
Friends of Glasgow West Newsletter

Issue 46

fgw.org.uk

May 2011

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

FGW IS A LOCAL AMENITY SOCIETY WITH CHARITABLE STATUS SCO 24748

"FGW Conversazione"

Friday 20 MAY 2pm – 3.30pm

Grosvenor Hilton Hotel

Great Western Rd at Byres Rd
Terrace Bar, First Floor

Tea/Coffee/Scones - £5.50 a head

Come Along and Pay on the Day

3 conversation pieces of West End interest...

and socialise in comfortable surroundings...

On Sale: Books/Cards/Hyndland Centenary DVD

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FGW EVENTS
in the WEST END FESTIVAL

22 FGW GUIDED WALKS
with local history experts

18 FGW "LOCAL INTEREST" TALKS
at Hillhead Library

*in assoc. with Glasgow Life, and
supported by GCC Hillhead Area Committee*

LANSDOWNE EVENTS
in the WEST END FESTIVAL

Lansdowne Heritage Day
including GCHT's Launch of
G. Urquhart's Lansdowne Book
Sat 18 June, 10am – 4pm

Art Adventure Day
Sat 11 June, 10am – 6pm

Friends of Glasgow West August 2011 Visit
West Meets East: Bridgeton Regeneration & CWG2014

Wednesday 17 August 2011, 1 pm – 5 pm
with Ian Mitchell, author "Glasgow: This City Now"

£15 per person in advance - Includes light refreshments

If you wish to attend, PLEASE NOTIFY COLIN COX

0141 337 3735 or colincox44@btinternet.com

*Why not SPRING CLEAN your street / lane etc ?
Contact CleanGlasgow on 0800 027 7027.*

CONVENER'S COLUMN

We've had a veritable plethora of events since the last issue – reported below. And check the front page of this issue - there are plenty more to come!

Our planning applications team – Iain Wotherspoon, David Howat, Kate Richard and myself - continues working VERY hard to keep up to date with new Planning Legislation, and to look at all new proposals for Glasgow West – about three hundred a year. Recently, we met with Enforcement Section staff (a separate entity from the one that deals with Planning Applications) to discuss some general concerns.

Especially notable in June's West End Festival are Local Heritage Talks which we've organised in collaboration with Glasgow Life and Hillhead Library. FGW was fortunate to receive support of £1000 from Hillhead Area Committee for these. FGW committee member Mary Donald and I enjoyed working with the highly enthusiastic and competent Katrina Brodin, West Area Libraries Manager, and her team at Hillhead, to create this year's new programme.

New West End Heritage Walks, 10am on Wednesdays in May, July and August, from Botanic Gardens Main Gates. Introduction to the area and its buildings with David Alcock. Free of charge.

Partick Heritage Trail by G. Urquhart was originally published by Partick Fayre. Now, with their blessing, it has come under FGW's wing with our other Trails, which we subsequently commissioned from Gordon, based on the highly successful original Partick model. FGW funded a recent update to this trail, and **Glasgow City Heritage Trust** has supported us to print 5000 copies of the new version. Available at local libraries.

Ann Laird

REPORTS

This year's **West End Lectures**, once again very competently hosted and arranged by FGW Secretary Colin Cox, gave a fresh in-depth look at 8 topics of current heritage, architectural, musical, historical and social interest. Audience feedback was excellent.

The West End Lectures will run in 2012 – either in Glasgow University DACE, or independently if the necessity arises.

During the on-going public campaign to save DACE, FGW wrote a letter of strong support referring to high-value local collaboration over 15 years.



Our **Conversazione** at the **Grosvenor Hilton Hotel** in March was a pleasant and sociable occasion with lovely fresh scones, jam and cream! Roger Guthrie brought a very heavy cast iron "Elmbank" baluster (see left), David Martin told us about his "Taking Care of Older Buildings" course, and David Robertson spoke on Cottier's and Lansdowne. The brief EGM held that day, will be reported at the 2011 AGM.

At **Trades Hall** in February, a dozen FGW members were welcomed by Roy Parkin, toured round many sumptuous rooms, and were then regaled with Trades Hall history and afternoon tea.

The **Taking Care of Older Buildings** eleven-week course, currently running at Glasgow Metropolitan College, has attracted a very worthwhile enrolment of twenty-three in all – people working in property management, construction trades, planners, an architect and owners of listed buildings.

Lansdowne Heritage Day, 18 June 2011

10.15 am	John Honeyman, Architect of Lansdowne	with <i>David Stark</i>
11.30am	Alf Webster and his Stained Glass,	with <i>Robin Webster</i>
2.00pm	Book Launch: " <i>A Notable Ornament</i> " publ Glasgow City Heritage Trust	<i>Gordon Urquhart</i> , the author

Lansdowne Art Adventure, 11 June 2011

Painting demos and workshops, including Alasdair Gray painting all day
And Allan Richardson painting outside in the morning

Art Photography, exhibition and workshops with Tom Donald

Stained Glass Demonstrations: Steve Richard - Etched Glass: Junko Eager

Further details on all West End Festival Events: fgw.org.uk

HISTORIC SCOTLAND COTTIER CONFERENCE

Held within the restored in Cottier Theatre building itself, this conference was entitled "**Before Mackintosh: Daniel Cottier, William Leiper and the "First Glasgow School"**"

The conference coincided with Sir Angus Grossart's launch of the excellent new HS publication about Daniel Cottier, "**Cottier in Context**", edited by David Robertson.

An audience of seventy heard fascinating presentations from a wide range of experts: David Robertson, Dr Hilary McCartney, Ranald MacInnes, Prof. John Hume, Michael Davis, Simon Green, Linda Cannon, Max Donnelly, Dr Elizabeth Cumming and David Mitchell.

The conference was so well received that highlights are being run again on Friday 24 June – see foot of p6.

A NOTE FROM LANSDOWNE

Lansdowne Parish Church continues its fruitful collaboration with Friends of Glasgow West, Four Acres Charitable Trust and other interested parties from the community. The church and halls are a busy community hub, used recreationally, for music and arts, dance and theatre, social action and 'interest groups', health and well-being, religion and spirituality...

Elsewhere you will find news of the West End Festival Art Day, local walks and the launch of historian Gordon Urquhart's definitive new book about Lansdowne. In tandem with FACT and FGW we also anticipate the formation of Friends of Lansdowne in due course.

The Church of Scotland's Presbytery of Glasgow is reviewing its strategic plan. At time of writing I cannot say what the outcome will be. Meanwhile in Lansdowne we work with our parish grouping, Presbytery and people of good will, towards continuing an open, welcoming and cooperative Christian presence within the site.

Roy Henderson

CURRENT WEST END PLANNING APPLICATIONS

AN OVERVIEW of what we do...

Thankfully, three-quarters of the three hundred or so planning applications made annually in Glasgow West Conservation Area are fine, and will indeed “*preserve or enhance the character of the Conservation Area*” as stated in Glasgow City Plan 2.

Such development delivers the kind of long-term improvement to the area’s Victorian and Edwardian building stock which we have all seen over recent years.

Glasgow West Conservation Area:

- is a long-standing, already-developed, built-up neighbourhood,
- is covered by Article 4 directions (additional conservation controls),
- has over three hundred listed buildings, many of them grade A,
- has a very high planning applications rate, both in city and national terms,
- is a place where money-making from development is relatively easy.

FGW guiding principles are based on:

- National Planning Legislation
- Glasgow City Plan 2
- Glasgow West Conservation Area Appraisal
- Our experience and understanding of local trends and the local scene.

For any initially unacceptable proposals, we often suggest various improvements in specific detail to make them more acceptable under Glasgow City Plan 2.

We think this is worthwhile, as our suggestions (which technically we have to couch as “objections”) are definitely taken up in some cases, often being incorporated as “conditions of consent”.

Of course a few proposals are irrevocably unacceptable, e.g. because they involve unjustified listed building demolition, or major irreversible damage to the character of the Conservation Area: here we often work with community councils and other local residents in a vigorous public campaign.

Where we have seen that the independent, high-quality information necessary for well-considered planning decisions, is deficient or even lacking, we have commissioned professional evidence, such as the Engineering Structural Report for Botanic Gardens Garage by John Addison, and the more recent Conservation Appraisal of Otago Lane, produced by MAST Architects with FGW’s Iain Wotherspoon.

Large increases in Licensing provision have occurred in the West End: we supported the “Overprovision” case for Byres Road, and are very concerned about the concentration and scale of alcohol provision in Ashton Lane.

PROGRESS ON HOUSES OF MULTIPLE OCCUPATION (HMOs)

By Jean Charsley

We did it! Councils and licensing boards can now take into account over-provision of HMOs in an area, licensing boards can refuse to consider a licence until planning has been settled, and most remarkable of all, Pauline McNeill’s amendments designed to enable licensing boards to refuse a licence if a room has been subdivided or kitchens or bathrooms moved from original vertically stacked services in a tenement, were accepted by unanimous vote. ***Jean and others were thanked by MSPs for their efforts. Our own FGW full appreciation is recorded here too!***

SAVE OTAGO LANE Campaign

Having withdrawn the previous Otago Lane development application in January, the developer lodged a reduced application in February with much the same footprint, and broadly similar negative impact on the character of the Conservation Area.

For technical reasons this required only a 3-week consultation period, but even in this short time, there was again a huge number of objections.

FGW strongly supported this renewed public campaign.

We now await what we think must be a further refusal, as the current proposals still fail by a long way, to “preserve or enhance the character of the conservation area”, amongst their numerous other failings.

BOTANIC GARDENS GARAGE

Working with local Councillor Martha Wardrop and long-standing Botanic Gardens Garage campaigner Sam Maddra, David Howat, FGW Vice Convener, is now looking for a positive future for this building, which is owned by Arnold Clark.

VODAPHONE MAST proposed in Wilton Street

In February, Vodaphone submitted an application for a telecommunications mast located in a grossly unsuitable position between the tenements at the west end of Wilton Street.

FGW submitted an objection letter, and also supported a campaign by local residents who approached us for help.

This application was speedily refused.

CLOUSTON STREET

This site, also known as North Kevin Meadow, is a large plot of GCC land, to be sold to a developer for about £10m, with the intention of being partly built over, and some left as public space. The North Kelvin Meadow Campaign wishes the whole space to be brought into public use i.e. not built on at all.

The pre-application period for the developer's proposals generated much public participation, including FGW. The proposed 20% of public space definitely requires to be significantly increased, maybe doubled, and its location moved away from being locked in the middle of the housing development, to create a genuinely usable solution.

Debate on the nature of the public use raised many ideas, one very sensible suggestion being Allotments operated by a local trust.

We are now awaiting fresh proposals.

ORANMOR

Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent have been granted retrospectively for the “Blue Hoop” on the spire of this B Listed building. This decision was a long time coming – in fact 15 months after the Hoop was installed, just before Christmas 2009.

OranMor made a recent application to re-appropriate into their own private use, a stretch of public pavement at the Great Western Road corner which had been compulsorily purchased from the Church in the 1930s. Following strong objections voiced by Hillhead Community Council, FGW and many others, GCC refused this application.

GUIDED WALKS

In the West End Festival
All Tickets £7, buy in advance
from Barretts in Byres Road

The Quirky West End --NEW--

Friday 3 June, 7pm

Why do many of us love the "quirkiness" of the West End - and what does this mean anyway? Join Ann Laird to investigate some of the places and buildings that charm and delight visitors and residents, and consider the range of influences that may determine their future.

Science Celebrities --NEW--

Sat 4 June, 7pm

A stroll with Ian Mitchell around places associated with eminent scientists who either worked in or were from Glasgow (Black, Kelvin, Lister, Rankine, Ramsay etc.), taking us through the University area, and into Kelvingrove Park and the Park district.

The Lansdowne Area

Mon 6 June, 7pm

Conservation expert David Martin visits Lansdowne Church and examines other local architecture including Lansdowne Crescent nearby. Currently "at risk", Lansdowne Church requires significant funding to secure the future of its landmark spire and world-class stained glass.

Glasgow University, Old & New

Tues 7 June, 7pm

Bob Crawford, local historian and formerly of the University Estates and Buildings Dept, tours 'old and new' in the University's West End campus, from Sir George Gilbert Scott's 1870 Gothic Main Buildings to the elegant modern buildings in University Avenue.

Greek Thomson's 'Sixty Steps'

Wed 8 June, 7pm

Join Roger Guthrie, Alexander "Greek" Thomson expert, in a perambulation around the West End to discuss the well-hidden gem, the "Sixty Steps" and some splendid listed buildings designed by this world-class genius.

Historic Maryhill

Thur 9 June, 7pm

Combining work by many of Glasgow's leading architects, including Mackintosh, with housing from all eras from Victorian to post war, Maryhill retains a distinctive identity and holds some of Glasgow's best kept historical secrets including Maryhill Burgh Halls, re-opening later this year. This varied walk, led by Gordon Barr of Maryhill Burgh Halls Trust, will take in Maryhill itself, the canal that made the area, and a selection of landmark buildings, stained glass and artwork.

Artist's View of the West End

Fri 10 June, 7pm

Kenneth Burns, local historian and longstanding West End Artist, describes the impacts felt by the artist in a walk around some of his favourite buildings and streets. Free post-card sized prints.

Forth & Clyde Canal

Sat 11 June, 2pm

Canal historian and writer Guthrie Hutton leads you through some of Scotland's major waterway, transport, industrial and historical sites, including many hidden treasures and the breathtaking city viewpoint at Spiers Wharf. Return journey on board "Voyager" or "Gipsy Princess".

Park Circus Area

Mon 13 June, 7pm

Roger Guthrie perambulates through the magnificent Park Circus area, Britain's pre-eminent example of early Victorian town planning. In recent years, many of architect Charles Wilson's splendid terrace houses have been converted back to residential use.

Our Expanding Heritage --NEW--

Tues 14 June, 7pm

New design anywhere is potentially controversial, and certainly so in the West End. Have you ever wondered which new buildings of today could become the listed buildings of the future? Join Ranald MacInnes of Historic Scotland in a tour of the area, and see what you think!

Greek Thomson's 'Sixty Steps'

Wed 15 June, 2.30pm (Short Walk)

---See Wed 8 June

Dowanhill - Jewel in the Crown

Thurs 16 June, 7pm

Local expert Fionna Eden-Bushell explains the history and architecture of the grand and elegant churches, terraces, pleasure gardens and villas of Dowanhill, including the superb "facelift" of A-listed Crown Circus.

Victorian Cast Iron Splendour

Fri 17 June, 2.30pm (Short Walk)

---See Tues 21 June

Partick and Dowanhill

Sat 18 June, 7pm

Fiona Sinclair, president of Glasgow Institute of Architects, describes features and styles portrayed in the much-loved Victorian and Edwardian buildings of Partick and Dowanhill.

World Tour of the West End

Sun 19 June, 7pm

David Martin explains how architectural inspirations from overseas are reflected in some West End buildings.

Best West End Tenements

Mon 20 June, 7pm

Ann Laird, local historian, visits a selection of the West End's 40 'listed' Victorian and Edwardian tenements, including Avril Paton's famous "Windows in the West".

Victorian Cast Iron Splendour

Tues 21 June, 7pm

Roger Guthrie, expert on Glasgow's Victorian architectural cast-iron, looks at the West End's world-class collection, including some of the grant-aided restoration projects which have brought them back to life.

North Kelvin

Wed 22 June, 7pm

Kenneth Burns, West End artist and local historian, visits bridges, churches, schools, a variety of domestic buildings and occasional industrial relics to the north of the River Kelvin. Includes North Woodside Old Flint Mill, "Greek" Thomson's 60 steps, and the imposing terrace at Wilton Crescent. Free leaflet included.

Historic Hillhead

Thurs 23 June, 7pm

Visit Hillhead, the oldest part of the Victorian West End, with local expert Fionna Eden-Bushell, including early terraces and tenements, and some modern buildings, in this University haven.

Hyndland Old Station

Fri 24 June, 7pm

Local historian Ann Laird visits the site of the former North British railway station, now the site of the "Old Station Park" project, and tours Hyndland's elegant red sandstone tenements, churches, bowling club, and school.

West End Cinemas

--NEW--

Sat 25 June, 2pm

A stroll with Gordon Barr, joint editor of the ScottishCinemas.org website, highlighting examples of the full range of cinema architectural history, including converted roller-skating rinks, the earliest purpose built halls, and the peculiarly Scottish 'back-court' theatres. This walk will highlight cinemas that were, cinemas that are, and cinemas that might have been.

Partick Heritage

Sun 26 June, 2pm

Gordon Urquhart explains the long history of Partick village, its mills on the River Kelvin, the development of two major shipyards, and its time as a Burgh in the Victorian era.

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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FGW Local Interest and Heritage TALKS

AT HILLHEAD LIBRARY

All talks free. Full details in West End Festival Brochure

In collaboration with Hillhead Library. Supported by GCC Hillhead Area Committee



Art Photography

Saturday 4th June 2pm

Tom Donald

North Woodside

Monday 6th June 7pm

Ian R Mitchell

Village Vibes

Tuesday 7th June 7pm

Michael Dale, WEF Director, and
Glasgow Centre for Population Health

The Glasgow Undergrounds

Wednesday 8th June 7pm

Colin McKay

Great Western Road and the Building of the West End

Thursday 9th June 7pm

Gordon Urquhart

Gartnavel Hospital and Chapel

Saturday 11th June 2pm

Fergus Sutherland

Celebrating Community

Monday 13th June 7pm

Peter Gotch Athole Lane Improv. Soc,
Neil Johnston Friends of Old Station Park
April Chamberlain K'side Allotments Ass.
Chairman David Howat, FGW

Tales from the Tollbooth

Tuesday 14th June 7pm

Bill Black

Tenement Management Old and New

Wednesday 15th June 7pm

Ann Flint, housing consultant
Lorraine MacDonald, President of the
Property Managers' Assoc. of Scotland.

Old Glasgow through the lens

Thursday 16th June 7pm

Douglas Annan

Parks and Heritage

Friday 17th June 2pm

Dennis McCue GCC LES
Ewen Donaldson Manager of
Glasgow Botanic Gardens.

The West End Means Business

Monday 20th June 7pm

Evelyn Hogarth Top Tier Owner
Martin Fell TchaiOvna Owner
Alan Macdonald Tennent's regular

The Quirky West End

Tuesday 21st June 7pm Ann Laird

Celebrating The Mitchell Library

Wednesday 22nd June 2pm

Irene O'Brien Mitchell Library.

Town and Gown

Thursday 23rd June 2pm

Tommy Gore, President of GU SRC,
Prof. Frank Coton, Vice Principal

Health and Heritage

Thursday 23rd June 7pm

Manager of St Mungo's Museum
of Religious Life and Art, with
Heather MacLeod of WalkGlasgow

Cottier and Leiper "Mini-Conference"

Friday 24th June 2pm

David Robertson, Ranald Macinnes,
Linda Cannon, Simon Green
Highlights from the March 2011 Historic
Scotland Cottier Conference.

Family Fun!

Sunday 26th June 2pm

