

The Friends of Glasgow University Library



Newsletter

January 2016



Note from the Editor Priscilla Barlow psbarlow@sky.com

Welcome to our **40th anniversary** issue. Once again as we contemplate a new year we find we are looking at exits and entrances. The last issue could have been titled the Helen Durndell issue. This one could well be called the Susan Ashworth issue as we welcome Susan to her new post in the Library. She is the subject of the current **Profile**, and we print the abstract of her opening talk to the AGM. Our series on

Honorary Research Fellows has taken a new direction and we are delighted to include a contribution from a scientist, Dr Jon Barnes.

We regularly appeal to our members to write us on any subject, including ideas for the newsletter, comments on it (complimentary, helpful or otherwise) and suggestions for possible events and activities.

Please don't be shy. We will publish anonymously if you wish. A regular Letters to the Editor would be an attractive feature and the committee would find your feedback of great value

- mail : friends@lib.gla.ac.uk

or write

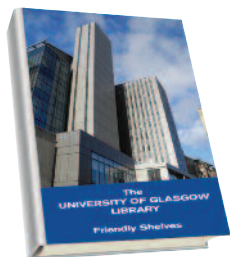
Friends of Glasgow University Library
c/o University of Glasgow Library,
Hillhead Street, Glasgow G12 8QE

I want to record my personal thanks to our newsletter designer, David Parry, who is retiring. His cooperation and advice over several years has been indispensable – and I have almost mastered zip files. We wish David a happy retirement.

Message to the Friends from our Honorary President

It is with great pleasure that I, as a Friend of the University Library, both thank and congratulate you. You have made a difference over the last 40 years, by your interest, your involvement and your help to both the Library and the University. Keep up the good work and again many thanks.

Kenneth Calman



Report on the Status of the FGUL 40th Anniversary Volume

THE UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW LIBRARY: Friendly Shelves

Peter Davies:
General Editor

Plans to celebrate the 40th anniversary of our society by publishing a survey of the past, present and future University of Glasgow Library are nearing fruition. An assembled package of expertly written and richly illustrated contributions is about to be delivered to our graphic designer. Reflecting the diverse membership of our society, the bifocal volume targets both a general

readership (in keeping with the University's policy of outreach) and a more academic audience. Five chapters trace the development of the Library from its modest fifteenth-century origins to its embrace of today's digital world. Then follows an appetite-whetting sample of illustrated manuscript and print treasures from our holdings, leading to an extensive

overview of the unique and distinctive collections that contribute to the Library's strength. The volume concludes with a review of the activities and history of the Friends, a forward-looking afterward by our new University Librarian, and lists of past Librarians and present Library staff. The book's launch will be hosted by the University in May.

....Future Talks....Future Talks....Future Talks....Future Talks.....All Details on the Back Page....



February:

Professor Gerard Carruthers
The Songs of Robert Burns: A Glasgow Perspective - With soprano Alison McNeill.



March:

Dick Peebles
Thomas Hopkirk
- Books, Botany and Fungi



May

Book launch:
Friendly Shelves



March-July

Exhibition: The World's First Comic

39th AGM Report.....39 Years and Counting

The 39th AGM, in October, was very well attended. The chairman reviewed the past year, when talks on subjects ranged from Naval Architecture to poetry, and Great War writings to the World's First Comic. A number of those guest speakers are also now members of an august panel of contributors writing the first illustrated History of the Library, which will be published in May.

Grants approved in the year focused on supporting major exhibitions and preparing new publications in line with the mandatory requirement upon the University and Library to further develop public engagement.

The Annual Accounts were adopted. The society has 157 members. New members are always welcome and the society is

open to all. Dr Johanna Green, of the School of Critical Studies, was elected as a new member of the committee. The meeting was followed by Susan Ashworth's debut address as new Director Library Services.

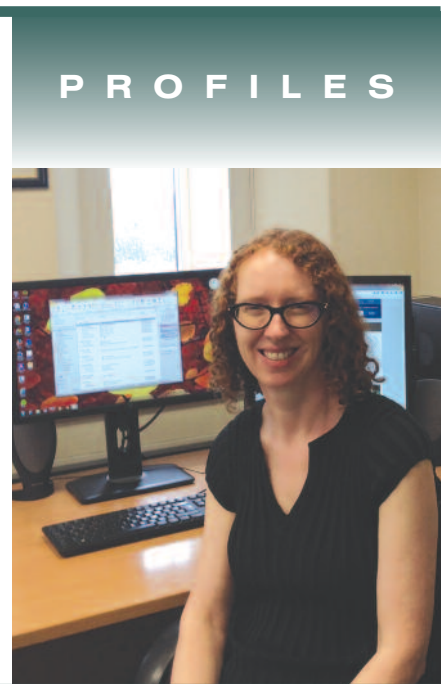


GS.

19. Susan Ashworth

Susan was delighted to be appointed as University Librarian from the 1st August 2015. Although born in Scotland Susan grew up in Rochdale where she regularly visited the local, Carnegie funded, public library. That was where her abiding love for libraries as social spaces as well as places for learning was born. Susan has a long history with the University of Glasgow as she studied there for her undergraduate degree in English and History. She then gained a Master's degree in Librarianship at the University of Sheffield. Her career started in Manchester City Public Libraries running two branch libraries

in the inner city, which was challenging but great fun. She returned to Glasgow and her long association with the Library began. Becoming, first, Head of the Issue Desk, then moving to become a Subject Librarian in Science and Engineering and Medical and Life Sciences. Immediately before her current appointment she worked as Deputy Director for several years and had particular responsibility for the Library's support for research. Outside work Susan enjoys walking and cycling, and eating her partner's excellent home baking (she says she is not the cook in the family!).



LYON & TURNBULL Valuation Event

Report by Ronald Singleton

On 10 November about a dozen of us bibliophiles gathered in Lyon & Turnbull's Glasgow showroom in Bath Street, many of us carrying strange parcels. L&T hold book



auctions three or four times a year and Simon Vickers and Cathy Marsden were ready to tell us the ups and downs, the highs and

lows of selling books by auction. Libraries, like GUL, bid mainly for manuscripts; bidding by internet nowadays makes competition worldwide; first editions sell well but much much better if still in the original covers; books signed by the author have potential (Ian Fleming and his Casino Royale in particular) especially if the dedicatee is well known. Above all, stressed Simon, keep the dust jacket! It was some consolation to hear there are collectors for everything from TS Eliot to elephants, letters, photos, albums or ephemera.

After tea in fine china and home-baking we opened our parcels and Simon and Cathy examined our treasures. Many and varied they were and interesting to hear them identified and valued. But alas! we did not see Cathy's eyes sparkle as they had when she told us about selling a first edition of Austen's EMMA, three volumes in original boards, for £48,000!

Many thanks to all at L&T for their time, expertise shared and hospitality. Their next book auction is in Edinburgh on 13 January 16.



Lesley Richmond Deputy Library Director

Library Redevelopments

Over the summer new carpets have refreshed the Chemistry Branch Library and the James Herriot Library at Garscube. The 'central' lifts in the main Library have been replaced with new, shiny, fast lifts which means getting about at busy times is now easier. Preparations have also been underway to refresh the entrance to the main Library which was last redeveloped in the mid-1990s. Since then, the way we use and engage with our libraries has changed radically, and we want to be able to offer the best possible service to our users in a modern, flexible environment.

On Level 2 there will be a brand new, active learning zone where Library users can configure and use the space to best meet their needs. In addition there will be a flexible service point with improved self-service facilities, a new exhibition area and an upgraded entrance. The space created by pushing back the existing turnstiles will be used to create a new publicly accessible exhibition space where regular lectures and events will take place. Finally, the conservation and digitisation suites at the back of Level 2 are being revamped.

The Exhibition Space will enable the Library to display our unique and distinctive collections both physically and digitally, in a mixture of traditional wall mounted frames and ultra-new multi-touch interactive table top and

wall mounted digital displays. This will enable staff, students and visitors to explore the collections held within the Library and to view exhibitions of collections and one off displays themed to conferences and other events occurring on campus. We will be able to hold events and public engagement activities promoting our collections to groups within and outwith the University community.

The Conservation Studio is currently in an area which has not been upgraded since the Library was built in 1968. Due to restrictions on space, access and equipment Conservation staff are currently unable to carry out the full range of conservation interventions that we should be able to undertake given the importance of these renowned University collections. Studio expansion will allow 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 outside work areas will be clearly defined. Fixed furniture will be kept to a minimum. New tables will be flexible enabling individual work stations to carry out bookbinding and paper repair. This allows for various configurations to create

a large format table for working on outside works on paper and mobile equipment such as the vacuum suction table and book cleaning workstations can be wheeled in. The new inbuilt light boxes open up the work possibilities from identification of paper formats and watermarks to specialist paper repairs using a wider variety of methods not previously employed. This will also enhance our learning and teaching capabilities allowing space for volunteers, students and other conservators to work in a more suitable and safer environment.

This redevelopment will be completed by the end of March 2016. The Library is delighted and grateful to the Friends for their contribution to the re-furnishing of the enhanced Exhibition space and the new Conservation Studio. Look out for the opening event in the Spring when the Friends will be guests of honour.



Level 2 at present



Development in Library Services

Following the very well attended AGM there was an excellent audience for Susan Ashworth the recently appointed Director of Library Services. Susan gave an informative, interestingly illustrated introduction to the new directions in the library.

The talk provoked many questions and good discussion amongst the audience at the drink and nibbles session afterwards where some scepticism was expressed about the apparently swift progress to mass digitisation.

Abstract

The University of Glasgow Library is a fantastic Library Service, encompassing a very wide range of activities. Readers will all be very aware of our outstanding Archives and Special Collections; however you may be less familiar with some of the other services provided by the Library.

One significant growing area of activity is in managing and curating the research outputs of staff and students across the University. We have a suite of repositories in which we catalogue the publications made by University staff and students, and also, where

possible, we make the full text of these publications freely available. We have a repository for publications, a repository for PhD theses and a repository for research data. We call our repository services Enlighten and you can access them at <http://www.gla.ac.uk/services/enlighten/>

Library services also include the University Print Unit and Photographic Unit, who are currently managing a grant from the Wellcome Trust to digitise the pre 1914 records of the Royal Crichton Hospital, Dumfries and the Gartnavel Royal Hospital which is

enabling researchers from around the world to access this important source for the study of mental healthcare.

The Library operates more and more in the digital world and we are creating first class digital services such as ReadingLists@Glasgow, an online reading list service that is integrated with the Library catalogue and our electronic resources; LibraryTree which turns Library activity into a game and enables students to rate, review and recommend Library content; our social media presence through Facebook and Twitter.

From the Archive Services blog

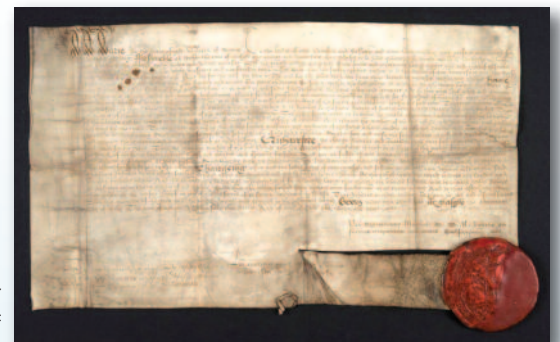
Queen Mary's Gift 1563

by Meghan Rathbun

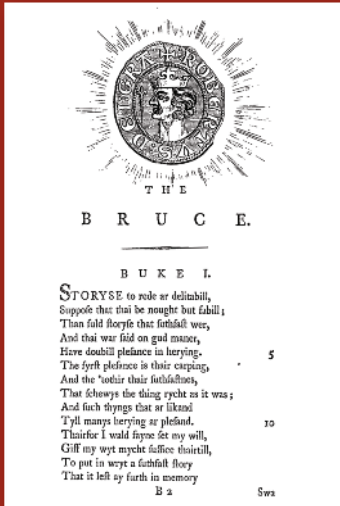
One of the more striking documents in the Blackhouse Charter Collection details a gift to the University of Glasgow by Mary I of Scotland (ref. BL 394). Mary issued the charter in 1563 with the aim to provide bursaries for five poor children. The reasoning, explicitly stated in the document, was the concern that the University of Glasgow had fallen into a 'ruined state', both physically and financially. In addition to having many buildings that were in a terrible condition, being half built and dilapidated, the University had found itself unable to provide endowments for both teachers and poor students.

In the charter Mary arranged for revenue to finance the education of five poor children who could not otherwise afford to pay University fees. To achieve this the charter states that the University would receive 'the manse and kirkroom' from the Black Friars, who resided beside the University, as well as 13 acres of land, 20 merks from the town of Hamilton, 10 merks from Avondale, and '10 bolls of oatmeal yearly'.

All of this would have provided the bursaries needed to fund these boys, who were to be known as the Bursars of Queen Mary's Foundation. Perhaps the most interesting part of the gift is



the '10 bolls of oatmeal yearly' to be given to the University as part of their upkeep. A boll was a Scottish measurement of volume used for dry goods such as oats, wheat, and barley, roughly equivalent to six bushels. This provision for student bursaries was the first of several attempts in the second half of the sixteenth century to provide financial stability for the University. A second intervention was required in 1573, and it would not be until 1577 that the University would be financially secure.



Textual afterlives: *the recuperation of medieval Scottish texts*

At the Friends meeting on 24 November, Professor Jeremy Smith spoke to a capacity audience who were rewarded with a talk both highly entertaining and impressively scholarly. Professor Smith is Head of The School of Critical Studies and Professor of English Philology (English Language). Amongst his many appointments are: Fellow of the English Association and of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Convener of the Board of Trustees of Scottish Language Dictionaries Ltd, a

Member of Council of the Scottish Text Society, and a Visiting Professor at the University of Stavanger (Norway). He is a founding member of the Medieval Manuscripts Research Consortium.

His special interests include Old and Middle English Language and Literature, History of the English and Scots Languages and the methodology of English historical linguistics.

Professor Smith is the author of many books and articles.

Abstract

The shifting presentation in subsequent centuries of a medieval poem relates dynamically to the changing ways in which the past is integrated within broader cultural/national narratives and imperatives, through a process which Paul Zumthor has called *mouvance*; in sum, the present is always in dynamic dialogue with the past.

This paper addressed the numerous issues raised by this insight with reference to a series of Older Scots texts, most notably copies (manuscript, print) of John Barbour's *The Bruce*. The focus of the paper was on philological minutiae such as script/font, punctuation (including capitalisation) and spelling, all of which were shown to be vectors of meaning

for those who transmitted such works to a later age. I argued that the reinvention of medieval texts for a shifting present is both an indicator of and an actor in the forging and reforging of national identities paralleled by equally complex shifts in literacy-practices: a dynamic process still under way in the cultures -- including of course political cultures -- of modern Scotland.

Membership Report

December 2015

There has been very little movement in the number of members during the past year. Currently membership stands at 147 plus 7 life members. We are continually seeking new subscribers so why not approach at least one friend or family member to join and support us? You do not have to be a graduate to become a Friend of the Library. Please contact me at fredatuck7@gmail.com.

Freda Tuck (Membership Secretary)

Letter to the Editor

I must say how much we enjoyed reading the latest issue of FGUL Newsletter, I congratulate you the editor. It looks wonderful with all the photos and colour.

Margaret Paxton

Grants Awarded

A major £94,000 grant has been made by the Friends to ensure the Library has state of the art digital display equipment for the EXHIBITION AREA on Level 2 (to be open to the public and visiting groups) and new high-tech equipment for the enlarged CONSERVATION STUDIO also on Level 2.

The many treasures of the Library and the Archives will now become available to the general public for enjoyment as well as for research and study. When completed in the Spring the Library will be able to use the new areas to stage regular public events, lunchtime talks, conservation demonstrations, and displays linked to campus conferences.

Recent Acquisitions

Julie Gardham, Special Collections

Farrery and Fitzwygram: a donation of 'old' vet books

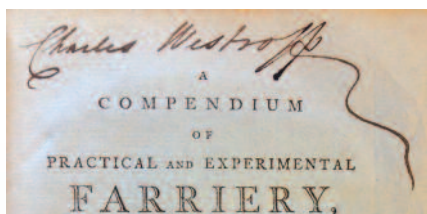
The library was delighted to receive a donation of some rare books on farrery and equine medicine earlier this year from Dr Bernard Rushton, one of our Friends. He originally acquired these books back in 1968 when he was a final year vet student here, using Fitzwygram exam prize money - a competition open to all vet students in the UK. After enjoying these books for nearly fifty years, he wished to give them back to his University for the benefit of future researchers.

Several of the books we received are very scarce, and not previously available here (or indeed in Scotland at all). The earliest is a treatise from 1755 by Étienne-Guillaume La Fosse (d. 1765): *Observations and Discoveries made upon Horses: with a new method of shoeing*. Translated from the French original, this edition is illustrated by exquisitely detailed copperplates. A bookplate indicates that this copy once belonged to the library of Hopetoun House.

A three volume set of *White's Farrery* (1822-1823) is also beautifully illustrated with instructive plates, some of which are coloured.

Another of the donations has an interesting provenance. The name "Charles Westropp" is written in William Taplin's *A Compendium of Practical and Experimental Farrery* (1796), along with the place name "Long Melford". A search of the local history website for Long Melford in Suffolk revealed that the Westropp family have farmed one of the big estates in the vicinity since 1820 (and in fact do so until this day).

Furthermore, there was a certain **Charles Henry Westropp**



(1869-1942) who according to his website entry:

"...farmed at Melford Place from 1895 till the 1930s and was a very successful horse and cattle breeder. His pony-drawn trap could cover a mile in 3 minutes and he regularly travelled from Melford Place to the Market Hill in Sudbury in only six minutes. (That is slightly faster than the bus would take you today!) What is more, the horse was not allowed to gallop, which would have been against the law, but went at a rapid trot".

Perhaps Farmer Westropp kept his horse at a rapid trot by following the advice in this book!

We are extremely grateful to Dr Rushton for his generosity.



Honorary Research Fellows Working in the Library: 5

Dr W. Jon. P. Barnes is an Honorary Research Fellow in the Institute of Molecular, Cell and Systems Biology, based in the Centre for Cell Engineering. A graduate of St Andrews University, he came to Glasgow in 1966 as an Assistant in Zoology. Following the Robbins Report, he was invited to accept a Lectureship in Zoology and was a Reader at the time of his retirement in 2006. During the early part of his career, he was a neuroscientist, studying both sensory guidance and motor control in lower animals. More recently, as a result of a student wanting a project on a 'real' animal, by which he meant a vertebrate, Dr Barnes has been studying

adhesion and friction in climbing vertebrates, namely tree frogs. Since frogs stick to wet surfaces and can repeatedly stick and detach their sticky pads every time they take a step, there is a real potential for biomimetics – gaining inspiration from the adhesive mechanisms of tree animals to develop new smart adhesives that can stick reversibly to wet surfaces and possess the ability to self-clean, so that they do not degrade with use. Currently, funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, he collaborates with the Max Planck Institut für Polymerforschung in Mainz, Germany to better understand the tree frog's adhesive mechanism and study the properties of artificial toe pad mimics. He is also a section editor for the 2nd edition of the Encyclopedia of Nanotechnology, being published by Springer, editing articles in the section entitled "Biomimetics – Animals".

The Argyll Papers

Duncan Beaton

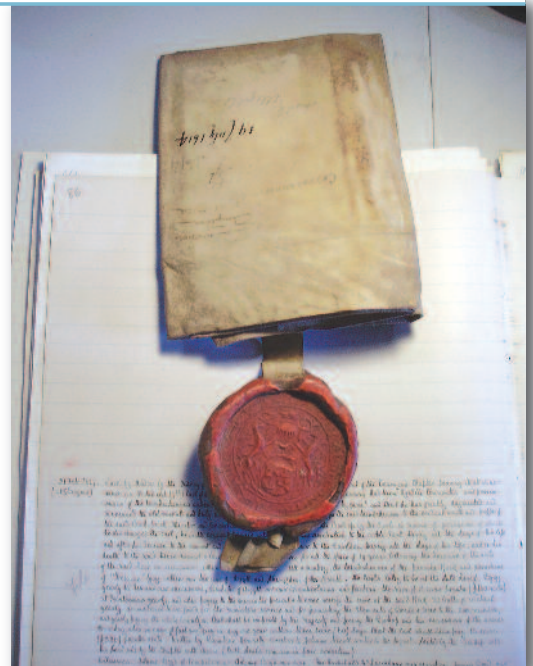
A Friends group called The Friends of The Argyll Papers was established in December 2014 to support the development of the estate archive of the Campbell family, Dukes of Argyll, held at Inveraray, and to promote its use and enjoyment by a wider audience. The archive is a rich resource for Scottish and British history from the thirteenth to twenty-first centuries. Although access is currently limited it has already attracted visitors from all over the world, researching a wide range of subjects including family and local history, Gaelic and Celtic studies, military history, political history, economic and social history, agriculture and industry, architecture and more.

This is an important step in opening up the archive and developing its resources to best meet the needs and aspirations of researchers and other users. Information about joining the Friends is available on the website www.friendsoftheargyllpapers.org.uk. A Friends Facebook page is also nearing completion at:

<https://www.facebook.com/friendsoftheargyllpapers>.

The Friends of the Argyll Papers has charitable objectives and will also support advocacy, volunteering, cataloguing, conservation, research, exhibitions, publishing and fundraising. A copy of the constitution will shortly be available on the Friends website.

One of the most exciting parts of the new Friends group is the opportunity it presents to develop volunteering in the archive, providing vital support for collection care such as cleaning and re-packaging material, cataloguing, transcribing and indexing, the updating of old catalogues, and producing publicity and promotion material.



Seal of the 7th Earl of Argyll

Did you know about?.....

Judith, a Cambridge graduate in French and Russian spent a year in Samara in southern Russia from where she posted several blogs. We print here extracts from one of them.

In the gardens of Murray Edwards College, Cambridge, stands a little wooden cabinet with a glass door, filled with books, and with the words "Little Free Library" painted on the front. Anyone can take books from this cabinet, and anyone is also welcome to leave books there that they no longer want. I used to walk past it every time I went to see my friend at the College, and it always made me smile.



In Samara

I had assumed that this was an independent initiative of the College (Cambridge is full of quirks



In Murray Edwards College

like that), so imagine my surprise when I stumbled across an identical one right in the middle of Samara! I stopped to take a photo of it, only to realise my camera was out of battery. As I was doing so, I suddenly realised that someone was standing behind me, watching me. I turned around, somewhat embarrassed, to see a man, probably in his mid-forties.

Being English, and therefore perpetually awkward, I apologised

Little Free Libraries

and explained my behaviour, and we got talking. Sergei Alexandrovich is a literature fanatic – in ten minutes or so, he walked me through his personal interpretations of War and Peace and Anna Karenina, spoke about the difficulties of translating Pushkin, and explained his deep love of Lermontov...

...It's hard to imagine a stranger on the streets of any big city in the UK stopping to discuss literature. Maybe it's unusual here too. But it certainly was interesting.

Little Free Libraries are situated worldwide see:

littlefreelibrary.org/ourmap/

There is one in the Botanics, Edinburgh.



In Edinburgh Botanic

Snippets

Helen Durndell's successor, Susan Ashworth, now takes the title, **Director of Library Services**.

The Hunterian Friends will host a talk by Professor Willie Maley on Muriel Spark's writing: *The Takeover: Forty Years down the Line*, to be held in the Hunterian Art Gallery on Wednesday 17th February at 5pm. More information to follow.

Glasgow Incunabula Project update (3/11/15). See Glasgow University blogs for fascinating information from Julie Gardham.

A word about the University of Glasgow Library blogs: The blogs are produced by a small but enthusiastic team drawn from the Library, Special Collections, University Archives and the Photographic Unit.

In 1976 when the Friends Society was founded, the Library looked pretty much as it does today. But 40 years on, the windows on the stairs have been renewed and the sacking that absorbed leaks for many years has been removed. The iconic tower now boasts stylish cladding and a neon sign is in place proclaiming the Library's presence on the campus.

Friends of Glasgow University Library

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

Honorary Vice President: Helen Durndell

Chairman: Graeme Smith

Hon. Secretary: Dr Peter Davies

Committee Members: Jean Anderson
Priscilla Barlow
Duncan Beaton
Sheila Craik
Norah Gray
Dr Johanna Green
Dr Kathryn Lowe
Lesley Richmond (ex officio)
(Deputy Director Library)
Dr Helen Cargill Thompson

Accountant: Robert Aird

Membership Secretary: Freda Tuck

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

friends@lib.gla.ac.uk

A Registered Scottish Charity No. SC006553

Website - www.gla.ac.uk/fgul

Dates for your Diary



Tuesday 9 February 7pm
Professor Gerard Carruthers
The Songs of Robert Burns: A Glasgow Perspective
With soprano Alison McNeill



Tuesday 15 March 7pm
Dick Peebles
Thomas Hopkirk - Books, Botany and Fungi



May
University book launch of
THE UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW LIBRARY: Friendly Shelves
Date, time and place to be announced



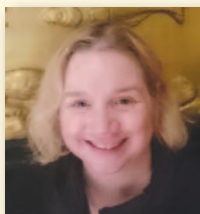
March - July
Exhibition in Hunterian Art Gallery
The World's First Comic?

Evening Talks take place in the TalkLab, Library Level 3.
Open to members and visitors. Refreshments.

Welcome our 2 New Committee Members

We are pleased to introduce our new committee members. We are looking forward to their fresh new input into our deliberations and decision making.

This brings our number to 12 including one ex officio member and our membership secretary.



Dr Kathryn Lowe

Dr Katie Lowe is Senior Lecturer in English Language, School of Critical Studies where she teaches Old English, Old Icelandic, history of the English language, and medieval palaeography. Her research interests are in manuscript studies and history of the language, with a particular focus on the early medieval period.



Dr Johanna Green

Lecturer in Digital Humanities at the University of Glasgow with interests in the use of digital technologies for the imaging, annotation and analysis of rare books and historical documents.