



The Trades House Newsletter from the Deacon Convener

NOVEMBER 2017

Welcome!

I am honoured to have been appointed Deacon Convener of the Trades of Glasgow and will do my best to merit the trust the House and Crafts have put in me in the year ahead. I am delighted to have Bruce Reidford as my Collector, and the support of my family and my wife, Sarah. The Late Convener, Keith Brown, started this regular newsletter to update the Crafts on the working of the House and the Crafts and I am pleased to be able to continue this valuable initiative.

My background is in Health as a Consultant Physician with an interest in Acute and Respiratory Medicine in the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley, for 30 years. I also had involvement in lung cancer research, teaching, postgraduate education, medical management and an advisory role to the Health Board and Scottish Government in the past.

For the House, I was Deacon of my mother Craft, the Cordiners in 1996, Deacon of the Barbers in 2012 and Manager of the Drapers Fund in 2014. I have been Chair of the Kinship care Initiative awards committee for the last two years.

At a glance...

The Trades House has an important role in supporting the Incorporated Crafts. Each year the Deacon Convener describes the two biggest challenges as;

- increasing the profile of the House in Glasgow
- attracting new members for the Crafts.

We are already raising our image of the House with the help of social media and our new marketing consultant, Claire Whyte.

We are developing the "*Friends of the Trades House*" to encourage the public to learn more about the extensive nature of the charitable workings of the Incorporated Crafts and House, and ultimately to encourage new members to join the Crafts.

It can be easy to concentrate on the traditions of the House and forget that we are an important Glasgow charity run by volunteers "Looking after Glasgow", which is this year's theme.

For example, the House provides grants to support education, citizenship, and the trades through our various funds.

- The Education Fund helps young people in need to complete their education.
- The Commonweal Fund supports community organisations in fields of health and education in arts and youth employment and for children and young people's welfare.
- The Drapers fund gives individual grants for children with the aim of alleviating poverty, ill-health and individual hardship.

The Kinship initiative aims to raise expectations, educational attainment and employment choices for a group of vulnerable young people.

Key Events from My Diary

In my first four weeks I have, on your behalf, attended many Civic, Craft and other Trades events. Apart from the six excellent choosing dinners, the following stand out:

United Nations Day, Eradication of Poverty

This was a highly motivated group of local people telling their stories; there was much worry about sanctions, welfare payments and arrears. But there was a positive attitude, and finished with singsong from the City Mission Choir.

The Royal British Legion Scotland

The service of dedication at Glasgow Garden of Remembrance in the city square. An emotional event - we laid a Trades House wreath on your behalf at a service in the pouring rain, a photo of which appeared in the Scotsman.



The Royal British Legion's (Scotland) Service of Dedication in the Glasgow Garden of Remembrance was featured in The Scotsman.

Of the four Remembrance Day Ceremonies I attended, the most emotional was the Remembrance Day Service at Hutcheson's Grammar School with pupils, staff and Rector Colin Gambles. The head boy and girl read out the names of those ex-pupils lost during the First World and the Second World War: about 50 names. As each name was read out a senior pupil stood up behind us – and at the end when I turned around 50 young people not far off the age of those killed were standing. A powerful statement.



Reception for the St Petersburg Robert Burns students

Reception and recitations in the City Chambers and wreath laying at Robert Burns' statue in George Square.

Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service: awards to donors with Bailie Josephine Docherty (SNP). The Lord Dean of Guild and I helped give out awards for the Scottish Blood Transfusion Service to donors who had given between 75 and astonishingly 400 pints of blood in their lifetime.

Incorporation of Coopers: the visit by HRH the Earl of Wessex to present the 'Inc. of Coopers' Earl of Wessex Award' prizes with the Deacon of the Coopers, Kenny Dalby.

Thought Provoking Speeches at the Trades House Dinner

The Trades House dinner which followed my appointment had entertaining but thought-provoking speeches.

Phil Hanlon, Professor of Public Health at the University of Glasgow, gave the toast to the City of Glasgow. He celebrated the health of the city and applauded those who in the past transcended challenges to provide us with the health we enjoy today. Health challenges still exist - inequality, obesity, mental health problems and addictions are the most prominent. Yet, he felt if those who came before us in Glasgow overcame the health challenges they faced at their time, we should take confidence in the idea that we can successfully confront the problems we face today.

The Deacon Convener congratulated the Lord Provost, Eva Bolander, on her recent appointment. She replied to the toast to the City, and told us that the annual dinner celebrates a shared history that continues to recognise the Deacon Convener as the city's Third Citizen; "The City of Glasgow is an inclusive and progressive city, transforming itself from a place of heavy industry to a high-tech and cultural powerhouse. This city is committed to economic growth, whose the potential is limitless if we work smarter in partnership with others."

Iain MacRitchie, gave the toast to the Trades House and the 14 Incorporated Crafts. He gave an inspirational talk about the value of the Trades House and MCR Pathway's mentoring program - which he founded - to inspire a thousand Glaswegians to support our city's most deserving young people, describing the potential role of Trades House members in supporting this program.



Grand Antiquity Society

The Grand Antiquity Society was instituted in 1756 and is one of the 17 Burgess Associations of the City of Glasgow, the members of which must be Burgesses of Glasgow. It has around 4,000 members, including about 1,400 ladies. The current Preses, Roddy Macpherson, is in the fiftieth year of membership of the Society.

The Society continues to be to look after those of its members who are in need (grants, however, are not restricted to members). The Society plays a very active role in the civic life of Glasgow by participating in the affairs of Trades House.

On 4th September 1992 The Princess Royal followed family tradition by joining as Patron and Honorary Member and this year the Master Court wished to mark this 25th anniversary and were delighted that Princess Anne agreed to attend the dinner

The Preses introduced Princess Anne, to each member and guest. The Deacon Convener introduced her to the Deacons, Visitor, and their companions. The dinner was highly successful and enlivened by the unique speaking style and wit of the Preses. It was clear that the Princess Royal enjoyed the event and the Deacon Convener enjoyed his conversation with her, which ranged over a wide selection of subjects.

The Preses presented the Princess Royal with a picture of a plinth with "The Grand Antiquity Reel" inscribed on it. He told the Princess it was an appropriate gift as it was "A plinth for a Plintheth"!



"We were honoured to host the Grand Antiquity Society of Glasgow's annual dinner recently, with The Princess Royal in attendance. Roderick Macpherson, Preses of the Society was on hand to present The Princess Royal with a framed copy of the Grant Antiquity Reel".

Presentation to the Trades House

At the annual dinner of the Grand Antiquity Society the Preses presented the Deacon Convener with a silver communion cup, from Glasgow Unitarian Church. The **communion cup**, beautifully engraved and dated 1839. Is a gift to the Trades House on behalf of the Trustees of Scottish Charity **Glasgow Unitarian Church**.

The congregation was formally constituted on 28th September 1810 in the Trades Hall (3 years before the Unitarian church became legal) The Deacon Convener thanked the Trustees and promised to display it prominently in the Deacon Convener's room.

Glasgow Council Meeting

As third Citizen I attended my first Council meeting on Thursday 2nd November and was asked to address the Council.

Under the 1605 agreement the Lord Provost, the Lord Dean of Guild and the Deacon Convener of the Trades became the three civic leaders. Despite many changes of local government and several Acts of Parliament it remains this way today. The Deacon Convener still being the third citizen of Glasgow and whilst we no longer have a vote on the council we still are invited to have major civic role at council events.

My wife Sarah and I have been welcomed with friendliness by the Council officers and staff, the deputy Lord Provost and Bailie's and in particularly by the Lord Provost herself. It has been a great honour to represent the City to the various groups who have attended functions in the City Chambers over the last three weeks - we look forward to supporting these in future.

I would like to thank the Counsel for the maintenance of our long-standing, 500 year old, relationship.

The Chain Gang

This year's "Chain Gang" is organizing two main charitable events to raise money for our nominated in-house charity, the Trades House Kinship Care initiative:

- A “Casino Night” on 2 December, to which I hope you will all be able to come.



The “Midsummer Ball” this summer was highly successful and we aim to repeat this event on Midsummer's day, 23rd June 2018.

ASSOCIATION OF DEACONS



On 2 October 2017, The Rt Hon. the Lord Lyon King of Arms, Dr Joseph J Morrow, KStJ, QC, DL, presented J Douglas Anderson, President of the Association of Deacons, with a Matriculation of Arms for the Association.

The Arms (which are shown below) are based on those of the Trades House, as the Lord Lyon considers that the Association is, in heraldic terms, a ‘daughter’ of the House. The Arms are differenced from those of the House by a *bordure sanguine* (the colour of the Association’s ties), on which is shown the arrows from the House’s crest.

Hitherto, of the House itself, the fourteen Incorporations, and the Associated Organisations (the Grand Antiquity Society, the Trades House Lodge, and the Association), all but the Association had been granted Arms, and now all have these.

The cost of obtaining the Arms was met entirely by donations from the Association’s Members. The Association is particularly grateful to Ex Deacon Liam Devlin of the Incorporation of Cordiners who, in his capacity as Unicorn Pursuivant at the Court of the Lord Lyon, facilitated the preparation and presentation of the Petition to the Court.

The President has presented the Association with a banner of the Arms, which will be available for display at future Association events.

The Association was founded in 1857, and received its Royal Charter in 1910. Its purposes *inter alia* are to bring together those who have been elected Deacon or Visitor of the Incorporations, to encourage non-Burgess Citizens of Glasgow to qualify for membership of one or more of the Incorporations, and to grant relief to Members of the Association, their spouses and children when in want.

Dates for your Diary:

St Mungo's Lecture (City Chambers) - 23rd November 2017

House Meeting - 29 November 2017

The Burns Supper - 23rd January 2018



Dr Alistair J Dorward
Deacon Convener of Trades House of Glasgow