

228 years of service



Operational report to the Annual General Meeting June 2018 by George Parsonage

The Glasgow Humane Society continues to serve the public of Glasgow and the visitors to our great city.

If we look at what is happening water safety wise in other Cities across the UK, Glasgow is lucky. Many Cities are now spending many thousands of pounds on safety surveys to see how they can make their territory safer.

The Glasgow Humane Society has been carrying out this type of survey in the Greater Glasgow area for over 228 years.

Glasgow has had this service since the time of the French Revolution.

Glasgow has set, and is setting a standard in waterside development incorporating safety. While others spend on consultancies we do it in-house with a combination of the Glasgow Humane Society and the Glasgow City Council Water Safety Group (founded by the Humane Society)

Officers, Directors and supporters of the Glasgow Humane Society, Councillors City Employees Citizens and visitors must be, and rightly should be, proud of our partnership.

The operational set up involves

George Parsonage (Officer)

William Graham (Officer)

Ben Parsonage (Officer part-time)

Assisted by a squad of Volunteers, Lifeguards and Riverwatchers

Ann Parsonage continues to give Talks about the Society.

We operate and maintain a selection of different types of boats and other necessary equipment at and from our operational headquarters at Glasgow Green.

Much of our work is trying to ensure the safety of river and riverbank users in the tidal section upstream of the Weir and Pipe Bridge at Glasgow Green.

During Regatta and Event coverage, it has been known for 12 Society boats to be on the water.

Maintenance can involve anything from day to day repairs, to the rebuilding and customising of craft.

Due to a Weir incident during 2017, we undertook a major repair to our pontoon. This repair was carried out mainly by George and William

This weir incident together with the ongoing dismantling and rebuilding of Polmadie Bridge gave our Officers a great deal of extra work..

Opportunity tends to come to those who are prepared and every effort is made to have the necessary craft and equipment to answer any call for assistance the Society receives.

The web site www.glasgowhumanesociety.com is also kept up to date and along with our pages on Facebook Flickr and You Tube gives a good insight into the working of the Society.

Many groups look to the Society to collect necessary information ranging from Tide times, Rules and Guidelines, bridge names, architectural and planning advice, workboat regulations to historical records

We give safety advice based on years of experience and expertise.

The Rules and Guidelines for Safe use of the River Clyde by Rowing Clubs and an accompanying map have been revamped into an A2 poster format signed jointly by Anne Marie O'Donnell Chief Executive of the City and George Parsonage

These Rules and Guidelines for various types of River users, and Booklets on advice for safe waterway edge design, 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 rivers like the Thames, due to boating accidents, emergency services have the highest call out rates in the UK.

During the summer of 2018 volunteers again spent time compiling the history of the Society. Seven short films were made for future use and additions made to the list and photographs of memorabilia.

The main history is also to be found on the web site

The system where lifebelt positions are located by Global Satellite Positioning is still being worked on and with Council assistance an App is being produced that will show the location of all lifebelts along Glasgow's waterways, give the lifebelt numbers, and notify access routes, type of banking and any local dangers.

Many of the "safety" ideas set up by the Society are bearing fruition, not least the boom gates at necessary positions along the river banking. Since these were established we have had no vehicles driven into the river and very little "fly tipping"

The "Tales of the Riverman" (on line magazine) produced by George Parsonage with graphics by Chris Parsonage, is proving extremely popular and is being emailed all over the world.

We continue to work with Police Scotland by further developing the GPS system, taking part in the search and recovery of missing persons, drugs, weapons and supplying expert advice.

Advice and/or assistance was sought on an almost daily basis
The following are the statistics from 1st January until 31st December
2017

3,815 Riverbank patrols by Officers, Lifeguards and Riverwatchers;

1,355 River patrols carried out by Officers and Lifeguards;

474 searches were made for missing people;

994 lifebelts were retrieved and replaced. A Samaritan sticker was
placed on each lifebelt;

154 meetings were attended;

428 hazards were removed;

9 lost or stolen items were recovered and handed over to Police
Scotland;

56 events given safety cover;

8 animal incidents dealt with;

15 training courses were held;

8 talks/Presentations given;

3 Bodies recovered for Police Scotland;

21 Acute rescues, 14 rescues attended, 17 accidents prevented by
direct immediate intervention;

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

Officers, Lifeguards, Riverwatchers, supporters and of course our
Directors and Members

**Glasgow Humane Society as ever is ready and willing to rise to all
future challenges.**