



Incorporation of Masons of Glasgow

October/November 2023

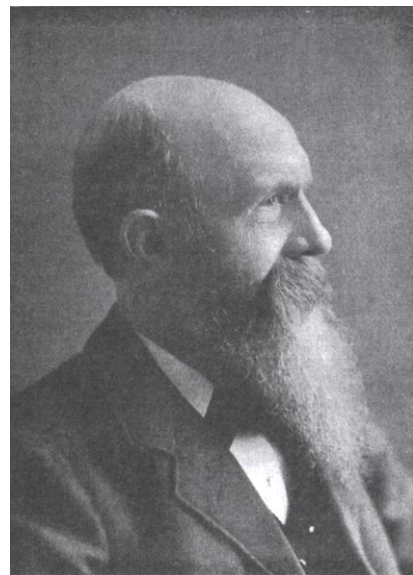


We have started this publication to show all Craftsmen and Craftswomen the Incorporation's Facebook posts as many do not use this social media outlet. If you have any photos or information about the Incorporation, we would be delighted to receive them for inclusion onto the page and the newsletter.

Normal editions will **not** be as long! This covers a couple of posts from before Covid.

October 2023

The new John Morrison Memorial Award named after our 19th Century Deacon.



John Morrison was senior partner of Morrison & Mason Ltd, a successful building contractor responsible for many notable buildings in Glasgow, docks, bridges, railways, stations, monuments, theatres, churches, waterworks, plus projects throughout the UK. *“Quiet and unassuming, having no liking for publicity”* he has nevertheless left a lasting mark on the fabric of Glasgow.

On 16th September 1872 John Morrison joined the Incorporation of Masons as a Far Hand. In 1877 he joined the Master Court of the Incorporation. In 1879 he was elected to become the Collector of the Incorporation prior to being appointed Deacon of the Incorporation in 1881.

“Mr Morrison possesses a strong and pronounced individuality. In especial he has great energy and force of character, and he is, as might be gathered from his career, a born commander and director of men”.

- The Ballie Publication, May 24th, 1899 -

Morrison was born in Dunoon in 1836, educated at Dunoon Parish School, and subsequently trained as a master builder and mason. Arriving in Glasgow mid-1850s he worked as a Mason Foreman, establishing his first company John Morrison & Co in 1870. While working on multiple contracts for Fraser & Maclaren on Buchanan Street, Union Bank of Scotland, and The General Post Office, he purchased land in Gorbals Main Street on which he built tenements, public halls, and the Royal Princess Theatre (now the Citizens Theatre). In 1879 entered a partnership with Thomas Mason creating Morrison & Mason Ltd, building on each other's strengths to create one of Glasgow's most influential construction companies.

An impressive portfolio of buildings included Municipal Halls (City Chamber), The Clyde Navigation Trust, and Stock Exchange. Important railway contracts included the construction of new lines into St. Enoch Station, Paisley Canal lines, Cathcart Circle Line, and Paisley Station. The firm won multiple contracts for Glasgow's Loch Katrine water works, plus reservoirs and aqueducts throughout the UK. They were responsible for the construction of multiple docks including Fairfield Dock, Queens Dock, and most notably Portsmouth Naval Dockyard, their largest contract awarded in 1907, worth £1.5million.

John Morrison married Margaret Campbell in 1859. They went on to have a family of three sons and five daughters. He died in 1919 in his impressive home 'Rhudsgeir', now the Sherbrooke Castle Hotel in Pollokshields. Morrison's descendants continue his legacy and influence on Glasgow's landscape, restoring the 'Pump House' for the Queen's Dock and creating The Clydeside Distillery, establishing whisky production in the heart of Glasgow for the first time since 1903.

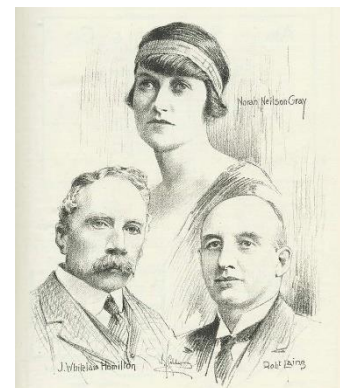
Archibald McLellan



Archibald McLellan (above) gave us McLellan Galleries and art collection in the 1850s. Here is some of the story: The portrait of Archibald McLellan (1795-1854) by Robert Cree Crawford after John Graham-Gilbert hangs in the Grand Hall. Archibald McLellan had a successful coachbuilding company in Maxwell Street.

He became a magistrate at the age of twenty-five and served as a town councillor for over thirty years. He was also Deacon of the Hammer in 1821 and Deacon Convenor of the Trades House 1831-32 and 1851. He was also a well-known art collector and was particularly interested in old masters. In his will he left his collection and the McLellan Galleries (which were then under construction) to the city, but when he died in 1854 he had vast debts and his heirs were forced to put the collection and the Galleries up for sale.

The town council eventually paid £44,500 for the paintings and the galleries, valuing them highly as an educational asset and an expression of civic pride. Members of the Hanging Committee for the 1921 exhibition of the Royal Glasgow Institute of the Fine Arts at the McLellan Galleries. The responsibility of the "hangers" was to group the pictures exhibited in as effective a manner as possible, to enhance the overall effect. Norah Neilson Gray made history as the first woman to be elected to the Hanging



Committee. She showed great promise while a student at Glasgow School of Art and was invited to exhibit both in the UK and abroad.

She served as a nurse in the First World War, and in 1920 was commissioned to record the Scottish Women's Hospital for the Imperial War Museum. Examples of her work can be seen in galleries in Glasgow, Brussels, Nice and Toronto. A hanger for the second successive year, James Whitelaw Hamilton was a painter with an international reputation who frequently exhibited overseas. An efficient administrator and organiser, he did much to stimulate artistic life in the West of Scotland.

An advertisement from the Post Office Glasgow directory of 1854-1855 for the City of Glasgow Fine Art Association which sought to "promote the knowledge of and love of the fine arts in this city". The association's president was Archibald McLellan (1795-1856), a coach builder and art collector. In 1855-1856 he built the McLellan Galleries in Sauchiehall Street to exhibit his paintings, but died soon after the building was completed. The galleries and the collection were subsequently purchased by the city council.

ADVERTISEMENTS. 197

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FINE ART ASSOCIATION.**

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The McLellan Galleries Sauchiehall street in 1920.

Thanks to Philip Pohler for this post in another Glasgow group.

Glasgow Cathedral and the Trades



In 1579, the principal of the university, and the protestant clergy in the neighbourhood, having at length prevailed with the magistrates to destroy this vast monument of the idolatry of their forefathers, a great number of workmen were hired, and assembled in solemn form, to proceed to the pious work of demolishing the building; but the members of the incorporations of the city, according to the violent temper of the age, instantly flew to arms, took possession of the building, and threatened with instant death the first individual who should attempt to violate it. The magistrates, to preserve the peace of the city, were under the necessity of engaging to preserve the Cathedral. The clergy presented a complaint to government, and the leaders of the insurrection were summoned to attend the privy-council; but government having approved of the conduct of the insurgents, the fabric has from that time remained unmolested.

The High Church was first opened as a presbyterian place of worship in 1572, Mr. David Wemyss, Minister. In the same year the Magistrates conveyed to the College the whole property which had belonged to the Dominican Friars, and which the city had acquired a few years before, by a charter of Queen Mary. Amongst other things, this grant included the Blackfriars Church, which was built about the year 840, and thirteen acres of land, which, with the four acres gifted to it in 1459, by Lord Hamilton, form what is commonly called the College garden. The Magistrates, at the same time, exempted the College from the payment of all city taxes or impositions.

November 2023

The Royal Visit back in the day by Deacon Convener John Ford (Past Deacon of the Masons) and Collector of the House Sandy Bone (Past Deacon of the Wrights).

The Trades House has presented a £20,000 minibus to Her Royal Highness, the Princess Royal, President of the Princess Royal Trust for Carers.



The presentation was made by John Ford, Deacon Convener accompanied by Sandy Bone, Collector of Trades House. Funding for the Leyland DAF 400 Series Hi-line high roof minibus came from the Commonweal Fund.

The minibus, which has a powerful 2.5 litre turbocharged diesel engine, has been converted to accommodate wheelchairs with the installation of powered tail lift. The minibus will be used to transport elderly people to the Dixon Community Centre in Govanhill, Glasgow, which cares for nearly 1700 elderly persons.

Deacon Convener Ford commented: "This is the type of project which we are delighted to hear about and assist from the Trades House charitable funds which have been set up in the main to help organisations and individuals in caring for those less fortunate in our community".

The Readers' Bible



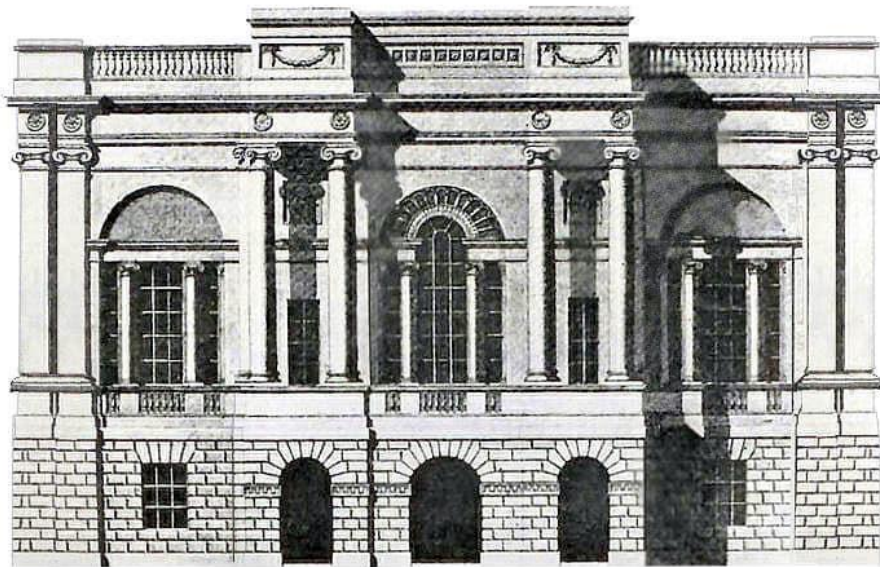
From another old Glasgow book:

The Reader's Bible of the Cathedral, used about 1642, and now in the keeping of the minister, Dr. McAdam Muir, after being lost for more than a century, returned to the possession of the Session in somewhat romantic fashion.

About 1849, a surgeon, residing in Montrose Street, attended a patient in the Stockwell. This man, a blacksmith, had no means to pay his attendant, but he asked him to accept an heirloom, which turned out to be the old Cathedral Bible.

The surgeon had two maiden sisters who kept house for him, and by the survivor of these the Bible was given to the Kirk Session of the Cathedral. In a burst of generosity the Session presented it to the late Dr. Burns, who, however, at his death left it again to the Church. Bound in solid oak, it has, still attached to it, a portion of the chain by which it was secured to the Reader's desk.

The Assembly Rooms



You'd be mistaken for glancing at this and thinking it's Trades Hall. It's actually the original Assembly Rooms in Ingram Street designed by the Adams brother as well in 1796, 2 years after TH was built, featuring the

McLennan Arch (in the centre; now moved to Glasgow Green) which was replaced by the Post Office buildings in Ingram Street & George Square.

Early Masonry in the Cathedral

In the first bay and a half of the south aisle is a single vaulting shaft with its distinctive late twelfth century decoration set against the remains of an east wall of that date also. At a later date, through this east wall, an arch has been cut giving access to the south aisle.

When Bishop Jocelyn enlarged the Cathedral of 1136, he extended the eastern arm to include the tomb of Saint Kentigern, and a transept was put out from the south wall. The vaulting shaft and remains of the vestibule east wall are the only parts of that 1197 building still in their original place.

This vestibule is thought to have been a temporary chapel for the shrine of Saint Kentigern while the eastern arm was being built in the thirteenth century. In the vestibule is a lid of a tomb chest with ornamented edges and very worn outline of a figure thought to date from about 1200.

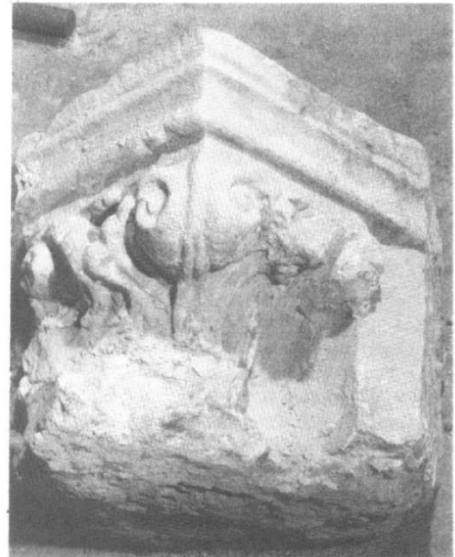


FIG. 7 A decorated capital recovered from the 13th century foundations in the crypt.

Stonemasons today would be delighted with the standard of this work.

Couple of earlier posts:

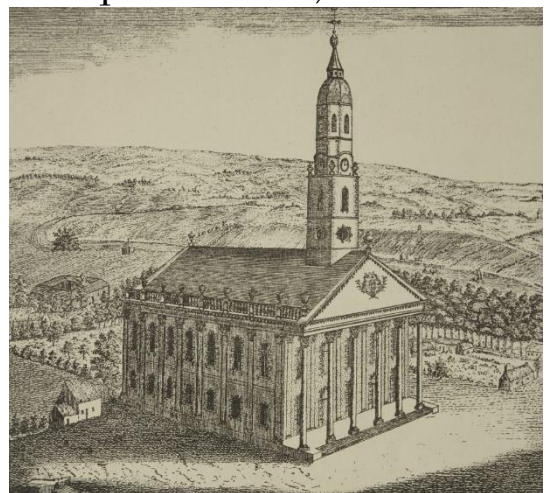
2019

The B&W photo shows the Trades House in 1945 during the VE Celebrations; the second is 50 years later and the flags were out again including the Royal Standard to mark the State Visit by Lady Fraser, Her Majesty's High Commissioner to the General Assembly to the Church of Scotland in May 1995.

Lady Fraser was presented with a Burgess ticket by Deacon Convener Ken Sandford and a first edition print of the painting of the Trades House.



St. Andrew's Church, St. Andrew Square, was completed in 1756, at a cost of over £20,000. The building was modelled on St Martin-In-The-Fields in London with the exception of the spire, 160 feet high, which is built on five separate flat arches, with a keystone in the centre of each. They are placed between the columns and make a stronger support than if the architrave carried the weight of the steeple by one arch formed from a single stone. This explains the so-called mystery. Mungo Naismith, a mason and self-taught architect, was the builder. He was grandfather of David Naismith, founder of the City Missions.



3 Sept 1767 Mungo Nasmith Mason B. and G.B., gratis, conform to Act of Council

3 Sept 1767 David Nasmith Mason B. and G.B., as second eldest son to Mungo Nasmith, mason, B. and G.B.

17 Feb 1791 Mungo Nasmith Mason B. and G.B., as eldest son to dec. David Nasmith, mason, B. and G.B.

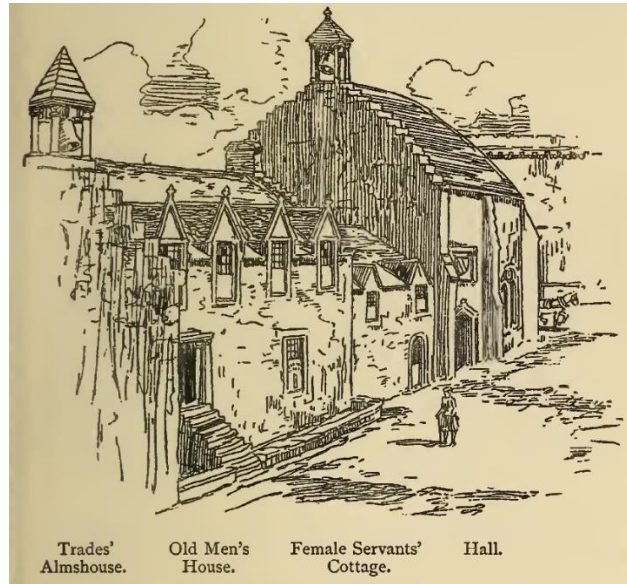
20 Mar 1792 William Nasmith Mason B. and G.B., by purchase.

Trades' Alms House Part I

A lost part of Glasgow buildings is the Kirkgait near the Cathedral. This short street, now obliterated, started at the Bell o' the Brae, and extended to the centre of the Macleod Street opening in Cathedral Square. The old west corner of Kirkgait and Rottenrow was sixty-five feet farther west than the present High Street corner, and the Kirkgait west line extended in a slightly north-east direction through the ground on which the new Barony Church now stands. Where the "Twin's Land" corner house stood, was for a long time vacant ground, but two very ancient looking small houses—a picture of which is to be found in the City Chambers—were immediately to the north of it. Then came the Manse of Morebattle, partly on the site of the new Barony Church and partly in Cathedral Square. The next building to the north was the old men's house of the St. Nicholas Hospital.

Adjoining that was the cottage for the female servants of the Hospital, and at the north end of the Kirkgait (west side) was the Hall of the Hospital. These three St. Nicholas buildings were removed in 1798, but the Chapel, which stood back from this building line, and projected across the modern Macleod Street, remained till 1808. The Chapel being a rear building, not in the way of "improvements," the Town Council resolved to preserve it. Unfortunately, like so many other Glasgow buildings, it never happened. In 1605 the members of the Trades' House had the choice of this building or Blackadder's Hospital (named after the Sub Dean of the Cathedral), to be the Trades' alms-house or hospital for five then thirteen indigent old men of the crafts - they selected the older edifice, Morebattle Manse. Free craftsmen paid 2d while admitted freemen in right of apprenticeship paid 14s 4d for it upkeep. Prior to this, the Trades met in the Tron Kirk and also various public/coffee houses, as did most organisations at that time. It was converted into two small shops and two (one room and kitchen) homes on the second storey. A round staircase at the back, that had originally been of turret shape, gave access to the upper rooms, which were divided by wooden partitions. The cutting of the stone wall in the upstairs portion had been done to form the Trades' Hall, where members of the crafts held their meetings after the alms-house period till 1792.

The belfry, seen in the sketch, which had been erected by the crafts, was removed at that time. In the 1650s, the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons held its examinations in the hall. The Trades and the Faculty worked together with the latter gaining medical experience in the hospital while the Trades receiving medical treatment for their craftsmen.



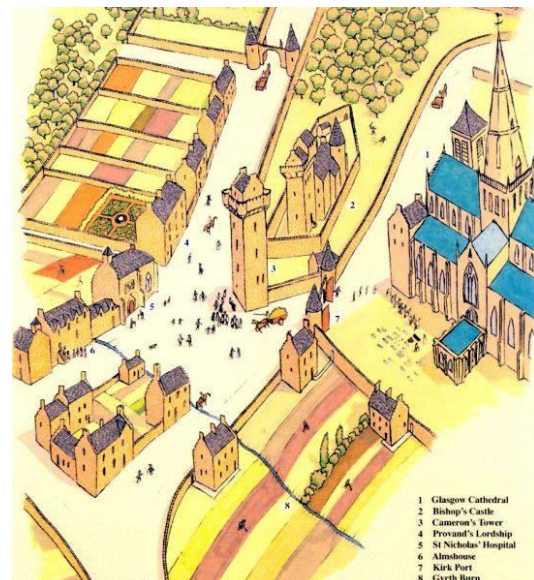
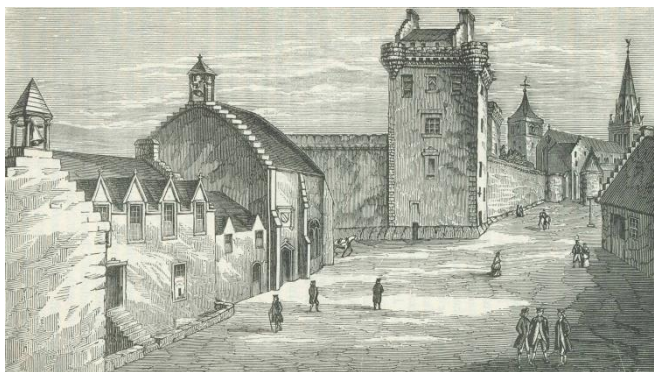
Trades' Alms House Part 2

Opposite this building, when it was the Trades' alms-house, the cart stopped on execution days, when the gallows were erected in the Bishop's castle yard close by. An old man of the hospital rang the bell, and the condemned person in the cart read out the lines of a psalm, which the spectators repeated to "Coleshill" or some other dismal, old-fashioned tune. This also happened when a funeral passed and mourners would deposit a small donation in the box in the window above which were the words from Matthew 19, "Give to the poor and thou shalt have treasure in Heaven." After the alms-house period, craft members held their meetings in the upper hall until moving to the current Trades House in 1792. The old building was eventually demolished in 1865.

However, it was not plain sailing and some objections were made against a new building. A few are as follows:

- The present Hall is fully sufficient for the accommodation of this trade. It served our forefathers, and if we were inheritors of their wisdom and humility, it would satisfy us.

- It is estimated in whole at £3300, but as the expense uniformly exceeds the estimate, it may be stated at £4000, so that the poor will lose nearly one-half of the interest, or £100 per annum.
- There are only four of the Trades who require a new hall viz., the Weavers, Tailors, Wrights, and Cordiners.
- In all proposals of trade, we ought to have constantly in view the better support of the poor. If there was an absolute necessity for a new Hall, why not build it on our own ground, which is a healthier situation. It will cost nothing. More will be paid for the ground in Glassford street, the steeple with bell and iron balustrades, than will finish a plain Hall suitable for the Crafts in the north end of the town.
- More money that should be given to the poor will be used for a building and so only the poor will suffer.



Old Streets

Mason Street was originally the site of the manse of Andrew Hay, the Rector of Renfrew (post about a stone to follow). It was acquired in 1598 by John Rankyne [sic], a mason, and named it after his trade. He joined the Incorporation in 1574 gratis, possibly due to him having named the street which was round the corner from the original Trades House prior to 1794. Notice the names of the other streets in close proximity - Weaver Street (owned by the Incorporation of Weavers and feued in 1792) and Taylor Street (connected to the Incorporation of Tailors).

This area was clearly important to the Incorporations and the Trades House - perhaps a plaque on a wall or pavement showing where the original House stood would be a useful addition to our city's history?



Masons' Window at the Glasgow Royal

Monday 2nd September 2019 was another significant date for the Incorporation of Masons of Glasgow with the unveiling of the new stained glass window in Glasgow's Royal Infirmary. The new window highlights the work of the Incorporation over the centuries and includes the Cathedral which was saved by the Craftsmen of Glasgow during the Reformation and lots of other significant events and traditions recorded. The window also includes a modern stone mason cutting stone.

The window is located in the link corridor in the Royal Infirmary and is well worth a wee visit. It is the second of fourteen windows which will eventually brighten up this corridor. Deacon Gordon Weetch with the Merry Masons. See the window in the last page.



2021

The photo shows the completed Memorial bench that's to be erected at Barrhead Waterworks whenever circumstances permit. Deacon John Brown and his Master Court have been working over the last year with James MacEwan of the Waterworks Voluntary Group along with Josephine Crossland who carved stone with the help of Hutton Stone. A magnificent achievement which we hope will receive a fitting ceremony in the future.



Final version unveiled with Ken Dalglish Deacon Convener of the Trades House of Glasgow and Deacon John Brown.



Forthcoming Events

A festive poster for a Christmas Sing-Along event. The background is dark green with gold and white snowflakes. At the top, the title 'Christmas Sing-Along' is written in a large, gold, serif font. Below it, the date and time 'Monday 18th December 7.00pm - 9.30pm' are in white, and the venue 'Trades Hall' is in gold. A rope with three wooden clothespins hangs across the middle. The first clothespin holds a white card with gold text: 'Songs / Carols', 'Let the inner', 'Alfie Boe', 'come out', 'on the night'. The second clothespin holds a red Christmas jumper with a white collar and cuffs, and a green Christmas tree on the front. The third clothespin holds a white card with gold text: 'Christmas Jumper Competition' and 'Special guest appearance' in red. At the bottom, the ticket prices are listed: 'Adults - £10.00 per person' and 'Children - 2 to 14 years - £5.00 each'. Below this, the booking information is given: 'Tickets can be booked by emailing jackie.mullen@tradeshouse.org.uk or calling the office on 0141 553 1605'. The bottom left features a gold line-art illustration of a building, and the bottom right features a green Christmas tree. A small red gift box with a white bow is at the bottom center.

Christmas Sing-Along

Monday 18th December
7.00pm - 9.30pm
Trades Hall

Songs / Carols
Let the inner
Alfie Boe
come out
on the night

Christmas Jumper Competition
Special guest appearance

Adults - £10.00 per person
Children - 2 to 14 years - £5.00 each

Tickets can be booked by emailing
jackie.mullen@tradeshouse.org.uk
or calling the office on 0141 553 1605

Incorporation Event:

Candlemas – 6th February (details to follow)

General Information

Incorporation Website:

[Incorporation of Masons of Glasgow: Supporting Stonemasonry and Allied Trades - Home](#)

Trades House Website:

[The Trades House of Glasgow](#)

Trades House Digital Library:

[The Trades House Digital Library - Home](#)
[\(tradeshouselibrary.org\)](http://tradeshouselibrary.org)

Should you have any information, points of interest, photos, etc. about our Incorporation, please email:

masons.trades1551@gmail.com

