



FROM THE
Deacon Convener's
DESK

Easter 2017

The change in the clocks and the advent of Easter brings a new spring in our steps and this can be seen in a number of recent House, Civic and personal events attended by Rita and me. We send our Easter wishes to all our friends in the Crafts and those associated with the House.

Fashion Show

The outstanding event of our Chain Gang this month was the Fashion Show by **Moda Dea** presented by Rosemarie McNally, wife of our Collector Tom.

On a sunny Sunday afternoon of 2nd April the Hall looked stunning as the 150 guests sat down to enjoy afternoon tea preceded by a display of ladies wear ranging from summer casual clothes, formal day wear and lastly bridal outfits. The models included members of the Crafts and most had never been on a catwalk before the day, but played their parts really well.

The event was hosted by Deacon Dorothy Walker and attended by the Lord Provost Cllr. Sadie Docherty. As Deacon Convener my contribution was to model my own day wear and promote the Charity Appeal of the Chain Gang. It must have worked and the generosity of the attendees through the raffle and envelopes contributed to the circa £5,000 profit.

This was the House and Hall at its very best.



Lady Dorothy Newlands of Lauriston, Deacon of the Wrights and Primrose Stark, Deacon of the Coopers



Fashion Show organiser Rosemarie McInally and Mary Jane, wife of David Bird, Deacon of the Skinners



..... on to Dancing

It was not enough Rita and I went to a dance evening organised by the Glasgow Swing Sensation. We have booked them for our

Midsummer Ball on 24th June at Trades Hall

Great music, fun to dance and a party atmosphere.

Tickets are already selling well so if you have not booked [Click Here for a ticket reservation form](#), either for a table of 10 or for individual tickets.

Or email janet.olverman@tradeshouse.org.uk for more information.

Don't delay book today!

Tartan Parade

Colin Brown, Deacon of the Weavers participated in the Tartan Parade in New York at the beginning of April. He was joined by his wife Susie and children. Colin was wearing the Trades House trews. Many others participated including the Scottish Parliament.



Ye Cronies

Still on the subject of music but of a different kind; Rita and I were invited to an evening of dinner and music by Ex-Deacon Ian Young of the Hammermen at a packed Marriott Hotel organized by the Glasgow Ye Cronies. We enjoyed the most fantastic classical concert by members of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and it was a real privilege to be invited to see such great Glasgow grown talent.

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games

The Lord Provost hosted a lunch for Tom Tate, Mayor of the Gold Coast in Queensland, which will host the 2018 Commonwealth Games. They have learnt a lot from how it was successfully organised in Glasgow and also the Olympic Games in London. It is going to be a great event in Australia.



Red Nose Day

I was pleased to support the Lord Provost's Tea Party to raise funds for Red Nose Day. Every half hour guests came to take tea and cake in the Lord Provost's dining room and gave generously to the charity through a raffle and tombola.



Council Meeting

I attended the last meeting of the Council prior to the elections on 4th May. It naturally had the pre-election knockabout and banter but without damaging the reputation and achievements of the City.

During the interregnum in May the Lord Dean of Guild and Deacon Convener carry out the Civic functions until a new Lord Provost is elected by the Council later in the month.

Dining with the Lord Provost

To recognise the service to the City given by the Lord Provost, Cllr. Sadie Docherty and the Depute Lord Provost Gerry Leonard, the Deacon Conveners, who had served alongside them during their five years in office, entertained them to dinner in the Deacon Convener's Suite.

An informal occasion with short speeches but to highlight the relationship between the City Chambers, Merchants House and Trades House in Civic life. This is unique to Glasgow in recognition of the Merchants and Crafts in their original role in City governance and to my knowledge does not exist in any other City in the UK.



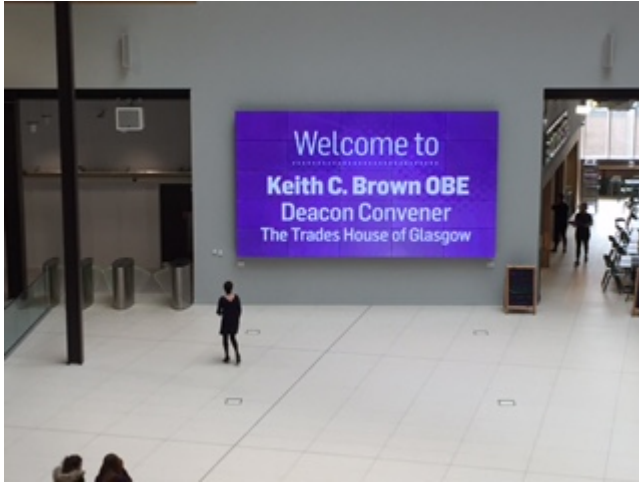
Society of Deacons and Free Preseses

I was invited to speak at their annual dinner at the Piping Centre. This was in reply to the toast to the Trades House and gave me the opportunity to talk about my charities and Charity Appeal. I was delighted to receive a cheque for £3,000 as part of my Charity Appeal appeal which will be donated to Kinship Care.

It is affectionately known as SODS and it was established in 1780. Its members are former Deacons, not just of Trades House Incorporations but other similar institutions in Glasgow as well as subscribing members. They have a place on our website demonstrating a fraternal link with the House

Glasgow Colleges

I was invited to the new Glasgow College by the Principal, Paul Little. An inspiring visit to understand their strategy and how they developed courses to promote a wide range of skills from engineering to cooking. They have over 1000 international students learning the skills which bring long lasting relationships. The College is a great supporter of Craftex and I can see that there is more we can do to develop initiatives from what the college has to offer.



Family visit

Our grandchildren constantly enquire about our activities in Glasgow so what better way to explain was to invite them to the 'Glasgow Experience.' Our daughter Lucy and one grand daughter Emily had attended my October dinner but for Annabel and Jack it was their first visit.

They were able to see the City Chambers and the Council Chamber. They came to the Bakers Box Opening, John MacLeod invited them to tour the Merchants House and there was a bus tour visiting the Peoples' Palace and the Riverside Museum, finally attending the Fashion Show.

Now they want to join!

Commonweal Presentation

Twenty nine local community groups last month received awards totalling £50,000 from Trades House through its Commonweal Fund .

The presentations were made at Trades Hall on my behalf by Late Deacon Convener Ruth Maltman. (I was attending a dinner with the General Officer Commanding the Army in Scotland.) The beneficiaries represented a wide variety of charities and groups covering children's holiday schemes, Riding for the Disabled, health, disability and the arts.

The Commonweal Fund is one of our charitable funds which together support a wide range of charities and individuals across Glasgow. Some of the award came through our joint venture with STV Trust.



Late Deacon Convener Ruth Maltman with Deacons of the Incorporations and the recipients of the Commonwealth awards.

Hammermen outing for Pensioners

Each year the Hammermen Service Group organize visits for pensioners and beneficiaries of the House and Crafts and other associated institutions.

They were invited to lunch in Trades Hall and this was followed by a bus down to Kings Theatre to see Buddy – amazing how so many joined in the music and songs of their era. Jim Morris and his wife Lorna organized the event but have now retired and our thanks to them for their hard work.

Racehorses

Belle is now out in the fields with her mother enjoying the sun and new grass. She is bold as brass which is unusual for such a young foal

We have had two winners in the last month **Masestro Royal** won at Newbury and **Royal Ruby** won her first race at Southwell. As she is one of our home bred this is immensely encouraging.

Rita and I gave a talk last week to the Glasgow Rotary Club on our life with racehorses

Trades House Lecture

This year's lecture will be held on Tuesday 23rd May and given by Professor Graeme Roy, Director of the Fraser of Allander Institute. Each year one of the Glasgow Universities sponsor the lecture and this year it is the University of Strathclyde of which the Business School and Fraser of Allander are a part.

Details of this will be separately distributed but can also be obtained from Katrina Tilston katrina.tilston@tradeshouse.org.uk

Golf Competitions

Ladies' Golf Competition

The Ladies' Golf competition will be held on Monday 15th May at Douglas Park Golf Club. Details have been circulated to the Craft Conveners and individuals where they are known. It is open to all Lady golfers and further details can be obtained from Sarah Dorward at sarah.dorward@ntlworld.com

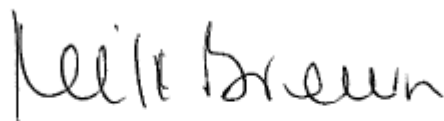
Men's Golf Competition

The Men's Stableford Competition is in the afternoon of Wednesday 3rd May at Kilmacolm Golf Club. This is for teams of two and there is no limit as to how many teams a Craft may enter. Details have been given to Craft Golf Conveners who co-ordinate entries

Dates for Diary

- Craftex Exhibition at Trades Hall – Thursday 1st June to Saturday 3rd June
- Trades House Modern Apprentice Awards
Tuesday 6th June 6pm for 6.30pm at Trades Hall

School Craft Awards – Thursday 8th June 2.30pm at Trades Hall



KEITH C. BROWN OBE
DEACON CONVENER OF THE TRADES OF GLASGOW