



friends newsletter Issue 93 Winter 2024

Note from the Editor: Priscilla Barlow psbarlow@sky.com

Many months ago, I promised the committee I would give one year's notice when I felt it was time to retire.

That would mean I would do 2 more issues from the projected date.

That time has arrived and this is my penultimate issue as your newsletter editor: winter 2024 and then summer 2024 will be my swan song. This issue has returned to the more usual format with Friends news and reports and some

"magazine" features. On page 2 I am expanding on my editorial experiences as a kind of early farewell, and I offer my sincere thanks for the tremendous support I have enjoyed.

2 exits and an entrance

We are sorry to say goodbye to two of our hardest working committee members, Jean Gilmour Anderson, and Graeme Smith.

After serving as acting convenor for a very fruitful year, Jean remained on the committee, continuing to offer advice based on her considerable knowledge of the rules governing the workings of a committee. She was the constant voice of wisdom and sanity in our deliberations. We thank her for her service and wish her good fortune in all future endeavours.

After serving as convenor for several years, Graeme retired to follow his illustrious writing career; and then he returned to us to fill, most admirably, the post of treasurer. For this we thank him and wish him continued success as an author.

We know he has more than one project in hand. His successor Aileen Dickinson will find the books in excellent order.

The committee is delighted to welcome Aileen as our new Honorary Treasurer. Aileen studied Geography and Computing Science at Glasgow University, followed by a postgraduate diploma in digital cartography.

She worked for a year as a financial systems programmer for an NHS IT



Above:
Graeme Smith
and Jean Anderson.
Left: New
treasurer Aileen
Dickinson

consortium, then joined Glasgow University IT Services where she stayed for the next 37 years. She held various posts in this ever-changing field including mainframe systems

programmer, project manager, and desktop systems architect, with her final role being End User Computing Manager before she took early retirement in June 2022. Aileen was Honorary Treasurer of AUT and then UCU for many years, as well several small organisations. She is a board member of St. Andrews Clinics for Children and looks after the charity's website. Aileen and her husband are keen travellers, and when at home she enjoys cooking, swimming, gardening, and waiting upon her two beautiful Bengal cats.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR, continued

I joined the committee in 2005 and in 2007 I was appointed joint editor of the newsletter with Dr David Fergus. David resigned in 2009 and I carried on solo until now.

Over 17 years I have edited 34 issues including the current one. Looking back, I believe the newsletter has provided a running commentary on the way the Friends Society has been evolving. Covid has inevitably been responsible for much of this. We no longer have many outings to report. These used to be a regular feature and the Dates for your diary column also included many talks. In this issue we record only one.

I have very much enjoyed the challenges the production of the newsletter has presented. I have acquired new skills - I can now edit a pdf, mail multiple files, strikethrough, and crop pictures. With one exception, all the newsletters have been designed by only 2 designers, David Parry of Parrex and our current designer, Gerry Cassidy. I am sure you will agree that

their designs have been very effective.

Over these years I have had only one disappointment: despite many appeals to the membership readers to write to us, we have received only 2 "letters to the editor".

The newsletter would have possibly been less interesting without the many contributors whose willingness to answer my calls for articles has been overwhelming. Outstanding amongst these was Professor Marshall Walker's tribute to the memory of Edwin Morgan and the many tributes to Dr Peter Davies. My thanks and appreciation to you all.

I acknowledge, with sincere and grateful thanks, the unfailing cooperation of the library staff who have been ever ready to provide information at the 11th hour to help me meet deadlines. In particular I have to thank Siobhan Convery, Julie Gardham and Susan Ashworth. Thanks are also



due to Iain Wotherspoon who has provided us with many an excellent photograph. But above all, I have made new friends. Foremost amongst these is Duncan Beaton. Over coffees and lunches, my editorial assistant

Duncan supported and encouraged me, all the while controlling my editorial hatchet. His eagle-eyed proof reading has been masterly. A big thank you Duncan.

To the future: Graeme Kemp, a Senior Archivist in the Library, has volunteered to become the next editor.

The newsletter will surely be in capable hands. I wish him every success.

My final issue, Summer 2024, is in the planning stages. The theme will be 'nostalgia'. We hope to include excerpts from issues from many years ago.

Perhaps someone might write with suggestions for articles for my final issue?

Annual General Meeting

Report by Ann Gow, Convenor

The AGM was held in the Level 12 Reading Room of the University of Glasgow Library on Thursday, 26th October 2023 at 6.30pm. As convenor, I was delighted to welcome those attending. I reported on the Library projects FGUL has supported.

The generous bequest to the Friends by the late Dr Peter Davies was duly acknowledged. We noted the struggle to fill committee positions and the question of the society's future - was raised. I then reported that I am currently working on a discussion paper about the Friends' future direction which I will shortly bring before the committee,

The Annual Report and Accounts were presented by treasurer Graeme Smith. A brief description of the outlook for our investment funds held by Evelyn Partners Investment Management LLP was then given by Stephen Quaille. He noted that it had been a difficult few years for investing with the political

climate, but that he anticipated that funds would improve next year.

Graeme Smith stood down as Treasurer and Jean Anderson stood down as committee member. Aileen Dickinson was approved as Treasurer and was welcomed.

A vote of thanks was given to all members of the committee for their work in the last year, particular mention going to newsletter editor Priscilla Barlow, treasurer Graeme Smith and Stephen Quaille who looks after the investments.



Following the AGM, two presentations were made by the newsletter editor, Priscilla Barlow, – a book to Jean Gilmour Anderson, retiring committee member and a gift token to retiring treasurer, Graeme – both former convenors. The convenor expressed thanks for the sterling contribution they had both made over a long time. Pictures courtesy of Iain Wotherspoon

There was a man...

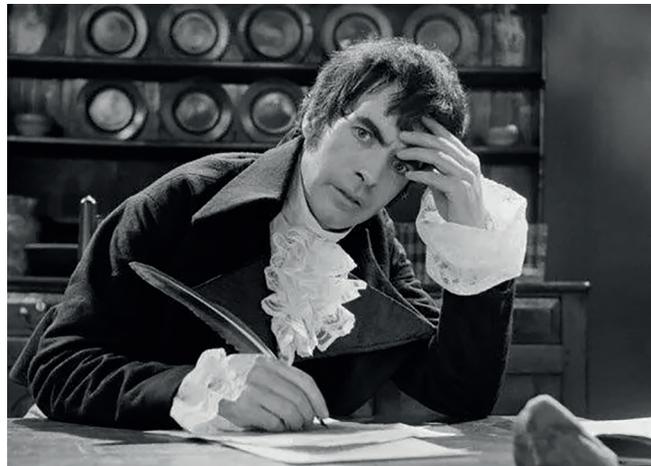
Sadly, it was recently announced that John Cairney had passed away aged 93. It is perhaps timely to draw attention to the extensive Cairney Archive deposited in the Scottish Theatre Archive housed in the Library's Special Collections.

The collection includes correspondence, photographs, press cuttings, programmes, sketches, scripts, and several theatre scrapbooks.

It also includes the John Cairney Burns Archive

John began his professional career with the Park Theatre in Glasgow in the late 1940s.

After training at the Royal Scottish Academy for Music and Drama, Cairney joined the Wilson Barrett Company followed by seasons at Glasgow Citizens' Theatre



John Cairney in his role as Robert Burns.

and Bristol Old Vic. In 1988 Cairney gained an M.Litt from Glasgow University for a History of Solo Theatre and in later years, in New Zealand, he gained his PhD for his thesis on Robert Louis Stevenson.

Cairney also developed his one man show about Robert Burns. His association with

Burns began in 1965 with Tom Wright's solo play There Was A Man at the Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh, and at the Arts Theatre, London.

He became affectionately known, amongst his many accomplishments as a writer and painter, as 'Robert Burns'

Social media experiment Goodbye and our thanks to Laura

Laura Cassidy has been FGUL's Social Media officer for the last year. She has done an excellent job of showcasing FGUL's activities online and we all enjoyed seeing her posts.

Now Laura has finished her Masters course and is off back down south to continue her career. Laura, we wish you all the very best and if you ever need a reference, you know where to ask!

Now that Laura has gone the FGUL Committee has considered the efficacy of using social media and decided to end the experiment.

Our activities and projects are not a good fit with users of Facebook and X-Twitter etc and our reach was small despite Laura's good work.

JEAN GILMOUR ANDERSON

Enhancing Access to University Treasures

The University of Glasgow has recently launched the Glasgow Collections portal, a significant innovation in the way academic and cultural collections are accessed and explored.

The University of Glasgow is privileged to host world-class collections of historical and cultural importance. Our Archives & Special Collections house internationally significant holdings from medieval manuscripts to modern literary papers, while the Hunterian boasts one of the largest collections of art and objects outside of the National Museum of Scotland.

With millions of unique, globally significant items at our disposal, the collection is nothing short of a world treasure. Yet, with such an expansive and diverse collection, we face a singular challenge: How can we ensure our users discover the content they want?

Our answer to this question arrived in May 2023, with the highly anticipated unveiling of the Glasgow Collections portal. This digital platform, born from a close collaboration between the Archives & Special Collections, The



Hunterian, and IT Services, reimagines the process of academic discovery. It offers an enriching journey through the University's extensive heritage collections, whether a user is delving into ancient cultures or exploring contemporary art, they are given an experience that is both enriching and easily navigable.

Glasgow Collections represents a major advancement in making our

resources more accessible and engaging for all. It bridges the gap between our extensive historical collections and the wider world's quest for knowledge. This initiative ensures that our treasures are not only preserved but also actively explored and appreciated by everyone.

Discover the treasures of the Glasgow Collections for yourself by visiting <https://www.gla.ac.uk/collections>

GRAEME KEMP

HOPKIRK'S STATISTICAL ACCOUNT OF THE BARONY PARISH

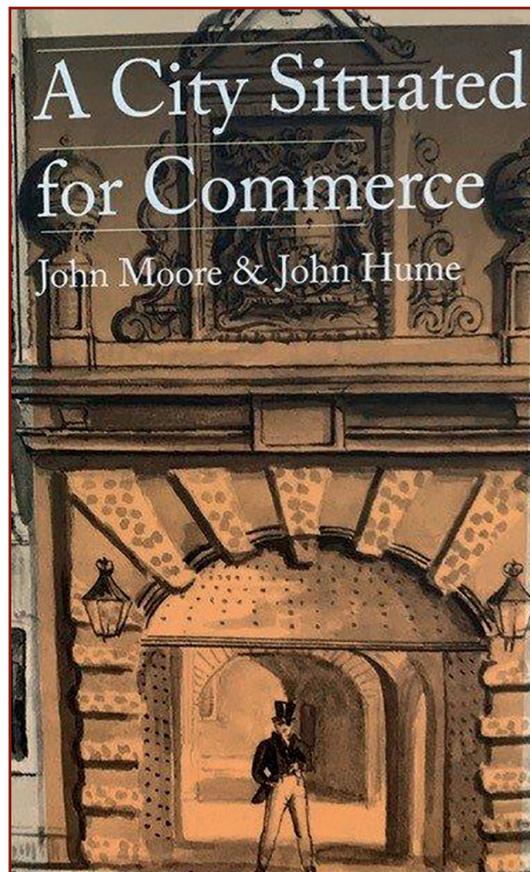
Glasgow on the threshold of change?

On Thursday, 26th October, the Friends hosted an event to mark the launch of *A City Situated for Commerce: Hopkirk's Statistical Account of the Barony Parish*, edited by Professor John R. Hume and John N. Moore and the publication of which was partially funded by the Friends. This facsimile edition is based on the University Library's MS Murray 636.

Unfortunately, Professor Hume could not be with us, but his co-editor John Moore gave a most entertaining and informative presentation on the both the

book itself, and on James Hopkirk of Dalkeith, its author. His talk was accompanied by some of the wealth of illustrations included in the book, banishing the notion that this would be simply a dry record of facts and figures. John Moore is, of course, no stranger to the library; he worked there for nearly 38 years and was latterly Collections Manager. The evening was well attended by both members of the friends and guests, and the talk was followed by a convivial chat over a glass of wine.

IAIN WOTHERSPOON



ABSTRACT

Among the treasures within the University Library's collections, that gifted by David Murray nearly a century ago stands as one of the finest sources for Scottish local history.

Among his collection of some 40,000 items is a manuscript Statistical Account of the Barony Parish written in 1826 by James Hopkirk, son of a leading Tobacco Lord. Hopkirk's writings display a very personal view of what he saw as relevant in his own life and reflect his own prejudices and sense of self-importance but this is also a love letter to his home city. The recently published facsimile edition of this text seeks to place it in the context of a city

facing such issues as problems with immigrants, care of the poor and the impact of industry on the city which are not dissimilar from today.

His path to success should have been comparatively smooth but, overall, his commercial acumen appears to have been limited and was compounded by upsetting others who could have helped his career. Despite this, he was involved in a range of significant activities, such as the opening of the Forth and Clyde Canal and the building of a new church for the Barony congregation. However, one key feature of the manuscript is the sequence of fine line drawings of Glasgow locations. One of these is a depiction of the Stobcross slip dock which illustrates an

industry with which Glasgow became so closely associated - ship building and repair. Possibly the most telling relate to the Royal Botanic Institution founded at Sandyford, in which his own son, Thomas played a leading role. This led to the city becoming an international centre for the study of botany. Yet, nowhere does Hopkirk mention his son's input.

Despite his contributions to the parish, the city and the county, his demise merited only two brief lines in the Glasgow Herald and his resting place has never been traced.

The co-editors of this book wish to record their thanks to the Friends of the University Library for their financial support in the production of the work.

Did you know about: The number of study spaces available

The main library has 2000 spaces which are open to all as are the 1100 in the James McCune Smith Building and the 210 in the round reading room.

A third site open to all, with a capacity of 250 is on

level 3 of the Fraser Building.

Examples of designated spaces include 106 on Level 4 of the Wolfson Medical School; approximately 33 in the Arts Libraries, mostly located in University Gardens; 138 in the Mary

Stewart Building in the James Herriot Library at Garscube. More places are available at various locations on campus.

The Library offers visitor passes for one day only to access collections.



UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW PHOTOGRAPHIC UNIT

Collections Photography Section

By Stephen McCann
Head of the Photographic Unit

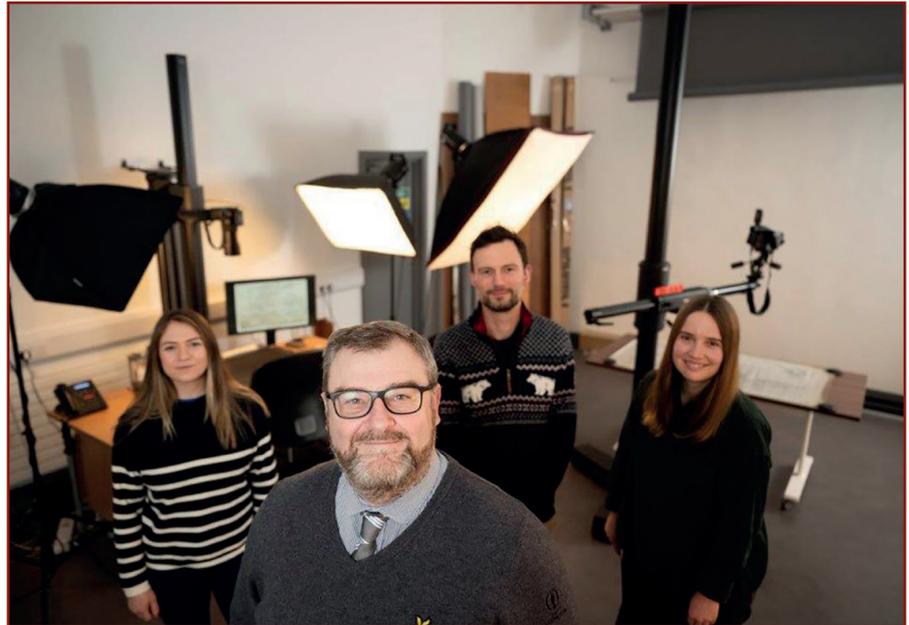
A photographic unit has been serving the University of Glasgow community since 1955 in all aspects of photography from marketing campaigns, through Graduation seasons, yearly prospectus shoots and digitisation of the extensive University and Hunterian collections. The unit moved from being film and chemistry based to being fully digital in 2005.

In 2010 Digitisation was given its own position in the department with a permanent, full-time member of staff. Today we have 3 staff members covering 1.5 FTE posts, with another 0.5 staff member working on a fixed term project. The Unit undertakes works for Archives and Special Collections, the Hunterian Art Gallery and Museum, as well as supporting research and teaching staff and students and the wider university community. This includes the NHS and MRC, supporting worldwide access to the University's collections.

Over the past 10 years the team have worked on large scale projects such as Incunables from the fifth century, Pacific Bark Cloth, the sketch books of Scottish artist Duncan Shanks and Tibetan manuscripts to name but a few. We have ventured into mass digitisation through the Wellcome Genetics Project which saw two staff digitisers photograph over 60,000 documents relating to our modern genetics archive. The following year we started a 3-year Wellcome project digitising 250,000 pages of Glasgow and Dumfries mental health archives.

<https://wellcomecollection.org/pages/Wuw0uilAACZd3S00>

The next high-profile project was



Pictures courtesy of
 The Photographic Unit

the digitisation of David Livingston's handwritten field notes and maps from his explorations of 19th Century Africa in conjunction with the David Livingston centre and the University of Nebraska. <https://livingstoneonline.org/in-his-own-words/the-livingstone-online-digital-collection>

More recently, in 2023, we have undertaken many high-profile University projects such as the Adam Smith

Tercentenary, Rare Manuscripts Project, Thesis Project which involves moving all historical University of Glasgow Thesis available online.

In addition to these larger projects, we routinely take on smaller orders from researchers and academics seeking high quality reproductions of items from our collections. Items like medieval manuscripts such as the beautifully illustrated Guillaume Tardif Art of Falconry from 1494, maps from our MOPS department, ship and locomotive plans and glass negatives are all photographed in our purpose-built studio within the University's Main Library.

Our department uses the latest Hasselblad medium format camera systems, Elinchrome studio flash lighting with which we can provide our clients with definitive digital file reproduction allowing for precise details to be seen by researchers, teaching staff and students alike.

PROFILE: 38 MICHELLE CRAIG

Originally from the Highlands, Michelle moved to Glasgow in 2009 to study Classics. After graduation, she started working in ASC as a graduate trainee. This led to an MPhil looking at early printed books and a PhD, which focused on the library of Dr William Hunter (housed in ASC). Her research interests include



book and library history, 18th-century history, and intellectual history.

Her first book, on Hunter's Library, is due to be published with Brill in 2024 and she is also in the early stages of co-authoring a book on William Burrell's library (also with Brill). Michelle (our membership secretary) is currently working in

Archives and Special Collections on a FGUL-funded rare books cataloguing enhancement project of the Hunterian Library.

Outside work, Michelle likes to read and cook. She is an amateur astronomer and has a number of artistic pursuits including her newest hobby, silversmithing.

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Dr Henry Farmer's Scrap Book

Continuing our selections from the Glasgow University Library Special Collections Department Book of the Month

This month we take a look at a scrap book, compiled by Dr Henry Farmer between 1911 and 1940, containing many theatrical and concert programmes together with some photographs and letters.

The contents of this book represent some of the performances that Farmer was involved with and his varied interests; it also gives the reader a strong sense of Glasgow in the first half of the Twentieth Century.

Dr Henry Farmer (1882 - 1965) was a bandsman, musical director, and orientalist. He spent most of his working life in Glasgow and was fully involved with many musical projects within the city. He had a strong connection with the University of Glasgow as he was a scholar of Oriental music (particularly Arab music and musical instruments) and worked for some time as a librarian within the University.

Farmer first came to Glasgow in 1914 when he was offered the musical directorship of the Coliseum Theatre, a theatre owned by the Moss Empire franchise; later that same year he transferred to the Empire Theatre and remained there for thirty-three years.

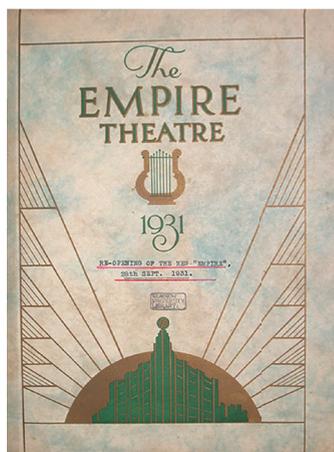
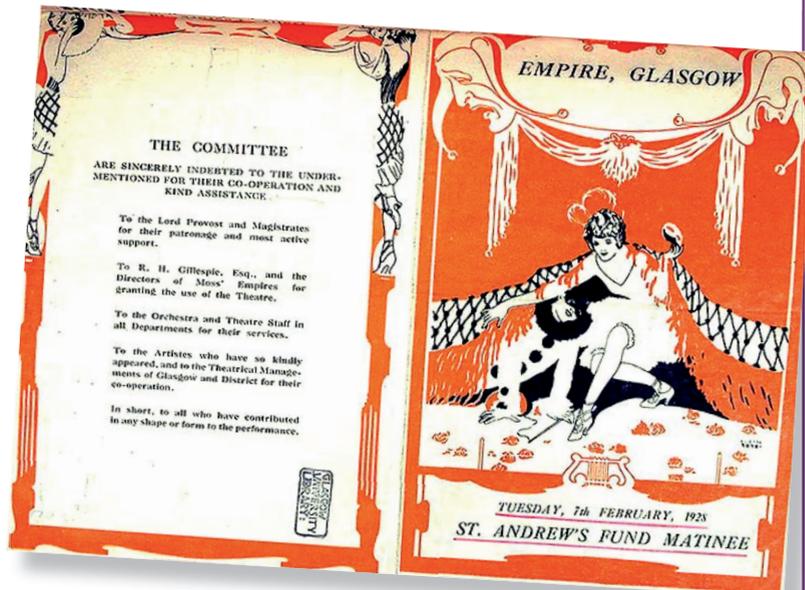
Throughout his time conducting in Glasgow, Dr Farmer pieced together this scrap book of programmes, flyers, letters, and photographs, relating to the many performances he was involved with. The majority of these performances were for special events in aid of different causes and charities, or for organisations that Farmer had a special interest in.

This scrap book highlights many issues that were of significance in Glasgow at this time, and looking through the book the reader gains a sense of the promotion of community, national pride and socialism that were important issues to Farmer and which were also prevalent generally during the interwar years and the depression that followed, in Glasgow.

This scrap book offers a fascinating glimpse into life in Glasgow from 1911-40. It gives the reader some insight into the popular causes at the time, the political opinions that shaped the city, entertainment, and other major events, such as the Ideal Home Exhibitions and the Grand Flower Show.

It also serves as an effective introduction to the life of Dr Henry Farmer, his interests, and his collection. This was gifted to Glasgow University Library Special Collections in a number of donations between 1930 and 1965. The collection contains items on a variety of subjects, including music and variety theatre in Glasgow and socialism and trade unionism.

With thanks as ever to Julie Gardham.



From the Library blogs

By Elzbieta Gorska-Wiklo: Preservation Manager

Our Archives and Special Collections serve as guardians of our cultural heritage, diligently also preserving artifacts that provide valuable insights into the past.

Among books, documents are old beer bottles and cans, representing a significant part of Scottish brewing history. However, storing these delicate objects in our storage presents its own unique set of challenges.

Laura, our dedicated archivist expert, has been engrossed in the task of processing the remarkable Caledonian Brewery collection.

This collection provides a captivating glimpse into an institution that played a pivotal role in Edinburgh's brewing heritage.

The role of the Preservation Manager and conservator revolves around supporting archivist projects during the meticulous cataloguing



process. However, accommodating such a substantial collection of old beer bottles and cans presents its own unique set of challenges in terms of space efficiency and artifact safety.

One of my primary responsibilities is also implementing Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies. This entails monitoring for pests that may be drawn to empty beer bottles. Insects, enticed by sources of food, can be attracted to the residual

sugary or yeasty substances that remain inside or on the surface of these bottles. Flies, ants, and beetles are known to indulge in this tempting feast.

Our primary goal was to ensure that all liquid had been completely removed, thus preventing any potential contamination.

Before removing the caps, we had placed a coin on the top of each one. The coin had acted as a buffer, reducing the likelihood of creases, and preserving the caps' aesthetic charm.

As for cans, we carefully made two small holes in the bottom of the cans. This alternative approach allowed for safe and efficient emptying, eliminating the risk of harm.

Our next step was to rinse it thoroughly with water to remove any lingering liquid. Subsequently, we filled the container with a solution of distilled water and mild detergent, swirling it around to ensure a thorough cleaning.

Once the cleaning process was complete, we allowed the bottles or cans to air dry fully before any further handling. Laura added a label with a reference number to each bottle to facilitate proper identification.

By employing proper storage, emptying, cleaning, and labelling techniques, we ensured that these containers were ready for long-term storage, fostering a more sustainable future for our precious artifacts.

Archives and Special Collections: the team

We thought it would be interesting to introduce the hard-working staff members who keep the various sections ASC running so smoothly and efficiently. The newsletter is truly appreciative of the ever-readiness of the team to help with information, illustrations, and advice. In particular, our thanks to Siobhan Convery

The ASC team is responsible for managing, promoting and enabling access to, and supporting engagement with the Library's unique and distinctive collections. Its activities include strategic collection development, enquiry and reading room services, cataloguing, preservation, and conservation, engaging students with collections through their taught courses, and supporting academic research.

Management team: Siobhan Convery: Director, Library Collections and Keeper of Hunterian Books & Manuscripts
Julie Gardham: Senior Librarian

Graeme Kemp: Senior Librarian

Clare Paterson: Assistant Director, Library Collections

Moira Rankin: Senior Archivist

Collections Management: Louisa Coles: Head of Conservation and Preservation

Sarah Gillies: Stock Assistant

Elzbieta Gorska-Wiklo: Preservation Manager

Kay Juelch: Collections Management Assistant

Keira McKee: Book Conservator

Paula McKerrow: Stock Assistant

Collections Metadata: Sam Maddra: Assistant Archivist (Cataloguing)

Corporate Relations & Digital

Preservation: Kirsteen Connor: Archive Cataloguer

Hannah Grout: Archive Cataloguer

Kiara King: Assistant Archivist (Ballast Trust)

Leo Konstantelos: Senior Assistant Archivist (Digital)

Rachael Muir: Business Archives

Surveying Officer

Kath Roper-Caldbeck: Archives Cataloguer

Laura Stevens: Archive Cataloguer

Ewa Wojtaczka: Records Centre Assistant

Emma Yan: Assistant Archivist (Accessions)

Engagement: Claire Daniel: Assistant Archivist

Niamh Devlin: Archives & Special Collections Assistant (Graduate Trainee)

Emily Everett-Hare: Archives & Special Collections Assistant (Graduate Trainee)

Samantha Gilchrist: Senior Library Assistant

David Kenning: Archives & Special Collections Assistant (Graduate Trainee)

Robert MacLean: Assistant Librarian (ASC Learning & Teaching Lead)

Fiona Neale: Senior Library Assistant

Niki Russell: Principal Library Assistant

To make enquiries from any team

member, please contact

library-asc@glasgow.ac.uk.



Date for your diary

Thursday 22 February, 7pm.
Hildegard Berwick on Bet Low
 University of Glasgow Library
 Level 12, Seminar Room 22

Snippets

■ *Michael Gallagher was appointed in November 2023 as an Archivist: University Heritage Collections Engagement (started in Nov 2023).*

■ *Clare Paterson was promoted in August 2023 to the new role of Assistant Director, Library Collections. Clare was previously Senior Archivist (Corporate Relations & Digital Preservation).*

■ *Glasgow Harbour is the title of a new book by our former convenor and treasurer, Graeme Smith, to be published in November. It describes the river Clyde, shipping, shipbuilding, and regeneration, a book of illustration and celebration. Graeme's next project will be a book about Dr Tom Honeyman, former director of Kelvingrove Art Gallery.*

FRIENDS OF GLASGOW UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
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friends@lib.gla.ac.uk
 (This email address may be used to contact the membership secretary and committee members.)
WEBSITE:
www.gla.ac.uk/fgul
 A Registered Scottish Charity
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Meet our committee



Dame Katherine Grainger
 Honorary President



Helen Durndell
 Honorary Vice President



Ann Gow
 Convenor



Aileen Dickinson
 Treasurer



Susan Ashworth
 Exec Director Information Services
 University Librarian



Siobhan Convery
 Asst Dir Collections
Ex Officio



Priscilla Barlow
 Newsletter Editor



Duncan Beaton
 Editorial Assistant



Iain Wotherspoon



John Warren



Dr David Fergus



Professor Lawrence Grove



Professor Gerard Carruthers