

Collector Billy Birse-Stewart and I visited all of the Incorporation AGM's on Choosing Day, 17th September 2021. We were accompanied by the Clerk, John Gilchrist and two meetings were conducted by Zoom. It was good to see strong numbers attending and for many it was their first gathering for some time. With Choosing Dinners season now underway we are already seeing cancellations as uncertainty about safety lingers. Let's hope we can meet in groups with confidence in the not too distant future.

This is the final edition of Trading Post from me! I have enjoyed the challenge of gathering articles and wishing there was more time to delve even further into the immense number of "tales" uncovered as we networked through current and past members and their families. Trades House really is a social historians dream. Many contacts have been revived – mainly individuals who have drifted away – and this was evidenced in some of the visitors we welcomed during Doors Open Day. One lady was exploring the life of her great grandfather who had been a Deacon and I was proud to explain some of the traditions which she would have heard of first hand possibly from her own parents or grandfather.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to Trading Post – too many to mention – and I believe that every aspect of the day to day life of the House, Crafts and associated organisations is represented in some way through articles, information and notices.

The idea was to share and communicate across the widest network possible. Only the members and readers can judge if this was achieved. Thanks also to Jackie Mullen for playing her part in making sure the mailing list travelled as far as possible and to Marc Sherland for making a hotch potch of articles look good enough to read! It wouldn't have worked without you.

For the final article we return to the force of nature that was Ian Alistair Macpherson. The article below provides some of the highlights from the tributes made at the Memorial Service to celebrate Ian's life, held at Govan Old Parish Church on Sunday 12th September, 2021. I can think of no better way to end my year as DC than giving Faither the final word.

Ken Dalgleish, Deacon Convener

Ian Alistair Macpherson MBE

25th January 1935 ~ 11th December 2020



It was “full house” at the Memorial Service to celebrate the life of Ian Alistair Macpherson held in the highly appropriate Govan Old Parish Church on Sunday 12th September, 2021.

The service was conducted by Reverend Stuart McQuarrie and included tributes by representatives from Bridgeton Burns Club and the Trades House of Glasgow. A selection from the tributes are provided below.

Reverend Stuart McQuarrie welcomed everyone to the Service and introduced Ken Dalgleish, Deacon Convener of the Trades House of Glasgow.

“I know that tributes to follow later in the Service will focus on friendship and Ian’s membership of Bridgeton Burns Club. I want to focus on Ian’s huge contribution at Trades House and my own friendship with one of East Kilbride’s best known citizens.

I first met Ian when he was involved with East Kilbride Development Corporation. We were on a recruitment panel together and he later introduced me to members of the Board at Lanarkshire Development

Agency. I was again completing a Board Appointment project with him and it was difficult not to laugh at his one liners with the candidates – they all left the interview room certain that they would be appointed! If only they had been present at the final wash up when we contrasted candidate performance and Ian’s real views came out. It was hilarious but never offensive – only on a few occasions did I have to remind him that equality of opportunity was critical in appointing the best candidate!

Ian loved Trades House. It was wonderful to see him serve as Visitor of the Maltmen in recent years. He will be known more however for his entertainment skills and many’s the time Ian “rescued” a dry and lacklustre Craft dinner with a sparkling Vote of Thanks, full of one liners and innuendos. He was a great Burnsian and again you could rely on him to hold an audience at any Burns Supper given the range of his repertoire. My own favourite occasions were where Ian was the entertainment. At Craft events, such as Box Openings etc, he would perform a “set” of 1950/60’s MGM musical classics and have the audience singing along – and then still have the energy to give a 20 minute comedy set of jokes we had all heard many times – but still laughed loudly! Yes indeed – it really was the way he told him!

There is no equal to Ian and we will all miss him. He was a unique character and multi -talented. He was also loyal, kind, generous and a true leader.”

There simply wasn’t space to fully cover the eulogies at the commemorative service held on Sunday 12th September in Govan Old Parish Church to commemorate, consummate lover of life, Ian Macpherson MBE, who died in late 2020.

Iain T Gordon a close friend of ‘Faither’ asked the inevitable question, *“Where do you start when trying to celebrate the life Ian Alastair Macpherson?”*

A life not so much a lived to the full, but a life crammed to the brim. There were not enough days in a year to fit it in his involvement with so many organizations. I was convinced he had a diary with over 400 days in a year.”

Bobby Shaw, President of the Bridgeton Burns Club agreed, *“What a man what an entertainer. I could use words like brilliant charismatic and legend and I wouldn't be wrong, he was a wonderful man who brought a lot of happiness to many people during his life.”*

“Immaculately dressed.” Iain reminded us, “Dapper, debonair, rarely without a shirt and tie, and always combing that thick head of hair.”

Ex policeman, Bobby rejoined, *“My first connection was when I witnessed him performing at Strathclyde Police Burns Suppers where he, as usual brought the house down with laughter. For sixty years Ian performed on the after dinner circuit.*

Although he loved the social life, he was always a great worker for charity, something he took enormous pride in. Sustained work over the years with the British heart foundation the Order of Saint John, arthritis care and East Kilbride Dementia Care and many other charity organizations saw him fittingly rewarded with his MBE in 1982. A very proud time for his wife Rebecca and his girls Dawn and Rhona going to the Place for the investiture.”

“He was well known in famous Glasgow Pubs,” Iain mentioned, “the Horseshoe Bar and Stepps Bar, both of which have caricatures of him on the wall. Then of course his beloved ‘Monty’ in East Kilbride, which has a huge painting of him looking resplendent with cigar in hand.”

“He played golf with Bob Hope and Lee Trevino, travelled on a jet with Rod Stewart to a football match and performed at the same functions as ‘the Big Yin’ and Andy Cameron.” Bobby mentioned, before commenting, “And he won ‘Wit of the Year’ in Scotland and came second to Annabel Goldie in the same competition a few years later.”

Iain concluded, *“I was fortunate to have met him, I miss his counsel, I miss his stories, I miss his humour, I miss his singing, I miss the smile, I miss his friendship, I miss him so much, but along with so many others I will never forget him, he was in the true sense of the word a legend.”*

Bobby agreed stating, *“Faither, was a truly remarkable man, a devoted husband, a father and a grandfather, and a wonderful friend of whom I am sure we will all have joyful abiding memories.”*