

The Incorporation of Bonnetmakers and Dyers of Glasgow



Summer 2025 Newsletter



A message from our Deacon

Dear Fellow Craft Members, it has been a very busy time for me and our Master Court since our last newsletter. I didn't anticipate how much was involved in being a Deacon and I have endeavoured to attend as many events as possible. I am very grateful that Late Collector Margaret, with her husband Mervyn, were able to attend both Galashiels Student Graduation days when I was abroad. Thank you Margaret and Mervyn. Being Deacon has really allowed me to see the very rewarding side of our charitable work and I have found the whole experience extremely inspiring and humbling. I would encourage anyone who is keen to see what our charity is about to volunteer for the Master Court. It has been one of the best things I have ever done and I have made so many new friends along the way. My heartfelt thanks also to my partner Stephen for putting all my reports together into a very well-ordered newsletter. Best wishes to you all.

Fascinators Evening - March

Our B&D fascinator-making event was a super evening. The milliners leading it were superb and everyone worked very hard to produce their very individual head pieces. Many thanks to Shona, Jean, Pamela and Dianne for all their work in helping to make the fascinators and to Elaine for joining us whilst having hall duties. You can see Elaine wearing her lovely black and red creation below. Look out for our next B&D members & friends event!



Chain Gang Bake Off - March

Towards the end of the Choosing Dinner season Deacon Convener Richard, and his wife Pauline organised a baking event for the Chain Gang. It was led by the Deacon and Collector of the Bakers Lisa and her husband Jason. It was a fabulously entertaining evening and the bread we all learned to bake was amazing (and delicious!). You'll notice in the photos that Ruth (Ex-Convener) was also a master chef for the evening.

Deacon Sheena was beaten into 2nd place by Jamie, Deacon of the Skinners and Glovers but the evening was such fun and we all learned a huge amount about how to bake bread properly. Jason had baked us all a wonderful sourdough loaf to take home, to go with the two loaves we made ourselves. Bread off the supermarket shelf in the future will be such a disappointment!



Glasgow School of Art Fashion Show - April

Deacon Sheena and her partner, Stephen, were invited to attend the end of year Fashion Show of the students at The Glasgow School of Art. The creations and individual ideas were brilliant and it was an outstanding evening. We know that our support for the students is very much appreciated, and it is always rewarding to be able to see how the students are being supported by our funding.

We hope we will be seeing some of the work of these students in future years in the world of fashion and wish them all well in their chosen careers.



Glasgow Art School Degree Show – May

Following on from the Beneficiaries' Afternoon Tea on 29th, Deacon Sheena then made her way to the Art School Degree Show which she found extremely interesting and inspiring. It was great to see such diverse work but also to chat with students and lecturers and see how much the work of the students benefits from the support of our Craft. More will be on show at the big exhibition coming up this September. Stephanie (one of the students, and pictured) explained how she experimented with natural dyes to find the colours she wanted for her material. Her designs are all based on nature. It was very interesting talking with her and hearing her enthusiasm for what she has managed to produce. A really excellent project with superb results.



NYCOS (National Youth Choir of Scotland) – April

Deacon Sheena and her partner Stephen attended the NYCOS girls' concert at St Cuthbert's Church in Edinburgh. They had been invited by Kenny Boyd who spoke at the B&D Choosing Dinner in October last year and who has just been appointed as CEO of NYCOS - congratulations Kenny! It was a thoroughly enjoyable concert and even more so from Deacon Sheena's point of view as one of the conductors, Mark Evans, and Kenny are both ex-pupils of hers!

It was a fantastic opportunity to see how the money we donate to NYCOS is used, and to see 122 young girls turned out so smartly and singing so beautifully was hugely rewarding. Our Craft is helping to support many of these children who would otherwise never have the chance to attend the residential courses which lead up to the amazing concert that we were so lucky to attend. The children clearly love what they are doing and hopefully many will go on to further develop their musical talents.



Cardonald Millinery Student Entries to the Feltmaker Competition 2025



Olivia Geraghty



Susan Black



Janie Gordon



Marie-Claire Kett.



Joyce Tyson



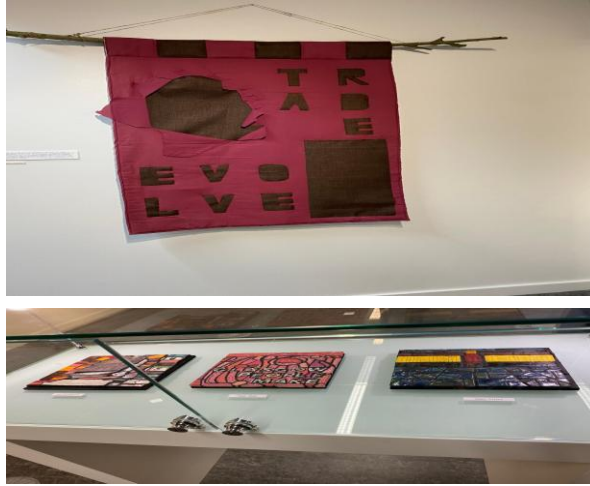
Angelique Duttant



The May edition of The Hat Magazine's coverage of the felt competition featuring Susan Ryan's "Burning Braes" headpiece.

Glasgow Textile Awards - May

The Deacon was invited to the Glasgow 850 Textile Exhibition at Glasgow College. The event featured work from across the College's Craft and Design Department and there were some really outstanding creations by the students. The amazing Glasgow 850 medals which won will be on display in the City Chambers for the public to view in the future. Congratulations are due to all the students who submitted their work as the Lord Provost found it difficult choosing winners from all the superb exhibits.



Glasgow Cathedral 850 Celebration – May

The Blackadder service at Glasgow Cathedral was held on Sunday 11th of May to commemorate Glasgow's 850th anniversary. Deacon Convener Richard did one of the readings and it was great to hear about how Glasgow has grown and flourished over the centuries.



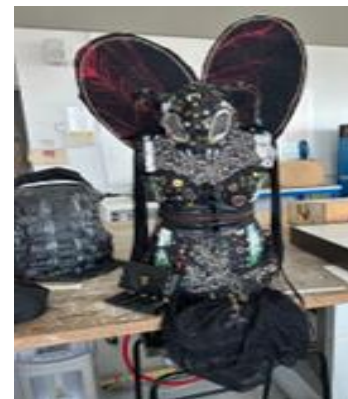
Planting of Pear Trees – March to May

Deacon Convener Richard, along with Deacon Stephen Docherty (Deacon of The Gardeners) organised for pear trees to be planted by all the Deacons in the vicinity of Glasgow Cathedral and the Royal Infirmary. The Trades Hall was originally built on the site of an orchard which had pear trees, so to commemorate Glasgow's 850th anniversary Deacon Richard felt it would be a nice touch to plant a tree for every craft on the site. Deacon Stephen attests that the trees should bear fruit in around 7 years time!



Performance Arts Costumes - June

Deacon Sheena was invited to Glasgow College early in June to help judge the Performance Arts Costumes. Sheena notes...*"the work on show was amazing and the costumes below were the top ones so well done to all who had managed to get that far"*. The costumes were all based on insects and highly creative so Deacon Sheena was glad that there were two other knowledgeable judges helping her with the final decisions.



Galashiels Graduation Awards – May & June

Late Collector Margaret and her husband Mervyn visited Galashiels on two occasions and had a great time with the staff and students who were delighted with their awards.



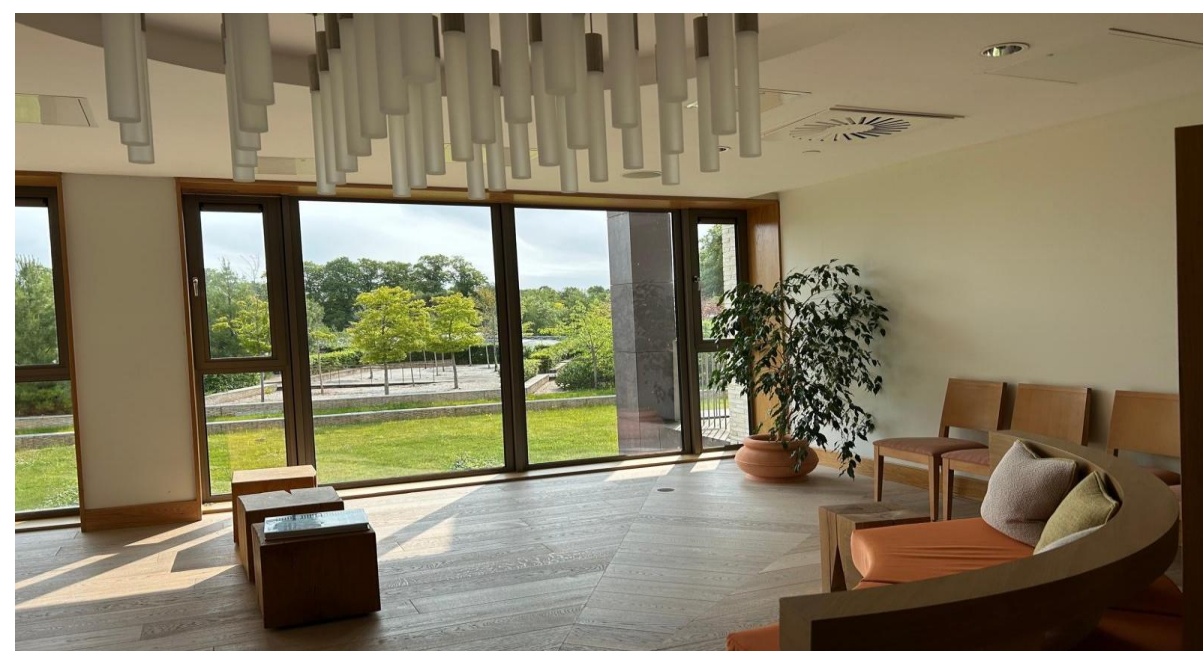
Prince & Princess of Wales Hospice - June

The Deacon was also invited along to the Prince & Princess of Wales Hospice, one of our charities, to see the work that goes on there. Deacon Sheena gave this feedback on her visit:

"I spent a lovely morning being given a very comprehensive tour of The Prince & Princess of Wales Hospice. Alex Winn was such an enthusiastic host and really made the visit very special. It was inspiring to see the work which goes on in the Hospice and also to see what a beautiful, bright and welcoming place it is for patients, families, friends, and staff. The Hospice is set amidst lovely greenery and everywhere you go you have huge windows looking out on to the grass, trees and flowers outside giving those who cannot get outside the impression that they actually are there! Although the Hospice has now been on the present site for 7 years, it felt like it was brand new. Everywhere I looked was immaculately painted and furnished and it really was a joy to visit. As a charity supported by the Bonnetmakers and Dyers it was very informative to be able to see first hand what is going on there and anyone visiting could not fail to be impressed. The building is based on a Scandinavian design and the light shines in everywhere you go. There are facilities for families and friends to share with patients, physio and spa areas for patients, spacious lounges and cafe areas and extremely well-equipped bedrooms all looking out to the surrounding gardens.

I was able to chat with two of the staff who do art work with the patients and they were clearly very touched by the achievements of all their patients who have not only amazed themselves but been inspirational for the staff too. Much of the art work around the Hospice has been done by the patients themselves.

The Hospice needs support from charitable trusts and we are delighted to be able to support them but anyone reading this can support the Hospice by visiting their fabulous cafe, booking their amazing private dining room which can accommodate up to 18 guests or booking their board room facilities for meetings so please do go along and support this very worthwhile cause – you won't be disappointed!"



Stewarton Bonnet Guild Gala Week - June

On 21st June Deacon Sheena, her partner, Stephen, Late Collector Margaret and her husband Mervyn, all travelled to Stewarton for the annual Bonnet Guild's Gala Day. The sun shone, it was hot and it was a fabulous occasion. We were all made to feel very welcome by the people of Stewarton and the day was truly memorable.

The whole day was dedicated to entertaining the children and adults, with games, floats, rides, stalls, brass and pipe bands and a procession through the streets of Stewarton. There was also the crowning of the 92nd Corsehill Queen.

Deacon Sheena presented Endeavour Awards from our Craft to 6 secondary school pupils for recognition of their hard work in achieving so much over the past school year.

A huge thanks must go to the Bonnet Guild's organisers and President David Naismith for making us all feel very welcome and delivering a superb and enjoyable event.



