



Glasgow Humane Society



Circa 1795



Circa 1890



Circa 1957



Circa 2015

225 years of service

Operational report to the Annual General Meeting June 2015

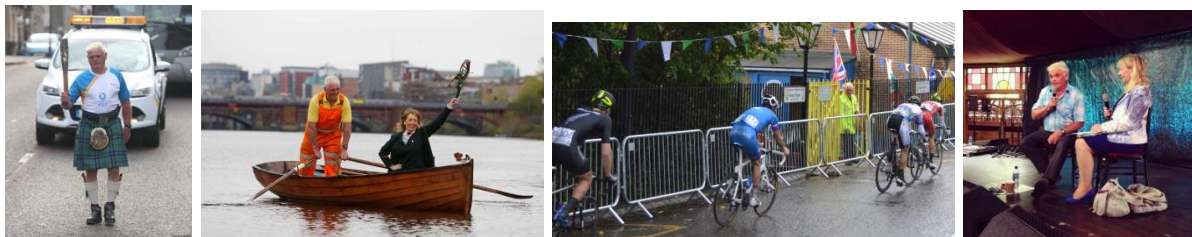
Report by George G Parsonage

The following statistics include what we achieved last year plus operational work undertaken until June this year.

Glasgow Humane Society gave safety cover along the River Clyde and its banking upstream of the Tidal Weir during 108 events. We also gave a large amount of safety advice to Glasgow City Council, re events taking place at other areas of the River and other venues on or beside waterways.



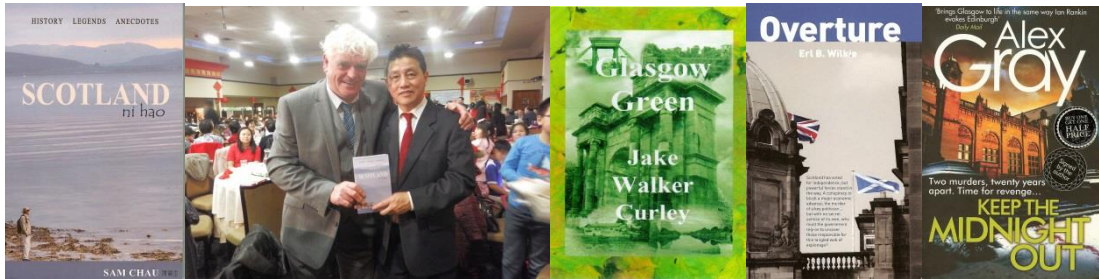
The main event last year was of course the 2014 Commonwealth Games, the largest sporting and cultural event ever to be held in Scotland. The GHS worked closely with Glasgow 2014, Commonwealth Games Scotland, Police Scotland and Glasgow City Council to provide a safe and enjoyable event. GHS is now assisting with the fulfillment of the Games Legacy



The varied work of our Officer and team of Volunteers was highlighted in several films made for the Commonwealth Games with a film showing some of the work undertaken by the Society being screened at all venues. I was also on film introducing the swimming events at Tollcross International Pool, the diving in Edinburgh, and the cycling events at the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome. Glasgow Humane Society has also featured in films made by Japanese and Czech Republic television, and the BBC production "Friends Reunited"



The work of the Glasgow Humane Society has also been featured in new books by Alex Gray “Keep the Midnight Out”; “Overture by Erl B. Wilkie, “Scotland ni hao” by Sam Chau and “Glasgow Green” by Jake Walker Curley,



Over 1,000 river safety patrols were carried out by Officer and Volunteers. They also carried out more than 2,000 bank safety patrols.



Around 600 lifebelts were brought from the river, cleaned, Samaritan stickers attached and replaced on stances. New GPS signs were attached to stances as required, others cleaned or repaired. It is a sad fact that a number of our GPS safety signs have been vandalized and at the moment new signs are on order



The Officer/s attended 275 meetings giving waterway and banking safety advice

Other stats for the period are as follows;

Assistance/advice sought/given around 1200 times;



Stolen goods were dealt with 12 times;

Accidents prevented by proactive action numbered 25, acute rescues 32



Talks/presentations were given 25 times either by myself or by my sister Ann



More than 400 hazards were removed thus preventing accidents;



Animal related incidents were dealt with on 109 occasions;



42 searches were carried out with nearly all persons being found safe and well
nowhere near the river

28 training courses were organised and run



Through the auspices of the Water Safety Group, founded by Glasgow Humane Society organised by Glasgow City Council, much excellent safety work has been carried out and we are committed to ensuring best practice in this respect.



Signs- bridge closure Wrong lock on gate New riverside gates Pond Games Village



Bollards prevent access Boom gate open Gap in fencing Gate missing

The Water Safety Group and Glasgow Humane Society has also advised Loch Watch Loch Awe, Ayrshire Council, Safe Tay, Scottish Fire and Rescue, Police Scotland, the River Clyde Users Group, Strathclyde University Department of Architecture, Antrim Borough, Event Engineering NSW Australia (re “No Man’s landing” event for 2016) and others.



An on line magazine “Tales of the Riverman” is being regularly circulated. Anyone who wishes to be added to the distribution list should intimate so by e mailing glasgowlifeboat@yahoo.co.uk

One of the tasks of the Glasgow Humane Society is the looking after the river users especially upstream of the Tidal weir and Pipe Bridge at Glasgow Green.



Canoeing



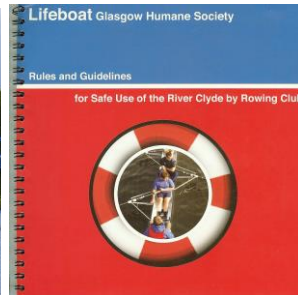
Rowing



Fishing

We are proud to quote from a meeting of 1937, that since Ben Parsonage (Snr) arrived on the River in 1918 there have been no serious accidents. This wonderful record of safety has been carried on to date by the vigilance of the Glasgow Humane Society.

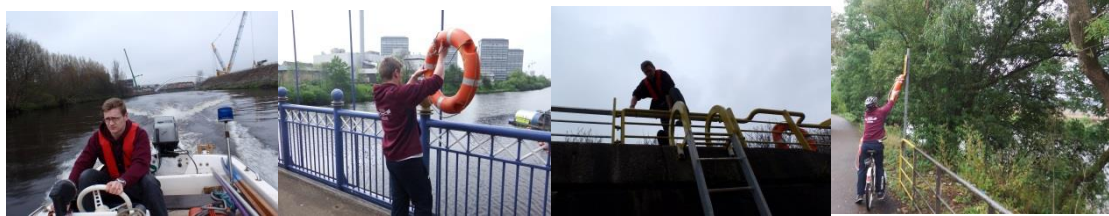
The Rules and Guidelines for various types of River users and Booklets on advice for safe waterway edge design drawn up by myself in conjunction with the rowing clubs and the City Council, continue to add greatly to the feel safe attitude that prevails on the river, though it can be hard work persuading persons to impose self-discipline, and when there are no accidents people can become blasé. When you look at the number of incidents and accidents occurring on other waterways throughout the United Kingdom and abroad we are indeed lucky in Glasgow. It is interesting to note that on our narrow river with over 500 boats racing about at peak times, we are almost self-regulating, while on other rivers emergency services have the highest call out rates in the UK.



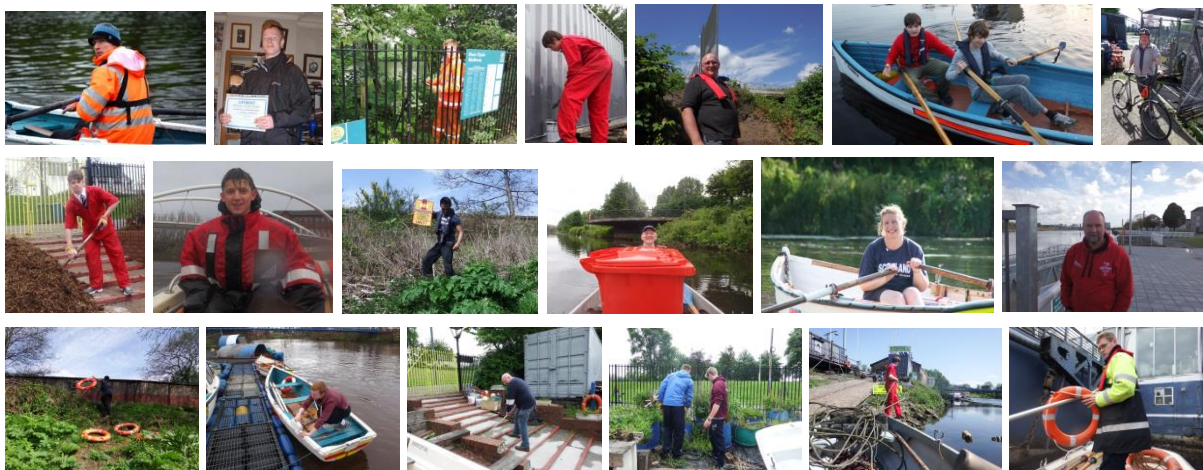
Glasgow Humane Society continues to work in close partnership with all departments of the Glasgow City Council, with Clydeport, Police Scotland (Glasgow), and a multitude of other groups.



Thanks of course must go to those who assist



Lifeguards:-Ben Parsonage, Colin Munn, Graeme McGrath, Jamie Park, Cameron Grant, Christopher Parsonage, Stephanie Parsonage, Adam Rzepinski, Alan Tweedie, Jonathan Currie, Callum Sutherland, Marc Haniford, Gavin Lamb, Andrew Orr, Thomas and Janell Kelly, Ian Webster, Seamus Keating, Alex and Lynne MacDonald, Paul Mansell, Tom A'Hara, William Graham, David Hearn, Kevin Baker, and members of Strathclyde University Boat Club



Riverwatchers, other supporters and of course our Directors and Members

**Glasgow Humane Society as ever is ready
and willing to rise to this challenge.**

Glasgow - UK Council of the Year 2015