for the hugely successful restoration of the Victorian fernery at Benmore Botanic Garden, which will be a highlight of the Gardeners' visit there in May 2010. The Gardeners donated £2,000 to the project.

Links with the Past - Historic gardens in Glasgow continue to feature in the Gardeners' plans for the coming year. A Franciscan Friary near High Street was founded in 1476 and included a garden, but the buildings were destroyed in 1559. The Friary played an important role in medieval Glasgow, but there is no present recognition of the site or its association with the Gardeners as one time owners. As with the Provand's Lordship garden, the Gardeners hope to work with other authorities during site development. The long term aim is to provide signage and garden features that will better inform visitors about Glasgow's past.

Rose Trials - Following tradition, Late Deacon Gordon Miller was one of the judges in Glasgow's International Rose Trials in 2009. Sound judgement saw him give his highest marks to the second placed rose, out of hundreds of entries. The present Deacon awaits the 2010 event with trepidation.

Let Glasgow Flourish - The Let Glasgow Flourish awards enter their second quarter century with Master Brian Atkinson as the new LGF Convener. The main judging was in August and the winners will be announced in April 2010.



The Box Opening

The Box Opening Dinner is always a relaxed occasion, which follows a brief ceremony when new members of the Craft take the oath and receive their certificates. The new Craftsmen are pictured flanked by Late Deacon Gordon Miller and Late Collector Tony MacIver.

BAKERS...



The home of Robert Holmes Henderson was thrown open once again for his annual Christmas Conversazione for members of the Bakers and the Trade House Lodge

SKINNERS...



Artist and Ex Deacon Scott Grier donated one of his paintings as a raffle prize at the Skinners Dinner. The raffle raised £895 and the painting was won by Lewis Johnman, Collector of the Tailors. A cheque was presented to Gillian Hamilton of Breast Cancer Care by Deacon of the Skinners Malcolm Day who had chosen this charity at the request of his partner Joan Stewart. Pictured (above from left) are Joan, Malcolm, Gillian and Scott.

Deacon Malcolm Day (left) attended a prize giving ceremony at the Glasgow Metropolitan College to present the Skinners prize for bookbinding to Neale Ogilvie (centre). Looking on is Neale's tutor Jim Vallance. During the ceremony, Malcolm was presented with one of the two prize winning books to pass on to his grandson Ruaridh, who was born on the day of the Skinners choosing dinner attended by Neale and his tutor Jim.



MALTMEN...



The Incorporation of Maltmen has rewarded Steps Bar and Oran Mor in Glasgow for the quality of their beer. While traditionally responsible for the quality of beer served across the city, today the role of the Maltmen is largely ambassadorial and charity-based. The awards retain that significant link with the past and are presented each year to Glasgow bars that excel in beer service. Pictured from left, the Incorporation's Clerk, Wilson Aitken, joined Maltmen Visitor Richard Barbour, to present the award and raise a toast to delighted winners George Henderson of Steps Bar and Colin Beattie, owner of Oran Mor, along with Jim Hughes and David Ellis of Tennent's lager.

Photograph by Craig Young courtesy of Scottish Licensed Trades News

TAILORS...

A Rose between Two Thorns

Visitor of the Maltmen James Hughes and Deacon of the Bonnetmakers and Dyers Roy Greer pictured with Paula Steven of the Trades House Administration Centre at the Tailors' Choosing Dinner.



Katy Waterson and Rory Anderson of North Glasgow College (pictured left) were two of this year's Tailors' prize winners.

Historic Dinner

The Tailors' Choosing Dinner had a 100% turnout of the 2009-10 Chain Gang, making it the best attended Tailors' Dinner for many years. Speakers on the evening were Councillor Steven Purcell,

Leader of Glasgow City Council, and Scotland Women's International Rugby star Rhona Shepherd. Musical entertainment was courtesy of folk band Fairlie Folk and pianist Terry Martin. It was also an historic evening. This year the Tailors are admitting Lady Members for the first time in their 500 year history and the Incorporation's first ladies were presented with their certificates during the dinner.



Numbers attending the dinners remain very high due to the introduction of the Tailors' Club, which allows members to subscribe towards the Choosing Dinner whilst also being entered in a substantial prize draw. Details are available from the Clerk, Iain Paterson, in the Trades House Administration Centre – see page two for contact details.

Restoring the Box

Carrying on what is becoming a bit of a tradition for the Wrights started by Ex Deacon Jonathan Parkins, the Incorporation has stepped in again to help out a fellow Craft with the restoration of woodwork. This time they came to the rescue of the Tailors' Box, which was in need of some tender restoration. It once belonged to the People's Palace, where central heating had cracked the veneer covering the oak top.

Overseeing the project, Jonathan took the box to the Glasgow Metropolitan College, who run a special course on renovating antiques. A team worked on the box, taking it to bits before carefully restoring it to its former glory. Their professional work was rewarded by winning the team prize at Craftex 2009, after which the Wrights presented the finished box to the Tailors.

Tom Forrest, Deacon of the Tailors is presented with the restored box by Paul McDevitt, Deacon of the Wrights.



FLESHERS...



Poppyscotland Benefits from Dinner

The Incorporation of Fleshers' Annual Dinner and Dance in the Trades Hall saw the Toast to the Fleshers proposed by Jeffery Davies, Master of the Worshipful Company of Butchers of London. The principal speaker was Brigadier David Allfrey MBE, Commander 51 (Scottish) Brigade who gave an amusing account of military life including how not to extinguish a fire on a tank! Guests included Graeme A Kidd, Lord Dean of Guild and Brigadier J G d'Inverno TD WS.

"At a time of great sacrifice by the Armed Forces, the charity selected for our support was Poppyscotland," said Deacon of the Fleshers Col Allan Lapsley, pictured above left with Collector Stuart Dalziel. "The organisation is the overarching Service charity able to award funds to veterans' organisations, families or other charities such as Erskine or Combat Stress. The evening raised nearly £1700 for Poppyscotland."

Visiting from the Incorporation of Weavers were Deacon Richard Whewell, who demonstrated his mastery of the internet during his address, and Collector John Hamilton. Music was provided by the John Carmichael Ceilidh Band, the redoubtable Terry Martin on the piano, and four military pipers from the Glasgow and Strathclyde Universities' Officer Training Corps, of which Deacon Allan Lapsley is Honorary Colonel. A great evening was had by all including a final impromptu eightsome reel organised by the Rev Stephen Blakey and the pipers.

WRIGHTS...

A Wright Historic Affair

The incorporation of Wrights continues to make history by having ladies propose the toasts for the very first time at the Deacon's Choosing Dinner in the Trades Hall. Isobel Lind proposed the toast to the Trades House of Glasgow. It was a particularly special occasion for Isobel whose father had been a joiner for all of his working life. Attending the last formal Craft dinner of his year in office, the reply was from former Deacon Convener David Dobson.

The toast to the City Of Glasgow was proposed by Bailie Liz Cameron, a great ambassador for the City. The reply was from Jack Glenney, a much loved, well respected and internationally-renowned speaker of international fame.

"I am particularly grateful to all the speakers for providing such splendid speeches of the highest calibre that enthralled and entertained the assembled guests," said Deacon of the Wrights Alex Graham. "We particularly enjoyed the banter during the visitations from the Cordiners and with our good friends and rivals the Masons.

"From the letters and comments received, it is pleasing to report that this historic and very entertaining evening was enjoyed by all. The quality of the food and support from the Trades Hall staff was very much appreciated."

The Wrights' Director of Education Alistair Doig assisted the Deacon in presenting the prizes to this year's award winners. The Wrights Schools Prize went to Jardine Berry of Clevedon Secondary and the runner-up was Jack Scott of St Margaret Mary's Secondary. Jonathan Common of Glasgow Metropolitan College won the College Prize.

BARBERS...



Through contacts of Ex Deacon of the Weavers Maria McKellar, the Incorporation of Barbers was put in touch with two talented graduates of the Glasgow School of Art, Wendy Murray and Sharon Pringle, to design the Barbers' scarf. Sharon Pringle recently received a prize at the Weavers' Choosing Dinner. Deacon of the Barbers Patries MacIntyre-Hoorn (left) is pictured wearing the scarf with Sharon and Wendy, who have started their own business, pringlemurray, designing silk scarves. The Barbers' scarf can be bought at several locations in Glasgow. For more information visit www.pringlemurray.com.



Box Opening

This year's Barbers' Box Opening Dinner was held at the prestigious Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons.



Well, it is certainly a first – a Deacon of an Incorporation giving birth. Baby Alexandra, who was born on 24 October to Deacon Patries, was invited to the City Chambers to meet the Lord Provost - and Santa - and warmly welcomed by Deacon Convener Michael Low and his wife Patricia.

A present for baby Alexandra from Visitor of the Maltmen James Hughes was a huge Christmas teddy bear in full Barbers' colours, which proved a great gift. Alexandra is also merrily modelling the 'ho ho ho' Barbers' Christmas outfit presented by Ex Deacon of the Barbers Annemieke Cunningham at the Box Opening.



A Cocktail Party in the Trades Hall Saloon marked the successful number of new members who joined the Barbers during 2009.

PRIZE WINNERS

The Incorporation of Barbers takes great pride in encouraging young students in the medical and hairdressing sector, by awarding a range of prestigious prizes. The recent line up includes:



Top student in the MSc Nursing degree at Caledonian University was awarded to Jennifer Rodgers (second right), who has recently been promoted to Senior Charge Nurse in the Paediatric Unit at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley.



Fourth year medical student at the University of Glasgow, Matthew Wilson won the prize for presenting the best clinical paper as a member of the Medico-Chirurgical Society to present the best clinical paper. Matthew is pictured (back row, 3rd from right) with the judging panel, contestants and the Medico-Chirurgical Committee.

MASONS...

Deacon's Review

Fresh from a very busy 2009, the Incorporation of Masons is looking forward to a fruitful and enjoyable 2010. Our Craft's Choosing Dinner was a great success and among the excellent speakers was George Gillon, a member of the Craft and one of the two City of London Sheriffs.

George gave us a very informative and light hearted overview of his role of Sheriff and was particularly well received by all in attendance. Collector Dr John McInnes and myself were privileged to be the Visitors at the Tailors' Choosing Dinner, another wonderful occasion although the 'singing' by the two Johns that evening reflected the date - Friday 13th!

We were also the unofficial Visitors at the Wrights' Choosing Dinner, where the usual pleasantries were exchanged at what was an excellent evening. December saw my retiral from my position as Regional Development Manager with the William Hill Organisation but not before securing its commitment to take a table for ten for the Glasgow Ball and an advertisement in the programme. Queen Caroline has voiced her reservations about having Deacon John under her feet and is actively encouraging me to come out of retirement after only a few weeks!

Collector Dr John has put together a very attractive social calendar for the Masons during 2010, which will underpin all of our activities over the next few months.

Our warm congratulations go to Late Convener David Dobson and of course to Jan for the excellent manner in which he undertook the duties of Deacon Convener. David has been a great credit to himself and to the Incorporation of Masons and we plan to hold a special dinner in honour of David and his wife Jan.

Finally we extend our warm congratulations again, this time to Collector of the House Jack Steele and his wife Anne. The Incorporation of Masons is delighted to have yet another Ex Deacon reach this senior position in the House and we look forward to working with Jack and Deacon Convener Michael in the year that lies ahead.

Best wishes to all for a prosperous 2010!

Deacon John Miller

SPORTS DESK...

TIGHT LINES



The 77th Trades House Angling Competition was held at the Lake of Menteith last September with 20 craftsmen representing nine crafts - the Hammermen, Skinners, Maltmen, Tailors, Wrights, Masons, Barbers, Bakers and Cordiners. The day started with almost a flat calm but improved greatly as the day went on. We did not match the 2008 catch of 29 fish weighing 71lbs 12ozs. This year's anglers caught 24 fish weighing 50lbs 3½ozs. After the competition, high tea was enjoyed at the Rob Roy Hotel in Aberfoyle, where Ex Deacon Convener Roy Scott presented the trophies.

The Dallas Trophy for best individual basket was won by a considerable margin for the third year by Alberto Laidlaw (Maltmen) with five fish weighing 11lbs 1½ozs. Second was Chris Drapper (Skinners) with three fish weighing 7lbs 4ozs.

The Train Trophy was won by Adrian Coats (Hammermen) with 2lbs 14ozs. Second was Alberto Laidlaw with 2lbs 11ozs. The Team Trophy - Jackson Miller Cup - was won by the Maltmen, Alberto Laidlaw and John Wintersgill, with six fish weighing 12lbs 14ozs. Second place was the Hammermen (Adrian Coats and Bryan Hutchison) with five fish weighing 10lbs 2ozs, closely contested by the Skinners (Chris Drapper and Philip Burton) with four fish weighing 9lbs ½ozs.

The Michael Beale Trophy, for the heaviest basket for a Craftsman over 60 years of age, was won by Ian Campbell of the Masons, thus retaining the trophy for the Masons for the second year in succession. As your new convener, I would like to thank everyone who took part and look forward to seeing all of you again at this year's competition. For the Crafts who did not make it, we would warmly welcome a team or individual anglers this year.

John Maginnis, Angling Convener, Tel: 01236 824939

CURLERS COME IN FROM THE COLD

Following 12 years without a win, and only their 2nd final since 2003, the Tailors' Curling Team have recovered the trophy in the Trades House Curling Competition, previously held by the Incorporation in 1997. The full squad consisted of Ronnie Peat (Skip), Frazer Harrison (Second), Mike Burton (Third) and Charles Scott (Lead), with subs Robin Copland, David Robertson and, adding grace and glamour to a previously all-male Incorporation, one of the Tailors' newest members, Helen Burton. For details of the Trades House Curling Competition, contact Convener Michael Burton on 0141 621 4233.



From left: David Robertson, Mike Burton, Helen Burton and Charles Scott.

LADIES' GOLF

The 2010 Ladies' Golf Competition will be played over Douglas Park Golf Club in Bearsden on Monday 17 May. This is a very relaxed day out for any lady golfers connected with the Trades House - Deacons' Ladies, members' wives or partners, and family members including mothers, sisters, sisters-in-law or grannies! The day involves a round of friendly golf under Stableford rules in teams of three. This is followed by lunch and the prizegiving, with the main trophy of the day, a beautiful silver salver.

Should anyone wish to join in the fun, please contact Charlotte Horspool on 01355 224 007 or by email at: georgehorspool@blueyonder.co.uk, or telephone Sheena Watson on 0141 772 5970.

MARINERS & SKIPPERS SOCIETY

The Trades House Mariners and Skippers Society is planning a series of events for the 2010 Sailing Season, as well as a Fitting Out Dinner on the SV Glenlee on Tuesday 20 April. Although details were not available at time of going to press, these will be circulated via the Incorporation Clerks before the end of February. To be included on the email distribution list for the Mariners and Skippers Society, please email david.scott@gtg.co.uk.



Aileen Brodie hands over the chain of office to the new President Mhairi MacIannan, at the Association of Trades House Ladies' annual dinner. The Association was formed in June 2000 to bring together the ladies connected or associated with the Trades House of Glasgow and its 14 Incorporated Trades. Find out more about their work at www.tradeshouse.org.uk.



The Trades House Lodge organised a trip to Grand Lodge Edinburgh, followed by lunch in the Royal Scots Club.



A great day was had by all when the 2003/4 Chain Gang attended a lunch at Ross Priory arranged by Ex Deacon of the Bonnetmakers Peter Rea.

THE TRADES HOUSE OF GLASGOW

Since it was established in 1605, the Trades House of Glasgow has played an important role in fostering trade and industry in the city, along with its 14 Incorporated Crafts. While continuing to promote traditional craft skills through a

wide variety of initiatives, the House is now widely viewed as a centre of excellence in the administration of trusts and legacies, managing funds in excess of £14 million. Considerable resources are also devoted to general benevolent work, with grants of around £400,000 awarded each year to deserving causes and individuals. Read more about the work of the Trades House and Incorporated Crafts in this edition of the Craftsman or find out more online at www.tradeshouse.org.uk.