



## Glasgow Conservation Trust West Summary Review

The Trust was founded in 1987 as the West End Conservation Initiative and today is known as the Glasgow Conservation Trust West. Since its establishment, the organisation (a charitable body since 1990) has focused on:

- Facilitating conservation projects
- Encouraging higher standards of repair and maintenance for the historic townscape of the West End of Glasgow, and
- Promoting technical conservation through its lectures and publications

Over the years, the Trust has firmly established a core role in the community, not only as a source of support and specialist advice on conservation matters, but as an important point of contact for (and sometimes as an intermediary between) various interests in the area — and across the city as a whole — including property owners, building professionals, contractors, developers, community councils, local authority officers, politicians, amenity groups, local institutions and other charitable trusts.

The Trust has also helped to raise the profile of Glasgow's conservation efforts, having established a unique presence in the city and made valuable links with institutions and organisations across Scotland and beyond.

### Grant Schemes

The Trust provides financial assistance for the external repair and restoration of a broad range of historic structures — from individual historic buildings and structures associated with designed gardens and landscapes, to individual architectural details and examples of the decorative arts — through its conservation grant programme:

- Small Scheme Grants – targeted at small schemes costing less than £10,000
- Building Repair Grants – targeted at larger and more complex individual schemes
- Townscape Enhancement Grants – targeted at larger, area-based schemes intended to enhance the setting of listed structures and regenerate pleasure gardens
- Research Grants – targeted at increasing the Trust's knowledge of particular aspects of the West End's cultural and physical heritage

Since 1990 the Trust has awarded over £2.3 million in grants and delivered nearly 250 physical projects. In addition, between 1990 and 1996 the Trust coordinated £700,000 in grant funding from Glasgow Development Agency for environmental regeneration schemes along the Great Western Road corridor.

Buildings at risk are of concern to the Trust and thus it has supported initiatives by other bodies (Four Acres Charitable Trust, Coach House Trust, Glasgow Building Preservation Trust, Friends of Kelvingrove Park, etc) and local community groups in their efforts to conserve buildings and sites of architectural and historical importance.

## **Technical Advice**

### **The West End Conservation Manual**

The Trust's critically acclaimed technical guide to the restoration of Victorian houses, researched, written, published and updated in-house since 1993. Many original sections are now out of print; material has been updated and reissued in CD-Rom format. Over the years, sales of the Conservation Manual have supplemented the Trust's revenue income.

### **Free Publications**

Over the years, the Trust has published numerous technical leaflets containing advice on repair/maintenance and distributed through local libraries, civic societies and direct mailings. Regular newsletters also provide details of Trust projects, events and initiatives.

### **Website**

The Trust's website (on-line since 1996) provides specialist technical advice and an overview of Trust activities, news of local events and links to other conservation bodies.

### **Public Advice**

The Trust provides free technical advice and referrals to the public.

## **Knowledge Base**

### **Fabric Surveys**

Over the last fifteen years the Trust has built up a considerable body of experience and expertise in the field of conservation. Within the boundary of the Glasgow West Conservation Area, it has sponsored surveys of building stones, streetscape surfaces, ironwork, shopfronts, decorative glass, property maintenance and management, building condition and back lanes.

### **Library and Archive**

The Trust's technical library includes texts on conservation, building technology, planning and housing reports and publications, professional journals and trade literature. Its renowned historical archive includes building materials, reference books, picture postcards, photographs and photographic slides, maps, title deeds, architectural drawings and other documents.

### **Conservation Directory**

The Trust encourages and promotes local firms providing specialist conservation services: maintaining a list of stone masons, slaters, leadworkers, decorative glass restorers, iron founders, blacksmiths, etc and providing referrals to property owners and consultants.

## **Education and Training**

### **Conservation Masterclasses**

During the 1990s, the Trust sponsored annual Conservation Masterclasses, providing specialist technical advice to practitioners and property owners in order to encourage improved conservation standards. In recent years, the Trust has developed CPD and other educational programmes for professional practices, amenity bodies and institutions.

### **West End Lectures**

In 1992, the Trust initiated an annual series of evening lectures in conjunction with the University of Glasgow's Dept of Adult Education. The ten annual West End Lectures — featuring leading experts in

local, social and architectural history — have become one of the most successful courses in the University's continuing education programme (some 1000 student places in 13 years), enhancing public appreciation of the area's historic townscape as well as promoting the work of the Trust.

### **Postgraduate Liaison**

The Trust has built up a strong relationship with conservation degree courses across Scotland and regularly provides lectures, study tours and dissertation advice for postgraduate students. The Trust has also acted as an external examiner for the University of Dundee's conservation course. Over the years, it has provided work placements and several of the Trust's former interns now hold strategic posts in the UK conservation field.

### **Community Liaison and Promotion**

- Establishment and support of the Friends of Glasgow West
- Attendance at public meetings on planning and community matters
- Meetings with residents associations, community councils, city Councillors, MSPs
- Site visits with property owners and agents
- Presentations to local and national amenity bodies (e.g. National Trust for Scotland)
- Collaboration on schools projects
- Support of tourism initiatives (e.g. West End Festival, walking tours, Doors Open Day, Heritage Trail leaflets and signs)
- Training of tour guides (Glasgow Tour Guide Association)
- Interviews with print and electronic media
- Articles and press releases in local press and technical journals

### **Professional Affiliations**

- Amenity Liaison Committee
- Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland
- Institute of Historic Building Conservation
- Scottish Stone Liaison Group
- Association of Building Preservation Trusts

### **Free Consultation Services**

From time to time, the Trust comments on statutory planning and conservation policy documents (e.g. Glasgow City Plan). In 2003, the Trust undertook a major study on behalf of Historic Scotland into the potential for establishing a proactive building maintenance enterprise in the West End. The Trust has also acted as a referee for local Heritage Lottery Fund applications (e.g. Kibble Palace and Kelvingrove Bandstand).

The Trust is regularly invited to comment on local authority reports, proposals and initiatives including traffic management schemes, conservation area appraisals and the review of city parks. Where broader issues of principle are raised, the Trust comments on individual planning applications. The Trust has also provided guidance and support to Historic Scotland's efforts to add new properties to its statutory list.

The Trust also provides advice on a daily basis to telephone, email and personal callers from across the city. Many calls come from local authority departments in Glasgow and elsewhere in Scotland. The number of calls varies seasonally, but on average numbers 40-50 per week. The main issues of concern relate to:

- selection of building professionals and contractors
- sources of traditional materials (e.g. cast iron patterns and foundries)
- sources of architectural salvage
- local planning issues

- protection of trees and green space
- unauthorised alterations and legal disputes
- problems with factors and property managers
- organisation of residents associations
- history of the West End, sources of historic views, building plans etc
- conservation training, careers and volunteer opportunities

### **Fee-earning Consultation Services**

In recent years, the Trust has earned a limited amount of revenue from outside consultancy work. Most of the fee income has been derived from monitoring work for Heritage Lottery Fund projects across central Scotland, and lesser amounts from lectures and presentations, image reproduction fees and provision of text for outside publications.