

friends newsletter

winter/spring 2017

Note from the Editor: Priscilla Barlow

Another year, another issue, another designer and yet another masthead; we hope you like this one. As ever the newsletter contains reports on The Friends' activities as well as information about people and events. We try to keep you

up to date with information and reports from the Library and we also include what we like to think of as 'feature articles' which are library and bibliophile related. This issue also marks the retirement of three Friends' stalwarts. We are

happy to print tributes and to introduce three new committee members. Please get in touch We continue to hope that you will write to us with your views at: psbarlow@sky.com or friends@lib.gla.ac.uk.

Exits

Graeme Smith

After the October

AGM, a presentation was made to Graeme Smith, pictured above, who is retiring from his post as the Friends' Committee chairman. He has served us well for six years guiding us safely through many choppy waters. Credit is due to Graeme for his sterling input into the publication and marketing of *Friendly Shelves* and for always being mindful of our commitment to engagement with the wider public.

Perhaps he now will have much more time for one of his chief interests – Scottish theatre history. To this end the gift took the form of an 1848 playbill from the Theatre Royal in Ayr.

We wish Graeme a happy retirement.



Lesley Richmond

Good wishes go to

Lesley Richmond on her retirement from the University after 30 years service, initially as an archivist and in due course as the University Archivist, to which she added the post of Deputy Director of the Library from 2001. As an ex-officio member of the Friends' committee she has greatly encouraged and supported the work of the society, and guided us through the ever-changing landscape of Gilmorehill. Her expertise and knowledge are also reflected in the new celebratory book *The University of Glasgow Library: Friendly Shelves* within the texts and the spirited provision of illustrations.

We wish Lesley, and her husband and family, good health and happiness.



Sheila Craik

When she retired

in 1992 from full time work as a librarian in various departments of the Library, Sheila joined the Friends' committee. After more than 10 years of excellent service she has decided to resign, feeling that she had been there too long! Not so; her balanced input at meetings has constantly injected the voice of sanity into deliberations.

She will perhaps be most missed and remembered in her role as 'drinks and nibbles lady' at the Friends' talks and events, a role performed with patience and charm. We wish Sheila much happiness in whatever she now undertakes and we are sure it will be something worthwhile.



• Pictures courtesy of Iain Wotherspoon

A Happy Occasion

■ On Thursday, 1st December we met to celebrate the contribution of two retiring members of FGUL, Lesley Richmond and Sheila Craik. Presentations were made: to Sheila, a John Lewis Gift Voucher and to Lesley, a framed certificate of her award by The Friends of Glasgow University Library of Honorary Life Membership, flowers and National Gardens gift tokens which she assured us would be well used in her new home. We were pleased to be joined by our Hon. President Sir Kenneth Calman, the University Librarian Susan Ashworth and several members of the Friends. The party was enlivened by wine and fruit juice, superior nibbles and a splendid cake!



..and entrances

Welcome To Our New Committee Members

David Baillie

David's professional life has been in further education. He worked in a variety of colleges from the early seventies until 2002, at which point he was appointed Assistant Principal at Cardonald College for some ten years.

Most of David's teaching was in British Government and Politics and in the early 1980s he gained an MPhil at Glasgow in Scottish Government and Administration.

Taking early retirement in 2002, he then served for nine years as a councillor in South Lanarkshire, including five as Depute Chair of Housing.

He also has an MLitt in English Literature and one in Victorian Literature. He is currently studying Scottish history via distance learning from Dundee. Central to all that activity has been this library. He would wish to give something back.

Dr Fiona Hamilton

Fiona was born and brought up in Glasgow. She has a BSc and a Ph.D. from the University of Glasgow. She lec-



• Pictured, left to right: David Baillie, Dr Fiona Hamilton and Dr Ramona Fotiade

tured in Chemistry and her research has been in fields emerging & merging into Molecular Biology.

In Fiona's years of study textbooks were a rarity, being taught from primary literature in departmental libraries and using the Main Library for warmth and inspiration in essay writing.

Employment initially with AVRI (govt Animal Virus unit) in Surrey, was followed by many years in R&D with 'Big Pharma' both here and overseas. She joined FGUL initially to maintain University contact, and then, in pre-internet days, to have access to primary literature when and if necessary. More recently,

learning about Special Collections and the ever-changing role of the Library has been fascinating: exploring how modern disciplines will develop constructive interaction and build a meaningful archive for the future is of interest.

Dr Ramona Fotiade

Ramona is Senior Lecturer in French in the School of Modern Languages and Cultures at the University of Glasgow.

She has an MPhil in Film and TV Studies (University of Westminster) and a PhD in Modern Languages (Oxford). She has been a lecturer in both Film and Television Studies (Bristol) and Oxford (Balliol and Magdalen). Ramona is

the Director of the Shestov Studies Society and the Editor-in-Chief of the Shestov Journal and has been commissioned to co-ordinate the new critical edition of Shestov's works in French (with Le Bruit du Temps Publishers, Paris) and in English (with Ohio University Press).

She has herself published extensively on French Philosophy, Literature and Film, and has supervised doctoral research projects on interdisciplinary topics with colleagues from the School of Creative Arts (Theatre, Film and TV Department) and the School of Critical Studies (Theology and Religious Studies).

AGM REPORT: Graeme Smith

The Friends' 40th AGM took place in October preceding the talk by Dr. Maureen Park.

On behalf of the membership, totalling 150, and the many visitors to the talks and events promoted by the society each year, the Chairman thanked the committee and library staff who helped make things happen.

The University, and Library, had a statutory duty to develop and promote public engagement. The Friends continued to support this endeavour by way of grants for exhibitions and in particular by the £94,000 grant to buy state-of-the-art equipment for the Exhibition Gallery at the library entrance and for the new Conservation Studio.

The celebratory new book The University of Glasgow Library: Friendly

Shelves had been launched and was being well received.

In addition to the book being on sale through the University Gift Shop, other shops and online at www.friendsofgul.org, public libraries across Scotland and secondary school libraries received complimentary copies for reference and lending purposes.

Retiring from the committee were Sheila Craik and Graeme Smith and joining the committee, as reported above, were David Baillie, Fiona Hamilton and Ramona Fotiade.

The updated Constitution was adopted and reflected the different formats today of books and documents. The purposes of the society which is open to all, continue to be to help develop, support and promote the Library.

FGUL Membership Report: October 2106

Freda Tuck:
Membership Secretary:
fredatuck7@gmail.com

■ In the year 2015-16 we gained eight new members and in August 2016, Professor Olivia Robinson took out Life Membership.

In September 2016 another joined as an Annual member.

This makes our total membership at the moment 150.



Open Day at the Library: Whitfield Revisited

Report by
John Warren

On Saturday, 10th September FGUL members were guests of Glasgow University Library in a conducted tour of the new and splendid facilities on Levels 1 and 2.

We began at the ground floor (Level 2) entrance, with a tour of the newly created exhibition space which can be enjoyed without 'swiping cards' to enter. Beyond the turnstiles the issue desk has gone, for we have now entered the age of self-issue.

Within Level 2 there is a new presentation area, The Clyde Theatre, complete with raised seating, video screens and gee-whizz gadgetry. This level also boasts an elegantly furnished quiet study area.

For older FGUL members (some of us even remember William Whitfield's library being



• Pictures courtesy of Iain Wotherspoon

built), Level 1 was an area that was as mysterious to students as the back door of Dr Jekyll's residence must have seemed to fearful locals. Now Level 1 has been de-mystified into



around 150 new student study spaces.

We were then taken 'behind the scenes' of GUL to see the new conservation facilities, with new equipment that will transform the library's capabilities in this field.

Finally, in the Henry Heaney Room, Dr Robert MacLean (Special Collections), provided us with a choice selection from GUL's remarkable holdings to view at close quarters including the matchless Hunterian Psalter, a Geneva Bible and some beautiful and priceless examples of William Blake's work.

Of particular interest, we looked at a Latin and Hebrew Old Testament (published in Basel 1546) which has been recently discovered to have been signed and annotated by, possibly, John Knox in 1561. We were treated to an eloquent commentary on the treasures.

We then repaired to the Level 3 cafe, opened recently to provide a service undreamt of by students of my generation, where we were served a splendid finger buffet.

Profile: 21: Kathryn Lowe

Dr Kathryn (Katie) Lowe undertook her academic training at Nottingham and Cambridge universities, and came to Glasgow from St Catharine's College, Cambridge, where she was a research fellow.

Her teaching at Glasgow focuses on Old and Middle English language and literature, history of English, medieval manuscript studies, and Old Icelandic.

She has published widely on Old and Middle English



language and literature, with a focus on manuscript studies and textual transmission. She has held visiting fellowships during periods of study leave from Glasgow at Cambridge (as Munby Fellow in Bibliography, a position which gave her, quite literally, the keys to the University Library's manuscript collection), and at Oxford (Snell Visitor, Balliol College).

Her next project will be to complete the Index of Middle English Prose Handlist of manuscripts in Glasgow University Library. The resulting reference volume, part of a well-established series covering repositories around the UK, should help to promote GUL's magnificent collections and advertise their rich potential to scholars.

Outside academia, Katie enjoys admiring cats in all their furry, but particularly ginger, forms, walking, Schubert, gin, cooking, travelling, and sampling local delicacies (except for fermented shark, which she recently found on a visit to Iceland not to be as delicious as it sounds).

A Hidden Gem: Art and Mental Health

On Tuesday 25 October the Friends were treated to a fascinating talk by Dr Maureen Park.

Dr Maureen Park is a Senior Lecturer in History of Art within the Centre for Open Studies. She is a former curator at Glasgow Art Gallery and Haggis Castle Museum, and has lectured extensively for organisations such as the National Association of Decorative and Fine Art

Societies (NADFAS), the National Trust for Scotland and the National Galleries of Scotland.

Included in her research interests are European art 1300-1900; Scottish painting; art collections and collectors of Glasgow; art, medicine and the healing environment; hospital art; art and psychiatry; Dr W.A.F Browne, 1805-1885; museum educators. Amongst her many

publications is her book *Art in Madness: Dr W. A. F. Browne's Collection of Patient Art at Crichton Royal Institution*, published in 2010.

This collection was the subject of the exhibition 'A Hidden Gem' held at Gracefield Arts Centre, Dumfries in 2015. The collection will be exhibited in Annan in spring 2017 and in Paris in 2018.

ABSTRACT

The remarkable collection The Collection of Patient Art at Crichton Royal Institution, is currently stored in the Archive Centre in Dumfries.

It was formed by Dr William Alexander Francis Browne (1805-1885), the first Physician Superintendent of Crichton Royal Institution in Dumfries, 1838-1857. During his superintendence not only did he encourage his patients to draw and paint, he also collected samples of their work and displayed them in the hospital.

It is the earliest collection in the world of art by a group of asylum patients known to have survived.

This talk introduces the collection. It begins by briefly examining a few early examples of art in hospital before explaining the background to art activity at Crichton, placing it within the regime



of 'moral treatment' introduced by Dr Browne who promoted art for its therapeutic and educational qualities.

The talk examines the artist-patients, their drawings and paintings that survive and assesses the significance of the collection. A brief reflection on more recent developments in art and mental

healthcare finishes the talk.

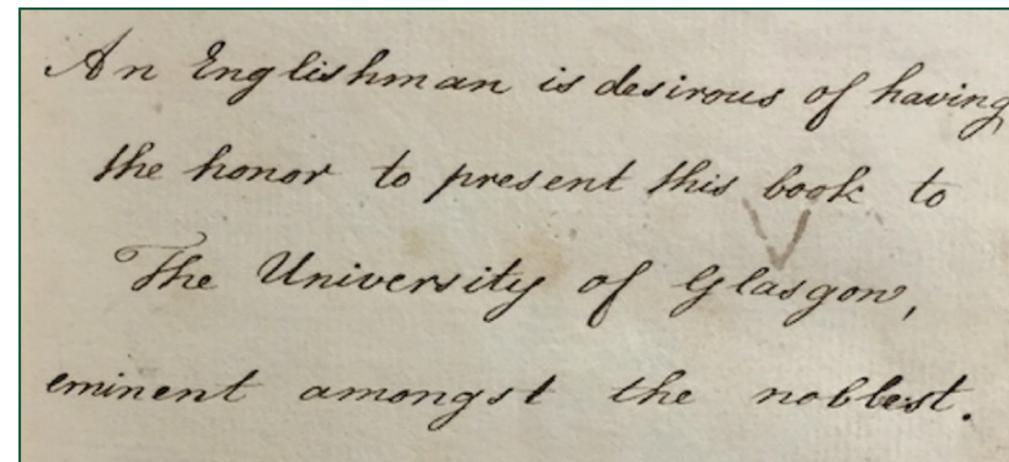
The collection was digitised at GUL in association with the Wellcome Trust in 2015.

Full details of the exhibition A Hidden Gem can be viewed at <https://sway.com/kKH1MrOJ9KJq4bkH>

Republican Treasures in University Library

On 22 November, Dr Adam Budd gave a beautifully illustrated and extremely interesting talk to a very knowledgeable group of Friends. Dr Budd is a lecturer on Cultural History in the School of History, Classics & Archaeology at the University of Edinburgh. He completed his PhD at the University of Toronto, and came to Edinburgh

in 2008. He has held fellowships at the Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine (London), the Houghton Library (Harvard), and at the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities (Edinburgh). He is an associate of the Centre for the History of the Book, and is on the Advisory Committee of JISC Historical Texts.



Glasgow University Library holds a small but impressive collection of "Hollis bindings"—gorgeous eighteenth-century volumes in octavo and quarto that were sent as anonymous gifts to the Library between 1763 and 1767. All of these feature distinctive burgundy calf-leather bindings embossed with golden icons that mark them as classics among the seventeenth-century "Library of Liberty." Thomas Hollis, a serious republican philanthropist and bibliophile sought to place in the hands of readers across Protestant Europe and the thirteen American colonies. He depended on

ABSTRACT

"public libraries," like the library at the college of Glasgow, to enable readers to consult these volumes. Thomas Hollis (1720-74), well-trained in the law and well-travelled in Europe, dedicated his labour and his fortune to this bibliographical endeavour. Not only did his campaign extend to support for libraries through these stunning gifts. It also entailed his generous support of artists, engravers, toolmen, and publishers, who would ensure that his books would

provide physical evidence of the evocative and durable ideas within them.

Hollis donated dozens of volumes to the "public libraries" of the five ancient Scottish universities, but Glasgow held a special place. In his inscription on the flyleaf of John Toland, *Amytor: Or A Defence of the Life of Milton*, he wrote "An Englishman is desirous of the honor to present this book to The University of Glasgow, eminent amongst the noblest." This gorgeous volume, still in solid condition despite the centuries, can be consulted at Sp Coll Bm1-h.19.

University of Glasgow Library:

There are 176 staff working in the Library at the moment. This number changes as the Library often has staff working on discrete projects for short periods of time.

From 2017 the Library's Senior Management Team will be made up of five members of staff with the following areas of responsibility:

University Librarian

Deputy Director (Academic Engagement)

Assistant Director (Student Engagement)

Assistant Director (Collections Strategy)

Assistant Director (Digital Strategy).

This Team leads the Library's strategic development and ensures the Library is represented and advocated for in the University.

The Library has six College Librarians who work closely with the University's four Colleges to ensure the Library understands the requirements of academic staff and students across the University.

The four colleges are:

Arts: Medical Veterinary and Life Science : Science and Engineering: Social Sciences

The College Librarians are focussed on supporting research and researchers across the University.

How We Are Structured By Susan Ashworth

The College Library Support Team supports learning and teaching across the University and manages our Branch Libraries.

These teams work very closely together in delivering and promoting Library services to the University Colleges.

The Library's Archives and Special Collections have recently merged to form a single team. They are currently working on developing merged services, for example, their new joint Twitter feed @UofGlasgowASC

Other teams in the Library are:

Acquisitions and Access – procure the content (both print and electronic) to support research and teaching, manage the Library's Reading List Service.

Collection Services – manage collection moves within the Library, manage the Library Research Annex.

Digital Library – manage the Library's digital infrastructure, for example the website and institutional repository.

Library Services – deliver frontline services to Library users from service points throughout the Library

Metadata Services – catalogue and enable discovery of Library content.

Photographic Unit and Print Unit – provide corporate photographic and printing services

Research Information Services – provide support for open access and research data management.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Tuesday 21st February 7pm
Dr Anita Quye

Dye-versity: revealing early aniline synthetic dyes in 19th century dye manuals

Concert/chapel September

All other future talks and events will be notified in good time by our membership secretary.

Evening talks take place in the TalkLab, Library Level 3

Refreshments: Guests welcome.

SUPPORT THE LIBRARY 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

Honorary President:	Professor Sir Kenneth Calman, Chancellor of the University
Honorary Vice President:	Helen Durndell
Chairman:	Jean Anderson (acting chairman)
Hon. Secretary:	Dr Peter Davies
Committee Members	David Baillie Priscilla Barlow (Newsletter Editor) Duncan Beaton Dr Ramona Fotiade Norah Gray Dr Johanna Green Dr Fiona Hamilton Dr Kathryn Lowe Susan Ashworth (ex-officio) (University Librarian) Dr Helen Cargill Thompson
Accountant:	Jim Hamilton at John M. Taylor
Membership Secretary:	Freda Tuck

Friends of Glasgow University Library,

c/o University of Glasgow Library, Hillhead Street, Glasgow G12 8QE.

Email: friends@lib.gla.ac.uk Website: www.gla.ac.uk/fgul

A Registered Scottish Charity No. SC006553

Snippets

■ Sir Kenneth Calman (our Honorary President) took up his new appointment as Chairman of the governing Board of the National Library of Scotland on 1 October 2016. Sir Kenneth served as Chief Medical Officer in both Scotland and England in the 1990s.

He is a former Chair of the National Trust for Scotland and is currently Chancellor of the University of Glasgow.

■ Our new accountant has been

appointed: Mr Jim Hamilton at John M. Taylor. He will be assisted by Caroline O'Neill.

■ The committee, on behalf of the membership, has sent a 'get well' card, including all the Friends' news, to Dr Helen Cargill Thomson who is in hospital. Helen, formerly our convenor, is a highly valued committee member. We are keeping her informed of all our comings and goings and wish her well.