

Friends of the University Library

Newsletter

July 2015



Newcastle
University



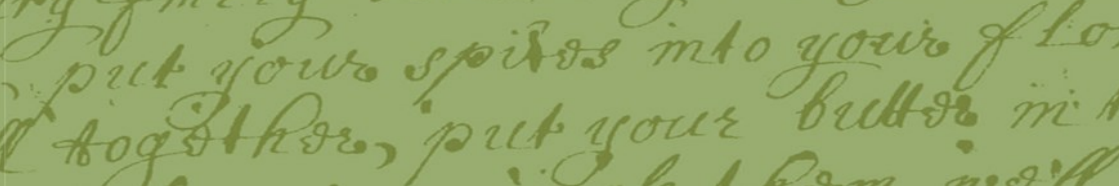
Welcome to our new-look Friends' Newsletter

I hope you enjoy the both the presentation and the variety of content which reflects the wide range of activities the Library has been engaged with over the past year along with some of our plans for the future.

You will get the impression, I hope, of a vibrant and forward-looking Library service which is keen to support the University in its Teaching and Research, and to embrace opportunities to work with partners in the city and beyond to the benefit of our members, supporters and the wider community.

As a fundamental part of our mission, we always pursue excellence in our services and enjoy highlighting our successes to the University and the world at large. 2014-15 has been a particularly successful year for us. The Library has gained reaccreditation with the Customer Services Excellence standard, achieved a gold standard from Investors in People, and won a gold award from the Publicity and Public Relations Group of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals. Our most recent success was to be shortlisted by the Times Higher magazine for "**Outstanding Library Team of the Year**" for the third time in five years.

These awards and accreditations are underpinned by a strong commitment to our students, which they clearly recognise and appreciate. In the most recent National Student Survey, the Library was rated 4th highest out of all the university libraries in the UK; and



our International Students rated the Library as the best in the Russell Group for the third year running.

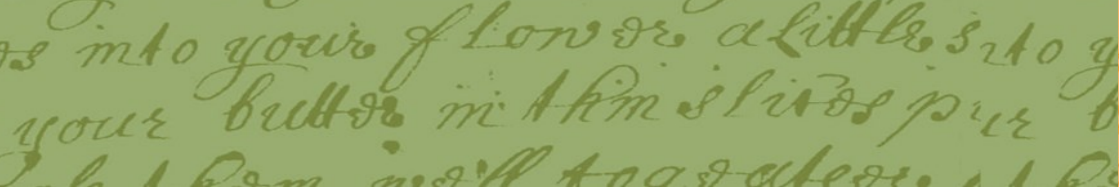
All of these successes can only be achieved and sustained by the hard work and commitment of the Library's excellent staff, encouraged by the support of colleagues in the University, and bolstered by the goodwill of all our supporters.

The Friends of the University Library have been an important part of the Library family for many years, and you have helped us to achieve all of this and more. On behalf of all my colleagues, I would like thank you for your continuing support and we look forward to sharing our successes with you for years to come.

Wayne Connolly

University Librarian





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Library Services News



Comings and goings in the University Library

The 2014/15 academic year has probably been the busiest we've known for Library recruitment. We've said fond farewells to twenty four good friends and colleagues, some moving onwards and upwards to pastures new and some embarking on a new chapter in their lives as ladies and gentlemen of leisure – if I dare say that! Our eight retirees, Sandra Brewis, Helene Farn, Joan Grimley, Joan Jobling, Valerie Nelson, Cliff Spencer, Elaine Wilkes and Sandra Wood account in total for 200 years of loyal and dedicated service and we wish them all the very best in their new ventures.

We've also welcomed thirty-four new faces and, apart from



replacing our leavers, we've introduced some exciting new posts including our Open Access project team, Steve Boneham and Frances Hardcastle, Chris Emmerson our new Research Data Manager and Helen Webster, Head of the Writing Development Centre. Carol Bevan took up post earlier this year as Assistant Librarian (Customer Services) in the Walton Library and Clare Stogden joined the Admin section of the Robinson Library as General Office Manager.

In addition, with the rapid expansion of our Special

Collections section, we recently appointed Project Archivist Rebecca Bradley to catalogue and curate the Pybus Papers and Karen Atkinson to digitise the Trevelyan photographic archives. Extended opening hours have also had an impact on staffing levels and some new posts have been introduced in our Customer Services section. Susan Willcox, previously a Senior Library Assistant, was appointed to the newly created post of Assistant Librarian (Customer Engagement) and Colin Ferguson and James Smith secured two of our additional Library Assistant posts.

Looking ahead, 2015/16 promises to be another busy year when we will be recruiting staff to work in our newly acquired Sandyford Road premises "The Marjorie Robinson Library Rooms" due to open its doors in

January 2016.

We wish all our colleagues, old and new, every success for the future.

Happy developments in the Law Library...

Senior Library Assistant, Cath Dale started her maternity leave on Christmas Eve and we are delighted to announce that her daughter, Lauren Mae, arrived safely on 22nd January, weighing 7lb 1oz.

Marian Rixham is currently on secondment from the Walton Library until September, looking after the Law Library during Cath's maternity leave.

THELMAS—We nearly won one!

We were very proud to learn that our Pop-up Library project [\(more information on page 12\)](#)

was shortlisted for a Times Higher Education Leadership and Management Award (THELMA). A small team went down to the award ceremony in London in June, but although they had a lovely evening, sadly we were pipped at the post by a very strong project led by Cardiff University Library.

Whilst we were naturally disappointed not to win, we were also shortlisted for a THELMA last year for our Digital Memory Project, and we won one in 2011 for our Patron-led e-book project, so we feel proud of the Library's track record in what is a highly competitive category.



And of course there's always next year!

The good news is that the University did not return empty-handed as it not only won "Outstanding Procurement Team", but picked up the main award of the evening for "Outstanding Leadership and Management Team" - a fantastic achievement, especially as this is the second time the University has won this prize.



New Library Space – Marjorie Robinson Library Rooms

With the rise in student recruitment over the past few years and the university's plans for further growth in student numbers over the next five years, the Library has started to feel the strain in terms of study space provision, particularly during the lead up to exam periods. As a short term solution the Library has been able to make use of the University's central campus conferencing facilities in order to provide temporary Pop-Up Libraries during the busiest periods, but this facility is not adequate as a long term solution. In order to maintain the 7.5 student per study seat ratio which helps us to achieve our excellent National Student Survey scores, if the University recruits to its



targets more permanent Library provision is needed to the tune of 760 additional study seats by 2018/19.

Having looked at a number of options in the surrounding areas, the University opted to buy 89 Sandyford Road, the former Pricewaterhouse Coopers (PwC) building located just at the back of the Robinson Library, in order to fulfil Library provision requirements over both the short and long term future.

This incredibly exciting development will see the Library occupy three out of the five floors until 2017/18, when the whole

building will be handed over for Library use. The plan for the first phase sees a café and social learning space, student group work booths, a large academic skills support space on the ground floor, group and individual study space including a number of student bookable rooms and a variety of state-of-the-art study space facilities on the first floor. There will be more traditional silent computer and non-computer study spaces, including a quiet living room style 'space to think' area on the second floor.

During phase one, the two upper floors will be occupied by Professor Patrick Olivier's research team, OpenLab, who have a particular interest in the application of pervasive computing to education. This offers lots of exciting possibilities



for collaboration on new and innovative ideas for future Library provision whilst we are housemates.

The Robinson Library was named in honour of Phillip Robinson from whom the Library received a bequest on his death. When his wife, Marjorie Robinson, died she also left a further very generous legacy and it was felt by the Library that this additional gift should be marked by honouring her memory and using the name "**Marjorie Robinson Library Rooms**".

Work has already started on refurbishing the new building

and the Library plans to take occupation of its new space by December, so that we can be ready to open the doors to students at the beginning of January 2016.

The challenges of managing libraries in older buildings ...

Housing collections in older buildings can be problematic, particularly when you have a library in the basement of a Georgian Terrace. We have honed our disaster management skills in previous years coping with freak floods, so when in April 2014 we were alerted to possible problems with some of the ceilings in the Law Library, we were able to rise to the challenge in a systematic and effective manner.

The Law School building was



closed for preliminary investigations on Friday 4th of April. Pending the results of a full structural survey, we took the decision to move the Law Student Text Collection to the Robinson Library. We also made plans to transfer the rest of the Law book and journal collections to the Robinson if this was required.

As it was concluded that additional work was needed to support the beams and ceilings, we decided to transfer all of the Law bookstock to ensure that students would not be inconvenienced whilst the repair work was carried out. Library staff

worked incredibly hard to create space in the Robinson Library by temporarily transferring over 350 metres of stock from Level 1 compact shelving to our Research Reserve on the Team Valley estate. This enabled us to accommodate 350 metres of the Law book stock. We concluded these two mammoth moves in very short window of time - less than a week!

External contractors and the University Estates Department completed the repair work on schedule in June and we then did everything in reverse to reinstate the Law book stock and return Robinson Library stock from Team Valley. Unexpected situations often arise to test our disaster planning systems, but good planning and a fantastic team effort will ensure a successful outcome.



Popping once, popping twice... a third Pop-Up Library

The Library works hard to ensure an average of one study seat per 7.5 students, finding that this particular level of study space per student is both good value for money and creates excellent levels of student satisfaction. Recently however, unprecedented student recruitment has meant that Library space was at a premium, particularly during the weeks leading up to and during the final term exam study period -



and so the first Pop-Up Library was created.

Using the University's conferencing suite in the middle of campus, 250 study spaces were created alongside 50-seater social study, food and relaxation area. The conferencing facilities lend themselves well to a variety of study area types; one large conference room for silent computer study with printing facilities and a number of smaller rooms for silent non-computer study with, power and wifi, group work with computer, presentation, whiteboard and flipchart facilities for non-silent study.

A high profile and comprehensive marketing strategy ensured that no stone was left unturned by ensuring that staff and students knew about and understood the new facility. The Pop-Up Library opened on the first day of the

2013/14 summer term, as planned, and throughout the course of the term including all weekends and bank holidays. Opening hours were from 8am until 10pm initially, but extended to midnight following feedback from students.

Despite the lack of physical book stock in the Pop-Up Library we were keen to create a library atmosphere; the facility was staffed by both Library and University IT staff from 10am until 4pm every day and outside of these core times the atmosphere and help facilities were maintained by a team of well-trained University Jobs-On-Campus student staff. Six million e-books available on the desktop also helped to refute the notion that this was simply another University cluster.

Regular head counts were taken at

both facilities showing that the Pop-Up Library was well-used from day one, with user numbers showing the facility to be over two thirds full on most days by the end of week one, and a peak headcount of 304 students on the busiest day of the term. Combined peak headcounts of both Robinson and Pop-Up Libraries exceeded Robinson Library study seat capacity on 22 separate days. Feedback captured throughout the project demonstrated that the facility was very well received by both undergraduate and postgraduate students. One student said

"The pop up library is amazing! Thought I was going to have to walk all the way back to my cold student house and use my laptop - but there's loads of extra space and free computers and it's a really good working environment! Best thing to happen on campus for ages!"

Since this first Pop-Up Library we have popped up again during the January exam period and look forward to popping up for the 2015 summer term and exam period before moving into our additional accommodation at 89 Sandyford Road the "Marjorie Robinson Library Rooms"

Library wins Gold!

The Library was assessed earlier this year for our Investors in People reaccreditation. Investors in People (IiP) is a management framework for high performance through people and is recognised across the world as a mark of excellence.

The Library was first accredited with the Investors in People standard in 2005. In November 2011 we achieved the Bronze level of accreditation. Now, following a full-IiP framework

assessment the Library has been awarded the Gold standard, which is the highest level of accreditation and achieved by only 7% of IiP-accredited organisations. We are now only the third University Library in the UK to receive the Gold award.

Thirty-one members of staff were interviewed over the course of the three day assessment, with the assessor asking a really wide range of questions from across the 196 areas covered.

Feedback from the assessment was excellent and in awarding the Library the Gold standard, the assessor commented that the cross-section of staff she interviewed were very happy in the Library and that they felt nurtured, well-developed and engaged with the various activities going on in the workplace, which was really



**INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE**

Gold

good to hear!

Wayne Connolly, University Librarian, said of the award

"The Gold award is a wonderful achievement for the Library. It recognises the investment we make in the development of our staff and our commitment to help all colleagues to reach their fullest potential. It also reflects the commitment shown by everyone who works in the Library to provide the best service they can to the University's students and researchers. Set alongside our excellent student satisfaction ratings, and our Customer Service Excellence awards, the IiP accreditation shows we have a Library the University can be proud of."

*...into your flower a little, so you
put your butter in them, so you
... I'll be well to go to school, I'll be*

Special Events at the Library





Learning from LILAC

The LILAC Conference (Librarians' Information Literacy Annual Conference) is now in its 11th year and this year we were delighted to host it here in Newcastle. Attracting over 300 delegates from 18 different countries, it was a great opportunity to showcase the University and the Library. The conference took place in King's Hall in the Armstrong Building, with over 50 lectures and keynotes around the campus, all with a focus on sharing good practice around helping students to use information more effectively, efficiently and ethically.

We were excited that the first keynote lecture was given by Professor Ray Land from Durham University. Ray is well known for his theory of Threshold Concepts

and Troublesome Knowledge (Meyer and Land, 2003). He believes that knowledge needs to be troublesome, as to move on in learning you may need to let go of existing notions. If there is no emotional investment, there is no learning. Central to Ray's theory is the concept of liminality, the state of being on a threshold and he describes learning as a journey in which we are constantly moving into new liminal spaces across learning thresholds. These ideas are very relevant to how we develop information literate students and we'll be considering how we can better integrate them into our approaches to teaching students in the library in future. We also learned from other keynote speakers what the TUC is doing with its project UnionLearn and



what is currently happening in the USA. If you'd like to know more about Ray's talk and many of the other workshops, you'll find recordings and slides on the LILAC Conference website:

www.lilacconference.com/WP/past-conferences/lilac-2015

Newcastle Library staff were central to the success of the LILAC conference in many and varied ways, contributing a very popular Geordie quiz, historic strolls around the city, quayside runs for the fittest delegates, library tours, conference reception, cloakroom (not an easy task as we discovered!), campus guides, workshop runners, signposting and guiding, moving stuff around the campus, finding equipment, giving workshops, booking bands, tasting sample foods, being friendly and welcoming, answering a wide range of queries



and much more! Here is what the delegates thought of us via Twitter #lilac15:

"Always a great conference but this year made me think differently too. Huge thanks to LILAC Committee and fab local volunteers!"
@msnancygraham

"Thanks for a super conference...I had such a great time. Fab speakers, catering & the volunteers were brilliant." *@Jo_Bo_Anderson*

"Fab, fun and food for thought as #lilac15 draws to a close. Thanks to organisers and the lovely Newcastle Librarians" *@BarbaraSakarya*

Meyer, E. and Land, R. (2003) Threshold concepts and troublesome knowledge: linkages to ways of thinking and practising within the disciplines. Edinburgh. [Online]. Available at: www.ed.ac.uk/etl/docs/ETLreport4.pdf. (MB 20.4.15)

Visitor from Sweden

In April, the Library hosted a visit from a Swedish Librarian.

Therese Erixon, from Umea University Library, wanted to learn more about our customer care as well as our approaches to using social media and the ways in which we teach information literacy skills.

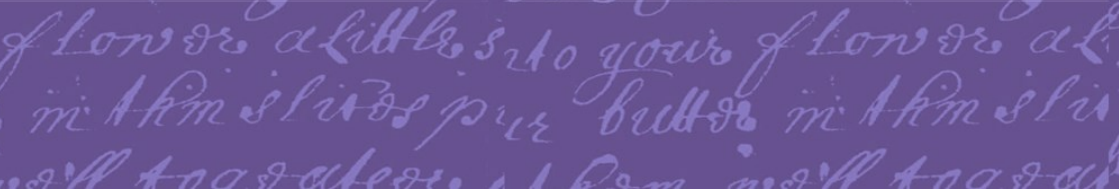
Most interesting for staff here was the talk Therese gave us about her own university, reflecting on the similarities and differences between our two libraries. We learned about the tradition of "nailing the thesis", when candidates for PhD must physically nail a copy of their thesis to a board in the library to solicit public feedback before their final viva. There is even an example of a research supervisor singing to his student during a nailing ceremony available on



YouTube: https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=ONuJ2_8z6PI

Unlike our library, Umea University Library allows the public to hold library cards; as a public deposit library they hold copies of most Swedish publications (although they don't keep Ikea catalogues!) so there is a very large reference collection. We were also interested to see the different kinds of study spaces and furniture design, useful to give us ideas for our own library development.

At night in Umea it's common to



see the Northern Lights, so Therese left us with a beautiful photo of the lights above the library building.



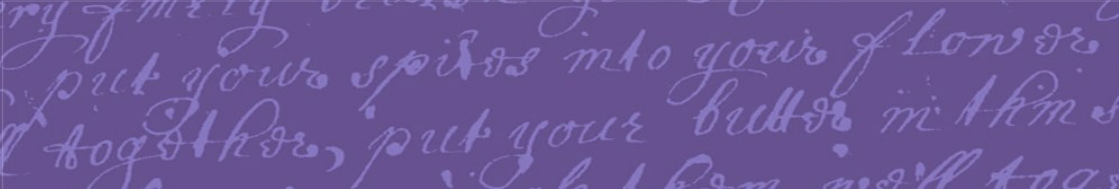
Scattered Memories, Shared Heritage: The University Archives Project

One of the most interesting but often overlooked collections within our archival holdings is the material which tells the story of Newcastle University itself. For the last two years, we have been running a project to define and review the contents of our University Archives whilst also



engaging with Academic Schools and Offices all around the University to discover what resources they hold that help to tell the story of Newcastle University from its Medical School origins in the back rooms of local Barber Surgeons in 1834 to the major research intensive University that we know today.

We now have a much clearer picture of what the combined University Archives consist of. Exciting discoveries have included correspondence and photographs relating to Martin Luther King's Honorary Doctorate in 1967, official wax seals used by Chemistry in the



late 19th Century, a medical student's diary from 1879, the entire archive of Henderson Hall student accommodation from the late 1950s and the archive of Architect Jack Lynn; who was responsible for most of the building development on the campus in the 1970s.

We have also started to digitise over 2000 photographs held within the archive, spanning over 90 years of campus life, as well as the entire archive of the student newspaper "[The Courier](#)" from its inception in 1948. Both these resources will be searchable online - the first tranche of photographs are already available from our dedicated CollectionsCaptured interface - www.ncl.ac.uk/library/special-collections/digital-resources/

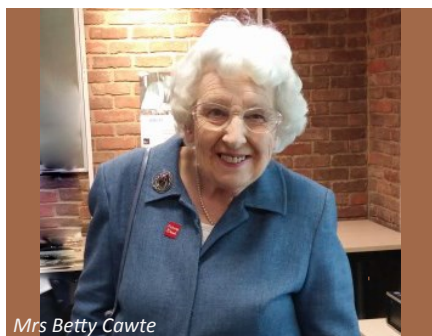
Through this work, Special Collections has established

valuable new links with colleagues elsewhere in the University who are interested in archival material and our collections have featured in two Alumni newsletters as well as the forthcoming issue of the Alumni magazine, "[Arches](#)". As well as providing material for our Press Office in response to national media interest in occasions such as the anniversary of Martin Luther King receiving his honorary degree, the digitised photographs are now regularly used by the University's social media channels for their popular '[Throwback Thursday](#)' features. Thus far, the most popular one is an image of Professor Stephen Hawking receiving his honorary degree, which has been viewed by 62,368 people to date!

In June, we were delighted to be invited to participate in the Convocation Weekend for Alumni



of the University. We laid on a wide range of material highlighting student life across the decades and received extremely positive feedback from the delegates who attended. In fact the only complaint was that they wanted to see more of the archive, so we will bear that in mind for next year.



Mrs Betty Cawte

We found that one of our visiting alumni has a very special link with the library: Mrs Betty Cawte is the great niece of Miss Mary Jamieson, who we believe to have been the first Librarian of what was then the Durham College of Science. She held the post from

1894 until her death in 1913.



Miss Mary Jamieson

Hollywood Comes to the Library

Special Collections are used to receiving enquiries from a wide range of researchers in the UK and abroad. This is particularly true of one of our most heavily used and prestigious archives, the Gertrude Bell papers. Earlier this year, we became aware that a film entitled "*Queen of the Desert*", directed by renowned filmmaker Werner Herzog was in development, starring Nicole Kidman as Gertrude and we wondered if the film would generate any research

enquiries.

Thus we were delighted to be contacted by Damian Lewis, best known for his starring roles in television programmes *Band of Brothers*, *Homeland*, and most recently as Henry VIII in *Wolf Hall*. Lewis plays the role of Lieutenant Charles Doughty-Wylie - a married officer and lover of Bell who was said to have had a profound influence over her. In preparing for the role, Damian was eager to read the correspondence between the two, which ended when Doughty-Wylie died at the Battle of Gallipoli on 26th April 1915.

Damian visited us and consulted the letters in January 2014. He was a model researcher and was also happy to pose for a photograph with Archivist (and huge fan!) Geraldine Hunwick. With his blessing, we shared the



news of his visit with our Press Office after he left. The resulting interest was quite staggering, with local and national newspapers and media outlets picking up on the story and following up with requests for interviews and more information on Gertrude and the collection.

The Press Office commented that it was amongst the most popular stories they had ever run, garnering over 1,000 'likes' on Facebook. The Library also owns part of Gertrude Bell's working library, which she took on her travels and which she sometimes annotated. 17 items relating to

Persia were loaned to the film production company as set dressing.

The film also generated interest from Al Jazeera TV, who visited Special Collections to film an interview with Dr Mark Jackson (Newcastle University, School of History, Classics and Archaeology) on the subject of Gertrude Bell for a long feature in its correspondents programme. Letters, diary entries and photographs from the archive featured heavily in the interview.

More recently, Gertrude Bell's story was brought to life in the *BBC's Inside Out North East and Cumbria* programme. Helen Berry, Professor of British History, was interviewed by Dr Mark Jackson as they examined items from the archive. Candid views on Gertrude Bell and her legacy

from three Iraqi postgraduate students reminded viewers that she remains a figure of great interest and controversy almost 90 years after her death.



"Queen of the Desert" is now out on global release, having premiered at the Berlin Film Festival in February 2015.

Special Collections have launched various activities to coincide with this, including making transcriptions of the Doughty-Wylie letters available

online for the first time and an Autumn exhibition on Bell; particularly her experiences during the First World War.

Co-curate: a major new project working with researchers and schoolchildren

In January 2015, children from Cambo First School in Northumberland visited the Robinson Library as part of the launch of the Co-Curate North East Project, a major new research project led by researchers from Heritage Studies and Education and Learning Technology at Newcastle University. The project is funded by the Arts & Humanities Research Council, (AHRC) and is intended to bring together school and community groups to develop and share new stories from and about the



heritage of the North East through the medium of the Co-Curate website: co-curate.ncl.ac.uk. Co-Curate North East is one of 11 projects funded under the £4m Capital Funding Call for Digital Transformations in Community Research Co-Production in the Arts & Humanities.

During their Library visit, the children, aged between 4 and 9 years old, viewed the original Trevelyan family photograph albums, which they used as the inspiration for their own creative outputs. They worked on their



album back at school with support from our Education Outreach team, who visited the school in February to deliver a programme of activities inspired by scenes in the albums.

Cambo First School's Victorian scrapbook, 'Our Wallington', was inspired by the family memorabilia contained within the Trevelyan family photograph and ephemera albums, compiled by Sir Charles Philips Trevelyan and his wife Molly from the 1890s to the mid-1900s. The children's work focused on Victorian entertainment and the album tells the story of what the children did during this project, including visiting the Robinson Library, having a Victorian Day at school, interviewing experts on the Trevelyan family and orienteering on the Wallington Estate, before going on to



showcase each child's work.

The finished album was presented to the children and staff of Cambo First School at a celebratory assembly, also attended by parents, on 13th March. A digital version, which includes audio clips of the children interviewing the experts and sharing their views on the project is available to view online via the education outreach pages of the library website:

www.ncl.ac.uk/library/services/education-outreach/ and also the Co-Curate website: <https://co-curate.ncl.ac.uk>

As you can see from the photos

it was also Comic Relief Day and the children had to come in fancy dress and paint their faces!

Sara Bird and Gillian Johnston delivered a short presentation about the project at the Co-Curate North-East End of Project Celebration and Learning Day on 17th March and spoke about it at a CfLaT (Centre for Learning and Teaching) research tea in May.

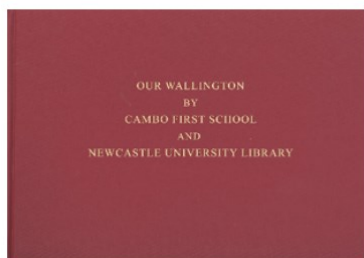
We'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been

welcome during their visit to the library, to the web team for their help in developing the online materials. Special thanks must go to Rachel Hill, who supported the taught sessions with the children and helped compile the Victorian scrapbook, and to Mick Sharp who digitised the photographs and produced the digital version of the album which, we think you will agree, looks fantastic!

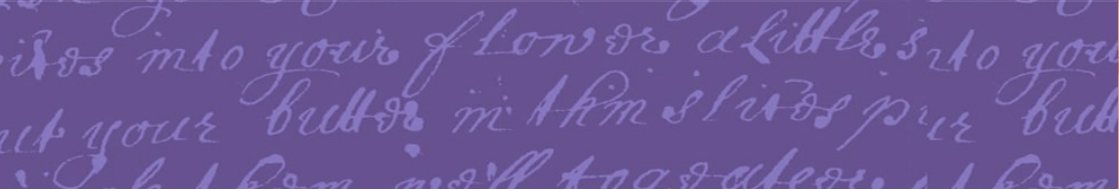
Flambard Poetry Prize

The prize was set up in recognition of the achievements of Flambard Press and the inspiration of its founders Margaret and Peter Lewis. Between 1990 and 2012, Flambard Press published an acclaimed range of poetry and fiction and helped to nurture many emergent and established writers regionally and nationally. It was recognised as one of the finest small

Cambo First School album



involved in this project, from the staff in Print Services who produced the album, to everyone who made the children feel so



independent presses in the UK. When the press closed, Margaret and Peter generously donated the Archive to the Library. In honour of this gift, the Friends of the University Library agreed to sponsor an annual poetry prize.

The first competition was launched in the Autumn 2014 and was judged by Peter Bennett and Gladys Mary Coles. The competition attracted an excellent field and it was delightful to hear some of the winning poems read aloud by the authors at the award ceremony.

The winner of the 2014 Flambard

Poetry prize was Alice Allen and the runner-up was Kathleen Bainbridge.

Copies of the prize winning entries, together with examples from all shortlisted poets will be available at the AGM on 15th July.

Details of the 2015 competition are on page 38.



Alice Allen inaugural winner

Past Exhibitions and Events



The Armstrong Memorial Digital Memory Book Launch Event

On Tuesday 14 January 2014 the Armstrong Memorial Digital Memory Book was officially launched at an event held in the Armstrong Building and attended by university staff, students, local secondary school teachers and other invited guests.

The Digital Memory Book, which commemorates the lives of over 220 members of Armstrong College who lost their lives in the First World War and whose names are inscribed on the commemorative plaque in the Armstrong Building, is the product of three years' work by Archaeology staff and students in collaboration with Newcastle University Library.



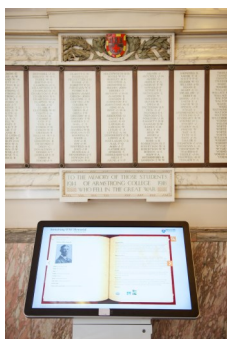
Teachers who attended the launch event were told about our Schools' Project in which local secondary school pupils were invited to help us research some of the individuals on the memorial about whom we did not yet have information. They were also given a copy of a teacher's pack we developed about the memorial and the role played by Armstrong College during the First World War.

Scott Bradley developed the digital memory book interface and we would like to say a huge thank you to him. However, many other library staff also contributed to

this project in various ways. This work included carrying out research, entering data into the database from which the memory book draws its information, taking photographs of local war memorials for the teacher's pack, loaning and moving equipment for the launch event and attending the event itself.

You can browse the memory book here: memorial.ncl.ac.uk/

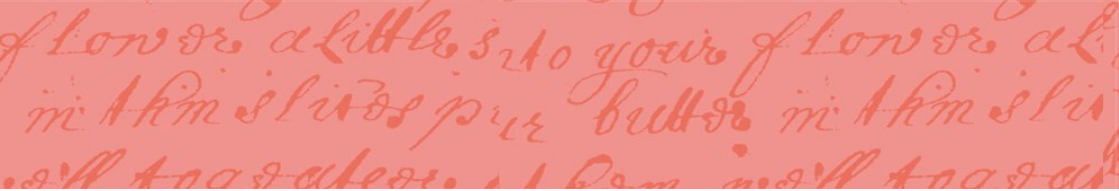
Please let us know what you think of it by contacting the Special Collections team ([contact details on page 42](#))



Making Our Archives Public: Special Collections Projects

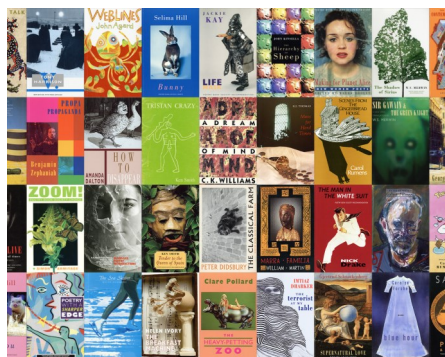
2013 marked a significant year for our literary archives with two major acquisitions attracting external funding to make them accessible through dedicated projects.

Described by Lee Hall as 'easily the most important post-War North Eastern writer', we have held the archive of celebrated writer Sid Chaplin since 1997. Given our existing strengths in this area and the unique network of cultural life they expose to



readers, we were delighted when distinguished writer of stage, screen, radio and prose, Michael Chaplin donated his archive to the library in early 2013. As well as being a continued critical and commercial success in these mediums, Michael's own focus on his North East heritage through his narratives offer a fascinating juxtaposition with his father Sid's work.

We were extremely keen to bring these collections to a wider audience, and this was made possible by The National Archives, who awarded us a National Cataloguing Grant to make both collections available to modern audiences via the web for the first time. We have recently completed the Sid Chaplin Archive and our Senior Archives Assistant, Rachel Hill, has begun cataloguing of the Michael Chaplin Collection.



Another major acquisition in 2013 sparked Special Collections' biggest and most ambitious project to date. Internationally renowned poetry publisher Bloodaxe Books, formed in Newcastle in 1978 by editor Neil Astley, deposited their archives with us in partnership with the Newcastle Centre for Literary Arts (NCLA). Professor Linda Anderson, Head of NCLA, shared our vision to make these unique insights into the relationship between poets and editors accessible for researchers in this field. Bloodaxe writers have won virtually every major poetry award

and the archive represents a major research resource.

The '**Poetics of the Archive**' a high profile, AHRC funded project, led by Professor Linda Anderson from the School of English, has enabled us to catalogue the archive whilst also delivering an innovative interface where users can explore the archives and responses to them in dynamic and interactive ways - see bloodaxe.ncl.ac.uk/.

Hard on the heels of this success, we were also awarded a Wellcome Trust grant in 2014 to catalogue the Pybus Papers; the personal and professional archive of celebrated medic and book collector Professor Frederic Pybus.

As well as being a companion to our prestigious history of medicine rare book collection

accumulated by Pybus, the papers offer a fascinating insight into his pioneering cancer research activity,



Special Collections Exhibitions

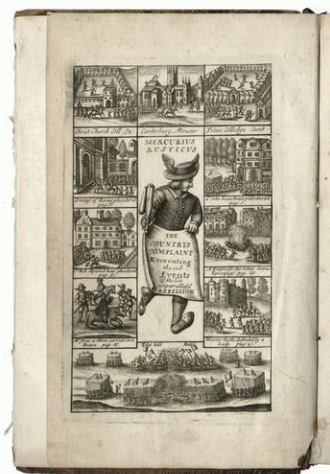
The Special Collections team continue to provide an interesting and varied exhibition programme throughout the year, reflecting on completed projects, celebrating new acquisitions or commemorating important anniversaries.

Drawing on the research of Robinson Bequest Student, Amy Shields, in early 2014 we ran an exhibition to highlight our rare **English Civil War Tracts**, exploring the general context to the outbreak of war before focusing on Newcastle – personalities like William Cavendish (Governor of Newcastle), the coal trade, and the siege.

The Civil War tracts will be the subject of further activity in 2015/16 when our Educational



Outreach team embark upon an exciting new project to create online teaching resources for schools inspired by these unique resources.



In Spring 2014, we delivered a gloriously colourful exhibition on the subject of **James Gillray and the Art of Derision**. This exhibition celebrated the satirical art of cartoonist James Gillray (1756 - 1815). Sharp, rude, and often somewhat crude, his depictions of Georgian politics and society were explained through his prints, and further illuminated through a Friends talk.



Our 2014 Autumn exhibition was the first in a planned series to commemorate the centenary of the First World War. **A Higher**

Purpose: Newcastle University at War highlighted many of the University's buildings which were requisitioned to become part of a military hospital whilst also commemorating the sacrifice made by many of its staff and students. A Friends talk in December further developed this theme, using unique photographs of many familiar buildings and interiors as they were during the war, and comparing them with how they are today. The Friends talk also highlighted some of the individual members of staff and students whom we researched as part of our project to create a digital memory book to commemorate the list of the fallen on the marble memorial in the Armstrong Building.

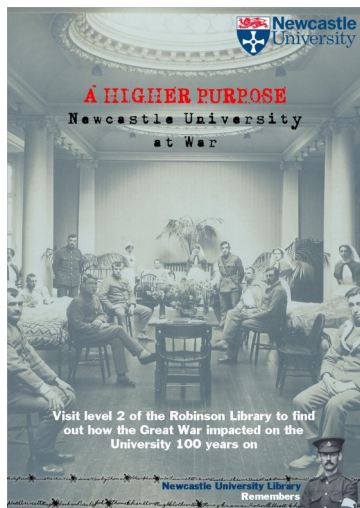
We celebrated the arrival of Spring 2015 with an exhibition

entitled "Here be Treasure"

featuring some of the Special Collections Team's favourite items from our popular Treasures of the Month feature. This included such diverse items as fragments of Napoleon's flag from his time in exile on St Helena to material celebrating the Spennymoor Settlement and images of Japanese Paper Balloon bombs.

The exhibition was also enhanced by a Friends talk. The complete collection of the "Here be Treasure" monthly treasures can be viewed online at:

www.ncl.ac.uk/library/special-collections/exhibitions/treasure/treasure-map.php





Special Collections— Bloodaxe Poetry Archive

Our current exhibition celebrates the completion of cataloguing of the Bloodaxe Poetry Archive, which we undertook as part of a highly successful AHRC-funded research project, The Poetics of the Archive, led by Professor Linda Anderson from the School of English.



Flambard Poetry Competition

The 2015 competition is now open! ([information about the 2014 Flambard poetry prize is on page 28](#)). The deadline for entries is **1st September 2015**.

Full details of this year's competition and how to enter are available at www.ncl.ac.uk/ncla/competitions/flambard

The entries will be judged by Cynthia Fuller and Jacob Polley. We look forward to hearing the results in due course!



Information for our Friends old and new





Your Friends of the University Library membership

In return for your membership fee, you can enjoy participation in an engaging programme of events including:

- Lectures and talks on our celebrated rare books and archival holdings, as well as prominent guest speakers
- Private guided tours of the Library and its collections
- Access to our exhibitions and exclusive accompanying talks
- Invitation to the Friends' Annual General Meeting
- Updates via the Friends' newsletter and blog
- Priority announcements of any volunteering opportunities

Becoming a member

Membership of the Friends is open to anyone with an interest in the Library, and is a fantastic way for our alumni and former staff to stay connected with the institution and its activities.

If you would like to become a member of the Friends of the University Library there is an **application form on page 43** of this booklet, or you can download a copy of the form from our new website: friends.ncl.ac.uk. You can pay by annual subscription (currently £12 per annum) or you can become a lifetime member for a one-off fee (currently £150).

Coming Soon! New Website

We will soon be launching our new Friends website. This website will contain information about all of our events, publications and general information we think you'll find useful.

Friends' events over the last year

"Satirical cartoons—James Gillray: The art of derision" presented by Ian Johnson - May 2014

"Re-tracing Sid Chaplin's "the Lakes to Tyneside"" presented by Michael Chaplin at the AGM July 2014

"A Higher Purpose: Newcastle University at War" presented by Ian Johnson—December 2014

"Here be Treasure" presented by Kim Gaiger and Rachel Hill— May 2015

"Bloodaxe Books: Poetics of the Archive" presented by Linda Anderson at the AGM July 2015

Forthcoming Friends' events.

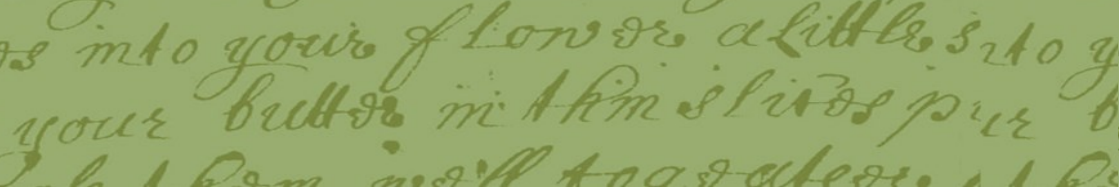
■ Friends Website re-Launch

Venue: Robinson Library

■ 2015 Flambard Prize award night—Autumn 2015

Venue: TBC

More details and information on further events will sent to all members when available as well as published on our new website: friends.ncl.ac.uk



Contact Details

Friends Membership & Events Enquiries:

Email: lib-friends@ncl.ac.uk

Telephone: 0191 208 7651

Special Collection Exhibitions and Events:

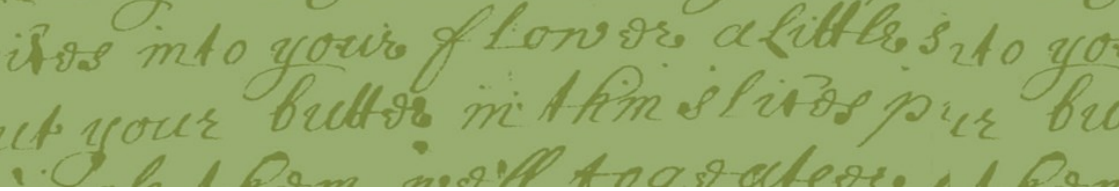
Email: lib-speccoll@ncl.ac.uk

Telephone: 0191 208 7112

General Library Enquiries

Email: libraryhelp@ncl.ac.uk

Telephone: 0191 208 7662



Friends of the University Library



Name

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(including
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Email

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If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

Please complete the form and send it, together with a cheque for the relevant amount made out to 'Robinson Library, Newcastle University', to:

Jill Taylor-Roe, Deputy Librarian, Robinson Library, Jesmond Road West,
Newcastle University, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4HQ

g/admin/friends/friendsmembershipform

Tel: 0191 208 7662
Email: lib-friends@ncl.ac.uk
Web: friends.ncl.ac.uk



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