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# Friends of Glasgow West Newsletter

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Issue 47

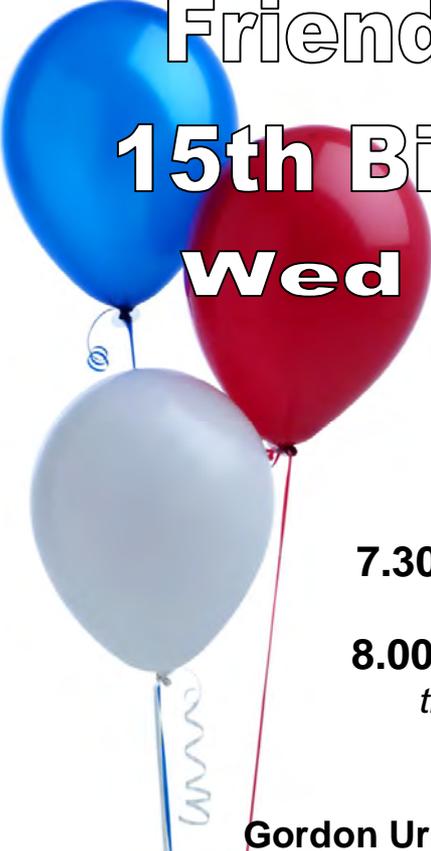
[fgw.org.uk](http://fgw.org.uk)

October 2011

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*Preserving and enhancing the character and amenity of Glasgow's West End*

FGW IS A LOCAL AMENITY SOCIETY WITH CHARITABLE STATUS SCO 24748



## Friends of Glasgow West 15th Birthday Celebration! Wed 12 October 2011

**In the splendid Billiard Room  
Western Baths Club**  
12 Cranworth Street, Glasgow G12

**7.30pm AGM Business** (members only)

**8.00pm Reception with Finger Buffet**  
*there will also be a cash bar available*

### **8.30pm Speakers**

**Gordon Urquhart** - Perspective: 30 years of Conservation  
**David Howat** - FGW Vice Convener - Flying the Flag in the Future

**R.S.V.P. to Colin Cox by Tuesday 11 Oct 2011**

0141 337 3735 or [colincox44@btinternet.com](mailto:colincox44@btinternet.com)

*PLEASE! There is no charge on this occasion,  
but it is vital we know how many to cater for.*

*There is no specific charge for this event. However any modest voluntary donations made on the night, will be gratefully received towards catering costs. We are very grateful to Mr Bill Mann for letting us use his splendid Billiard Room and Board Room without charge.*

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## CONVENER'S COLUMN

Once again, lots to report as we had an exceptionally active West End Festival this year with the new **Local Heritage Talks**. We collaborated with **Hillhead Library** (Glasgow Life) on these, and FGW was fortunate to receive £1000 from **Hillhead Area Committee** towards expenses. Katrina Brodin, West Area Libraries Manager, and her team at Hillhead, supported us brilliantly to create an innovative programme of Local Heritage Talks. **Kelvin Rotary Club**, chairman Marjory Brown, kindly sponsored the initial Launch event.

**Gordon Urquhart's new book on the history of Lansdowne Church** (publ. by GCHT) was launched on FGW's "Lansdowne Heritage Day"; David Stark spoke on the architect Honeyman, and Robin Webster described his grandfather, famous stained glass artist Alf Webster. The "Lansdowne Art Day" went off well with a host of contributors, including Alistair Gray himself.

**Our WEF Guided Walks** were once again popular – and imitation being the sincerest form of flattery, we are now seeing a greater range of walks from others such as Glasgow University. New FGW walks in 2011: Gordon Barr's "Cinemas", Ian Mitchell's "Science Walk", Ann Laird's "Quirky West End" and "Our Expanding Heritage" with Ranald MacInnes. If you have a new idea for walk, please send it in...

**Doors Open Day** in September saw FGW members manning the supervision rota for visitors at both Cottier's and Lansdowne. Over 700 people were 'clicked' in total over the two days. We felt our time was very well spent, supporting these two "A" listed buildings, via David Robertson of Four Acres Charitable Trust and Rev Roy Henderson of Lansdowne Church.

Next year's **West End Lectures** with host Colin Cox, are safe, as is Glasgow University's "DACE". We have even moved up a notch – look out for the FGW advert in this year's Brochure.

**The West End free Heritage Walks, led by David Alcock** at 10am on Wednesdays in May, July and August, gave an introduction to the area and its buildings, starting from the Botanic Gardens Gates. Aimed at tourists and visitors rather than local residents, these walks were advertised via local hotels and restaurants and did attract some people who were visiting Glasgow, from elsewhere in the UK and beyond. In 2012 we hope to build on this encouraging start.

**The FGW Conversazione** at the **Grosvenor Hotel** on Friday 20 May was a pleasant, sociable occasion with lovely fresh scones, jam and cream.

Three short presentations on mystery heritage topics were given by **Colin Cox, Roger Guthrie** and **Fiona Watson**.

**Tom Donald's portrait photography** - for inclusion in his Lansdowne Portrait Project – was excellent. If you haven't seen your own picture yet, please ask.

*Ann Laird*

### FGW COMMITTEE

**Convener:** Ann Laird

**Vice Convener:** David Howat

**Secretary:** Colin Cox

**Treasurer:** Iain Wotherspoon

**Committee** Mary Donald, Eric Kay, Ian Mitchell, Kate Richard, Bill Waller

**AHSS Rep:** Audrey Gardner

**Newsletter:** Eric Curtis

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## BYRES ROAD: ACADEMY OF URBANISM “GREAT STREET” FINALIST for 2012 AWARDS

The Academy of Urbanism brings together thinkers and practitioners involved in social, cultural, economic, political and physical development of our towns, villages and cities, across Great Britain and Ireland.

They aim to advance the understanding and practice of urbanism by promoting a culture of scholarship through evidence-based inquiry, providing an inclusive forum for dialogue across all disciplines, sharing knowledge with both the community and professional peers and nurturing, recognising and rewarding excellence.

The Urbanism Awards have been running for the last five years, and are made within five categories. Glasgow has achieved three awards to date:

### **European City of the Year:**

“Glasgow”, Winner 2011

### **Great Neighbourhood:**

“The Merchant City”, Winner 2007

### **Great Street:**

“Buchanan Street”, Winner 2008

The annual Call for Entries is launched in spring each year and by early summer the finalists are announced. An assessment visit is made to each of the places by a team of Academicians, who compile a report based on governance; local character and distinctiveness; user friendliness; commercial success and viability; environmental and social sustainability; and functionality.



Academy of Urbanism Assessment Team in Ruthven Lane with Eive Currie of DRS and Ann Laird of FGW.

**Byres Road is a 2012 finalist for the “Great Street” Award, vs “Steep Hill” (Pottergate) in Lincoln and Cockburn Street in Edinburgh.**

Friends of Glasgow West were invited to produce the presentations for the AoU Assessment Visit on Friday 15 July – a task usually undertaken by the council.

The Western Baths Club generously gave use of their Board Room, and we presented our evidence: **Ann Laird** of FGW and council officer **Eive Currie**, stated the context; **Iain Wotherspoon** showed slides on traditional shop fronts, and **Michael Dale** spoke on the West End Festival, with **Jennifer Russell** on the Glasgow University Campus Plan, **David Alcock** on FGW Heritage Walks, **Wanda Rychter** on Health Walks, **Gillian Loney** (“Extra” reporter and local resident) on vibrancy, **Carol Martin** on Residents Associations, and **Amy Johnson** of Glasgow University SRC, on student experiences of Byres Road.

We are invited to attend the Award Ceremony in London in November to learn whether Byres Road has won!

## HAVE YOU SEEN...

### OLD STATION PARK HYNDLAND ROAD

The splendid new adventure play facilities installed by GCC Land and Environmental Services were in place in time for Friends of Old Station Park Gala held in June.



### EPICURE'S CAST IRON RAILINGS 159 Hyndland Road

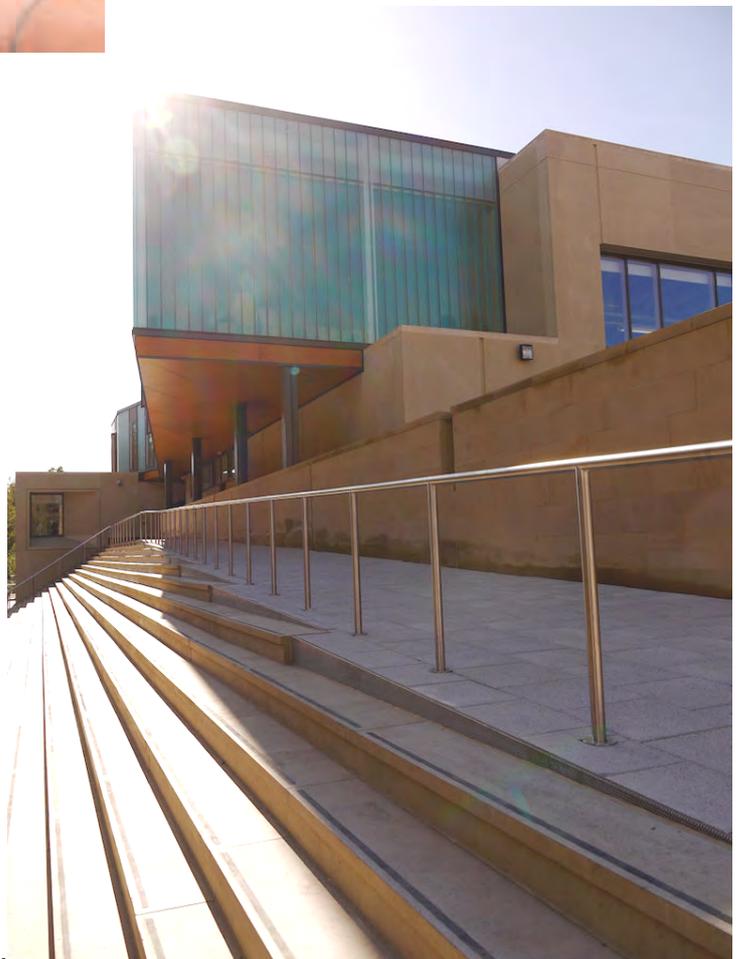
Replacement railings of the appropriate design for this part of Hyndland have been installed after FGW negotiated a change from the design proposed by the applicant.

### HILLHEAD PRIMARY: THE NEW "SCHOOL IN THE PARK"

Dowanhill, Hillhead, Kelvinhaugh & Willowbank Primaries merged in August to form one large entity, with a total of over 650 pupils. The new building has two entrances: one in Kelvin Way, the other in Otago Street.

*Photo of Otago Street entrance, courtesy Tom Donald*

*More of Tom's photos of the West End and beyond, can be found on his 'Clearwood' FLICKR site.*



## WEST MEETS EAST: VISIT TO BRIDGETON AND CALTON, 17 August

Armed with the City Council's excellent Heritage Trail booklets of Bridgeton and Calton, and details of the Clyde Gateway Projects, 20 Friends toured the area under the expert guidance of Ian Mitchell (author of 'Glasgow: This City Now') and Ann Laird.

The tour started at Calton Cemetery in Abercrombie Street, imaginatively restored and containing a stone commemorating three weavers killed in 1787 by the military who had been called out to break a strike protesting against a cut in wages.

We walked from there to the regenerated centre of Bridgeton. Evidence of its former importance based on heavy engineering and textile manufacture has mostly disappeared, but a few remaining buildings have been converted into flats and landscaped. The cast iron 'umbrella' at the Cross has been restored and imaginatively painted.

Work has begun on the Olympia, a former music hall and cinema, purchased last year with the support of the Scottish Government's Town Centre Regeneration Fund. This will provide a variety of community activities behind its restored façade.

Through the former 19<sup>th</sup> century residential area towards Glasgow Green we passed the impressive Buchanan House, by Charles Wilson, formerly a school for destitute boys, which has been converted into flats.

After tea at the WEST bar within the former Templeton's Carpet Factory, we saw the site of the Commonwealth Games 2014 where we viewed the exterior of the recently completed National Indoor Sports Arena (NISA) and Velodrome.



The visit was completed with a drive through the middle of the Clyde Gateway Area, to the recently opened M74 extension with its amazing new views of the City.

The afternoon was very well planned and proved to be extremely informative – a model of its kind!

EWC



*The recently restored cast iron  
Bridgeton Cross "umbrella"*

# CONSERVATION AREA and PLANNING APPLICATIONS

## GLASGOW WEST CONSERVATION AREA (GWCA) REVISED BOUNDARY

Following public consultation in 2010, GWCA is being extended to include North Kelvinside, Striven Gardens, Burnbank Gardens, Dowanhill School and a narrow strip on Great Western Road at the west extremity of GWCA, while Lansdowne Crescent Lane will now be excluded.

## STUDENT RESIDENCE, NORTH WOODSIDE ROAD

This controversial proposal has also unexpectedly brought to light, only after the representation period had ended, a crucial new item of City Plan Supplementary Guidance on Student Residences etc ("PPG") which had been issued in March 2011, but had no public consultation beforehand, nor was publicised afterwards - either on the City Plan website, to Community Councils, or in the press.

This PPG policy makes it easier for developers of Students Residences, Care Homes, etc, to meet requirements for on-site outdoor amenity space by a) reducing how the basic requirement is calculated, b) allowing some of it to be located within the building, and c) allowing the developer to pay perhaps tens of thousands of pounds of "ENV 2" money to enhance an off-site amenity (eg local park) and thereby justify even more student flats inside the building.

Under former policies, the North Woodside Road student residence proposals would represent extreme overdevelopment, and therefore be very unlikely to be granted.

However, examination of details of the current proposals point to the

developer's awareness of the new PPG policy, especially because they include a substantial "ENV 2" payment.

Having exposed this signal failure to consult, and further failure to publicise a PPG policy so crucial to a very controversial development, it would be unacceptable for the Council to give this policy any weight in making this decision: it cannot therefore be granted.

FGW has made a formal complaint to the Director of Development and Regeneration Services, and the response was an offer to allow further representations to be made in the light of the late intimation of the PPG Policy.

We have made an objection to this effect, and now await the outcome.

## ASHTON ROAD CAR PARK

Hillhead Community Council has been complaining to GCC Land and Environmental Services about the removal of trees screening the electricity sub-station, and others in the car park, thereby totally exposing this ugly object to public view, invasive tree roots being cited as the reason.

Simultaneously, the opportunity has been taken to place several large recycling bins here, in full view.

The City Plan requirement to "preserve or enhance" the character of the Conservation Area appears to have completely fallen by the wayside here.

## SAVE OTAGO LANE Campaign

No decision yet from Glasgow City Council to grant or refuse the spring 2011 proposals for 49 flats in Otago Lane, nor have the proposals been withdrawn. However, a fresh proposal is definitely on the cards once again.

## HYNDLAND RAILWAY STATION - DISABLED ACCESS UPGRADE CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATION by NETWORK RAIL

For many years, Hyndland Station's owner, Network Rail, in association with Transport Scotland, the Scottish Government funder of railway developments, has mulled over how to solve this very popular station's multiple problems.

Currently Scotland's 12<sup>th</sup> highest in passenger numbers, Hyndland Station serves the huge and still growing Gartnavel Hospital site and the local communities of Broomhill and Hyndland. Suburban car drivers also use it for informal "park and ride". Hyndland has just one island platform, the adjacent roads offer, at best, only inconvenient access, and there is no disabled "step-free" access at all. The track between Hyndland and Partick Stations is officially over capacity, and has long featured on strategic "To Do" lists of problematical pinch points in the Scottish rail network.

Naturally, there's a warm welcome for the current planning proposals to provide step-free access to/from Gartnavel Hospital and Churchill Drive in Broomhill. Disappointingly, however, there is no improvement for the Hyndland community. An objection letter (see text below) was sent by Kelvinside Community Council, written by chairman Ann Laird. In collaboration with Broomhill Community Council, all MPs, MSPs and Councillors on both sides of the railway line have been alerted to this proposal - which came right "out of the blue" and almost slipped by un-noticed!

We are now meeting with all relevant bodies, and will keep you updated re progress.

### LETTER OF OBJECTION:

"Hyndland is very busy station with an island platform. The passengers value its hub role in the Network – as every train service passes here.

This is an application to install, at the "Jordanhill" end of the platform, three new lift towers with stairways, and a connecting footbridge. To the north of the line, this will provide level access to Gartnavel Hospital, and to the south, to Churchill Drive. The existing footbridge will be removed.

Access to the Hyndland area is unchanged, via the 31-step stairway at the "Partick" end of the platform, and through the decorated subway tunnel leading to Queensborough Gardens.

The 22 steps from the subway to the footpath which slopes up to Gartnavel Hospital is also unchanged, so there is no "level access" here either.

This major upgrade therefore fails to provide level access for the Hyndland

area itself, which has the highest "footfall" of the three entrances. Specifically:

**-the 31-step stairway remains a very significant barrier** to level public access via the subway tunnel at Hyndland - very well-used, serving the large, densely populated, Hyndland, and the wider West End beyond.

**-it fails to help people with mobility problems**, and those with prams and push-bikes etc wishing to use the Hyndland Entrance.

**-Hyndland has a significant long-term ageing resident population:** so access deficiencies will be felt even more in the future. 31 steps is a lot of steps!

**-an unacceptably long distance from Hyndland to the 2 "level" entrances:** Churchill Drive entrance is 1 km away, much too far for anyone with mobility problems. (Gartnavel entrance, 2 km)

**This Planning Application must be refused**, unless all the above objections are properly addressed."

# **GCVS ANNUAL CHARITIES CHRISTMAS FAYRE 9 NOVEMBER 2011**

For the first time, the Friends of Glasgow West have been offered a stall at this major annual event, to sell our cards, various heritage books, etc.

**Put this date in your diary and do come along!**



## ***The Annual Charities Christmas Fayre*** **Free Entry!**

For a vast range of Christmas cards and gifts from 55 of your favourite Scottish charities.

**Glasgow City Chambers**

**10am - 4pm**

**Wednesday**

**9<sup>th</sup> November, 2011**

This popular annual event is open to all members of the public. So come along on 9th November to take care of some of your Christmas shopping needs and support the great work of Glasgow's local charities!



**Organised by Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Sector  
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