

friends newsletter

spring 2018

Note from the Editor: Priscilla Barlow

The contents of this issue reflect the Friends' packed diary of activities and changes over the months since summer.

Consequently we do not have as much space to devote to the more 'magazine' type of article that we like to provide for your information and enjoyment. Nevertheless familiar items are included such as the *Did you know about* feature.

We say goodbye and pay tribute to retiring committee members, Jean Anderson and Freda Tuck and welcome our new Convenor, David Baillie. We report on Kathryn Lowe's taking on the duties of Membership Secretary and the appointment of a graduate student as her assistant. Another change, the formation of a subcommittee composed

of Peter Davies and Johanna Green to manage and organise events, is noted.

I am continuing to luxuriate in the advice and help of my assistant editor, Duncan Beaton and offer sincere thanks to him and to our designer Gerry Cassidy at Raspberry Horse for his unfailing expertise.

We wish all our Friends a happy 2018.

Exits and entrances

Our convenor:

Jean Gilmour Anderson

It is with considerable regret we say goodbye to Jean Gilmour Anderson who for the past year has served on the committee as acting convenor. Pressure of other commitments has dictated her decision to resign this post, one she has filled with good humour, grace and a firmness of hand.

Jean has guided us through changes to our constitution and has ensured that our obligations as trustees of the FRIENDS charity status are understood and followed.



She has functioned not only as an invaluable link with the Library staff but also to staff on the wider campus and beyond. In the chair at meetings she has kept us under control, ensuring we stuck to the agenda. The committee has learned much from her experience of the formalities of committee procedures. For this and everything else we thank Jean and wish her



good luck in her continuing endeavours elsewhere – and we hope still to see her at our events when her other duties allow.

Our membership Secretary: Freda Tuck

Freda Tuck has retired from the post after five years. Freda has been an excellent, hard working and efficient member of the Friends executive committee.

She took on much

more than just recording our members and their subscriptions; she assisted with the financial work of the organisation, liaising with our accountants and signing cheques, and was our main communicator with our members, answering queries, noting changes and troubleshooting payment problems. Freda's sensible record keeping was done with her habitual no nonsense approach and this will make it easier for her successor, but she will be hard to replace. We thank her on behalf of all the Friends for her contribution. We hope to see her at Friends events and we wish her the very best in her future endeavours.



Message to Friends from Acting Convenor David Baillie

Although a fairly new member of the Committee, I am delighted to have been elected to the Acting Convenorship.

Firstly, I must pay tribute to the excellent manner in which Jean Anderson carried out the duties of this position in the

previous 12 months and it is a pity that pressure of other commitments did not allow her to continue. She will be a hard act to follow.

Secondly, I look forward to working with the other Committee members, a keen

group determined to develop FGUL as much as possible.

Hopefully, we will be able to offer Friends an interesting programme of talks and outings in 2018. If anybody has any ideas in that regard, please contact me on daidsbaillie1@btinternet.com

A warm welcome to our new office-brearers

■ **New Convenor:** On the retirement of the acting convenor, Jean Anderson, David Baillie was unanimously elected to take over the helm. He takes up the post with a wealth of experience behind him in the academic field and in local government as well as being well versed in committee procedures. We are in safe hands and offer David congratulations.

■ **Membership Secretary:** On the retirement of Freda Tuck, committee member Dr Kathryn Lowe agreed to take on the post. As Kathryn is a full time academic it was agreed that she should lighten the load with the employment of a graduate student. Emily Nicolet accepted the position as her assistant. Emily will carry out the additional duties of minute secretary

■ **Events organisation and management:** In the past Dr Peter Davies has most efficiently taken on this role virtually single handed. Now Dr Johanna Green has been co-opted on to what is now a subcommittee to share the demanding tasks involved in planning, publicising and managing talks, visits etc.

PROFILE: 23

Siobhan Convery

A proud Glaswegian, Siobhán was delighted to join the Library team as Assistant Director for Collections Strategy in April this year. Her connection with the University goes back 30 years when she began studying for her MA in French and Classical Civilisation. She recalls her favourite study space was in the upper



floor of the 'Round Reading Room', surrounded by shelves of the Loeb Classical Library. In fact it was at the University Archives that she enjoyed her first foray into the world of archives, setting her on a career path that took her to Liverpool in 1994 to complete her Masters in Archive Administration. After that Siobhán spent seven years as an archivist in Aberdeen City Archives before joining the University of Aberdeen in 2003. There she was fortunate, as Head of Special Collections, to be involved in the planning and building of a wonderful new University Library, which incorporated state-of-the-art facilities for the University's historic collections. Away from work Siobhán provides a taxi service to two busy teenagers and enjoys as many long walks with her beloved border collie as she can.

AGM Report

The 2017 AGM was held on Tuesday 24 October in the Library TalkLab.

FUNDING

By Jean Anderson (Acting Convenor)
Agreed: Part funding of the purchase of Dr Johnson's Dictionary, a fourth folio edition from 1773, which is now catalogued and available for study through Special Collections.

Agreed: to contribute £250 to the David Murray Book Collecting Prize, open to GU students. An allowance was also awarded to the winner to choose a book for acquisition to Special Collections.

Agreed: to a request for financial support from Archives and Special Collections to produce a printed catalogue of the 15thC printed books in the Library. FGUL agreed to contribute up to £13,000 towards total cost of £23,000.

Proceeds from sales of The University of Glasgow Library: Friendly Shelves continue to benefit the University.

Annual income from the MacKenna bequest continued to boost the GUL Staff Development & Training Fund. We are pleased this year to be able to return funds for reinvestment against future expenditure.

We said goodbye and thanked three committee members; Convenor Graeme Smith, University Archivist and Depute Librarian Lesley Richmond, and Sheila Craik. We are pleased to welcome new committee members David Baillie, Dr Fiona Hamilton, Dr Ramona Fotiade and ex officio, University Librarian Susan Ashworth.

Presentations of gifts were made to the Membership Secretary, Freda Tuck and acting Convenor Jean Anderson, who were stepping down.

There being no new nominations for committee members, the existing officers are elected for the next year.

REPORT ON THE YEAR'S EVENTS AND FUTURE PLANNING

Dr Peter Davies, Honorary Secretary

Talks: The Erskine Hospital Centenary Project, Research Into Glasgow's 19th C. Dyeing Manuals, Thomas Hollis and his Library of Liberty, A Hidden Gem: Art and Mental Health.

Visits: the University of Stirling Archives and Special Collections: the Leighton Library in Dunblane: tour of the newly refurbished GUL.

Later this year: Jim King of the Prison Service will talk on prison libraries: a concert by Russkaya Capella.

FINANCES

By Dr Hamilton, Honorary Treasurer

The accounts are in good order. Jim Hamilton of JM Taylor Ltd presented the Friends accounts for the year ending 31 July 2017. Simon Quaille of Smith & Williamson described our investments as being moderately successful this year. He followed this with an illuminating talk on investments and the current climate with reference to the trouble in various parts of the world. Resolutions were passed approving the Statement of Accounts and appointing JM Taylor & Co. as accountants for the year ahead.

Votes of thanks were extended to Caroline O'Neill and Jim Hamilton of JM Taylor, our accountants; to Simon Quaille of Smith & Williamson for looking after our investments; to all the executive committee, especially Honorary Secretary Peter Davies, the Newsletter editor Priscilla Barlow and treasurer Fiona Hamilton, for all their work over the year. Also thanked were Susan Ashworth, the University Librarian, and Library staff, with a special mention of Joyce Fyfe, and last but not least to all of our Friends for their continuing support.

The meeting was followed by a short interlude with wine and canapés and an excellent talk by Priscilla Barlow about her experiences while writing a biography of Duncan Macrae. The talk was well attended and we were particularly pleased to welcome the well-known actor, John Cairney.

Will the real Duncan Macrae Stand Up?

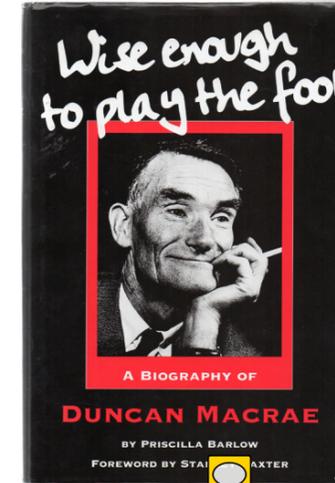
On 26 October, following the 2017 AGM there was a very good attendance of members and friends to hear Priscilla Barlow talk about her experiences while writing *Wise Enough to Play the Fool*, a biography of the actor Duncan Macrae (published John Donald 1995).

After graduation, while researching for a PhD in Medieval theatre, Priscilla was appointed tutor in the Drama Department (now Theatre Film and Television Studies) at Glasgow University. She abandoned the PhD for research on a bibliography of Scottish Theatre Literature, funded by the British Academy.

Following publication of the Macrae biography she researched the old Glasgow Theatres Royal. Publications include reviews for Shakespeare Quarterly (published by the Folger Library, Washington) and several entries in the Dictionary of National Biography. Priscilla currently edits our newsletter.

Abstract

The talk was a light hearted description of the experience of writing the



Priscilla Barlow's biography of Duncan Macrae was published in 1995 by John Donald

biography of Duncan Macrae. A brief background of the subject was included. Much of the talk was anecdotal as well as reflective and analytical.

The motivation for this project was explained and the preliminary steps

necessary to writing were described. Two methods of research were identified: documentary and interviews.

The locations for the documentary research were discussed as well as citing the most invaluable documents. These were illustrated.

The different types of interviews were listed: by letter, by email, by telephone and in person. Examples from each category were described and illustrated. The various methods of making contact with subjects for interview were explained. The importance of face to face interviews was stressed, particularly highlighting those with Gordon Jackson, Nicholas Parsons, Bill Paterson and Stanley Baxter.

The vicissitudes of writing and publishing were interpolated with personal feelings and reactions. The book launch and the aftermath of publication were noted in some detail.

The talk ended with a video clip of a Macrae performance of *The Wee Cock Sparra*.

Prison Education: A Hard Cell

A small group of members gathered to hear Jim King's fascinating and informative talk on 7 November 2017. Jim is Head of Head of Learning & Skills, Scottish Prison Service.

His career has included working with rehabilitation of alcohol and drug addicts, and an investigation of literacy in prisons. He scripted a film at HMP Cornton Vale with the BBC. His film, *Barlinnie's Got Talent* won a Platinum at the UK national Koestler Art in Prisons awards. His degrees include Social Science, (BA, GU) Adult education, (MSc, GU) Literacy and Language Studies, (MA, Lancaster U), Criminology (MSt, Cambridge U).

Abstract

In line with Scottish Government strategic intentions as detailed in 'Adult Learning in Scotland: Statement of Ambition' (2014) the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) has embraced a forward looking approach to educational engagement that is: lifelong, life-wide and learner-centred. Our on-going commitment to a person-centred individual approach to engagement dovetails with the underpinning



principles of the 2013 SPS Organisational Review with its vision of 'Unlocking Potential - Transforming Lives'. This recognises the diversity of those taking part in learning in prison, their different backgrounds, skills mix and contrasting aspirations for future development.

Such diversity and complexity is often complicated by a significant cohort of disaffected learners with poor previous educational experiences, lack of aspiration, apathy and negative views towards learning. Accordingly, we need to continue to develop innovative and creative ways of breaking down pre-conceived barriers and harnessing the strengths and latent talent of individuals, promoting critical thinking and self-reflection.

In partnership with our learning service providers Fife College and other statutory and voluntary agencies, we have structured our approach across five

principal themes of Engaging Learners; Strengthening Partnerships; Ensuring High Quality Learning Opportunities; Improving Our Capacity to Respond; Ensuring clear Evidence of Success.

This collaborative approach to educational development has enabled us to access and utilise the particular strengths of partners working within the university and college sectors to supplement our core learning services and provide innovative and creative solutions for engagement

This more liberal educational approach has also been enriched by our university partners who continue to supplement our provision through introductory talks and peer support initiatives. These approaches are continuing to attract widespread interest and have led to a number of educational awards for our creative educational approach by European partners.

Russkaya Capella Concert

By Nora Gray

On Thursday 7 December, several members of FGUL joined a large audience in the University Chapel to be entertained to a memorable musical performance given by Russkaya Capella.

This chamber choir is the only one in Scotland specialising in unaccompanied – mostly liturgical – choral music. Thursday’s performance, directed by Stuart Campbell, was given to celebrate a century of Russian teaching in the University of Glasgow.

The concert received financial support from the Friends, not only because of the connection with teaching but also because Glasgow has one of the most significant collections of Slavic writing in Europe, comprising texts in Russian, Polish, Czech, Serbian and Bulgarian, including many dating back to 1793.

Russkaya Capella itself represents a significant part of recent history. The names of several of the singers reflect the fact that many choir members are here as the result of the Russian diaspora during the late 19th to early 20th century.

The first part of the programme was mainly given over to music connected with the Orthodox liturgy, the first three items representing music for particular feast days.

A hymn in honour of St Cyril

and Methodius by Tchaikovsky reminded us of the person who devised the Cyrillic alphabet in an attempt to transcribe more accurately the Slavic tongue. Another piece, to words by Lermontov, highlighted another of the poet’s links with Scotland; his original family name being Learmonth.

Do Not Weep, a poem set to music by Tcherpnin, was written to commemorate events during the Russian/Japanese war. Its elegy for the fallen became very popular again during the Revolution.

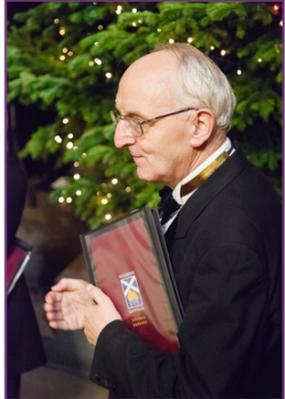
Russian sacred songs and carols, especially the carols, quite unlike Western ones, are often connected to the area in which they were first sung.

The last item of the evening, Troika, about the arrangement of the three horse sledge, was the only one to be accompanied.

Stuart Campbell played the organ while his wife Svetlana Zvereva conducted the excellent choir, with Professor Graham Haire enthusiastically joining in on the tambourine, bringing a very enjoyable evening to a fitting close.

In a short speech, Dr Andrea Gullotta of the School of Modern Languages and Culture (Russian section) thanked Stuart and the choir and particularly highlighted FGUL’s generous contribution to the evening’s success.

● Pictures courtesy of German Aljabev



My Scottish waterfalls book collection

Edward Cole, winner of the David Murray Book Collecting Prize, University of Glasgow 2017

I have been enthralled by waterfalls for as long as I can remember, and I also love books.

Combining these two passions, I have built up a collection of books and other material relating to Scottish waterfalls.

My collection started slowly but gathered momentum when I moved to Scotland in 2010.

There is a specific focus to my collection but there is very little literature specifically about Scottish waterfalls, so I have collected

material with various main themes and functions.

I have regional guides, guidebooks for walking and other activities, and maps covering areas with waterfalls. I also collect pictures of waterfalls, especially postcards.

In combination my collection tells me what waterfalls there are in Scotland, what they look like, how to reach them, and the natural and human history of different waterfalls.

My collection does not have any obvious finishing points, as it would be almost impossible to amass everything published about Scottish waterfalls.

In future I would like to collect accounts by early travellers around Scotland, when waterfalls were star attractions. Overall my collection brings me great pleasure, both through the books themselves, and the information they contain which helps me to visit the wonderful places they depict.



Emily Nicolet

Emily Nicolet is our new membership assistant and minutes secretary.

Emily is a PhD student at the University of Glasgow, studying in the English Language and Linguistics Department.

Her thesis project is a comparative analysis of the decorated letters and illustrations found in Old English manuscripts.

She is a graduate in English Language (Edinburgh) and holds a Masters degree in Medieval and Renaissance Studies (Glasgow). Emily originally comes from California, but has fallen in love with Scotland.

Letter from the EDITOR

Dear All
Yes you are having a déjà vu. You have seen this appeal for 'letters to the editor' in more than one issue of the FGUL newsletter.



We would very much welcome and indeed value your opinions, your comments, your criticism and even your praise. We often receive verbal comments on such items as the Did You Know feature, the profiles, News from the library and general comment on the layout and level of interest, but it would be so much nicer if this could be shared. We strive to make each issue informative and entertaining. Your input would most certainly enrich and improve our endeavours, helping us to give you the kind of newsletter you would like. You have been reticent till now but we look forward to hearing from you soon. Ideas for articles and indeed short articles are welcome. You can contact us by email: Friends@lib.gla.ac.uk by post: to Friends of Glasgow University Library c/o University of Glasgow Library, Hillhead Street, Glasgow G12 8QE, (marked FAO Newsletter editor) Priscilla and Duncan

Lesley Richmond is honoured

The former University Archivist and Deputy Director of the Library, Lesley Richmond, has been presented with a Distinguished Service award. It was presented at an event in the University Chapel by the Archives and Records Association.

The award was made to Lesley by ARA UK Vice-Chair, and University of Stirling Archivist, Karl Magee. Karl said: "I'm delighted to present Lesley with this award which recognises the great respect and admiration in which she is held by the archival community."

During the evening, there were many plaudits for Lesley's work, especially her tireless efforts to secure and preserve a great deal of the commercial and engineering heritage of Glasgow and wider Clydeside.

Edwin Green of the Business Archives Council said: "In the long history of the BAC the recruitment of Lesley was one of our greatest pieces of good fortune." Her early years surveying collections in shipbuilding and engineering works were fondly remembered by Alan Morrison, a



• Lesley is presented with her award by University of Stirling Archivist Karl Magee former BACS Surveying Officer, with Dr Alison Rosie, Registrar of the National Register of Archives for Scotland noting that: "Lesley's major achievement has been in building on the work of the NRAS Surveys in securing the preservation of business records which might otherwise have been lost."

The award ceremony was also treated to a short video celebrating Lesley's career, produced by Communications and Public Affairs' Natasha Quinn.

Did you know about? Our Photographic and Conservation Units

One of the aims of the recent Library redevelopment of Levels 1 and 2 was to create a Conservation and Digitisation Suite at the back of Level 2, making best use of the significantly improved space for conservation and digitisation activity.

The existing space where the Photographic and Conservation units were located was very dingy and had not been upgraded at all since the Library was built in 1968.

Due to restrictions on space, access and equipment Conservation staff found that they were often unable to carry out the full range of conservation interventions that they should have been able to undertake, given the importance of these renowned University collections. A

request was made to the Friends of GUL and the sum of £63,332 was donated towards the acquisition of conservation equipment, so that the upgrade could be carried out.

Studio expansion allowed for a separate paper store to keep papers flat and within more stable environmental control than previously.

Clean, dirty, wet, dry processes, plus decontamination and outsize work areas, will now be clearly defined. Fixed furniture is being kept to a minimum, and book cleaning workstations can be wheeled in.

The new inbuilt light boxes open up the variety of work that can be done, from identification of paper formats and watermarks, to specialist

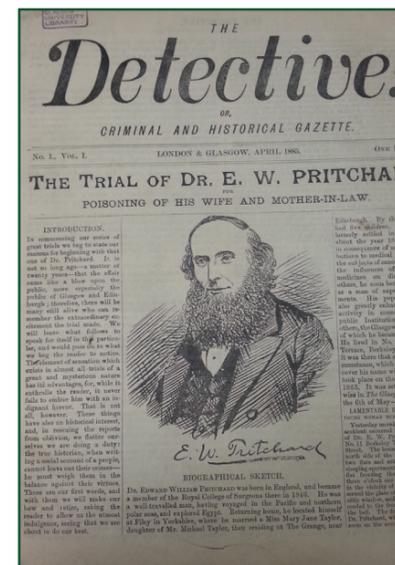
paper repairs using a wider variety of methods previously not employed.

New specialist lighting now ensures good colour matching for repairs and good viewing of objects and their associated damage, reducing the potential for eye strain of the conservator working on material for intensive periods of time.

The new custom built sink enables paper to be aqueously cleaned in a safe environment, with new flooring able to tolerate wet treatment being carried out.

Thus the learning and teaching capabilities are enhanced, allowing space for volunteers, students and other conservators to work in a more suitable and safer environment.

From the Library Blogs Posted by Niki Russell on November 13, 2017



• "Rogues and vagabonds" at Glasgow Police Court; the trial of Surgeon Edward Protchard, who murdered his wife and her mother; and a report on "Rothesay, the Sodom of Buteshire" adorn the front pages of these issues of The Detective

Scandal, gossip and crime reporting in Victorian times

I recently discovered a curious bound volume of a short-lived 19th Century journal in the Wylie Collection. Beginning in April, 1885, The Detective, Or Criminal and Historical Gazette, provided weekly representations of crime and police in Glasgow and criminal trials in the UK and abroad.

Some of the more sensational cases the journal covered under the "Remarkable Trials" section were the 1885 trial of Dr. Edward Pritchard, the last person to be publicly executed in

Glasgow, for the poisoning of his wife and mother-in-law; and the notorious case of the Sandyford murders in 1862. These cases are serialised over several issues of the journal.

The historical crimes section covered such cases as Burke and Hare.

Also included in the journal are stories of fiction (detective and otherwise) and regular features such as reviews of new theatrical productions and a legal advice column for readers. These are side-by-side with book

reviews, puzzles, poems and gossipy anecdotes on any number of subjects.

One of the regular contributors known only as "The Tramp" provides scandalous undercover stories of life in Glasgow and surrounding areas during the mid-1880s such as "Queen's Park: Is it a Nursery of Vice on Sunday Evenings?"; "Fast Life at Rothesay: Or, the Sodom of Buteshire"; and "A Night Among Glasgow Thieves".

The Detective cost one penny for 16 action-packed pages!

Meet the Team



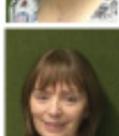
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Departmental

Human Resources

- Recruitment
- Managing staff contractual changes
- Sickness Absence Management
- Additional Hours Submission
- Staff Expenses Claims
- Staffing Enquiries
- Monthly Salary Forecasting
- Fixed term contract management

Travel

- Accommodation
- Conference Fees
- Flights/Trains/Bus

Administration

- Processing Approved Leave of Absence Requests*
- Preparation of Letters
- Calendar Management for Meeting Room Bookings (within the Library)
- Processing Hospitality Services Catering Requests
- Stock Control
- Stationery Items
- Internal Catering Supplies
- Internal & External Mail Management
- Taxi Bookings Email Requests

Responsibilities

Accounts

- Payment of Invoices
- Purchasing/Requisition Form
 - Computer Supplies
 - Office Supplies
 - Consumables
- Budget Monitoring
- Processing Sales Invoices
- Journal Entries
- Cash Reconciliation

PA Support

- (for Senior Management Team)
- Diary Management
- Clerking Committees – preparation of agenda/papers/minutes
- Meeting & Greeting Visitors
- Events Organisation

Mrs Jean Smith

It is with sadness we have to report the passing of Mrs Jean Smith, wife of our former Convenor, Graeme. Jean was a brave lady who bore her long illness with spirit and fortitude. She was one of FGUL's most loyal supporters and graced so many of our activities. When volunteers from the membership were sought we could always rely on Jean's help for anything from dispensing drinks at the talks to 'stuffing' the newsletters into envelopes. She will be so missed. We send our sincere condolences to Graeme and the family. On behalf of the Friends, the committee has agreed to donate £100 to the Beatson Cancer Charity

FOR YOUR DIARY



Tuesday 13 February: 7pm

Talk Lab Library
Level 3: Talk by Julie Gardham - Senior Librarian, Special Collections

A heap of books on the floor? Transcribing the earliest catalogues of William Hunter's Library



Tuesday 27 March: 7pm

Talk Lab Library
Level 3: Talk by Andrew (Andy) Beeby, Professor of Chemistry at the University of Durham

Shining Light on Medieval Manuscripts
(On recent developments in non-invasive techniques of pigment analysis).

■ Other upcoming talk/events will be notified to memberships by email/post when details are available. Guests are welcome.

SUPPORT GUL ONLINE

■ The website **TOTAL GIVING** <https://www.totalgiving.co.uk/donate/friends-of-glasgow-university-library>
This is a quick and efficient method of supporting the work of the Library by donation. Perhaps Friends may wish to join in and those who have Facebook, Twitter, blogs and other media groups might pass on the link and encourage the good work.



Friends of Glasgow University Library Committee



Professor Sir Kenneth Calman
*Honorary President,
Chancellor of the University*



Helen Durdell
Honorary Vice President



David Baillie
Convenor (acting)



Dr Peter Davies
Hon. Secretary



Dr Fiona Hamilton
Treasurer



Susan Ashworth
Head Librarian (ex officio)



Priscilla Barlow
Newsletter Editor



Duncan Beaton
Editorial Assistant



Dr Ramona Fotiade



Norah Gray



Dr Johanna Green



Dr Kathryn Lowe
Talks and Events



Dr Helen Cargill Thompson
Membership Secretary



Emily Nicolet
*Asst to Membership
Secretary & Minutes*



Jim Hamilton
*Accountant at John M. Taylor & Co,
Chartered Accountants*

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Snippets

- Plans are in hand to arrange a guided visit to Pollok House library, the contents of which are not normally available for public inspection.
- Scots Language Dictionaries announce the publication of their new *Concise Scots Dictionary*. This second edition is the result of thirty years' research and has been revised and updated throughout to reflect modern Scots usage, as well as coverage of

older Scots. Available online from Edinburgh University Press and from all good bookshops.

- Graeme Smith, our former chairman, has just completed a survey of theatres in Scottish towns. It is published on the Arthur Lloyd website: www.arthurlloyd.co.uk
- The Friends were represented at the recent funeral of the late Mrs Jean Smith by Peter Davies, Priscilla Barlow