

# Chairman's Report AGM 2016 presented at the Fotheringay Centre 26th April 2016

I'm pleased to report that it has been a busy year for Pollokshields Heritage

## Lecture Series

Now into its 7th season the Lecture Series has continued through the winter and spring months of 2015 -2016 with lectures from:

- 17 November 2015 - Holly Rumble's lecture *Glasgow and the Turner Prize* - came on the back of Tramway hosting the 2015 Turner Prize exhibition - the first time the exhibition has been to Scotland. The lecture explored the high number of artists from Glasgow who have been nominated over the years (including three of the last five winners), and the role of the Turner Prize in the broader Glasgow arts scene
- 19 January 2016 - Helen Kendrick and Neale Smith lectured on *Historic Interiors - Pollokshields and beyond* taking a look behind the front doors of some of the city's most alluring buildings, in the Pollokshields area and throughout Glasgow, exploring their fascinating stories. The talk was based on their recent book *Glasgow Interiors* which charts the evolution of the city's interiors from the mid-1800s to the 1930s
- 23 February 2016 - Dr Ronnie Scott talked about - *Buffalo Bill in Glasgow* and his spectacular Wild West show to Dennistoun in November 1891. For three months, the East End became home to his travelling band of rough riders, sharp shooters, native North Americans, numerous support workers and a small herd of buffalo. Further delightful anecdotes included Buffalo Bill's visit to Ibrox Park and how Annie Oakley learned to bicycle on the slopes of Golfhill

You can find reports on each of the lectures on our website. The talks have been well received with good Audience turnout.

## Walking tours and Doors Open Day

As part of the 2015 Doors Open Day event we hosted two walking tours of both East and West Pollokshields, a walking tour of Dumbreck, and, due to popular demand, Bus Tours of the whole Garden Suburb on both the Saturday and the Sunday. All events were fully booked with good feedback.

This year we again hosted a winter walk around the Avenues this time on Sunday 20 March. We hired Sherbrooke St Gilberts as a venue and to cover our costs levied a fee of £5 for a two hour guided walk with a coffee and teas and home baking at the end as well as a further talk about the church's modern stained glass scheme. The walk had 18 attendees and was very well received. I am grateful to both Hilary Stanger and Elizabeth Jarvis who stepped in at the last minute to guide the walk when I was faced with a clash with the final meeting for the East Pollokshields and Port Eglinton Charrette.

We will also provide a walk around East Pollokshields, for this years' Ready Steady Grow festival on 4 June 2016.

## **Maxwell Park Station**

As well as holding our summer committee meetings there, the former booking office serves as a base camp for our Doors Open Day walks and continues to act as a meeting HQ for a number of local amenity groups and councillors. It has also been let for small exhibitions. So this is a reminder that it is available on request!

The subgroup, which comprises of John Thomson along with Karin Currie, Ann Laing and Hilary Stanger, continues to liaise with the Railway Heritage Trust, ScotRail and Network Rail, about the restoration of amenities necessary for its development but funds as ever remain at the bottom of this.

The platform planters continue to be nurtured by our Head Gardener, Ann Laing and we continue to collaborate with the local Fotheringay Road residents' group to control the weeds on the pavement side of the embankment.

Due to further water ingress to the booking office we are currently pursuing repairs to the lead flashings around the chimney. Those of you who use the station will have noted that it has now been part painted in the new Scotrail corporate colours. As this was all Scotrail had originally proposed to do in their application for Listed Building Consent Pollokshields Heritage objected pointing out it should be all or nothing and rightly so as the building now looks decidedly odd. Fortunately the planners agreed and refused consent insisting, like us, that the whole building be repainted. We have been reminding Scotrail that they need to come back and finish the job so will keep you posted on this.

## **City Development Plan**

The draft City Development Plan is still being reviewed by the Scottish Government's Planning and Environmental Appeals Division (DPEA) who are currently indicating that they will not be reporting back to Glasgow City Council before the end of May 2016. This means the plan will not be adopted by Glasgow City Council before the autumn at the earliest so in the interim City Plan 2 remains extant - I'll return to this point later

I noted last year that we were waiting on the publication of the draft Heritage and Design Supplementary Planning Guidance that is to replace the Heritage and Design Policies in City Plan 2, indeed we have still to see sight of it. This was meant to be published in Autumn 2014 so is now 18 months overdue.

This is now of concern as throughout the course of this year there have been a series of planning applications for large two to three storey extensions to Victorian villas in the West Pollokshields Conservation Area that have raised issues due to their scale and appropriateness of design. As a result we have written to Development and Regeneration Services to make clear that we are no longer convinced that the wording of the the City Plan 2 Heritage and Design polices and design guidance is geared to such proposals and believe that this has implications for the integrity of the West Pollokshields Conservation Area.

We have also sought clarification on when the draft Supplementary Planning Guidance on Heritage for the new City Development Plan will be published so we can comment on the wording accordingly and address these problems.

## **The East Pollokshields and Port Eglinton Charrette**

This has been the largest item we have been involved in this year. Pollokshields Heritage has been heavily involved in organising a community led charrette for East Pollokshields in Glasgow with the charrette area covering all of the East Pollokshields Conservation Area and part of the Strathbungo Conservation area. This has included writing the successful bid and funding submission to the Scottish Government back in September 2015 then, having helped secure circa £50K's worth of funding, writing the charrette design team brief and recruiting the consultant team including Collective Architects and Dress for the Weather. We were notified of our successful bid at the end of November but in order to stick to the timetable had to appoint the consultant team by Christmas Eve which wasn't easy! Thereafter, I have acted a one half of the client team for the charrette.

The charrette itself - known as Make Your Mark East Pollokshields - was held at the end of February so I am now working with the consultant team on the drafting of the charrette report part of which includes drawing up a design code so that any new development respects the characteristics of the East Pollokshields Conservation Area.

One of the outcomes of the charrette is that we want to pursue a Community led bid for THI / CARS funding for the area i.e. the charrette has been very heritage and conservation focused with a particular emphasis on the condition of the building fabric of the Victorian and Edwardian tenements.

The five key points that have emerged as the focus for the charrette report are:

- 1. Reinforce the Garden Suburb and its significance**
- 2. Improve access to information, facilities and activities to enhance the well-being of all residents**
- 3. Develop safer and more attractive streets**
- 4. Enrich and activate existing open space, whether large or small**
- 5. Support the existing local economy and encourage new enterprise, training and community benefits**

The charrette team are currently preparing the draft report for circulation and are now looking at more detailed proposals for the former Gas Works at Maxwell Road and for the transformation of key streets and spaces within East Pollokshields including Kildrostan Street. We will make the final version of the charrette report available on our website.

The aim now is to use the window of opportunity while City Plan 2 remains extant to get the report adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance as per the policy in City Plan 2 for an East Pollokshields Port Eglinton Planning Study.

**Other key Planning items include our involvement in Pre-application discussions over:**

**McCarthy & Stone proposals for the Emerco Factory at 69 Springkell Avenue**

**Dundas Estates and Development proposals for the Pollokshields Playhouse site opposite the Tramway.**

## **Reform of Glasgow Urban Design Panel**

Further to the re-organisation of the Glasgow Urban Design Panel in October 2014 I reported last year that there was a feeling amongst the Glasgow amenity bodies that we had been very much sidelined in favour of national and professional bodies. There was an annual review of the new working arrangements in December 2015 at which I brought these concerns to the Panel on behalf of the Glasgow Amenity Bodies. As a result of this it has been agreed that there is now to be a separate Vice Chair who will represent the interests of the Amenity bodies and will be charged with ensuring the appropriate amenity bodies' representatives, with suitable urban design skills, are present according to proposals tabled.

## **The Committee**

I also want to take this opportunity to thank the other committee members for their support in particular Iain Dyer as deputy chair, Hilary Stanger our treasurer, Janet Brand our secretary, John Thomson both as minute secretary and for his work at Maxwell Park Station, Ann Laing for being our head gardener at the station and representative on the South Area Committee, David Hart for his work on the website, Roger Millar for putting together our current pitch to GCC for Community Funding bid to help build the website, Elizabeth Jarvis for organising the Lecture Series and to both Elizabeth and Hilary for stepping in when I was no longer able to conduct the Winter Walking tour as a result of the clash with the Charrette final public meeting, Alison Taylor for her work as events co-ordinator and Helen Barnard our planning convener. I also want to thank everyone who has helped out at the various events be it lectures, Doors Open Day, walks, bus tours etc.

*Niall Murphy 26th April 2016*