Assisting the City and people of Glasgow

SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN

THE TRADES HOUSE OF GLASGOW
THE PLATFORM

THE DEACON CONVENER’S YEAR

It is one of those kinds of experience that you have to be immersed in to know what it is like! Serving as Deacon Convener leads to contact with individual people and many organisations working within the City or visiting it but all of whom are united in one verdict - “Glasgow is great”.

So it is a privilege to be invited to be associated with the huge success that the City of Glasgow is today. But the City is never content to rest on past success. The City Council and Chamber of Commerce, for example are always looking ahead for the best that can be achieved in the future as well. Trades House must be a part of that aim.

The Deacon Convener does not work alone. First and foremost the support of my wife Alison makes everything possible and this is not so much about a visible role – much more about quiet reassurance that goes on behind the scenes. Then I have been fortunate in having an enthusiastic Platform committee to assist me in my role this year and even more fortunate in having an enthusiastic Platform committee to assist me in my role this year and even more fortunate in having an enthusiastic Platform committee.

The House has taken significant steps this year towards becoming a leaner, fitter, more regulation compliant and efficient organisation. Again this is the result of work behind the scenes and Collector Keith Brown and the new Byelaws committee have been energetic in putting time and diligence (due and otherwise!) to enable the House to gear up for the future.

PROGRESSIVE TRADES HOUSE

Since it was established in 1605, the Trades House of Glasgow, along with its 14 Incorporated Trades and associated organisations, has made its mark on Scotland’s largest city. Together, the organisations have played a pivotal and progressive role in fostering trade and industry in Glasgow, through a wide variety of innovative initiatives.

The Trades House is busy promoting traditional crafts alongside modern technologies and other skills. It does this through its annual Craftex awards and exhibition for college students, the Glasgow Modern Apprentice Award, open to employees in and around the city, the School Craft Competition for secondary schools and Citizenship Award, open to all pre-5, primary, secondary and special needs pupils in the city.

The House has journeyed through some sad times as it is important to ensure that members of the “family” and that has made it a year full of memories but one not yet concluded. I think that we are “doing alright” and that with a little more commitment from Trustees, Master Courts, Incorporations and Members, we can really put the House and the Hall centre stage and part of a Glasgow that is flourishing.

Bishop Idris Jones, Deacon Convener

Keith Brown OBE

Congratulations to Collector Keith Brown who was appointed an OBE by the Queen in the Birthday 2015 Honours List for “Services to charity fundraising and the community in Essex”. Essex is the home of the Collector and where much of the fundraising was done. Keith and his wife Rita will now be focussing their efforts on Glasgow.

August 2015 edition of the Craftsman.

We hope you enjoy finding out more about the immense charitable and educational work of the Trades House of Glasgow, its 14 Incorporated Crafts and associated organisations. Thanks to all contributors who have helped fill its pages. Nicola Bunyan, Senior Administration Assistant at the Trades House, is working on a new design for our next edition, due out in November 2015, which will be the 50th issue since its launch as a four-page black and white newsletter in autumn 1991.
IMPROVING FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The traditional role of Collector is the responsibility for the finances of the House. Today the House and Hall is a significant small business and, while the Collector has overall responsibility for the finances, it is the Chief Executive, John Gilchrist, who has to deliver the budget and generate the commercial income from the Hall.

The last two years have been challenging times but there are now clear signs that the annual losses on the Hall are coming to an end and the outlook is for positive results. There are several reasons for this. Firstly, there has been a conscious effort to generate new business for the Hall especially weddings and this produces hall hire and catering income. Secondly, there has been an administrative restructuring and not only has this saved costs but a reassignment of duties has meant improved productivity. Thirdly, repair costs have fallen and can be managed to spread the costs, but with a historic building there is always the risk of unexpected expenditure. Fourthly, more projects are being managed in-house because we have strong skill sets in the team. This is just the main initiatives that have taken place under John’s management. Many other tasks are being reviewed and improved.

The Hall is a great asset but also an expensive one to maintain at a high standard, as well as make improvements. The Hall Committee is now reviewing all major items of expenditure that are likely over the next several years. The most important of these are rewiring and improving the lighting in the Grand Hall and Saloon and the installation of a new heating system. The stained glass in the stairway and Saloon has been renovated with the financial support of the Weavers. A plan to clean all the pictures is being investigated and improved. The Hall Committee is now reviewing and improved.

The stained glass in the stairway and Saloon has been a conscious effort to generate new business required. As an historic building, we hope to obtain some grants but some of the cost will fall on the Hall. Once we have a full inventory of costs, we will need to launch an appeal and a Heritage Fund has already been established as a ring-fenced fund within the accounts, to be used specifically for the Hall and its artifacts.

Our investment portfolio reached £20 million in the first half of the year but this has now fallen back due to the uncertainties in the market. It is now generating an annual income of some £840,000, which after expenses goes largely to our charities and beneficiaries. In the coming months, we will be looking more closely at the costs associated with our charitable giving.

I am therefore pleased to report an improving financial position with a strong and effective management team led by John Gilchrist. The next task is to develop a clear strategy to take the House forward and this will involve the participation of new committees, which we will be setting up. In the meanwhile, the procedures within the House will continue to be improved, we will be reviewing our professional advisors and establishing a strong internal audit function.

Keith Brown OBE, Collector

Dr Alistair Dorward, Collector Nominate

Dr Alistair Dorward has been elected to Collector Nominate of the Trades House of Glasgow. He has been a consultant physician with an interest in respiratory diseases at the Royal Alexandra Hospital from 1985 until his retirement from full-time NHS practice this September. During this time, he has held a wide variety of roles in the Scottish health service, including many years as clinical director of medicine and training programme director for NHS Education Scotland.

Alistair was specialty advisor for medicine for the Scottish Health Executive and has been part of a number of working parties on acute medicine, critical care, management of obesity and waiting times. He is an ex president of the Royal Medico-Chirurgical Society of Glasgow and ex president of the Scottish Society of Physicians.

He has recently been a council member for the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh and also for the Royal College of Physicians of Glasgow in the 1990’s.

Alistair’s association with the Trades House spans 25 years, initially serving as Deacon to the Cordiners in 1996, then Deacon of the Barbers in Glasgow in 2013. He was honoured to be appointed as manager of the Drapers’ Fund for 2014-15. He is also a director of the Glasgow Care Foundation and currently chair of their care committee. In these roles, he has been particularly focused in charitable giving, in particular supporting kinship carers.

Alistair is supported by his wife Sarah, a craftsman of the Barbers and, together, the couple have a keen interest in golf, cycling and bridge.

He is now looking forward to his role as Collector and commits himself to the continuing improvement in the House terms of membership, promotion of the trades and in particular, the opportunities for enhanced kinship giving throughout the next few years.
A virtual Trades House Museum, accessible to all on the internet, is being created to provide an abbreviated history of the individual Crafts and the names of Deacons and Visitors dating from 1536 - the Skinners first year - with photographs from 1815 – the first from the Bonnetmakers & Dyers. Also added are the names of Clerks to the Crafts and, where known, names of craft members, as are images and short descriptions of the many artefacts that are held by each Craft.

While there is already an excellent museum on the top floor of the Trades Hall, access is limited due to other activities ongoing in the building, so this new initiative will allow access 24/7.

The next phase of development for the virtual version will include sections on the history of the House and Hall, including images and a guided tour of the building. A link to the virtual museum will be available from the Trades House website or from tradeshousemuseum.org.

Anyone with additional historical information or wishing copies of material on the website should contact Craig Bryce, Deacon of the Incorporation of Masons on craig.bryce@hotmail.com.

Elsewhere the opportunity to display artefacts and information in the city's museums has been identified. The Incorporation of Tailors has already produced a very successful display at Kelvingrove Art Gallery.


NEW ERA IN HOUSE GOVERNANCE

The governance of the Trades House is steeped in history, having survived many incarnations over the centuries. Here Collector Keith Brown tells the Craftsman about the forthcoming restructuring to ensure the House meets its legal, charitable and educational objectives.

The 1920 Act reflects our legal status with 64 Trustees headed by a Deacon Convener but, over the years, this has been supplemented by a number of documents to ensure that we comply with charity law. In 2008, a Declaration was agreed by the House and filed with OSCR who confirmed our charitable status. In 2010 and 2013 two deeds of appointment merged five charities and 73 funds, which were replaced with designated funds. In June 2011, the Trades Hall, which was a separate charity, was merged with the House.

The 2008 Declaration was accompanied by a set of bylaws but these have been overtaken by new guidelines in charitable governance. Last September, the House agreed to set up a committee to review the Standing Orders and Rules and Bylaws. This followed the decision by the House not to seek a change in its status under the 1920 Act. These new rules were confirmed by the House at a special meeting in June.

The comprehensive review will mean a complete restructuring of our committees to make them relevant to our charitable and educational objectives. At the same time, it will mean improving the management of our assets and ensuring that we have in place the processes to meet the various legal requirements of a major charity and business.

There will be five major committees - Charities, Education, Hall, Finance and Audit. Investment will be a sub committee of Finance. There will be three support groups - Governance, Advisory and Fundraising. The Platform will be increased to eight by early election of Collector nominates and Ex Convener continuing as members. Each committee will have clear terms of reference and chairmen will be required to report regularly to the Platform and House.

The House's position as the governing body does not change but the delegation of powers and proper reporting back will mean more efficient management and decision-making.

The next step is to appoint members of the committees and the voluntary offices in the House, and the Advisory Group will be seeking names to recommend to the Platform and eventually to the House on 29 September. The tenure of Trustees of the House is only four or six years, so potential names for committees are often missed because they are no longer members of the House. The Advisory Group will address this in their recommendations. However, this is not the only avenue and all Crafts can put forward names of candidates who they feel have experience in the relevant committees. These should be sent to the Clerk with some background supporting information.

For anyone wishing to put their name forward, copies of the Rules and Bylaws, which include the terms of reference for each committee, can be obtained from the Clerk.

It is with great sadness that we learnt of Principal Hall Keeper David McGaffin's sudden death in April, on the cusp of his retirement aged 69. He was a well-kent face to all those who are part of Trades House, its Incorporated Crafts and associated organisations, as well as to the thousands of visitors to Trades Hall each year. It is safe to say that there are few, if any, who know the fabric of the Hall as David did. He was immensely proud of his position and truly embraced his work.

Since joining the team in 1993, he worked with more than 20 Deacon Convener, guiding them through the wealth of traditions and tasks, which combine to make up their year in office - and all in an unobtrusive manner. In fact, you could fill a ream of paper listing the many duties he performed, ranging from kirkings and elections to concerts and dinners. Latterly he took on the role of Master of Ceremonies at the Deacon Convener's Dinner, a position that he would have been invited back to perform even in his retirement.

He was also a loyal colleague for more than 20 years to the Trades Hall staff and Trades House office team, touching many lives and becoming a good friend to many – leaving fond memories behind in the process.

As Davy could often be heard singing or whistling his favourite songs while at work, Trades Hall will be all the quieter without his presence. He will be sorely missed and our thoughts go to his family at this sad time.
Visitors will have an opportunity to discover the hidden gem that is the magnificent Trades Hall of Glasgow, when it throws open its doors this autumn for Doors Open Day on Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 September 2015, from 11am until 4pm each day.

“We are delighted to be taking part once again this year in Glasgow’s Doors Open Day, which is all about raising civic pride in the city’s built heritage,” said Events Sales Manager Elaine Gilchrist. “We have a magnificent building in the Trades Hall, which is not only home to the Trades House, its Incorporated Crafts and associated organisations. It is also growing in popularity as a venue for a wide variety of events, thanks to its stunning interiors and variety of unique spaces.”

The Hall's events management and catering team help organise and stage catered and non-catered social and business functions from weddings, birthdays and anniversaries, to graduations, conferences and corporate dinners, delivering high quality, modern events in these historical surroundings. The building by prominent Scottish architect, Robert Adam, was completed in 1794. It is situated in the heart of the Merchant City at 85 Glassford Street, Glasgow.

While Doors Open Day is always a popular time for visitors to enjoy tours, individual or group tours can also be arranged at other times by contacting the team on 0141 552 2418/info@tradeshallglasgow.co.uk, where you can also request the new Room Brochure.

Find out more at the new website... tradeshallglasgow.co.uk

ALL INCOME ARISING FROM EVENTS HELD WITHIN TRADES HALL IS USED TO SUPPORT THE CHARITABLE PURPOSES AND BENEVOLENT WORK OF THE TRADES HOUSE. BOOK YOUR EVENT NOW AT TRADES HALL TO HELP KEEP ITS GOOD WORK ALIVE.

ROYAL VISITOR

The Trades House and Trades Hall have enjoyed many visits from members of the Royal Family over the years. On her first visit, Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, was in the Hall speaking as part of a Credit Union Fair event in June arranged by the Lord Provost Office. A long-time advocate of credit unions and a member of the London Mutual Credit Union, the Duchess was shown the work they do across the country to support local communities, businesses, employees and school children.

RENEW & REFRESH

Over the past few months, the Trades Hall team have been busy researching and creating some exciting new promotional material for 2015/16. Part of this is the stunning new website and re-design of the marketing literature.

Launched in July 2015, the website has already made a vast improvement to the Hall’s online presence, complete with striking images, Venue Guide and link to view the Wedding Brochure.

Visit the website at... tradeshallglasgow.co.uk

CONNECT WITH THE TEAM

TradesHouse
TradesHall
BIG LUNCH BOOST FOR SENSE SCOTLAND

The Trades House of Glasgow hosted a fun filled fundraising BIG Lunch raising £21,553 for Sense Scotland, which supports thousands of people with deafblindness and their families. Deacon Convener Idris Jones and his Chain Gang selected the charity as the annual beneficiary.

"It is one of a variety of events throughout our year aimed at raising funds for a carefully selected charity," said Idris. "This year our choice is Sense Scotland, a charity celebrating 30 years of offering support to people with deafblindness, allowing them to live an active and independent life. The charity provides the individual with the help they need, whether it is for a few hours a day or being able to live in their own home.

"Our BIG Lunch at the Glasgow Marriott Hotel was the main fundraiser of the year. Our speakers were Roy Cox, Chairman of Sense Scotland and a member of the Master Court of the Bonnetmakers and Dyers, who was awarded an OBE in recognition of his work with the charity since its inception. Roy has deep personal knowledge of the great need for the support provided by the charity and his own story was most compelling.

"He was joined by Duncan Tannahill, an executive coach and business growth specialist who is a trustee of Sense Scotland. Duncan, a committed man, celebrated his 60th birthday by walking 60 miles deprived of hearing and sight, a sponsored event to raise funds for Sense Scotland."

TRADES HOUSE LAUNCHES PARTNERSHIP WITH STV TRUST

The objectives of the STV Trust to support child poverty in Scotland are very much in sympathy with the objectives of the Trades House’s Commonweal and Drapers’ Funds in Glasgow. An approach last year by STV to join their Children’s Appeal and benefit recipients, offered the House an opportunity to not only widen its giving but also to raise its profile as a leading charity in Glasgow.

"We have agreed a Memorandum of Understanding that we will donate up to £50,000 in the next year to the STV Trust for its Children’s Appeal,” said Collector Keith Brown. “Those funds will be ring fenced for projects proposed by us, which will be supported by additional funding from the STV Trust. In most cases, this will mean charities that approach us for funding projects related to child poverty in Glasgow, will receive supplementary funding from the general funds of the STV Trust. In many cases, this will mean receiving double what we could afford to give because we can never meet in full the many requests made to us.

“The Memorandum of Understanding also allows development and support of joint ventures for specific projects. Currently, work is underway in the House to launch fundraising for kinship care in Glasgow, which was first envisaged by the Diamond Committee. We will be exploring ways of how we can partner on this with the STV Trust.”

The first beneficiaries of the partnership have been the Sir Thomas Lipton Foundation, Clic Sargent, Move On and Glasgow Children’s Holiday Scheme, all of which have received double the amount the House would have been able to give. The presentation cheque for the first of these was to the Sir Thomas Lipton Foundation for its Buoyed Up programme, which was made by Keith and TV sports reporter Sheelagh McLaren at the STV studios.

“With the next STV appeal scheduled for Friday 16 October, please encourage family and friends to support this because our Trades House charities will be some of the beneficiaries,” said Keith.
FUNDING

TRADES TURN TROPICAL

The Trades House will turn tropical when it hosts a fundraising Hawaii Party on board the Tall Ship at Riverside in Glasgow on Friday 28 August. The fun packed evening will help boost funds for Sense Scotland.

“Dress code is Hawaiian, or colourful, with grass skirts optional,” said Deacon Convener Bishop Idris Jones.

“Garlands will of course be provided! There will be a buffet, games, music and dancing to entertain the audience from 7pm to 11pm. So we are hoping for a full house, or I should say full ship, to help raise some more cash for our charity of the year, Sense Scotland.”

Tickets priced £35 are available from the Trades House office: 0141 553 1605 or nicola.bunyan@tradeshouse.org.uk

Download a ticket form at... tradeshouse.org.uk/tallship

St Andrew’s First Aid has purchased a vital piece of first aid equipment thanks to a generous donation from the Trades House of Glasgow’s Commonweal Fund. Trolley beds are essential for volunteers to deliver the highest standards of first aid at events. With many coming to the end of their lifespan, the Commonweal donation went to buy a new one for the Glasgow area. It’s already been put to good use at a variety of events across the city.

“The trolley bed is used in a practical sense all of the time,” said Gemma Kerr, office administrator at St Andrew’s Clydebank office and a first aid volunteer. “Casualties can rest up on it if feeling faint or sick and it is also used to transport a casualty from the location of an accident or incident to our first aid posts. We also treat casualties on the bed, as it gives them somewhere to sit while injuries are being treated.

“We would like to thank the Commonweal Fund for helping us continue to deliver the highest standards in first aid services. With the continued support of organisations such as the Trades House, we really can make a difference and save lives.”

Afternoon Tea

The Trades House annual Tea Party went down a treat this May with over 40 House and Craft beneficiaries attending.

The guests were welcomed by Collector Keith Brown, along with his wife Rita and later entertained by 7 piece jazz band, That Swing Sensation.

Members of the Chain Gang served an array of sandwiches and cakes throughout the afternoon and certainly got into the swing of things as they took to the floor for a dance.

This year the Collector, Keith Brown who hosted the event, organised a Tea Dance after which he said, “I am a little exhausted after participating in most of the dances and learning the ‘slosh’ but everybody had a great time”.

www.tradeshouse.org.uk
Ashleigh Strain (22), a City of Glasgow College student, has won the top gold medal honours at Craftex 2015, the annual Trades House of Glasgow awards and exhibition. It shines the spotlight on the very best traditional and modern crafts, design and technology skills honed in the city’s colleges.

Ashleigh, from East Kilbride, who has just finished her two-year HND in Interior Design, was selected as the best in show for her set design 3-D model for the George Orwell Animal Farm stage production. Part of her set was used in the live production at Webster’s Theatre in Glasgow.

“I’m overwhelmed by winning the Trades House’s best in show accolade,” said Ashleigh. “With so much great work on show, it is a real honour. This gives me a brilliant boost as I go on to look for work in interior design.”

Winners of the Deacon Convener’s Design Prize were Katie Donaldson (29) from Balerno and Alison Hamilton (34) from Airdrie who have just completed their two-year NC Bakery and Advance Sugar course at City of Glasgow College. Their Harvest Basket, made entirely from bread, was produced jointly on the theme of Little Red Riding Hood’s basket, complete with blanket.

Third year BAE Systems pipefitting apprentice, Laura Black (20), beat stiff competition from nine finalists to win the Trades House of Glasgow Modern Apprentice Awards 2015, which celebrate a learning path established in medieval Scotland by the historic crafts that make up the organisation today.

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She was one of four colleagues from BAE Systems selected as finalists. The company’s sheet metal work apprentice, Ainsley Donoghue, took second place. Third place went to Reece Phimister, Junior Session Stylist at Napier Hair and Beauty in Paisley, who just days before had scooped the Scottish Training Federation Apprentice of the Year title.

“Our Glasgow Modern Apprentice Awards showcase the commitment and capability of candidates who have chosen the apprenticeship route to further their career prospects, while promoting traditional trades alongside more modern skills,” said Deacon Convener Bishop Idris Jones. “Judges were faced with a high calibre of entries, resulting in a line up of finalists who are testament to the exceptional apprenticeship schemes operated by each of their employers. Our many congratulations go to all the candidates who made it through to the hotly contested finals.”

Mick Ord, Managing Director of BAE Systems Naval Ships, said: “We are all very proud that Laura has been named Glasgow’s Modern Apprentice of the Year. It’s an achievement she should be rightly proud of and shows the calibre of apprentices coming through our programmes. Apprentices are the lifeblood of our early careers programme and the future of our business, so I am delighted that four of our brightest have been honoured in the finals.”

Speaking after winning, Laura said: “I am so surprised and really proud, as my family - mum came over from Campbeltown with my dad for the awards ceremony and she shed a wee tear when I won. It’s good to know your hard work has paid off and someone recognises your achievements.”

Laura was presented with an inscribed trophy, which will remain on display in the Trades Hall. She also received an inscribed replica of the trophy, a cash prize of £500 towards further studies and a certificate. Along with certificates of commendation for all finalists, a second prize of £300 went to Ainsley and a third of £200 to Reece.

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JOINT WINNERS OF SCHOOL CRAFT COMPETITION

Ajmal Mohammed (16) of Holyrood Secondary School, and Shawn MacGregor (17) of St Mungo’s Academy, were selected as joint overall winners in the Trades House of Glasgow School Craft Competition, which is now in its 25th year.

More than 50 pupils from secondary schools across Glasgow were rewarded for their exceptional craftwork produced as part of their curricular studies. Ajmal, Shawn and other pupils also took first prizes in individual categories including metalwork, woodwork, plastic, design & manufacture and culinary excellence.

“Our judges reviewed literally hundreds of submissions before making our selection,” said Deacon Convener Bishop Idris Jones. “Ajmal’s metalwork and Shawn’s wooden table reflect the great skills and commitment of pupils and their teachers in our Glasgow schools. Our many congratulations go to all pupils awarded prizes in our School Craft Competition.”

Ajmal, who lives in Govanhill, was a class 5H student, when he made his award winning metal items, as part of his practical metalwork studies at National 5. Shawn, who lives in Parkhead, made his winning table as part of his National 5 Design and Manufacture project at St Mungo’s Academy. It was constructed from solid oak timber and finished with Danish oil.

The School Craft Competition is supported by Glasgow City Council Education Department. Idris and other senior Trades House office bearers were joined by Bailie Philip Brat to present pupils with 1st, 2nd and 3rd category prizes, plus commended and highly commended certificates, each also receiving monetary prizes.

MEDICAL PRIZE

The £500 winner of the Trades House Medical Prize this year is Dr John Connelly, who has just graduated from the University of Glasgow with an MBChB with Honours for gaining the highest marks in written and clinical medicine finals. He also won, jointly with another student, the Brunton and Fullerton Prizes for being the most distinguished graduate.

John was born and raised in Lanarkshire where he attended school before studying medicine in Glasgow. In 2013, he graduated from the intercalated degree programme with a first class honours in medical sciences, including specialist study in the area of cancer. His interests in cancer were developed through clinical placements in surgery at Glasgow Royal Infirmary and oncology at the Beatson Cancer Centre.

Inspired by some of the outstanding academic physicians and surgeons in Glasgow, John developed a passion for translational biomedical research while an undergraduate. He has now been appointed to an academic foundation programme beginning in August 2015. He aspires to pursue clinical and research excellence throughout his career, and build upon the strong foundations in research methodology, which were laid during his time at the University of Glasgow.
PRIMAR COMES UP TRUPMS

Pictured with Idris and head teacher Jim McShane are the presenting team, Mercedes McBride, Sinead McCallion, Tamera McOmish, Nathan Ward and Morgan Patterson.

St John Paul II Primary School in Castlemilk has been awarded the Trades House of Glasgow Citizenship Award 2015 in recognition of the great work it has achieved by engaging its pupils in school, local and wider community projects. Now in its 16th year, the award encourages and rewards good citizenship in pre-5, primary, secondary and special needs schools across the city. It is supported by Glasgow City Council Education Department.

“We believe citizenship is fundamental in preparing young people well for the future,” said Deacon Convener Bishop Idris Jones. “It helps them understand the need for values and respect for others, as well as enabling them to connect with the realities of everyday life. While St John Paul II Primary School demonstrated citizenship at its very best, I would like to congratulate all our finalists for their great work. When I visited the school with Late Collector Ruth Maltman, we were left in no doubt that the plaque had been awarded to the right school.”

NATIONAL SUCCESS FOR BURNS WINNER

The Trades House of Glasgow Robert Burns Festival takes place each January in the Trades Hall, where Glasgow schoolchildren perform a Robert Burns recitation, song or instrumental piece, to demonstrate their skills. Now in its fourth year, the competition was open to secondary pupils, joining P4 to P7 primary pupils for the first time.

Winners are given the opportunity to perform at a prize giving concert and compete in the National Secondary Schools Festival run by the Robert Burns World Federation, this year held at Hutchesons’ Grammar School, Glasgow. Trades House winner, Molly Forrester, went on to national success, winning the Singing S3/4 competition with her excellent version of Braes o’ Ballochmyle.

Molly is shown receiving her award from Bobby Kane, Junior Vice President of the Robert Burns World Federation Ltd (left) and Jim Thomson, President of the Robert Burns World Federation Ltd.

CRAFT NEWS...

This round up of news from the Craft Incorporations and Associated Organisations highlights some of the wide variety of benevolent initiatives they undertake, as well as how they are helping to keep traditional skills alive.

Find out more about each craft at... tradeshouse.org.uk

WEAVERS

The Weavers are affiliated to a number of Trades House bodies with membership coming from many fellow Crafts. Traditionally, the Weavers were a charitable body helping the residents of Anderston in Glasgow. Nowadays they continue assisting many local projects, in this its 500th year.

Deacon Ken learns to weave

Weaving across the country

The sun shone as Deacon Ken MacDonald, weavers and friends made their annual pilgrimage to the Weaver’s Cottage at Kilbarchan to be met by weaver in residence, Christine MacLeod, the Late Collector of the Incorporation. After a very informative history, she demonstrated her spinning and weaving skills.

The group then moved on to Paisley, first to the Museum where Danny Coughlan, Curator of Textiles, recounted the story of the Paisley Pattern and showed them the recently opened weaving section with looms and pattern books dating back hundreds of years.

Then it was on to the “Sma’ shot Cottages” where they were welcomed with soup and sandwiches before a tour and stories about old Paisley and how important weaving was to the town. The packed day concluded with a visit to the Anchor Mill Museum, which at one time had 10,000 employees. They all agreed it had been a great day out as they “wove” their way across the county.

To mark the 25th anniversary of his role as secretary of the Weavers Society of Anderston, the Craft presented Wilson Aitken with a commemorative scroll and a bottle of 25 year old malt. He is pictured receiving these gifts from John Cooper of the Weavers at a 49 Club Dinner attended by many members, past and present.
CORDINERS

Deacon Dr Beverly Bergman chaired Scotland’s Fossil Five Awards ceremony at the Hunterian Museum. The culmination of a nationwide public poll to choose Scotland’s five favourite fossils, organised by the Scottish Geodiversity Forum. The winning fossils were Devonian fossil fish, Jurassic dinosaurs, early tetrapods, trilobites and fossil trees. Bailie Phil Greene presented certificates to researchers and enthusiasts representing each of the winning fossils.

“I am proud to support this excellent initiative, which has encouraged many people of all ages to take an interest in Scotland’s marvellous fossil heritage,” said Beverly.

HAMMERMEN

The joint Scottish Engineering/Hammermen Award 2015 open to early career engineers who have demonstrated innovative excellence, saw seven candidates invited for interview having been shortlisted from 17 high quality entries. This year’s winner is Douglas Osborne from Thales Optronics, who designed and developed the next generation of target locater used by the military, with enhanced functionality and substantial weight reduction from 4.3 kg to 1.6 kg.

The Award is presented in two parts with the first already made at the annual dinner of Scottish Engineering, now celebrating its 150th anniversary. The second presentation will take place at the annual Hammermen dinner in Trades Hall this November.

MALTMEN

Clerk to the Maltmen, Wilson Aitken, celebrated 25 years of looking after the Visitors, Master Court Members and membership during the course of 2015. Wilson has been successfully doing his duty for the Craft, much to the relief and appreciation of all concerned, since 1990. During that time, he has seen many Visitors come and go and some come back again!

Wilson’s quiet calm and resolve to assist the Maltmen has been a deciding factor in the Craft continuing to move forward while still retaining past values. His legal expertise has been invaluable on many occasions when difficult questions have been asked of the Maltmen. To celebrate this milestone, the Master Court and Past Visitors who were available, held a Dinner in his honour. Pictured (from left): Graham Herbertson, Michael McHugh, Alastair Allan, Graham Blakie, Paul Waterson, Charles Mackintosh, Geoff Palmer, Neil Amner, Richard Barbour, Roddy Young, Gordon Wylie and Billy Bell. Front: Murray Blair, Wilson Aitken, Ian Macpherson.

All Saints

Deacon of the Hammermen Prof David Harrison presented £500 to support the work of the Design Technology Department of All Saints Secondary School in north east Glasgow, as the Craft was very impressed with its pupils achievements. Funds have gone towards workshop improvements. Pupils now have access to welding facilities, which helps support their National level course work. Pictured with David presenting the cheque to Natalie are some of the pupils who will benefit from the investment.

Hammermen Service Group Outing to St Andrew’s will take place on Saturday 15 August.
Blooming lovely

Kaldis Restaurant on Edinburgh Road, Glasgow, has won the prestigious Robertson Silver Spade, top honours in the Gardeners’ annual Let Glasgow Flourish Awards. The Craft encourages businesses around the city, such as restaurants, outdoor cafés, bars and office premises, to add colour to their surroundings through the use of window boxes, garden areas, containers or hanging baskets. More than 250 businesses were visited and judged by members of the Gardeners, with 64 receiving awards in recognition of their outstanding efforts.

Hugh Hopkins, Deacon of the Gardeners said: “The garden displays at Kaldis Restaurant provide a wonderful sight throughout the year to passers by, as well as to its patrons. A small area to the side is used for bringing plants on from seed and its intention is to share this with local school children. Its magnificent floral displays have even inspired neighbours to start one of their own. I am delighted that businesses continue to recognise the value of a colourful welcoming entrance to their properties and, in many cases, staff invest their time and skills to provide these wonderful displays.”

Visits

The Gardeners took to their roots with stimulating horticultural visits, the first to London where the highlight was the Chelsea Flower Show on Members’ Day. In the evening, the longstanding link with the Worshipful Company of Gardeners was continued at their Chelsea Supper. The trip concluded the next day with a conducted tour of Kew Gardens by its Director of Horticulture. They also enjoyed a visit to the Gardens of Falkland Palace where they were shown around the beautiful grounds by the Head Gardener.

This year’s Gardeners’ annual Lecture at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow (RCPSG) was entitled Gardening and Better Health. Speaker, Sir Richard Thompson KCVO recently retired President of the Royal College of Physicians in London, was both topical and brimming with ideas.

Civic Pride

It will be a big year for the Gardeners in 2016 as it celebrates its 400th anniversary of joining the Trades House. One of the key events will be a civic dinner in the City Chambers on Friday 18 November 2016, to mark the historic occasion.

At its annual Box Opening Dinner, the Wrights welcomed Derek Ralston of St Mungo’s Academy joint winner of the Trades House School Craft Award in 2014, for his solid oak coffee table. Derek was presented with an individual cash prize and certificate, together with a £1,000 cheque for his school. A prize draw in aid of the Nepal earthquake victims raised £575 plus Gift-Aid, an excellent result for a gathering of 52. Funds have been forwarded to the Disasters Emergency Committee.

The Wrights are looking forward to working in partnership with growing Glasgow-based charity, the Coming Home Centre, which helps ex-servicemen adjust to life after leaving the armed forces. The charity, which now operates three centres, enhances awareness and understanding among ex-service personnel of the range of support services for veterans, their families and carers in Glasgow. It supplements and collaborates with the excellent work being undertaken by Glasgow City Council under the auspices of “Glasgow’s Helping Heroes”. They offer a place for veterans to meet with kindred spirits, to socialise and be offered pastoral care, advice and assistance to help them get back on their feet. You can find out more about the charity at www.cominghomecentre.org

Fleshers

At the Deacon’s Choosing Dinner Dance, prizes were presented to two butchery students. Thanks to the generosity of the guests - as well as a number of individuals who were unable to attend but still kindly made donations - a sum in excess of £5,000 was also raised for the Deacon Brigadier Joseph d’Inverno’s chosen charity, the Royal Highland Fusiliers Museum Fund. This was presented to the Trustees of the Museum Fund in Glasgow at an evening event in the City Chambers, where Sir Menzies Campbell spoke about his athletics career. Due to the number of other dinners taking place during the month of November this year, the Fleshers have decided to change the date of the Deacon’s Choosing Dinner to Saturday 20 February 2016 in the Trades Hall. The Craft hopes that a record number of members will be able to attend.

Are you a member of the Fleshers’ 400 Club? This is a great way of supporting the work of the Craft, The 400 Club raises funds for grantees - it costs £10 for a single entry and there are two draws each year, one in the summer and one in winter. In each draw there is one prize of £200 and two of £50, so a total of £500 is paid out each year. An application form to join the 400 Club can be obtained from the Clerk, Tom Monteith, by emailing tom.monteith@harpermacleod.co.uk.
Investing in future craftsmen - the Coopers continues to support new recruits to the industry by providing sets of tools worth £1300 to all new apprentices in Scotland and Northern Ireland. This not only helps reduce the cost of training. It also attracts new recruits to an industry, which is growing from strength to strength. The number of apprentices has now doubled with ten new sets of tools presented in the last year alone and a further ten expected to join the ranks this year.

Collector Jim Mearns and Ex Deacon Tom McInally have travelled to present tools at Isla Cooperage in Keith, Western Gailes. The election of Keith Murchison as Deacon in Glasgow and their counterparts grows year on year. Exchange visits this year in Scotland include golf at Loch Lomond and Western Galles. The election of Keith Brown as Collector further cements the relationship between London and Glasgow. Keith was a Master in London and a Deacon in Glasgow. With all of these activities open to members the Coopers continues to flourish.

Coopers Invest in Youth - to mark the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee, the Coopers increased its investment in youth with a project to encourage young people from one of Glasgow’s most deprived areas in Govan to engage with the Duke of Edinburgh Awards. It was decided to do things differently by encouraging involvement at the age of 12 rather than 14, to reduce disengagement of young people from outdoor activities. The project was approved by Prince Edward, as part of the Incorporation of Coopers Earl of Wessex Awards, with each pupil passing various tests and receiving a certificate and specially designed badge to celebrate passing the award standard. The Earl of Wessex Award is based on the Boys’ Brigade Wayfarers badge of by gone days to encourage young people in outdoor activity and be aware of the natural environment and their relationship with their communities.

Having entered a five-year partnership with Govan High School, this venture has achieved great results with more than 42 youngsters engaged in the project year on year. Six young people at Govan High have now completed their silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards. The school has also gone on to introduce an army cadet unit and assisted one pupil through their recruitment into the Royal Air Force. A pupil has also been selected for the Scottish Girls’ Golf Team.

Close relationships between the Glasgow Coopers and their London counterparts grows year on year. The Coopers increased its investment in youth with a project to encourage young people from one of Glasgow’s most deprived areas in Govan to engage with the Duke of Edinburgh Awards. The school has also gone on to introduce an army cadet unit and assisted one pupil through their recruitment into the Royal Air Force. The school has also gone on to introduce an army cadet unit and assisted one pupil through their recruitment into the Royal Air Force. A pupil has also been selected for the Scottish Girls’ Golf Team.

The Coopers’ continued support has also allowed staff to be trained as a Mountain Leader, with all Duke of Edinburgh Earl of Wessex staff fully trained in Outdoor First Aid. This alongside having a qualified Walking Group Leader, a Lowland Leader (in training) and a Trail Cycle Leader (in training), sees them move towards becoming self sufficient in enhancing the life experiences of their pupils. Funding from the Coopers helps pay for camping, registration and in some cases food for young people on expedition. This year they will be purchasing outdoor boots and upgrading jackets, all helping to give the young people of Govan an opportunity to achieve.

BAKERS

“Work hard and you’ll succeed in a booming business that’s as varied as it is interesting”, was just some of the advice provided during the Bakers annual networking night for students of bakery and hospitality at the City of Glasgow College. Along with Deacon Rose Mary Harley, inspiring advice for the students was provided by entrepreneur and hotelier Prof Maurice Taylor, Gordon McGhee, CEO of McGhee’s Bakers, Alan Clarke, CEO of Scottish Bakers, Late Deacon Bruce Reidford, who is Chief Finance Office of Tunnock’s, 2015 Masterchef contestant Olivia Haslam, and John Gall, who is President of Scottish Bakers and MD of Browning’s Bakery.

BARBERS

New member for the Barbers – actor Robert Carlyle OBE took up his membership of the Craft just one week before his debut film as director, The Legend of Barney Thomson, opened at the 2015 Edinburgh Film Festival. Robert is pictured proudly wearing his new Barbers lapel badge presented to him at the film premier by Trades Master Dr Mike Gow and his wife Juliet.

Robert also portrays the film’s lead character, unfortunate Glaswegian barber Barney Thomson. Barney admits that he only has ‘two styles of haircut: short back and sides ... and back and sides’, and is frequently shunned by prospective customers who would prefer to wait for long periods to be seen by one of his colleagues. Robert is joined by actors Emma Thomson, Ray Winstone and Ashley Jensen in this dark comedy with its superb plotline and many twists and turns, as Barney evades the police. While Robert is a most welcome addition to the Barbers, the Craft does ask him to be a little more careful with his scissors in the future!
An opportunity to display Craft artefacts and information in Glasgow’s museums has seen the Tailors produce a very successful display at Kelvingrove Art Gallery.

In addition to the Tailors’ own dependents and in-House financial support, the Craft continues to develop its relationship with Glasgow Kelvin College, supporting fashion students instead of the previous practice of donating to external charities. The three principal members of the Kelvin fashion team, Ian Abercrombie, Anne Wood and Sandra Thomson, are delighted with the developing relationship.

A photo shoot was also arranged in the Trades Hall for wedding gowns created by student Catriona Ramsay, a Tailor’s prize winner. Her gowns, pictured, helped her achieve a first class degree. The Tailors intend to further develop their involvement with students in a move to revert to being an Incorporation actively engaged in its own Craft. Deacon Gordon Price and the Master Court would also be delighted to welcome as members anyone interested or engaged in the fashion industry, as it proposes to instigate an annual fashion show.

Another annual highlight for the Tailors is a Musical Evening on 20 August 2015 to which Deacon Price looks forward to welcoming many of you then.

The Glasgow School of Art Leather Competition 2015, open to second and third year Textiles students, is supported by Bridge of Weir Leather, which provides leather and hides for the students, and the Skinners, who provide £1,000 in prize money. This year’s winners and runners up lived up to the high standard of design and innovation set by previous years. As part of their end of year projects, students were asked to reinvent and revitalise the leather, show research and development of their ideas, create samples and an end product. Students individually presented their work to Susan Ross, Design Manager at Bridge of Weir Leather, as well as one of the GSA tutors. Collector of the Skinners, David Bird, presented the prizes on behalf of the Craft.

Three winners were selected. First place and £500 was awarded to Erin McQuarrie for her excellent research and visuals, coupled with thoughtful and intelligent techniques, innovative combinations of other material laminated to the leather and professional standard prototypes. Her end product of a reflective modular safety belt, wrist band and mouldable leather for clothing, which changed its structure and form depending on its application, were inspiring. Erin’s work will be displayed on the Andrew Muirhead & Son/Bridge of Wear Leather stand at 100% Design 2015, taking place at Olympia in London this September.

Second place and £300 went to Beth Furini with third place and £200 to Kate Connell. Commendations were awarded to Cath Sinclair, Sophie Chen, Nancy Tulley, Becky Moore and Matilda Davidson.

The Skinners also provide the annual end of year prize of £500 for the final year student displaying the best skills in leatherwork. This year Kelly McEwan, who specialises in embroidery and surface design, was awarded the prize.

All winners will be presented with membership of the Skinners at their annual Choosing Dinner on 6 November 2015.
The Inter College Bricklaying and Plastering competitions – have once again been sponsored by the Masons with the aim of encouraging young people to achieve their maximum potential. The two winners will be at the Deacons’ Choosing Dinner this September to receive their £100 cheque, golden medal and certificate. The City of Glasgow College hosted the competition in Rogart Street, Bridgeton, where eight bricklaying students and six plastering students worked diligently to produce a very high quality of workmanship, especially for students who have not long taken up the trowel. Judges, who came from the colleges participating, were most impressed with the quality of the workmanship. Choosing the winners was no easy task, with little between each student.

Plastering winner was Owen Cullen of City of Glasgow College and the bricklaying winner was Ross Carr from Glasgow Kelvin College.

The Incorporation is now interviewing a number of students and tradespeople who have applied for the two £1,000 Lady McDonald Bursaries, which assist them in furthering their academic career or becoming better tradespeople. There will also be interviews for the Lady McDonald Scholarships, worth £500 per person, which enable apprentices or tradespeople to travel abroad to learn new skills. Employers and participants are expected to make a financial contribution to the scholarship.

The Incorporation of Bonnetmakers & Dyers is honoured to have close associations with universities, colleges and schools in Glasgow, which offer courses linked to its traditional activities. Prizes and scholarships are awarded to students every year.

The Deacon attends Stewarton Bonnet Guild’s Gala Day each June to present Craft prizes to top pupils at Stewarton Academy. Deacon James Inglis is pictured taking part in this year’s ceremony, continuing the Craft’s traditional links with Stewarton, known as the Bonnet Toun because of its 400 years of unbroken bonnetmaking.

In addition to assisting its grantees, the Craft also assists a number of charities each year. This year funds went to help Home Start, Abercorn School, the Lodging House Mission, the National Youth Choir of Scotland and the Trades House Drapers’ Fund. The good works that these charities will in turn be able to do with the funds provided, echo the very best traditions of Trades House.
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