



SAC Students: Field Trips and Visits



Students Visit the Pearce Institute

Students from SAC's Sports & Recreation Management Course have a varied study programme which takes them off campus to discover interesting facts about our heritage and also about how we can make historic places work for us both economically and sustainably. A group of 1st year students have just been on a visit to the Pearce Institute with these 2 thoughts in mind:

- To look at the often conflicting demands of generating income while allowing access to people from a wide range of backgrounds
- To compare Victorian attitudes to leisure and recreation provision with today's key reasons for leisure.



SAC Ayr 1st year SRM students with Pearce Chief Executive Norrie Mackie

This exploration took them to the beautiful Pearce Institute, a Category 'A' listed community facility, designed by Sir Rowand Anderson and completed in 1906. The Institute was gifted to the people of Govan in memory of Sir William Pearce, former owner of the Fairfield Shipyards and Govan's first MP. It is now a vibrant community building with over 40 organisations using it as a base, all sharing the common aim of meeting the needs of the people of Govan.



It houses a wide range of spaces used for conferences, theatre, sport and dance classes, meetings, cultural events and social occasions. Currently a programme of phased restoration work is being carried out with £2.3 million in place to completely restore the roof and carry out repairs to stonework. Funders include Glasgow City Council, Heritage Lottery, Historic Scotland, Govan and Craigton Community Planning Partnership and Scottish Government's Town Centre Regeneration Fund.

The students were able to see how life in this building is set to go on well into the future in a sustainable way. The balance between usage and costs and care of the historically significant landmark is evident. Off-campus visits such as this brings course material to life: what might seem theoretic and sterile in a classroom setting not only becomes enjoyable and memorable, but useful in terms of future knowledge for business planning and management within the wider Sports and Recreation Industry.



Students viewing ongoing restoration work

Jill Thomson (text) & Bill MacKay (photos)

SAC Ayr

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