



President's Column

Next year, 2017, the Club will be 150 years old and the Council is turning its attention to the manner of its celebration. We will create a group to take the event or events forward and we hope members will give us suggestions and ideas.

I am very pleased that membership continues to increase and members are making good use of the Club.

The exhibition programme continues apace. Since the reopening of the Gallery some 30 exhibitions have been mounted. We have two exhibitions opening very shortly indeed the *Summer Exhibition* may already be running by the time the newsletter reaches you. As many of you will know I am very interested in the 19th and early 20th century architecture of Glasgow and also of Campbeltown where I have a lifelong connection. The town has some very fine buildings, many designed by the foremost Glasgow architects of the day. Thus the idea to celebrate this link has resulted in Campbeltown, *Success Built in Stone*, which will be mounted in the Billiard Room during July and then travel to Campbeltown for August.

The Club has a heavy burden to implement the Activity Plan following the restoration, and finances are always tight. As a charity, the Club does not attract Inheritance Tax on any legacy, thus allowing the giver to make a significant contribution to its continued success. Members are reminded that donations, be they cash or in kind can be Gift Aided.

I am keen to foster contact with other like-minded organisations. This year we have had a joint visit in Edinburgh with the Strathclyde Group of the Art Fund to visit the Queen's Gallery to view the *Scottish Artists 1750-1900* show which included three pieces from an album presented to the Prince and Princess of Wales by GAC on the occasion of the opening of the 1888 Glasgow International Exhibition. We will also have a joint holiday with the Art Fund in Seville and its surroundings later on in the year.

A private view of *Comic Invention* at the Hunterian Art Gallery was arranged through the good offices of the Director.

To widen club reciprocity is also an aim and a report is being prepared to highlight possible candidates. We send our newsletter to all our reciprocal clubs. Our connection with the Scottish Arts Club continues to flourish. The regular events, namely exhibitions and the annual golf match, are being organised and the dates are all but finalised for 2017.

Have a great summer.

Right Royal Visit



Photo, Richard Day

It was the worst of days for a royal visit, but a score of members and friends braved mid-January blizzards threatening the M8 to reach the capital and venture through the dark doorway on Princes Street to the elegance of Edinburgh's New Club. After a simple buffet meal they piled into taxis and headed off to Holyrood for a special viewing of *From Caledonia to the Continent* in the Queen's Gallery.

The curator Deborah Clark was on hand to greet them and introduce the display of works by Scottish artists collected by monarchs from George III to Queen Victoria. Besides many portraits, landscapes and scenes of country life by familiar names such as Allan Ramsay and

David Wilkie, the exhibition included an item of special interest to the visitors – a glass case displaying small-scale sketches and paintings from an album presented by The Glasgow Art Club to Her Majesty in the 1880s. For over a century it has been stored in the royal collection, but never shown to the public.

After a glass of wine and ample time to look more closely at their favourite paintings, members stepped out to see the first flakes of snow falling over the palace – a suitably atmospheric end to a remarkable outing. Luckily there was no awkward follow-up – the worst of the weather had cleared the central roads and everyone got home without trouble.

See Postscript on page 2



At Stirling,
18th May, 1977

Dear Mr. Hood,
The Queen has asked me to write to you as soon as possible to thank you and all your members on whose behalf you presented Her Majesty with the magnificent presents. The visit was made doubly enjoyable by the fact that you so kindly enabled Her Majesty to have some lasting mementoes of an already memorable occasion.

On her return to the train yesterday, The Queen spent an enjoyable time studying the variety and skill with which your members had commemorated her visit and much looks forward to having more time to appreciate them on her return to London. The Queen also particularly wished me to say that she thought the picture by Mr. McLashan a charming one.

Yours sincerely
Ruth Jones

Ernest Hood, Esq.



Ian poses at his 1975 one man show in the Edinburgh Printmakers Gallery, with the work presented to the Queen seen in the middle of the trio of watercolours facing him.

POSTSCRIPT to 'Right Royal Visit'

There is no record of Victoria's reaction to the GAC gift in 1888, but a later offering to the royal collection was acknowledged by her great great grand daughter at the time of Elizabeth's Silver Jubilee in 1977.

In a rather touching letter sent from the Royal Train at Stirling, a palace secretary passes on the present Queen's thanks for a portfolio of work by GAC artists presented, it would appear, by president Ernest Hood though just where and when is not clear.

Artist member Ian McMillan, a member of the newsletter team, remembers contributing to the

gift as a young artist, and being delighted when President Hood copied the thank you message to all concerned. There must be other artist members who remember the incident, but there is only passing mention in the Club minutes. The archives are still being searched, but if anyone can throw more light on the subject our archivists would be delighted to hear from you.

Obituaries



Alastair Thomson 8/2/29 – 31/5/16

Alastair Thomson who has died just weeks after his 87th birthday, was a long-standing member of the Club who served as President from 1998 to 2000.

Born in Dennistoun, the second child of a photographer and cartographer, he grew up to appreciate the visual arts as well as music and outdoor activities. At Whitehill School he won several art prizes and went on to GSA at the age of 17. In the school he thrived in the wild atmosphere. The many ex-service students were enjoying their freedom. On leaving GSA Alastair's pacifist views meant he refused National Service. This led to a six-month prison sentence as a conscientious objector.

After teacher training Alastair worked in various Glasgow schools, progressing to principal teacher of art in Hyndland Secondary. He also served as an examiner, taught night school and

at the Castle Toward summer art course. He was elected an artist member of the Club in the late sixties and served on Council as Honorary Secretary before becoming president. Early retirement freed him to produce a huge body of work, mainly landscapes, which is now in corporate and private collections: his seemingly boundless energy allowed him to earn thousands for good causes.

Throughout his life Alastair always seemed in a hurry and to be enthusiastic about something new. At social gatherings his galeforce laugh could be heard as he told his latest story. He put his powerful voice to effective use as a singer. He loved singing in choirs and as a soloist.

His other great enthusiasm was golf. One June morning he persuaded me to join him at Williamwood around 6.30 am. The dew was still on the greens and roe deer were the only other living things. We raced around the course and it was unique, but high speed golf was followed by high speed driving to get to work on time. It was not for me, but Alastair played another round that evening.

He is survived by son Niall, and daughter Susan.

James Bankier

David B. Smith 31/10/36 – 2/12/15

With the death of Sheriff David B. Smith at the end of last year, aged 79, the Club has lost one of its most colourful characters. David was a larger than life man with his shaggy beard, resounding voice and hearty laugh. He was born in Paisley, studied at Glasgow and Edinburgh Universities, and qualified as an Advocate.



He was appointed Sheriff at Kilmarnock in 1975 and served there for the next 25 years, gaining a somewhat controversial reputation, though he was in fact a sound and much respected lawyer.

David's passion was curling and he was probably the world's leading authority on that sport, but he was also a renowned historian and a man of culture.

He joined the Club after he retired from the Bench and soon became one of our more popular members, a brilliant conversationalist, and a fund of odd and usually very funny anecdotes.

A Burns enthusiast, he was an important contributor to the Club's annual supper, organising the event for many years.

He will be much missed. He is survived by his two children.

Iain Macmillan

Archives Inspire Singapore Students



Young people from Singapore have been finding subjects for study in the Club's archives.

During an afternoon visit some nine students who are following the special Immersion Programme in Communication Design and Interior Design course at the Glasgow School of Art spent an afternoon examining photographs, drawings, handwriting and poster designs on display in the Library, with a view to creating their own works of art.

Artist convenor Shona Barr and new assistant archivist Angela Fussell were on hand to introduce and advise on the material – unfortunately the Club honorary archivist Theo van Asperen had to call off because of ill-health. The visit also included a talk on the Club building and history by Richard Day, and hospitality in the Gallery.

The project was arranged by Michael Dancer, GSA lecturer in Design Communication, who is also a Club member.

Missing Image of Girl in a Pinafore

For years NORMA FARQUHAR has been browsing the Club archives and has written about earlier artist members: here she recounts a connection with her own family history – and the mystery of a missing painting.

George Leslie Hunter, 1877 – 1931, a member of The Glasgow Art Club, was born in Rothesay, Isle of Bute. He moved to California with his parents when he was thirteen years old. He became an illustrator working in San Francisco, and after a visit to Paris in 1904, he began to paint in oil.

He set up his first one man exhibition in 1906. On the eve of the opening the devastating San Francisco Earthquake destroyed all of his works.

Hunter, having lost everything, returned to Glasgow working again as an illustrator and continuing to paint. In 1913 Alexander Reid became impressed by his work and gave him a one man exhibition.

Hunter visited France again in 1914 and was greatly influenced by the Impressionists, especially Cezanne. He had to return to Glasgow at the outbreak of war.

Leslie Hunter's sister lived in Crow Road in a house next door to the tenement building where my mother, Winifred, lived. In 1916 when my mother was twelve years old, Hunter, who was staying with his sister at that time, saw her playing in the back court which adjoined his

sister's garden. He thought Winifred would be a good model for a painting he had in mind so asked my grandmother for her consent which was duly given.

First he produced a beautifully sensitive portrait of a young girl with her long hair in an 'Alice' band, then an excellent small oil painting. These were given to my mother but, alas! – they were never framed and always put out of sight in a cupboard. It would seem that the artist-next-door was not appreciated by his neighbours.

Next, Hunter produced a large painting of Winifred standing in the garden of his sister's house, in front of a hedge of sweet peas, no doubt wearing the Edwardian pinafore over her dress that she wore in her photographs. This painting went to the gallery of Alexander Reid to be sent to London for exhibition. I have not yet been able to trace it.

It was in 1916 that Reid gave Leslie Hunter a second one man show. When Tom Honeyman joined the firm of Reid and Lefevre in 1923, his first exhibition showed Hunter with Peplow and Cadell. These three artists along with J D Ferguson, found fame as the 'Scottish Colourists'.

FROM CITY TO SEASIDE TOWN

This year The Royal Incorporation of Architects Scotland celebrate their centenary and a national Festival of Architecture has been declared so it is fitting that the Club should be the first place to host an exhibition on the architecture of Campbeltown.

Success Built in Stone is sponsored jointly by Historic Scotland and Argyll and Bute Council, and will move to the Kintyre capital at the beginning of August.

It shows how the town, grown wealthy on the profits of whisky, fishing, shipbuilding and farming, attracted the leading architects of Victorian Glasgow to design tenements, churches and villas of outstanding merit at the end of the 19th century.

Today there are more than a hundred listed buildings in the area an astounding proportion for a small town at the end of a long peninsula.



The Royal Hotel Campbeltown

Dinner Fit for a Lord

Lord Macfarlane of Bearsden is one of Scotland's most generous patrons of the arts: Norman Macfarlane is also and a long standing member and supporter of the Club, so when family and friends chose to celebrate his 90th birthday, there was no question as to the most suitable venue.

Dinner was set up in the Club gallery, and speakers included ex-president Raymond Williamson.



Photos Robert Kelsey



New Members Made Welcome



New members who have joined the Club in the past year or so had a chance to meet office bearers, present and past, at an evening reception at the start of the summer.

Many are already well settled in and are regular users of the facilities, others are still getting to know who's who and particularly welcomed this relaxed get-together.



Musical Opening

The Gallery was looking its best for the opening of Anthony Armstrong's one man show in April. The evening sun streamed through the roof, light classics from a professional trio added an air of relaxed elegance and the room was pleasantly busy with viewers sipping wine and crunching nibbles.

Anthony who first studied architecture and now lives in Blairgowrie has recently rejoined the Club and the varied show amounted to a retrospective, with works in a range of media. It was opened by his friend Paul Harris who also supplied the sturdy catalogue cover.

Wit and Wisdom on Burns Night

In the Burns tradition, the lassies always have the last word, but at the Club supper in February they also got the loudest laughs. Filling in for musicologist Kirsteen McCue, who was indisposed, operatic entertainer Linda Ormiston stepped in to reply to Allan Sneddon's witty toast to the lassies – and left the laddies without a leg to stand on.

She completed an outstanding evening with folk-singer and outdoor enthusiast, Jimmie MacGregor, proposing the immortal memory, and music from piper James Beaton and songs from Robyn Ada MacKay following a substantial meal of soup, haggis, steak pie and cranachan, washed down with a wee dram from sponsors Glasgow Whisky.

Pictured right, Linda Ormiston and Allan Snedden. Below, Dr David Watson addresses the Haggis in time honoured fashion.



Welcome, Courtesies & The Selkirk Grace: Efric McNeil
Address To The Haggis: Dr David Watson
The Immortal Memory: Jimmie MacGregor
Toast To The Lassies: Allan Snedden
Reply From The Lassies: Linda Ormiston
Piper: James Beaton
Soloist: Robyn Ada MacKay
Accompanist: Megan MacDonald (accordion)

Spring Show an Education for the Professor

Prof David Gaimster, director of the Hunterian Museum at Glasgow University, confessed that he had not been aware of the GAC in the six years since he arrived in the city to take up his post.

Invited to open this year's spring exhibition, he was clearly impressed by the quality of the building and its contents: he was delighted to accept the offer of a trial membership and has

indeed made use of it since.

In his opening remarks he stressed the special distinction of the Hunterian, not simply for its historic collections but also as the first purpose-built public museum in the UK, though it has moved twice since its founding the early 1800s, and is about to open a new research centre in the refurbished Kelvin Hall this autumn.



All photos taken by Fiona Watson

Sketching on a Sunny Afternoon



Instructions were clear enough: meet in the car park at noon – except that a succession of car parks led past Dumfries House, the information office knew nothing of GAC except a booking for the 2.15 tour, and at 12 o'clock most of the members coming from further north were trapped in a miles-long tailback from road works at Kilmarnock.

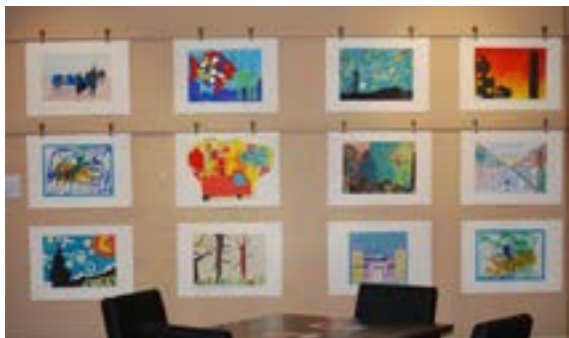
Luckily new member Lynn Howarth and her friends had come in a different direction and been able to plant a sunshade on the grass behind the House, then send out scouts to locate wandering picnickers. By the back of 1pm a good dozen had assembled under the big tree and many were sampling the goodies brought for sharing.

Odd stragglers arrived later and one couple never managed to join the Club party, but there was plenty of chat as old stagers got to know some less familiar fellows.

By the time the tour started, a majority preferred to stay out enjoying the sunshine and beautiful gardens, but those who went on the tour were delighted to see the development of a neglected country house into a charming tourist attraction and venue. Meanwhile at base camp the sketchbooks had been brought out and passed around, providing unique souvenirs of a memorably sunny outing.



Primary Colours on Show



The walls of the Billiard Room were a-glow with bright images for the opening of the latest *Small Works* exhibition at the Club. They were the product of the Club's continuing work with schools as part of the Activity Plan agreed with the bodies which funded the refur-

bishment of the Club. Altogether six schools, mainly primary but one special and even a nursery unit, contributed to the exhibition, and visitors were astounded by the quality of the work.

So many parents and friends turned up that they had to wait their turn in the Gallery before

being invited upstairs in manageable batches to view the show.

While waiting, they could order refreshments at the bar: for the young artists a feast of sweets and soft drinks was provided to make for a real sense of occasion.



SEVILLE CORDOBA GRANADA

The Glasgow Art Club,
In conjunction with

The Art Fund – Strathclyde
Fundraising Committee

Six Day Tour of Seville,
Cordoba and Granada

Monday 3 to Saturday 8 October 2016

£1250 per person + £325 single room supplement excluding travel

F. Rodriguez A.

Photo courtesy of the Spanish Tourist Board

“Members’ GAC holidays are legendary. Here is an opportunity to enjoy a trip to Seville and its surroundings along with the likeminded people of the Art Fund” – Efric McNeil

We are thrilled to offer this wonderful opportunity to explore picturesque Seville and its surroundings. Compact, rich in history and famous for its flamenco, tapas bars and orange trees, Seville is the ideal destination for art lovers and culture vultures alike.

This year's overseas visit will be in conjunction with the Art Fund – Strathclyde Group. The Club has regularly organised tours but to avoid competition it was thought practical to organise a joint trip with likeminded folk this year.

The visit will start at Malaga where we can get a direct afternoon flight from Glasgow using EasyJet (the air travel must be booked separately as EasyJet will not take a group booking). A coach will then take the group to Seville which will be the base for four nights at the 4 Star Hotel Vincci La Rabida.

There will be two days spent in Seville seeing the Cathedral, The

Royal Palaces and the Museum of Fine Arts, one of the finest in Spain. There will be a half day free to explore on your own or simply rest.

A day will be spent exploring Cordoba, once the capital of Moorish Spain and seeing its treasures, and then on the Friday we will check out of the hotel and travel to Granada for a day of sightseeing with the afternoon spent at the Alhambra.

We will then travel on from Granada to spend the night at Antequera in the local Parador before getting a late morning flight back to Glasgow from Malaga.

October has been chosen as it is cooler than the summer months but will still have a summery feel. As usual there will be lunches every day (except on the day when there will be free time) and two dinners.

This is a fantastic opportunity to get some late summer sun and thoroughly enjoy one of the most attractive areas of Spain.

For further details and to book, please contact:

Heritage Group Travel, 12 Charlotte Street, BATH BA1 2NE tel 01225 466620

DIARY DATES

- An Informal evening of music and song by Jillian Christie accompanied on the piano by Catherine Herriott – Friday 12 August
 - Supper Club – Friday 16 September
 - Whisky Tasting with Inverarity – Wednesday 5 October
 - Doors Open Day: Saturday 17– Sunday 18 October.
 - Sinopia Quartet concert – Friday 28 October
 - William McTaggart Lecture: Thursday 10 November
- Full details of the above events can be found in the members' book and also online at <http://glasgowartclub.co.uk/news/forthcoming>

Soup now available outwith lunch hours

Hot soup is now available outwith usual lunch hours and events (subject to availability). Please order at the bar.

Positions Vacant

- **Social Convenor and Committee**
- **Newsletter Team Members**
- **Doors Open Day Helpers**

Please speak to the Club Secretary for more information

New Members

Mr Ivan Mykytyn	Glasgow	Lay Town	Ms Mhairi McGregor	Kilbarchan	Artist Town
Mrs Helen McDonald Mathie	Kilmacolm	Artist Town	Mr Lewis MacKenzie	Glasgow	Young Artist
Mr Charlie Gracie	Stirling	Lay Corporate	Miss Alison Smillie	Glasgow	Young Lay
Mr Leslie Cuthbert	Hundon	Lay Country	Mr Richard Wernick	Poland	Lay Country
Ms Jacqueline Young	Glasgow	Lay Town	Ms Lynn Howarth	Glasgow	ArtistTown
Ms Margaret Evans	Comroe	Artist Town	Ms Sandie Gardner	Glasgow	Honorary
Mr Daniel Buckley	Pluckley	Lay Country	Mr Reginald MacDonald	Helensburgh	Young Artist
Dr Rebecca Madgin	Renfrew	Young Lay	Professor John Huntley	Glasgow	Lay Retired
Professor David Gaimster	Glasgow	Honorary	Mrs Christine Huntley	Glasgow	Lay Associate
Mr Murdoch MacLennan	Glasgow	Lay Town	Sir Kenneth Calman	Glasgow	Honorary
Ms Linda Ormiston	Strathaven	Artist Honorary	Miss Margaret Marshall	Warrington	Country Lay
Mrs Fiona Watson	Glasgow	Honorary	Lord Smith of Kelvin	Peebles	Country Lay
Mr Elliot Rice	Wickford	Lay Country	Mr Daniel Moody	Wickford	Country Lay
Mr Artie Trezise	Glasgow	Lay Corporate	Mr Carlo Pia	Glasgow	Young Lay
Mr Allan Snedden	Glasgow	Honorary	Mr William Rouse	Hook	Young Lay
Mr Thomas York	Harrogate	Young Lay	Mr George Webster	London	Country Lay
Ms Ruth Nicol	Edinburgh	ArtistCountry	Ms Jacqueline Young	Milngavie	Town Lay

EXHIBITION DATES

Summer Exhibition

Continues till Saturday 6 August

Campbeltown: Success Built in Stone

Saturday 9 – Saturday 30 July

Marie Curie: Art For Care

Friday 26 August – Friday 2 September

Autumn Exhibition

Saturday 10 September – Saturday 8 October

Aye Mac

Thursday 29 Sept – Saturday 22 October

An unusual take on the theme of Mackintosh and his influence on a group of unusual artists, all Glasgow based and working from Dovehill studios Glasgow.

Joe Hargan, Solo Show

Saturday 15 October – Saturday 12 November

Winter Exhibition

Saturday 26 November – Thursday 22 December

All exhibitions are free, all visitors welcome. Non-members, please ring the doorbell for access
Exhibitions open to the public:
Monday – Friday, 12noon – 5pm,
or by appointment.



Supported by

