

# THE Craftsman

Issue 52 December 2017

## *Helping to Look After Glasgow*

Review of the Year  
*pages 9-12*

Myths and Legends  
*pages 7-8*

50th Anniversary of the  
Prince Philip Prize Award  
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# The Craftsman Welcome



**The Craftsman was conceived at a time when technological communication was in its infancy. Trades House and its 14 Incorporations embraced this early on with the introduction of its web site, due to be redesigned in 2018. More recently, our communications strategy has ensured Trades House's Facebook and Twitter platforms are growing, allowing a stronger, more immediate connection with our audience.**

The introduction of the Deacon Convener's Desk Letter has provided a regular and timely update on events both in and outside the House, which previously would have been covered in the Craftsman. This edition has therefore focussed on articles which will hopefully be of interest to both members of the Crafts as well as those who would like to know more about Trades House's history and our extensive support for charity and education in the city.

We have a great heritage which is reflected by three articles within the magazine: Myths and Legends about our Coat of Arms; how a Deacon from the late 18th Century developed the first typeface for the blind and why the tradition of Box Opening exists.

In October each year the House elects its new Deacon Convener, giving an opportunity for him to outline his plans and theme which this year is 'Looking after Glasgow'. The Late Convener reviews his year with the theme of 'Reaching Out'. Both give insights to the extensive work that is being undertaken at Trades House with the support of its Crafts.

Membership of Crafts is open to all those who share an interest in craftsmanship, heritage, education and charity. The introduction of the **Friends of Trades House** is also a way of learning more before committing to membership.

Trades Hall is the second oldest building in the City still used for its original purpose, a home for the House and its 14 Incorporations. Its magnificent Grand Hall, Saloon and function suites – including our new Robert Adam room - are also available for private hire and to enjoy its great history.

**Keith Brown OBE**  
Editor

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Find out more about the progressive work of the Trades House, its 14 Incorporated Crafts and associated organisations at [tradeshouse.org.uk](http://tradeshouse.org.uk)



# Looking after Glasgow

## Trades House elects new Deacon Convener with a positive theme for the year.

**'Upon the second Wednesday of October annually the Trades House consisting of the whole persons who shall have been representatives during the year preceding and until that day along with the newly-elected Deacons and Visitor shall meet and by direct vote of the whole persons then assembled elect from among the persons who had been representatives in the Trades House during the preceding year one to be Deacon Convener of the Trades of Glasgow and another to be Collector of the Trades House for the ensuing year.'**

This clause from the Glasgow Trades House Confirmation Act of 1920 which supplemented the 1672 Act of Parliament has been rigidly observed every year and on 11th October 2017 Deacon Convener Alistair Dorward and Collector Bruce Reidford were duly elected with acclamation.

Back on 9th October 1751 the House declared that "The person who this day shall be elected and all ensuing Deacon Conveners shall wear and use a black velvet

upper coat at the further meetings and appearances....."

Dr. Alistair Dorward duly installed with his chain of office and with a black velvet jacket was ready to address the House.

*"I am very aware of the trust placed in me as Deacon Convener I will do my best to merit this in the year ahead. I am honoured to have Bruce Reidford as my Collector, and pleased to have the support of my family and particularly my wife, Sarah."*

*"In the role of Deacon Convener I am head of the Trades House, supervising the business of the House with the help and support of the Platform, our administrative and Hall staff and the Clerk and Chief Executive, John Gilchrist. I have the responsibility with others for the heritage and upkeep of the Trades Hall, which is undergoing a renaissance under the Hall Committee. I also have a civic role as Third Citizen of Glasgow supporting the Lord Provost."*



Dr Alistair Dorward and his wife Sarah, wearing a dress designed by Rachel Stevenson of Glasgow Kelvin College, who won the fashion category (non-advanced) in this year's Craftex exhibition.

*"The Trades House has an important role in supporting the Incorporated Crafts. Each year the Deacon Convener describes the two biggest challenges as - increasing the profile of the House in Glasgow and in attracting new members for the crafts. We are already raising our image with the help of social media."*

*"It has been difficult in the past for the House to influence Craft and Master Court membership. To this end we are in the process of developing the **Friends of the Trades House** to encourage the public to learn the extensive nature of the charitable workings of the incorporated crafts and House, and ultimately to encourage new members to join the crafts."*

*"It can be easy to concentrate on the workings and traditions of the House and forget that we are an important Glasgow charity run by volunteers. To reflect this my theme for the year will be 'Looking After Glasgow'."*

*"For example, the House provides grants to support education, citizenship and the trades through our various funds. The Education fund helps young people in need to complete their education. The Commonwealth Fund supports community organisations in*



A group of children on a residential break with support from the Deacon Convener's chosen charity, the Kinship Care Initiative



The Princess Royal is presented with a with a framed copy of the Grand Antiquity Reel by Roderick MacPherson, Preses of the Grand Antiquity Society of Glasgow, which hosted its annual dinner in Trades Hall recently.

fields of health and education, in arts and employment and for children and young people's welfare. The Drapers fund gives individual grants for children with the aim of alleviating poverty, ill health and individual hardship. The Kinship Care Initiative aims to raise expectations, educational attainment and employment choices for a group of vulnerable young people."

In the evening the new Deacon Convener hosted the Trades House Dinner with representatives of all the Crafts, representatives of City Institutions including the Lord Provost, the Armed Services, the Church and Leaders of similar institutions

throughout the United Kingdom including London, with the Lord Mayor elect Charles Bowman, Aberdeen, Dundee, Rutherglen, Edinburgh, Irving, York and Sheffield.

An inspired toast to the City of Glasgow was given by Professor Philip Hanlon of the University of Glasgow who spoke about how the health of Glasgow had been affected by industrial changes but subsequently had improved by economic and infrastructure measures. The response by Cllr. Eva Bolander, the Rt. Hon. Lord Provost gave a positive picture of the City.

"It is with great pride I join you this evening



Children cooking at Geezabreak, which is given support by the Trades House.

at the Trades House Annual Dinner. Glasgow is a place of contradictions and contrasts, a place of beauty, energy and vision and above all a place where people know that a cup of tea, a laugh, and a small act of kindness go a long way. It's in that spirit of friendship and decency we gather this evening: men and women with a common pride in our City and a passion for helping our citizens.

"This forward thinking and progressive City owes much to the toil of skilled tradesmen and women who helped fashion Glasgow into an industrial powerhouse. This great city of architecture, the arts, science, medicine, engineering and sport is - in part - the legacy

## FRIENDS OF The Trades House of Glasgow

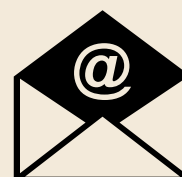
**FREE TO JOIN!**

**Would you like to find out more about how you can help the Trades House of Glasgow support those in need in Glasgow?**

Meet with like-minded people?

Attend events organised by Trades House and the Crafts?

If so, and you are interested in learning about Trades House or joining one of its 14 Incorporated Crafts, why not find out more about 'Friends of Trades House'?



Simply email us at  
**info@tradeshouse.org.uk**  
so that we can keep you up to date.





Kinship Care Initiative.



L-R Ruth Maltman, Ex Convener; Sadie Prior, kinship carer; Doreen Paterson, Geezabreak; Marlene Taylor, FASS.

*of the toil of men and women of the crafts. Their exquisite workmanship, for all to admire in this hall this evening, never fails to take your breath away. Ladies and gentlemen, the Trades House, the Merchants House, and the Council have a shared purpose and a shared history.*

*"A history of governance for the good of our City and our citizens. That purpose, in the words of this city's founder, St Mungo, is to 'let Glasgow flourish'. I send your new Deacon Convener Dr Alistair Dorward - our Third Citizen - this City's very best wishes. To our outgoing Deacon Convener, Keith Brown, my gratitude for your steadfast support for the City."*

The toast to Trades House was given by Iain MacRitchie of MCR Pathways who has devolved his talents in developing a mentoring programme for over 1,000 of Glasgow's disadvantaged young people because education is so vital to their future and opportunities. He spoke with great passion and we are fortunate to have him as an advisor to the Kinship Care Initiative.

The Deacon Convener particularly welcomed representatives of Geezabreak, the Family Addiction Support Service (FASS) and the North Glasgow Kinship Care. A recognition of their support of our Kinship Care Initiative, on which the Deacon Convener has taken a

strong lead in the last two years.

*"This is for children in kinship care who have lost their parents and are cared for by, most often, their grandmothers. There are over 2000 children in Glasgow in this position either in informal or formal kinship care. They, for many reasons, often have a poor start in life, poorer life skills and low educational attainment. We asked kinship carers what we could do to help and, apart from respite, the most requested activity was homework clubs. So this autumn we have started 4 homework clubs for over 40 primary school children in the most deprived areas of Glasgow.*

*"Our Geezachance project (in conjunction with Geezabreak) sent 11-14 year olds in kinship care on a 10 week programme, covering topics such as, cooking, first-aid, health and hygiene, exercise, handling emotions, drugs and alcohol issues and sexual health.*

He jokingly concluded by saying *"If any of you here feel you might benefit from this course please speak to me later!"*

The Deacon Convener added that next June we will be celebrating many of our educational activities through an Education

Festival. The sponsorship and input by the House is very extensive:

- The Modern Apprentice of the Year Award
- The annual Craftex exhibition, which supports college students, giving them both exposure and cash prizes
- The schools' craft awards gives prizes and recognition to pupils for their work in wood, metal and other materials
- The Schools' Citizenship Award and
- Our schools' Burns Festival
- As well as awards from the Crafts and the House to the best graduates of the many Glasgow Colleges and Universities.

The toast to the guests is by rotation amongst the Crafts. This year it was Tim Purdon of the Tailors who had made the same toast 14 years earlier – not the same speech! His amusing toast was responded to by the Sheriff Principal of Glasgow, Craig Turnbull.

Election Day of the Deacon Convener is not just a traditional event it is an occasion when the House can demonstrate to a wide audience the excellent charity and education work it is undertaking, which makes it a force for good in the City of Glasgow.

# Helping the Blind *to Read*

**I**n the Trades House Library there are some fascinating volumes of the New Testament printed in raised capital letters for the blind. The type, known as Alston Type, was developed by Glasgow muslin manufacturer John Alston (1778-1846). Alston had a close association with the Trades House and was Deacon of the Weavers and Deacon Convener.

From 1825-1846 he was Honorary Treasurer for the Asylum for the Blind in Glasgow – a place in which he took a deep and abiding interest. The Asylum building, opened in 1828, was in Castle Street, close to the Glasgow Royal Infirmary. The 1834 Report describes Alston as the “foster-father of the Asylum” who in the evenings *“is generally to be seen seated at the Asylum in the midst of his blind family”*. A school was held for the children and, once their course of education was complete, they were taught to make baskets, door mats, rugs and sacking for which they earned from 9s to 12s a week. The items produced were sold to help the institution.

The children were initially taught letters by means of a string alphabet. By 1835 they were being taught a system devised by James Gall of Edinburgh formed of



Glasgow Blind Asylum taken from Sketch of the History of Glasgow by James Pagan, 1847.

raised angular Roman letters. There was a considerable amount of interest in producing an effective reading system for the blind by then, and the Society of Arts for Scotland offered a gold medal as a prize for the best.

In 1836 the Society sent several different alphabets to blind institutions for their consideration. It was at this stage that Alston became really interested in the subject, and started experiments of his own using a system devised by a Dr Fry of London based on the Roman alphabet in relief. Fry's system subsequently won the gold medal but it was Alston's simplified version of Fry's lettering that became the most widely used.

Alston demonstrated his improved version of Fry's system at the annual examination of the blind in the Trades Hall in October 1836. As a consequence of the fundraising efforts of the ladies who attended this meeting he was able to establish a press for producing the new type at the Asylum. A special meeting was held in the Asylum in April 1837 to demonstrate the efficacy of the Alston Type to an audience of over one hundred people. The children initially read from the gospels and were then tested on unseen sentences which they read fluently. The Type proved to be very popular and by January 1839 Alston claimed that all the blind institutions in England and Scotland with one exception were teaching their children on this system.

The majority of the works produced by the Asylum press were religious in nature. Alston's great aim was that every blind child in the country should have the opportunity of reading the word of God and he was able to complete the task of printing the whole Bible in December 1840. By 1844 the press had printed more than 14,000 volumes costing between 6d. and 13s.. That year, Alston was able to state at a meeting of the Philosophical Society of Glasgow that there were now *“hundreds reading the books both in schools and in private families, and many are in possession of the whole Bible”*.

Unfortunately Alston's type did not stand the test of time and the system developed by Louis Braille (1809-1852) was universally adopted. Before braille became widespread, however, Alston Type was a key method in helping the blind to read and, as a consequence of Alston's work, reading was now considered essential in the education of blind people.

**If you have a query about any of the books in the Trades House Library or wish to make an appointment to visit please email [carol.parry24@gmail.com](mailto:carol.parry24@gmail.com)**

**Carol Parry,**  
Librarian



# Myths *and* Legends

**D**id you know that the number of arrows on the crest of the Trades House Coat of Arms has always been 14 arrows? Each arrow representing one of the Incorporated Trades in the House, hence the motto, Union is Strength.

But what do we base this assertion on? The first time we can find a printed copy of the House Coat of Arms is in George Crawford's book, *"A Sketch of the Rise and Progress of the Trades House of Glasgow"*, printed in 1858. The illustration of the crest from this book (see image below) strangely shows fifteen arrows on the crest.



George Crawford's Crest 1858

**Is this an error?** The answer would be a resounding no. This is exactly what George intended and we know this from a copy of a letter in the Trades House letter book of 28th January 1858, in a letter to Messrs. Bell and Bain, he wrote: *"He is satisfied with the sketch of the Seal with the exception of the arrows which are diminished in number. There should be*



Entrance Hall 1888

*15 of these to represent the Trades House and 14 Incorporations."*

So George Crawford may have designed the crest. On checking the crest on the 1888 window in the stair of the Hall, there are fourteen arrows as on the 1888 terrazzo floor in the entrance hall (see images above and below)



Stairwell Window

It was not until 1902 that the Trades House of Glasgow registered its Coat of Arms.

**The second Myth** to be debunked was the reason why the Incorporations decided to have their Coats of Arms registered with Lord Lyon. Some say that it was because the Lord Lyon was at a dinner in the Trades Hall and commented on the Arms not being registered; this is a good story, but not based on any evidence.

Others claim that the Trades House Lodge insisted on having them registered to allow them to be displayed on their new chain of office.

This myth is based on a misinterpretation from the Trades House Lodge History of 1945 where it states: *"The outstanding feature in the composition of the Collar or Chain is the introduction of fourteen escutcheons or shields, representative of the fourteen Incorporated Trades of the City. Over each of these escutcheons is placed a panel which bears the name of one of these Incorporations. The shields are intended to have emblazoned on them the legitimate Coats of Arms of their Incorporations. Only four Coats are at present so displayed, as only four of the fourteen Incorporations are in possession of legitimate arms. The remainder are left blank until the ten Incorporations obtain Patents or legitimize the Arms presently used."*

This is simply a statement of fact and not the reason for the registering of the Arms.

The reason for registering was simply that in 1902, the House wished to have its Arms and those of the fourteen Incorporations emblazoned on the roof or some other decorated part of the renewed Cathedral.

The Clerk stated that; *"the Cathedral was a State building and that no Coats of Arms would appear on the building unless they had been registered at the Lyon Office."*

At that time none of the Incorporations had their Coat of Arms registered and the House suggested that each of the Incorporations should have their Coats of Arms registered.

In 1948, the House agreed to pay for replacing one of the stained glass windows in the Quire, and is the sixth window on the south wall counting from the east most end. The House agreed to pay £1000 and each Incorporation was asked to pay £100 for the window. The window can be seen by all visitors to the Cathedral and is in full glorious colour.

In 1957 the House Finance Committee approved payment of £250 for four new pews for the Cathedral and the House and the fourteen Incorporations had their registered Coats of Arms carved on the ends of the pews in full colour. The pews are located adjacent to the Trades House window previously mentioned above.

It is only with the creation of the Archives store in the basement of the Trades Hall that some of the above information has been found. We believe that there are a lot more hidden gems waiting discovery and a team will be formed in late September to help uncover them.

The archivist is always happy to visit Master Courts etc. to keep them up-to-date

with any new discoveries and to give talks on the Trades House and Hall to groups, clubs etc. If you would like to be part of this team, or know of a club or group who would like a talk on the House or Hall, please email [craig\\_bryce@hotmail.com](mailto:craig_bryce@hotmail.com).

For tours of the Trades Hall, please phone or email the Trades House office.

**Craig Bryce,**  
Honorary Archivist

## MCR Pathways

**MCR Pathways is a schools based mentoring programme supporting care experienced and disadvantaged young people to realise their full potential. Founded by social entrepreneur Iain MacRitchie in 2007 the programme now supports over 700 young people aged between 12 to 18 in fifteen Glasgow secondary schools, due to expand to all 30 schools by Jan 2018.**

Dedicated to closing the attainment gap and making a radical improvement in post school destinations, MCR Pathways' vision is that disadvantaged young people will have the same educational outcomes, career opportunities and life chances as any other young person.

The programme recruits, trains and supports high quality mentors from all walks of life who meet their young people weekly for a minimum of a year. Building relationships, confidence and self-esteem



are the prerequisite to helping the young people find, grow and use their talents. Subsequent career 'talent tasters' help effective school transitions to higher education, further education, employment and re-engagement.

Results have been exceptional, reinforcing that mentored students are more likely to stay on longer at school and achieve positive destinations thereafter. **Where previously 48.8% of the city's most disadvantaged and care experienced young people progressed to college, university or a job, now 80% do.**



The expansion of the programme means efforts to attract mentors to the programme are crucial so as to meet the demand identified across the city. If you are interested in becoming a mentor and committing one hour a week please visit [www.mcrpathways.org](http://www.mcrpathways.org) or email us at [mentor.services@mcrpathways.org](mailto:mentor.services@mcrpathways.org) to find out about attending an info session.





The 2016/17 Chain Gang taking part in the Lord Mayor's Show, London.

# Review *of the Year*

*"Our purpose is to improve the lives of the people in Glasgow by tackling areas of significant charitable need with a focus on social and civic well being and education."*

## ■ Taking the House Forward

Over the last three years Trades House has been transformed into a charity with a modern governance structure, supported by a clear strategy and succession planning. This has been supported by an improved financial position through a strong performance of our investments and therefore income, and the development of a profitable commercial business. Our administration structure has been overhauled in the last year so we are well placed to support the work of our committees and charitable and education projects.

## ■ Reaching Out

The theme for the year has been "Reaching Out" and this can be witnessed through a whole series of events, some new, some well-established. The first was the Lord Mayor's Show reaching out to the City of London and London Livery Companies. It has been noticeable that relationships between our Crafts and City Livery Companies, as well as those in other Cities of the United Kingdom, are growing and becoming an important part of the Crafts' activities.

The Glasgow in London Dinner reached out to members in London and the South of England and clearly demonstrated the Crafts need to nurture the members outside Glasgow as much as inside.

The Business Dinner reached out to the local business community with the Summer Ball and Fashion Show introducing new people to the House.

The most significant 'Reaching Out' is through our well established events at Trades Hall. The Commonwealth Fund Presentations bring community groups into the Hall which enables them to understand our ethos as well as meet others engaged in projects. Grants by the Commonwealth Fund in this last year have been £92,000.

Craftex, our School Craft Competition, Modern Apprentice Award and School Burns Festival brought hundreds of people both

young and old into the Hall and for them to witness the positive contribution that we make to the traditional Crafts of our City.

By far the greatest 'Reaching Out' is by way of our participation in the Doors Open Day in September, as well as tours that we give to groups. The most often asked question to me was what does the House do for the Crafts today? Each Craft has active programmes to support students and apprentices to pursue their studies and develop their skills, an example of which we take great pride in being the carpet in the Deacon Convener's suite. As Glasgow grows and develops the retention of traditional skills is absolutely essential.



The DC with the main winners of Craftex 2017, with Gordon Ferguson (far left) and Anita Brown (3rd from left) of Quilter Cheviot, the exhibition's main sponsor.

The Glasgow School of Art and the Mackintosh Tea Room renovations are typical examples where skilled craftsmanship is vital. If we are to sustain other traditional trades such as weaving, coopering and fashion, our encouragement and support is an important ingredient.

## ■ Charities

Our Charity Committee has brought together all our charitable funds with a clear criteria for making donations. This in turn has focused minds on where we should be directing our resources. As a house we donate £411,200 each year to charities or individuals. This includes the Commonweal Fund mentioned earlier. It is not just responding to applications for funding but also developing a clear policy where we see the greatest need in the City, of which child poverty should have a high priority.

The Kinship Care Initiative is now making a positive contribution to children who lack the parental support we often take for granted. The support for homework clubs

and life skills courses through Geezabreak and the Voluntary Tutors Organisation are giving young people a lift in life. The Drapers Fund provides essential grants to kids living on the poverty line. This year it has amounted to a record £77,994.

## ■ Education

The newly formed Education Committee brings together all the aspects of our education sponsorship. This includes the Conveners of Craftex, School Craft, Citizenship, Movie and Burns competitions and the Modern Apprentice Awards. There is much opportunity to cooperate across all areas and the plan is to have a Festival of Education in 2018.

Our relationships with the colleges and schools are, therefore, most important in delivering our education projects. This also applies to universities, where we give



The Deacon Convener (2016-17) with Craftex's Gold Medal Winner, Kerry Connolly and her incredibly detailed equinoctial ring dial which looks like heavy metal but is in fact made from acrylic.

# High

- Royal visits by the Duke of Edinburgh and the Earl of Wessex
- Lord Mayor's Show in London. The greatest display of Deacon's Chains outside Glasgow, which received TV coverage
- Deacon Convener's Charity raised £42,000 supporting Kinship Care, the Good Morning Service and a School Movie Project
- Developing a strategy for the House and a clear purpose statement
- Trades House and its Crafts donated some £711,965 to beneficiaries, children in poverty and charities in Glasgow
- Succession Planning with a strong pipeline of Collectors and therefore Deacon Conveners for the future

various prizes and sponsor the annual Trades House lecture. This year it was the Fraser of Allander Institute of the University of Strathclyde. The introduction of the Deacon Convener's Scholarship will further enhance our relationships, but will also bring benefits to the House.

An important part of education is the preservation of our artefacts and our team of Honorary Archivist, Curator and Librarian, as part of the Education Committee, have done a great job over the last year.

## ■ Trades Hall

Trades Hall is our home and without it we what we do at Trades House would be devalued. Therefore it is important that we invest to maintain its status as the second oldest building in the City still used for its original purpose. For those who have been to our events in the last year they will have seen vastly improved lighting. In the next year they will witness new central heating and air conditioning. The conversion of the dress shop into the new Robert Adam Room will restore it to its original use within the House. We are one of the top wedding venues in Scotland and a favourite for meetings, conferences and events.



# lights

- Resounding success of the first Glasgow in London Dinner
- Introducing the Deacon Convener's Desk Letter providing a regular commentary of events
- Instigating the Deacon Convener's Scholarship
- Investment in Trades Hall with new lighting, plans for improved heating and ventilation and creation of the Robert Adam Room
- A strong governance and committee structure backed by a sound financial position
- A strong and also unique relationship in the United Kingdom between the Civic City (Lord Provost), Trades House (Deacon Convener) and Merchants House (Lord Dean of Guild)



Commonweal Awards Presentation evening, September 2017.

## ■ Finance

Our finances are very strong with assets of over £25 million represented by investments and our Hall, although its value as a building of great architectural interest is much more than its paper value. Our commercial activities generate a positive contribution to the House and this will increase with the new Robert Adam Room.

The income generated from our investments enables us to make a

generous contribution to charities and education, while the positive contribution from commercial activities means we can continue to invest in the Hall to the benefit of the House and its Crafts for their various dinners and events.

Our audit and finance function are an important part of our committee structure and these will be strengthened in the coming year. We will also be reviewing the operation of our rules and by-laws to ensure that we maintain the highest standard of governance befitting of our status in Glasgow.

## ■ The Crafts and Chain Gang

While the principle duty of the Deacon Convener is to convene the House and act as Chairman for the year there are two other important roles – the leader of the Chain Gang and the Civic Role as Third Citizen of Glasgow.

At my own dinner to mark my election I was honoured that the Earl of Wessex came and proposed the toast to the House. Towards the end of the year I welcomed the Duke of Edinburgh to Trades Hall for the 50th Anniversary of the Prince Philip Cup of the Incorporation of Hammermen.

The participation of the Chain Gang in the Lord Mayor's Show was a great bonding opportunity and was the hallmark that set the standard for the year. The Chain Gang decided on our charities for the year which were Kinship Care, the Good Morning Service and the educational project on movies.

There were four fund raising events; the Business Dinner with guest speakers from the CBI and London Stock Exchange, the Fashion Show, the Golf at Loch Lomond and the Midsummer Ball. All were successful and contributed to the £30,000 raised from events.

I had the opportunity of speaking and enjoying the hospitality at each of the 14 Choosing Dinners, all of which have their own traditions which deserved recognition. This year we celebrated the second part of the 500th anniversary of the Skinners and the 400th anniversary of the Gardeners. Both were recognised with civic dinners at the City Chambers.

The decision of the Maltmen to admit ladies as Craftsmen and return to the Hall for their Choosing Dinner and meetings was a welcome return to the mainstream of the House. I also attended the annual events of the Association of Deacons, Trades House Lodge dinner and the Grand Antiquities dinner and was delighted by the latter to be conferred with Honorary Membership. I was particularly delighted to speak at the Annual Dinner of the Society of Deacons and Free Preseses who have now agreed to return to the House for their events and meetings.



**Cameron Davies of the High School of Glasgow won a National Award at the Robert Burns Federation competition for instrumental players. His participation was as a result of taking part in the Trades House Robert Burns Festival.**

Each Craft has other various traditional events and I was delighted to witness some unique Craft rituals!

Deacon's Choosing Day was an excellent opportunity to address all 14 Incorporations on their achievements and also to thank the retiring Deacons and Visitor and welcome the new. It was good to see so many attending most of the meetings, which was really appreciated, even though it was a holiday weekend this year.

My message was clear that the two main challenges for the Crafts are membership and communication. If Crafts are to attract and retain members then they must have an attractive programme of events and therefore have effective communications. The House has employed a communication consultant and this will be the first stage for taking all our communications forward using the latest media platforms.

The Deacon Convener's Desk Letter not only kept Craft members informed of my activities but has also demystified the role.

## ■ Civic Role

Glasgow is unique in its recognition of the Trades and Merchants traditional roles in the governance of the City. Whilst the Lord Dean of Guild and the Deacon Convener are Second and Third Citizen respectively they no longer speak or vote in Council meetings but we are still recognized as part of the Civic Team supporting the Lord Provost and Bailies at civic receptions and events, too numerous to mention.

I have been received with great courtesy by the two Lord Provosts I have served

with as well as the two Depute's and other Bailies. Once in every five years there is an interregnum between election day and the new Lord Provost being elected. It was therefore a huge honour to act on behalf of the City to welcome conferences and visitors.

The appointment of the new Lord Provost, Depute Lord Provost and Bailies was recognised by holding a reception at Trades Hall and by making a presentation to the Lord Provost.

## ■ Thank you

Trades Hall and the Crafts cannot survive as one of Glasgow's leading charities without the support of so many people too numerous to mention. There are those who Chair and serve on House Committees, the Conveners of the various Craft competitions, the Honorary officers of the House. There are those outside the House who give their time and expertise. All those who serve on Craft Mastercourts as Deacons, Visitor, Collector or other officers who quietly contribute to our great institution. "Union is Strength" is not a slogan, it is a reality.

As Deacon Convener I have been loyally supported by my Collector Tom McNally and an effective and hardworking Platform. We all in turn have been supported by a professional administrative team led by Chief Executive and Clerk John Gilchrist who has been key to implementing the investment in the Hall.

It has been an honour to have served as Deacon Convener and Third Citizen of Glasgow in this year which I would not have been able to carry out without the huge support of my wife Rita. However, Trades House is much more important than one individual it is about what we are as an institution in the City of Glasgow. We need to adapt to changing social and economic circumstances and are well placed to do so. I am delighted to hand over to Dr. Alistair Dorward supported by Sarah, and have every confidence that the House has chosen well in the new Deacon Convener and in Bruce Reidford as the new Collector and his wife Ann.

**Keith Brown OBE**  
Deacon Convener (2016/17)



**Representatives of the Crafts welcome the new Lord Provost and Bailies to a reception at Trades Hall.**





L-R The Lord Provost of Glasgow, Eva Bolander; HRH The Duke of Edinburgh; Keith Brown OBE, Deacon Convener (now Late Convener), John McKnight, Deacon of the Incorporation of Hammerman (now Ex-Deacon)

# 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Prince Philip Prize Award

**The Incorporation of Hammermen Prince Philip Prize** reached a significant milestone this year, it being the 50th anniversary since the first prize was presented in 1967. The Incorporation issued an invitation to HRH, The Duke of Edinburgh K.G., K.T. as an Honorary Member of the Craft, to attend an Evening Reception to mark the event. On 3 July 2017, the Lord Provost of Glasgow, Lord Dean of Guild, The Deacon Convener and other invited guests, together with Deacons of the Trades of Glasgow, Ex Deacons of the Hammermen and past and current recipients of the Prince Philip Prize, attended at Trades Hall in the presence of HRH, The Duke of Edinburgh K.G., K.T. to mark this special occasion.

The evening was a memorable one and following a brief speech of welcome from Deacon John A McKnight, HRH presented this year's 2017 Prince Philip Prizes to Shannon Martin (Glasgow Clyde College) and Merlin Kafka (University of Strathclyde). HRH then spent time meeting past winners and other invited guests. The Incorporation of Hammermen were

greatly honoured by the visit from HRH, given that he had recently announced his intention to step down from many of his public engagements.

Deacon John A McKnight said; *"The Duke of Edinburgh was made an Honorary Member of the Incorporation of Hammerman in 1955. It's an amazing testament to his commitment and continuity of support for the Glasgow*

*Hammermen that he attended the reception to meet prize winners, past and present."*

Deacon Convener Keith Brown said, *"It was a great occasion for the Incorporation of Hammermen and for the Trades House. We are privileged to have enjoyed the Royal patronage of the Duke of Edinburgh since 1955 and his active participation on so many occasions."*



HRH The Duke of Edinburgh presents Shannon Martin with her award.

# Tradition of *Box* Opening



The large gathering are fascinated by the contents of the historic boxes.

Visitors to the Craftsmen's Gallery will witness an array of wooden boxes which are owned by the various Crafts. Originally they would have contained all the documents and valuables of a Craft but in the latter years the contents consist of a treasure trove of memorabilia relating to the history of the Crafts and their Deacon or Visitor.

Many Crafts now re-enact the Box Opening Ceremony each year. In May the Wrights held a very special event to celebrate this centuries old tradition. It was hosted by Deacon Dorothy Newlands.

The Wrights' carved wooden strongboxes originally held the Craft's documents and gold. Each had two keys, and every year the two key keepers and other office bearers would meet at the Deacon's house to open the box and take an inventory. In the early 1800s the tradition began of placing items in the box to mark the Deacon's year in office.

Today all Wrights are welcome to the event. This year's guests included a group from Bishopsgate Ward Club in the City of London. They watched as the key keepers mastered the age-old locks, allowing Deacon Dorothy Newlands of Lauriston to talk about a few artefacts that helped tell the story of the Wrights.

First was a small classical medallion, "*got in Egypt*" and placed in the box in 1907 by Deacon John Keppie, architect and mentor to Charles Rennie Mackintosh. It was Keppie who designed the magnificent panelled Saloon where the Box Opening took place.

From 1917 came a badge worn by the women in Deacon Samuel Stevenson's firm to recognise their work to support the war effort. Stevenson also acknowledged his wife's support for the Wrights, inviting her to wear the magnificent Deacon's Chain at

his Box Opening. The chaining ceremony continues to this day, and members of this year's Chain Gang gathered to celebrate its centenary with William Newlands of Lauriston, the Deacon's Consort being the recipient.

The list of subscribers to the Deacon's chain was produced from 1851. There was also a note of the Wrights' contribution to the cost of building Trades Hall. In 1791 the Craft gave £350 - a tenth of its capital - towards the creation of the fine Robert Adam building.

Deacon Dorothy deposited a number of items to mark her year in office:

- **A Maria Teresa Thaler from the Deacon's Consort:** known as the silver passport, this coin was the first truly international currency
- **An antique brass bell from Forfarshire, the Deacon's native county:** presented "for the use of the Deacon in Office, and to remain in the ownership of the Wrights for all time coming", the bell was rung later in the evening to signal the Loyal Toast
- **Two maps of the city of London** gifted by Bishopsgate Ward Club to commemorate its visit to Glasgow, presented by President Mike Brady Russell and Vice-President Peter Timms
- **A piece of Glasgow folk art:** an inlaid Victorian cage for Scotch Fancy canaries - hugely popular in Glasgow - designed to carry two canaries for the price of one on the tram
- **A proof 2017 pound coin:** presented by Graeme Kidd, a sixth generation Wright and former Lord Dean of Guild
- **Reaching Out pack:** souvenirs of the Chain Gang's work to forge links with like-minded charitable organisations all over the country

It was then time for the guests to enjoy a delicious dinner, including a cake baked for the occasion by Tunnock's, and fine fiddle music by Charlie Stewart, Scotland's Young Traditional Musician of the Year.

**Deacon Dorothy Newlands of Lauriston**



London visitors: members of the Bishopsgate Ward Club on the steps of Trades Hall with their hosts.



# Dr Alistair Dorward Deacon Convenor

**Alistair qualified in 1976 from his local University in Dundee. He was a consultant physician with an interest in respiratory medicine at Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley for 30 years. Since retirement in 2015 he continues to work for the Tribunal service and has a medico-legal practice.**

He has had a wide variety of roles within the Scottish Health Service. He was Clinical Director of Medicine for 17 years and Lead Clinician for Clyde for 5 years. He was a Speciality Advisor for Scottish Health Executive and has been on or chaired a variety of working groups.

He is a Senior Examiner for the Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Glasgow and Edinburgh. He was until recently on the Council of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. College duties have taken him (and sometimes Sarah) to a wide variety of

destinations in the last few years such as Kuwait, Hong Kong, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Jordan as well as Edinburgh. He was one of the instigators of a large Scottish study on Screening for Lung Cancer (Early CDT Lung Cancer).

He is ex President of the Royal Medical-Chirurgical Society of Glasgow and of the Scottish Society of Physicians. Last year he was awarded an honorary Life Fellowship of the Society of Acute Medicine. He is a Director of the charity Glasgow Care Foundation.

He was Deacon of the Cordiners in 1996 and of the Barbers in 2012 and the Collector

of the House in 2015. He was Manager of the Drapers Fund in 2013. As Chairman of the Trades House Kinship Initiative awards committee, he has been instrumental in getting the scheme off the ground.

Alistair plays golf to an increasing handicap at Glasgow GC and Blairgowrie. In his spare time he cycles in Scotland and abroad in the summer and plays bridge in the winter.

He is married to Sarah, now a retired Stroke Nurse Specialist. They have one daughter Gillian (married to Matt), who is an occupational therapist in the GRI.

## Bruce Reidford Collector

**Bruce has worked for Tunnocks for almost 30 years as Company Secretary. He is immersed in civic duty, being an Elder in the Church of Scotland for 35 years and a past President of Bothwell & Uddingston Rotary Club. His charity work is also considerable: Bruce is an Ambassador for 'Glasgow the Caring City' and carries out voluntary work for Alzheimer's Scotland.**

Bruce said; "I am greatly honoured to have been proposed and elected to the office of Collector and will be supporting Alistair in his year as Deacon Convenor. The work of the Trades House has been ongoing since the early 17th century and its contribution to the history and well-being of its citizens has, and continues to be, a fantastic achievement."

Bruce continued; "Great strides have been made in recent times to preserve the heritage and fabric of our great organisation and the Trades Hall itself, with modernisation projects being undertaken in the background without interruption to the daily workings



of the House. The recent addition of the Robert Adam room is a perfect example of on-going work and will bring a welcome boost generating further income and enhancing the reputation of the Hall."

"Our aim should be to reach out to all sections of our community, especially those who are experiencing difficulties in these difficult times, showing that the Trades House of Glasgow is a vibrant, effective part of city

life making a telling contribution to the lives of its inhabitants."

Bruce and his wife Anne have been married for 46 years, and have 2 children and 4 grandchildren – all of whom are members of the Bakers! When they have any spare time they enjoy relaxing at their 'home from home' in Spain.

# The Trades House of Glasgow 2017-2018

## THE CHAIN GANG



**HAMMERMEN**  
Deacon: Colin Botfield  
Clerk: Wright Johnston Mackenzie LLP,  
email: wgj@wjmc.co.uk



**TAILORS**  
Deacon: Timothy Purdon  
Clerk: Colonel John L Kelly,  
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**CORDINERS**  
Deacon: Dr Iain Lennox  
Clerk: Thomas W Monteith,  
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**MALTMEN**  
Deacon: Charles Mackintosh  
Clerk: T Wilson Aitken,  
email: waitken@ntlworld.com



**WEAVERS**  
Deacon: Moira Dalgetty  
Clerk: Kenneth Dalgleish / Clerking Support: Jackie Mullen, email: kdalgleish@aspenpeople.co.uk / jackie.mullen@tradeshouse.org.uk



**BAKERS**  
Deacon: Dr Rose Mary Harley OBE,  
Clerk: (Hon Clerk) Cdr Jamie Dobson / Clerking Support: Katrina Tilston,  
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**SKINNERS**  
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**WRIGHTS**  
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**COOPERS**  
Deacon: Kenneth Dalby  
Clerk: Thomas W Monteith,  
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**FLESHERS**  
Deacon: Col Stephanie Jackman  
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email: Tom.Monteith@harpermacleod.co.uk



**MASONS**  
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**GARDENERS**  
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**BARBERS**  
Deacon: Karen Waugh  
Clerk: Ian Thomson,  
email: clerk@barbers-glasgow.com



**BONNETMAKERS & DYERS**  
Deacon: Mariella MacLeod  
Clerk: Thomas W Monteith,  
email: Tom.Monteith@harpermacleod.co.uk



**ASSOCIATION OF DEACONS**  
President: J Douglas Anderson,  
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**GRAND ANTIQUITY SOCIETY**  
Preses: Roddy McPherson,  
email: ram@arandem.co.uk

## TRADES HOUSE LODGE NO. 1241

RWM: Allan Lapsley,  
email: Allan.lapsley@possilpark.co.uk



# Craft Notes

**T**he Trades House of Glasgow and the Deacon Convener are, as always, indebted to the Crafts and the individuals behind them for the time and expertise they invest, helping to organise and run the Trades House's educational projects and being involved in the many charities the Trades House and its 14 Incorporated Crafts assist.

*Thank you...*

## ■ THE CORDINERS

The Cordiners gave a total of £13,000 in grants and charitable donations this year including supporting the Kinship Care Initiative.

Links were maintained with the Cordwainers of York and London and the Pattenmakers of London, helping to demonstrate the Craft's outgoing approach. Additionally the Deacon visited the Guild of Shoemakers of Basle.



## ■ GARDENERS

This year has been a landmark one for the Gardeners, celebrating their 400th Anniversary of affiliation to the House, which was marked with a Civic Dinner in the City Chambers.

The Let Glasgow Flourish awards are always an annual highlight for the Craft and this year 40 awards went to business premises throughout the City for maintaining high quality and distinctive floral displays. It was particularly encouraging that 20 displays won awards for the first time.

This year the Gardeners sponsored the City Horticultural Apprentices who built a show garden at the Gardening Scotland show commemorating the 200th anniversary of

Glasgow Botanical Gardens. The young apprentices were thrilled to win a well-deserved Gold Medal.

Support also included gifts to the Craft beneficiaries and awards to winners from the Scottish Veterans Garden City Association and the Glasgow Allotment Forum.



City Horticultural Apprentices receiving their Gold Medal.

## ■ HAMMERMEN



The Annual Dinner in November 2016 was well supported and enjoyed entertaining and informative speeches from Andy Scott, Sculptor and creator of "The Kelpies" and Bryan Buchan, CEO of Scottish Engineering. The Theme of the Dinner being the links between Art and Engineering within the City of Glasgow.

On 25th April 2017 the Incorporation presented 25 Awards to University and College Engineering Students from Greater Glasgow at a Reception in Trades Hall attended by Deacon

Convener Keith Brown OBE.

At the invitation of the Incorporation, HRH the Duke of Edinburgh K.G., K.T. graciously attended a reception on 3 July 2017 to mark the 50th Anniversary of the awarding of the Prince Philip Prize. A memorable evening for the Craft saw HRH meet Past Winners of the Prize and invited guests and present the 2017 prizes to Merlin Kafka of Strathclyde University and Shannon Martin of Glasgow Clyde College.

The Incorporation held a New Members Evening on 31 August 2017 at which some 30 new members attended and enjoyed an informal briefing on the activities of the Craft, the work of the Master Court and the History and links to Trades House.

## WEAVERS

With the huge support of the Weavers, the production of the Trades House Tartan manifested itself in ties, trews, kilts, scarves and cushions and was a hallmark of the year. Lambs' wool Trades House tartan scarves are now in production and certain to be as popular as the existing products.



The Craft is active in promoting the art of weaving and ensuring its future as a national industry. Industry awards made recognise the contribution by long service weavers and the Craft continues to distribute generous grants to charity and in connection with education outreach. The Weavers once again supported Dumfries House with education grants for the continued development of the sewing and weaving training and design room. A more unusual event was the presentation of the Weavers Lion to Sma' Shott Cottages in Paisley. This is now proudly on display at the Cottages and well worth visiting.



Matthew Callahan, winner of a bricklaying award given by the Inc of Masons.

## SKINNERS

The Skinners celebrated the second half of their 500th Anniversary, starting with a visit to the Glasgow School of Art Macintosh building as part of their close association over recent years. The Deacon's Choosing Dinner was a milestone event with a full hall and a speech by the chairman of the Scottish Leather Group, Mr Jonathan Muirhead OBE. It was also attended by the Worshipful Master of the Leathersellers Company of London, his Lady and the Clerk. This growing association with the London Livery Companies was further developed through invitations from the Leathersellers, the Glovers and the Skinners to their halls in London.



The Deacon, as well as attending all 14 Incorporation dinners in Glasgow and those of the associated organisations, participated in the Lord Mayor's Show Parade.

The Incorporation contributed £17,000 to beneficiaries and educational recipients and are in the process of disbursing a further £9,500 to a mixture of internal/external interests of the House as well as promotional and apprenticeship schemes.

It has been a good year where the members have increased by 21 with more in the process of joining.

## BARBERS

The Barbers have donated to the Good Morning Service, which provides telephone befriending and alert calls to older people, and the Homeless Barbers, which offers free haircuts to homeless and vulnerable people in Glasgow. They are also co-sponsoring an apprentice barber and have given prizes in medicine, physiotherapy and occupational therapy.



Cheque presentation to the Good Morning Service





## ■ BAKERS

This Craft has given financial support to Young Enterprise Scotland, the Preshal Trust and Freedom Bakery in strategies to improve the quality of Glasgow life, further strengthening its links to the baking industry and training organisations.

## ■ COOPERS

The Coopers have supported charities including Govan High School and the Glasgow Sea Cadets over the last year. Their support for apprentices and Govan is recognised by the Earl of Wessex awards which took place in November this year in the presence of HRH.

Nearly all of the Coopers' charitable giving is given to support apprentice coopers because it is still an active industry. This represents our ethos of supporting craftsmanship: the very foundation of the Incorporations.



## ■ WRIGHTS

The Wrights launched 'Winning with Wood', a new competition for Glasgow charities who are using woodworking to help people rebuild their lives. Entrants had to make a piece for the Craftex exhibition and display its provenance: where the wood came from, how it was crafted, why they chose their design and the story of the people who created the piece. Winners

of the £1,000 first prize were Glasgow Wood Recycling, with runners-up Galgael and The Preshal Trust each receiving £500.



The Earl of Wessex enjoying the recent awards organised by the Inc. of Coopers.



Winning with Wood

The Wrights embraced the Chain Gang theme of Reaching Out, with 60 Wrights from London and the South East attending our Trades House in London Dinner in September. Deacon Dorothy Newlands of Lauriston proposed the Toast to the City of London and the Livery Companies, and the reply was given by Lord Mayor Nominate Alderman Charles Bowman.

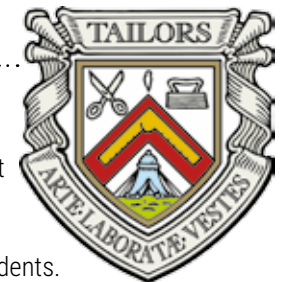
## ■ FLESHERS

The Fleshers raised £1,000 for the Girl Guides at their Choosing Dinner in addition to giving a further £10,000 to beneficiaries and charities.



## ■ TAILORS

During the year the Tailors have continued to support their beneficiaries whilst also giving prizes to college students. House activities have also been supported by Craft members.



The Deacon has attended fashion shows by both Glasgow Kelvin College and Glasgow School of Art. He was very impressed with the range and quality of work in addition to the enthusiasm and commitment displayed by the students. Deacon Tim Purdon said "Whilst it is essential that we continue to support our beneficiaries we must also strive to encourage young people to excel in the craft of Tailoring". The Craft is looking to maintain and also expand its connections with those engaged in Tailoring within Glasgow and environs.

## ■ BONNETMAKERS & DYERS



Cheque presentation

The Bonnetmakers and Dyers continue to support education and training in the fashion industry. While not many students use traditional dying techniques, they do use a wide palette of colours in producing some wonderful

creations. The Kelvin College millinery class showed off their work at the end of term fashion show in St. Andrew in the Fields, several members of The

Craft attended. Work displayed included one of Collector Dianne Chapman's hats. Dianne also collected a number of milliners to The Craft.

In addition to supporting education initiatives and pensioners, the Craft contributes over £20,000 each year to Scottish charities.

Ewen Mackie, chairman of The Lodging House Mission and an ex-deacon of the Craft received a cheque to help the mission's work with less fortunate citizens of Glasgow.







*The Trades Hall*  
of GLASGOW

*Elegant, Unique, and Exclusively Yours*



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