

President's column

Set for a stable start

The Extraordinary Business Meeting is now behind us and we should look forward to a period of financial stability which will enable Council to be receptive to improving our services and facilities.

Council would welcome suggestions. What style of menu do you prefer? Are we stocking the newspapers and magazines you want to read? Are there any functions or events you would like us to run? Do you have any ideas to make our openings more of an event?

I cannot guarantee to implement every idea but I am sure Council would welcome a bit of stimulation.

I am delighted our new Secretary Jonathan Lord is settling in so well. It is so much easier and efficient to have him in house and on site every day. He should be your first port of call for all administrative issues,

Over recent years our historical ties with Glasgow School of Art have become somewhat loosened. Lord Macfarlane, Iain Macmillan and I had a recent meeting with the School's director Seona Reid. It was a very productive meeting and I look forward to a re-establishment of our traditional close connection. Ideas being considered include an annual student show in the gallery, increased access to our archive for research purposes and a special membership category for GSA staff.

I suspect many of you will be interested to hear that in Seona's view the pendulum is swinging back to drawing and painting.

Can I put on record again my thanks to all of you who contributed to the cost of redecorating and improving the lighting in the gallery, and to Connie Simmers for organising it.

Following upon a recent meeting with the trustees there is now no impediment, financial or other, to proceeding with the refurbishment of the billiard Room. Work will start as soon as the appropriate permissions required for a listed building and quotations have been received. This will provide accommodation for functions of up to fifty people and will be our temporary home when refurbishment of the gallery takes place.

I would like to finish by congratulating our lay vice president Iain MacCormick on his recent marriage. His reception took place in the Club.




These vibrant 'Poppies' have been chosen to front the catalogue for Ronald F Smith's latest solo exhibition at Edgar Modern International Art in Bath from 9 to 29 November. It's the culmination of a busy autumn for Ronnie who has just returned from a fortnight getting to know the champagne country, thanks to the Inverarity One to One Travel Award, won at last year's RGI annual exhibition. "I had a great time, visiting the Louis Roederer vineyards, press houses and headquarters. Having lunch in the magnificent family villa in Reims was a unique experience. It's too soon to have had any effect on my work but I've gathered a variety of source material in the form of drawings, colour studies and photographs to develop in the future."

Special message from artist vice-president

A big thank you to all members who so generously contributed to the picture fund. With the proceeds the gallery has now been painted, some softer lighting will be introduced by way of floor and table lamps, the dimmer switch for gallery overhead lighting reinstated, and plants introduced in appropriate areas. Overall, we hope, it will create a more comfortable atmosphere for members to linger longer at the Club

Connie Simmers

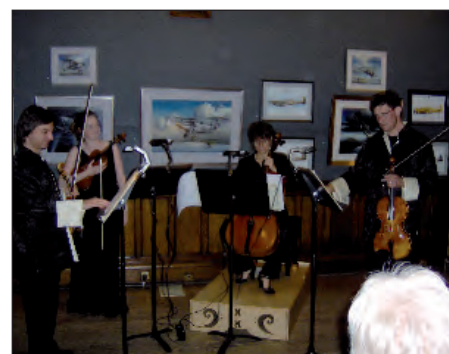
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Begone dull grey!

President Raymond Williamson introduces Brian Clements (left) who opened the autumn exhibition, the first to be shown against the newly repainted gallery walls. Quite a change from June, when the popular Fejes Quartet (right) played a delightful concert of Haydn and Shostakovich against a rather deeper background.





Return visit

Over a year ago, a group of GAC members enjoyed a private visit to near neighbours the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow. They were shown round the elegant building in St Vincent Street and introduced to the College's impressive collection of paintings, before sitting down to supper.

This autumn the order was reversed when RCPSCG members came round for a meal at the Club where archivist Theo van Asperen led a tour of the building, explaining how it had been converted from two earlier residences. Even those who are members of both organisations had a lot to learn, and everyone appreciated the chance to mix and chat with the folk almost next door.

Talks about the past

Honorary archivist Theo von Asperen, a Dutchman based in Edinburgh, has devoted many hours to exploring the archives of the Club, cataloguing books and records, and is now keen to make them more accessible to members and others interested.

He will be giving a lecture three times each day, at 10.30, 2.30 and 7.00pm during the week beginning November 12 - just report to the library a few minutes before the start of a session. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the Club and its history, and it is hoped that most members will be able to come along to at least one session.

Since the last Newsletter, we have lost three members who had long-standing connections with the Club. Tributes to them all can be found on page 6. Our sympathies go to their families.

Give us your answers, do!

What have GAC members in common with East African dieticians and English dishwashers? Answer - their opinions have all been tested through questionnaires devised by Iain McGlashan.

You may know Iain as a singer, school bursar or serial traveller to foreign parts, but his career has taken in manufacturing, fund-raising, running a taxi business, and working for the UN food and agricultural agency. The longest stint was as a market researcher with Unilever, where he devised schemes to test the popularity of new products, from food stuffs to washing powders.

Now he has brought his various skills to the Club, as a member of Council and the committee which plans social events. There, concern about

poor attendance at gatherings devised to entertain and bring members together led him to draw up the questionnaire which is going out with this newsletter.

Shona Barr, who chairs the committee, hopes that the findings will help it to plan a programme with wider appeal. "Answering the questions should remind members of events they have enjoyed - or missed - and give them a chance to put forward their own suggestions. We're all keen to see better use of the Club's facilities in the evenings, and more occasions for enjoying the company of others who have an interest in all the arts. So please take the time to fill in and return the form."

Luck of the lottery

At the special meeting of the Club on 8 September Iain Macmillan announced on behalf of the trustees that the Heritage Lottery Fund had approved their application for funding, the sum indicated being £250,000. This means that with the £190,000 already approved by Historic Scotland, and the £200,000 already achieved, the trustees are well on their way to achieving their target. There are other funding bodies still to be approached, and the trustees are very hopeful of a successful outcome. There will still be a great deal of work to be done before the building is restored, but the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund is a huge step forward.

Seat of remembrance

A garden bench in Hyndland has been dedicated to the memory of urban designer Alan Stewart, a long-standing member of the Club who died two years ago. The decayed Victorian seat in the grounds of Hyndland Bowling Club has been restored by local conservationists and given a new name at a simple ceremony in June. Alan, an architect working for Glasgow city planning department, took a particular interest in the West end of the city.

New members

We welcome the following new members (proposers in brackets).
Honorary members: Jim McDonald, Alexander Stoddart;
Artist members: Emma S Davis (*award winner*), Gillian Gemmill Kamming (*James Robertson*), Garry Morrow (*Robert Kelsey*), John Bruce Peter, Graeme Wilcox (*award winner*);
Lay members: Colin George Barral (*Iain J S Talman*), Catherine Lyon (*Gordon C Macpherson*), Patricia Johnson (*Martin Frame*), Scott James Mackay (*Craig MacLeod*), Alex Reejik (*Raymond Williamson*), Andrew Scott, W Burns Shearer;
Corporate member: John Morrison (*in place of Ken Symon*);
Associate member: Laura Jane Mackay;

Events to end the year in style

Besides the regular favourites - Curry club (Wednesdays 18 November and 16 December) and Unclubbed on 27 November, there are some seasonable treats in store.

Get into the festive spirit at the Whisky tasting on Thursday 12 November. Convivial Pete, from the Inverarity Vaults, will dispense his knowledge of the wine of the country, along with samples, and nibbles, for a mere £7.50 a head.

It starts at 7pm and should be an enjoyable preliminary to the informal opening of the Works on Paper exhibition of affordable art by artist members - a good source of unique presents as well as funds for the Club.

The St Andrew's night party comes early, on Friday 20 November. Included in the £17.50 ticket is a dram to start, a finger buffet at the interval and the Rusty Nails ceilidh band to set the feet tapping - they are said to be experts in encouraging first-timers and the rustiest to join in the dancing!

This year's Christmas exhibition opens on Saturday 28 November with a carvery lunch price £18.50.

Sit back and enjoy the concert by Brats and Callants on Friday 4 December. This talented choir has agreed to sing not for its supper (included) but to raise funds for the Club. Tickets £12.50.

Finally, just a week before Christmas, the Masquerade party on Friday 18 December - a chance to dig out your gladdiest rags and hide behind an exotic mask- or not, it's up to you. Drinks reception, supper, music to dance or listen to, all for £25

Editorial Team

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Jonathan rounds the corner – and rallies to another Club

Jonathan Lord, who has joined the GAC as its first in-house secretary, needed no directions to reach his new workplace – it's almost next door to his previous office. Until it closed in 2002 he was based in the Royal Scottish Automobile Club in Blythswood Square, now being turned into an upmarket hotel.

Though born in England, he was educated at Dollar and St Andrews, and apart from a brief spell with the Ministry of Defence has spent his working life in Glasgow – or on the road, pursuing his passion for rallying. He was only seven and living in Beith when he was taken to see the early stages of the Monte Carlo rally (which started outside the RSAC) and immediately fell in lifelong love with the sport.

“Driving’s not for me!” he admits, “Though I’ve done quite a lot of rallying as co-driver, I’ve always kept to the left-hand side.” Nevertheless after graduating with honours in English and medieval history, he joined the RSAC as assistant secretary and stayed there for 30 years to the day, taking over as secretary in 1991, and working from new headquarters in Linwood after the historic building was given up.

Since he came to the GAC in late

summer Jonathan has been working part-time, officially 10am-2pm weekdays, but the hours are flexible enough to allow him to keep up his professional interest in the sport. He was an official observer with the world governing body, and acts as a consultant on motor sport and adviser to various rallies.

Already familiar with the GAC, he’s delighted to be back in the club atmosphere. “There may be slight differences in the clientele, but there’s the same concern for personal service, and the staff are very committed. I’m getting to know members and becoming familiar with the building, though I’ve still to settle into my permanent office!”

Though he has happy memories of his art class at school, Jonathan makes no claim to expertise in this field – “My brother was the artistic one, and he’s now running a publishing firm in New Zealand. I’m more involved in music, and sing in two choirs: a small one raising funds for charity as well as my own church choir, where I also serve as vestry secretary and magazine editor.

Meanwhile his sporting interests are not confined to rallying – “I support Dunfermline Athletic, and am a keen cricket fan – though no relation to the founder of the MCC ground!”

Russians laugh last

The Club trip to Veneto (see centre pages) revived varied memories among members. For Jim Bankier it provided a chance to visit Venice’s famous art show after a gap of half a century: he found the scene somewhat changed.

‘In 1955 a party of GSA students visited Italy and the Venice Biennale. The pavilions were much as I remembered them from student days, but inside...

‘In 1955 everyone laughed at the Russian pavilion full of pictures of a happy workers and communist heroes. In 2009 thank heaven for Russia! Of the pavilions we saw, theirs was the most visually exciting and enjoyable.

‘The others we visited, admittedly fewer than half of the 30 on site, left an impression of sameness. Too many similar installations, videos and gimmicks. There was even some Scandinavian porn.’ ‘The weather, the food, and the garden setting were all lovely – shame about the content...’

Basement showcase

GAC artists have featured strongly in a series of mini-shows mounted by Inverarity Vaults, the wine merchants conveniently parked in the basement premises. Each month around half a dozen works by a chosen artist are displayed alongside the potable wares: featured artists to date include Hazel Nagl, and Georgina McMaster, Jennifer Irvine, Ronnie Smith and other familiar names are scheduled to find a free showcase below the Club. It's all thanks to Hamish Martin, who besides owning the wineshop is an enthusiastic collector in his own right.

In-house reception

When lay vice-president Iain MacCormick married Riona Macinnes in September, there was only one place suitable for the reception – the gallery of the Club.

They both taught in Oban many years ago, but it was only when they met up last autumn at a children's party in the Club that romance blossomed. After the ceremony in the Park Circus marriage suite, the party sat down to a lunch laid on in great style, followed by songs from the bride, a well known Gaelic singer. They plan to settle back in Oban, where Riona has always lived, but Iain will be keeping up his membership.





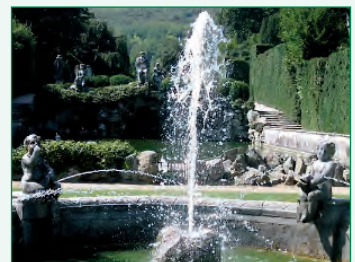
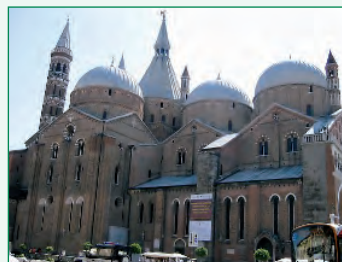
In the footsteps of Palladio



At the end of August, a party of 31 members and friends set off on a mini grand tour of Northern Italy. It was organised by veteran leader Michael Moulder, with advice from a couple of other experienced GAC trippers, to follow in the steps of Palladio round villas and gardens.



Our base was Castelfranco Veneto, less well known than the familiar tourist traps but ideally placed midway between Verona and Venice, with a charming old centre within the castle ramparts, and its own old master, Giorgione. From there we set off daily for another celebrated city packed with treasures of architecture, horticulture and art.



First Padua, where the glowing Giotto frescoes in the Scrovegni chapel were agreed to give the Sistine a run for its money. The better organised also found time to visit the oldest university garden in the world, laid out with a huge range of plants in formal wheel. Then everyone had a chance to wander through the vast baroque garden at Valzanibio, admiring the water features and carefully engineered vistas.



In Venice the next day we all sailed down the outer Canale della Giudecca, then scattered to revisit favourite buildings, get happily lost in the tangle of alleys, or simply sit in the sun and watch the world, or a good proportion of it, go by. Miraculously everyone made it back to San Marco quay in time for the boat back.





On to *Vicenza*, home of Palladio and the classical buildings which have inspired western architects for centuries. The Teatro Olimpico with its amazing perspectives was a must, but a masterpiece was to be spotted at every corner. When we approached the villa La Rotunda on the outskirts of the town some time was spent working out just how to get there, but eventually most managed up the hill to walk round the four-faceted house.



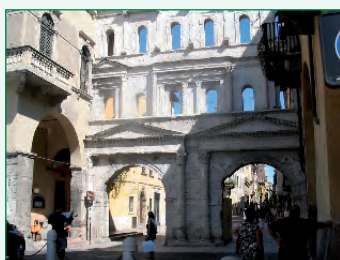
Still going strong, we embarked next morning for *Conegliano* where we had to force a way through busy market stalls to reach the impressive main street and climb to the castle museum with panoramic views of local countryside. On the way back we passed through the famous vineyards in the foothills of the



A city a day and more by the way

Dolomites and had a chance to sample the local prosecco.

We headed east to *Verona*, where there was more than enough to see in the historic town centre, but a few travellers managed to find their way to the celebrated Giusti Gardens, tucked between blocks in the residential area. Again maps proved less than useful in guiding the way back to the bus, but the driver was tolerant with latecomers.



The final day started with a visit to Canova's gleaming temple at *Possagno*, where the sculptor spent his life. Sadly the impressive marble steps, uncluttered by railings, proved too much for Barbara, who missed her footing and injured her shoulder. Just as well that the group included a full medical team – GP, orthopaedic surgeon, two nurses and two physios – who were able to offer first aid and escort her back to the hotel.



While the bus was away, the rest of us had time to visit Canova's home and the remarkable collection of plaster models. Our last lunch was eaten in the idyllic town of *Asolo* looking out on landscapes straight from the background to classic paintings. Throw in a viewing of the Villa di Maser where Veronese murals peopled the elegant rooms, and there was just time to catch the flavour of the medieval market and local Palio before the final dinner.



The sun shone throughout, the hotel was comfortable, the company good, the wine flowed – who could ask for anything more?



Maurice Lindsay

21.7.1918

30.4.2009



With the death of Maurice Lindsay, the Art Club has lost one of its most distinguished creative spirits. Creativity for him took the form of poetry rather than painting and his published collections span seven decades. In addition to this, Dr Lindsay had a highly successful public career as broadcaster and editor and first director of the Scottish Civic Trust. With his leonine head, bow tie, and sonorous voice, he had seemed an indestructible part of the Scottish cultural scene since the 1940s. He died in Erskine Hospital at the end of April.

Born in Glasgow and educated at Glasgow Academy and the Royal Scottish Academy of Music, Maurice saw wartime service with the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) and the War Office (where he briefed a siren-suited Winston Churchill among others). In the post-war period he was music critic of the *Bulletin*, and an admired radio and television broadcaster with the BBC till 1961, when he became programme controller of Border Television.

In 1967 his public career took a new direction on his appointment as first director of the Scottish Civic Trust. His years at the trust were marked by the emergence of a much more enlightened public attitude to conservation generally. Among the causes he championed was the restoration of New Lanark, now a World Heritage Site. From 1983 to 1990 he was honorary secretary-general of Europa Nostra.

A prolific producer of books (including a Burns Encyclopedia and a History of Scottish Literature), he was throughout his life a generous promoter of other poets' work. While still at the War Office, he persuaded T S Eliot, over tea and cucumber sandwiches at Faber's, to publish the groundbreaking *Modern Scottish Poetry: An Anthology of the Scottish Renaissance 1920-1945*. Almost 60 years later he asked me to co-edit with him the complementary Edinburgh Book of Twentieth-Century Scottish Poetry. Some of our discussions about it were held, pleasurably, over lunch at the Art Club and the book was launched there in 2005.

Maurice's own poetry displayed a far-ranging sceptical intelligence and love of Glasgow and the West of Scotland. His honours included a CBE in 1979 and a Doctorate of Letters from Glasgow University in 1982.

Lesley Duncan

Geoffrey Keanie

10.1.1937 - 14.7.2009

Geoff Keanie was an enthusiastic member of the Club from 1977 until illness struck five years ago. It was there he met Hazel Nagl whom he married in 1989.

Geoff studied architecture in Glasgow and London and gained experience in Keppies before joining the family firm of quality housebuilders, J Y Keanie Ltd. Though based in Bridge of Weir, he joined the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce where he made his name as the less than reverential editor of the Junior Chamber's magazine. He was also elected Deacon of the Incorporation of Wrights in the Trades House of Glasgow.

When the family firm was taken over, he was appointed housing director of the larger company but soon took his 15 years experience of private house building to Glasgow City Council, where his radical approach to public/private partnerships helped to change entrenched attitudes. After acting as an architectural consultant on a number of major projects, he formed an Independent Appraisal Group which won the contract for the new Kilmartin House Museum, a project which remained close to his heart.

Geoff was social convener of the GAC for four years, and established exacting standards of quality for the Club's events, not only parties and other fun events, but cultural presentations – poetry readings, literary lectures and musical recitals. A fellow member described him him as “the Art Club's Peter O'Toole – the cigarette and glass of wine but without the desert headscarf!”

Geoff was a sensitive, perceptive, elegant, eloquent and cultured man with great charm. He had a diverse range of interests including sports, joinery, creative writing, classical music and the history of architecture and art. Habitually unpunctual and slow of decision, he was thankfully also slow to anger and had a special gift for friendship, as testified by the overflow attendance at his funeral in Paisley.

Our special sympathies go to Hazel and their daughter Lauren, as well as to his wider family.

From Paul Dowd's eulogy



Happy memory: Geoff with Hazel and Princess Alisa of Zanzibar at the Club.

Bruce Wilson

4.2.1929

6.9.2009



Many of you would know Bruce Wilson who died on 6 September after a very nasty fall when he was leaving West of Scotland Rugby Club. Having played for West in his younger days he remained a most enthusiastic supporter over many years and, while he had hoped to leave this world suddenly rather than at the end of some progressive illness, he would have been most disappointed had he known that it had to happen just after West had been beaten by Burroughmuir!

I can remember being in Bruce's party at the annual West of Scotland Rugby Club Ball in the Central Hotel on several occasions. The evening would start with a splendid dinner prepared by Moira in their flat in Lauderdale Gardens, after which we would all arrive very late at the Central. The dancing was serious with Strip the Willow a great favourite as Bruce could birl at great speed without losing his balance.

Bruce was a long time member of Glasgow Art Club and, in his younger days, an enthusiastic supporter of many Club activities. In those days the Christmas Ball was always held in fancy dress and Bruce loved to turn up in outrageous gear. The old style traditional Burns Supper was the highlight of the Club programme and Bruce was always down on the list early to secure his place. He loved the singing and, when Jimmy Copeland delivered the Burns masterpiece, Tam O'Shanter, we were all on the back of Meg as she crossed the Alloway bridge!

Bruce trained as a chartered surveyor with James Barr & Son and specialised in rating; this gave him experience and knowledge of all the Scottish malt distilleries, and Bruce could choose his malt with expertise.

Besides sport, Bruce was interested in history and in art, and had a wide general knowledge which made him a great conversationalist – he even loved an argument! It was, however, his personal qualities which made Bruce such a great person to know as a friend, and he had a very wide circle. He certainly knew more people as friends than any one else I know.

Bruce had three children, all married, and five grandchildren: when he was acting as childminder at Bridge of Allan, Grandpa was very popular as he introduced the concept of a fish-and-chip night when he was in charge.

Bruce will be sadly missed by his family and his many friends..

Alan Stuart



Five names to remember

Norma Farquhar continues her series on GAC history with the stories behind the war memorial plaque in the entrance hall. It bears the names of five young members of the Club who fought and died in the First World War.

Captain Eugene Bourdon, architect, born in 1870, studied at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris. He was a pupil of M. Girault said to be "the greatest living master of his profession", an exponent of the Classical Style

In 1904, about to set up as an architect in Paris, Bourdon received an invitation from Glasgow to take up a post as visiting professor in the department of architecture. He accepted this teaching post and in the following year was given a permanent post as director of architectural studies and professor of architectural design. Bourdon was a brilliant teacher held in high regard by his students. He was elected artist member of GAC in January, 1907.

From 1890 Bourdon had served in the French Army Reserve, a statutory duty in France. He continued to train with the Reserve for a few weeks each year rising in rank from private soldier to captain. When Germany declared war on France, although over the age of forty, Bourdon immediately put himself at the service of his country. He served with the French 78th Brigade on the Western Front. In 1915, twice mentioned in despatches, he received the British Military Cross and the French Legion d'honneur. He fought at Verdun then joined the British forces on the Somme. On 1st July, the first day of the great offensive, Bourdon went over the top and was killed that evening, two weeks before his forty-sixth birthday.

Some buildings of importance in Glasgow in the classical style, such as the Bank of Scotland in Sauchiehall Street, Scottish Legal Assurance building in Bothwell Street, and the Union Bank in St. Vincent Street, were designed by former students of Bourdon, a fitting memorial to his name.

Glasgow School of Art has a collection of the drawings of Eugene Bourdon. These can be seen at the Bourdon Building by appointment.

James Brown Montgomerie-Fleming, gentleman, lived at Kelvinside House, the home of his father James B Fleming, solicitor. He was admitted to lay membership of GAC in April, 1909. He was an author who wrote "Desultory Notes on John Jamieson's Etymological Dictionary of the Scot's Language"

and notes on other learned works.

At the outset of war he joined the East Yorkshire Regiment attaining the rank of major. He served on the Western front. In August 1917 he died of his wounds in the casualty clearing station of Dozinghem in Belgium and was buried in the cemetery there.

Gilbert Anderson Ramsay joined GSA aged 16 in 1896. He was living in Greenock and his occupation was listed as 'joiner'. He continued his studies until 1902, then living at Glenlee, Kilmacoll and now listed as 'architect'. He was head of Whitechapel Gallery in London until, in 1914, he was appointed superintendant (nowadays director) of Glasgow Museums and Art Galleries. He became a lay member of GAC in October 1914. Not long after taking up the post in Glasgow he volunteered for war service, joining the 17th Battalion of the HLI, the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce Division. He was not to return to make his mark at Kelvingrove. In July 1915 he was killed in action in Turkey at the battle of Gallipoli in the Dardanelles campaign.

Captain James Russell, a coal exporter, lived at "Dalfruin", Great Western Road. He was admitted to lay membership of GAC in October 1913. He joined the 17th Battalion of the HLI Glasgow Chamber of Commerce Division, 'B' Company. This company was composed of former pupils of city schools, High School, Glasgow Academy, etc. He died of wounds received in action in June, 1917.

Second Lieutenant Allan Newton Sutherland, artist, hailed from Invergordon, Ross-shire. He was educated at Aberdeen Grammar School and at Hospitalfield, Arbroath. When elected to Glasgow Art Club as an artist member in December 1913 he was living in St Vincent Street, Glasgow. He was developing as a society portrait painter but did not live to fulfil his potential as an artist. He joined the Gordon Highlanders 17th Battalion and in March 1918 was killed in action at the battle of Arras, aged thirty-three. His name is on the war memorial in Arras.

Going for a gong

There will be an empty chair by the fire on a day in late November when ex-president Dr James Robertson takes off for London - to visit the Queen, who else. In June he was appointed MBE for his services to art in Scotland and now he's been summoned to Buckingham Palace to collect the gong.

"My deep regret is that my late wife Ursula will not be there, but I'm taking my stepson and daughter to share in the ceremony. We've no plans for anything apart from a slap-up lunch, but I expect Katie will be wanting to shop."

Jimmy will add the new honour to the string of initials after his name - RSA, RSW, RGI, and PAI plus a DLitt from Glasgow University.



An enthusiastic audience enjoyed the varied concert given by a quartet of young singers from the RSAMD in October. Sitting in the front row was George Devlin, recently back in Glasgow after five weeks in the sun and busily filling a notebook with sketches of the performers - pianist Christopher Baxter, soprano Emily Mitchell, baritone Andrew McTaggart, and mezzo Lynda-Jane Workman. Missing from the sketch is tenor Steven Philips, standing in for Warren Gillespie.

Who's doing what

George Devlin is planning an event to help a cause very close to his heart - the Beatson Oncology Centre. On Tuesday December 13 he will be holding open studio for the sale of framed works on paper, mainly pastel and watercolour. Prices will be a bit below gallery ones, and 20% will go to the cause.

"Without it, I wouldn't be here" George points out. A previous event raised £7,000 for the cancer charity. The studio, at 6 Falcon Lane, Maryhill, G20 0BW, will be open between 2 pm and 5pm.

George will also be busy organising the Royal Watercolour Society's first exhibition in Scotland, to be held at GAC in April 2010. Watch this space.

Muriel Barclay's latest solo show in the Edinburgh Gallery runs till 24 November at 20a Dundas Street, 0131 557 5002.



All aboard the Glenlee



Tired of dodging rain on country picnics, the events committee decided to try a summer outing with a difference - a static cruise on the good ship Glenlee moored at the foot of the road. So on the last Saturday in June it was a case of all hands below decks to distribute ships rations and splice the mainbrace with plentiful supplies of grog - most members had already arranged for bottles to be piped on board. Even when the last ship's biscuit had gone there was no shortage of chat, while cabaret favourite Rufus rolled out the barrel with a selection of old favourites, tempting the more energetic to join in the jigging.



Six out of nine winners

Ryan Mutter, Michael Durning, Emma Semple, Trish Cain, Denise Findlay and Ewan McClure line up in the gallery at the opening of the Group Fellowship Exhibition at the end of July. Missing from the picture are Mary Gillies, Sian MacQueen and Abigail McLellan who were also selected at last year's RGI exhibition and awarded two years membership of the GAC while they prepared work for a joint show in the Club.

It is hoped that this new award, along with the revised subscription level, will encourage more artists in the early stages of their careers to feel at home in the premises and share ideas with well-established figures in the art world.

Meanwhile Rosemary Lawless, who won the traditional Art Club Fellowship last November, has a second year to produce work for her solo exhibition next autumn.

