“REBELS WITH A CAUSE”
MAKE HISTORY IN SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

A groundbreaking display of scarcely seen Scottish history from the University of Aberdeen’s collections is on show at the Scottish Parliament until January 2011 in a major new exhibition titled Rebels with a Cause: The Jacobites and the Global Imagination, to which FAUL has contributed £2500.

This free exhibition has been curated in partnership between the Scottish Parliament and a hardworking team of Special Collections staff at the University, co-ordinated by Siobhan Convery, University Archivist & Head of Special Libraries & Archives, and is the first of its kind to be displayed in the prestigious parliament building. After its expedition to Edinburgh, the exhibition will go on display at the University of Aberdeen’s landmark new library which opens in September 2011.

The display draws upon internationally significant material kept in the University’s exceptional Collections of documents and artefacts from this tumultuous time in Scottish political history. Included are rare engravings, portraits and letters, a Jacobite recruitment slip and songbook, a letter written by Bonnie Prince Charlie while in exile, a first edition of Sir Walter Scott’s novel Waverley and a selection of 20th century Rob Roy comics. One of the rarest artefacts is an ostrich egg carved with secret Jacobite symbols made in memory of the death of James VIII and III. The exhibition also delves into the lives of figures such as Flora MacDonald and Hugh Mercer and highlights the enduring impact of the Jacobites on Scottish history, literature, culture, art and music.

Presiding Officer Alex Fergusson MSP expressed his support, saying:

“I am delighted the Scottish Parliament has this opportunity to work with the University of Aberdeen in developing and showcasing this prestigious exhibition which features some fascinating and rarely seen artefacts of great importance. I hope that people will come and visit this exhibition to learn more about the Jacobites and the hugely significant role they played in Scots history”.

Principal and Vice-Chancellor of University of Aberdeen, Professor Ian Diamond, added:

“Aberdeen is the first University to partner with the Parliament in this way since devolution. We are thrilled that policy makers and audiences from around the world will be able to experience some of the richness of our fine collections in the impressive setting of Scotland’s parliament.”

With special thanks to THE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM and HEADLINES (the Library & Historic Collections online magazine) for articles.
Global shipping and energy services firm the Craig Group, and the Craig family have announced a donation of £1 million towards the state-of-the-art library building.

The money will go towards the creation of the top floor of the new library which is due to be opened in September 2011. It will be named the Craig Floor, within which will be the David Craig Suite, in memory of Craig Group chairman, David Craig, who passed away in April this year.

The Craig Floor will have stunning views across the North Sea where David Craig spent much of his young working life and which forms a rich part of the Craig Group’s heritage. It will also afford spectacular views to the centrepiece of the new structure, the inner atrium, which leads directly to the top floor. The Craig Floor will house the University’s renowned divinity and philosophy collections which will be used to support some of the UK’s top research academics in these fields that are based at the campus.

The David Craig Suite of the new library will house a series of flexible conference and seminar rooms and will be used for University and student events as well as being made available to the wider business community for meetings and informal evening receptions. Commenting on the donation and the benefits the new building will bring to the University and the wider community, managing director and Chairman - Douglas Craig, said: “We are delighted to contribute to this magnificent new building which will be an impressive legacy for the whole community for many generations to come...Overlooking the North Sea, the seventh floor will have amazing views and it is fitting that it will be in memory and honour of my father David who pioneered fishing in the North Sea, both as a skipper and then at the helm of the group for more than 70 years. ...The North Sea and the communities of the North east continue to be the bedrock of the organisation’s business interests and are central to the continued success of the group. David Craig will be long-remembered for his strong Christian faith and it is therefore also fitting that the University’s exceptional Divinity collection be housed on this floor.”

The Craig Group family has strong ties with Aberdeen University as the current Chairman Douglas Craig completed his undergraduate studies in accountancy and political economics at the campus. Former Chairman David Craig was recognised by the University three years ago for his services to the local business community and awarded an Honorary Doctorate.

Professor Ian Diamond, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, University of Aberdeen said: “We are honoured and extremely grateful that Douglas has chosen our new University library to make a lasting tribute to his late father David who was such an inspirational figure not only in the industry but across the North-east. The history of the University is inextricably linked with that of the City and the North Sea, as is the history of the Craig family and growth of the Craig Group. It is very fitting that the top floor of our new library will bear the Craig name — offering stunning views over the sea that has shaped our common histories, and recognising our proud links with local industry and enterprise.”
The Friends of Aberdeen University Library have been able to donate two significant gifts totalling over £260,000 in support of the new Library and Special Collections Centre, which will open in under a year.

A first gift of £200,000 has been made towards the construction of the new building. This will be recognised in a dedicated Friends of the Library Room, which will provide a space for collaborative study between students and allow staff and volunteers to work with the University’s precious historic books and archives. This area will be adjacent to the Reading Room, which as the centrepiece of the Special Collections Centre will form a part of the building’s facilities for the in-depth study of the University’s unique archival holdings, which, for the first time, will be housed in purpose-built environmentally controlled conditions to help preserve the many fragile books and documents, as well as inviting the whole community to engage with the collections’ educational programming, exhibitions and volunteer opportunities.

The gift was made possible not only through the many recurring subscriptions and donations made to the Friends, for which we extend our grateful thanks, but also through two generous legacies from previous long-term supporters of the University:

**The Keith Bequest**
From the estate of Lewella Keith and her late husband Dr Alexander Keith. Dr Keith graduated from Aberdeen with an MA in English in 1916 before beginning a long and varied career with interests as an author, local songs and ballads. He also gifted his collection of 4,000 books to the University.

**Fred Murray**
The late Fred Murray graduated in English from Aberdeen in 1969 and was a prominent figure in the annual student show during his years of study. He worked at the Queen Mother Library for almost 25 years prior to his retirement in 2001.

A further contribution from the Friends of more than £60,000 has been made specifically towards the provision of community-focused learning activities in the new building.

**Roy Thomson**
This second gift has been made in memory of the late Roy H. Thomson, who as an Aberdeen graduate and long-term supporter of the Library was a member of the Friends for 36 years and Chair of their Executive Committee for 23 years. The Library’s comprehensive public engagement programme, which will incorporate exhibitions, events, talks and school activities, will benefit from this gift by allowing additional staff and resources to be directed to increase community access to these treasures.

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Graham Hunter, current Chairman of The Friends of Aberdeen University Library and voluntary archivist at the University, extends our gratitude to all those who have made the gift possible:

“The Friends have been able to make these two gifts thanks to the generosity of Lewella and Alexander Keith, Fred Murray and contributions made by our many members. We all owe Roy a great debt and so we are honoured to be able to make this gift in recognition of his significant and long-term commitment to the University and its Library. With Roy’s passing late last year, the Friends have lost a valued Chairman and the University has lost a close friend. We are pleased to be supporting the construction of the new building to provide the most modern learning and research environment to students and staff and also the provision of public activities which will help the University share its precious collections with the community.”

Professor Christopher Gane, Vice-Principal and academic lead for the Library project, summed up the University’s delight at the donations:

“While our fundraising campaign has achieved great success in securing gifts from all over the globe, the generosity of our closest friends and supporters is vital if we are to achieve our vision for the new Library. We are very fortunate and extremely grateful to the Friends for their contribution. We will be delighted to offer an enduring recognition of their generosity through the creation of the Friends of the Library Room in the Special Collections.”
Earlier this year two significant bequests from Aberdeen Alumni brought us closer still to our fundraising total for the new library. A sum totalling six-figures was gifted to the University by the late Dr Harold Watt, a graduate and former Director of Aberdeen University Press and a former member of the University Court, and the late Hunter Caldwell, who was another long-standing supporter of the University.

Dr Harold Watt’s gift to the University acknowledges his lifelong affinity with the institution and will be recognised through the naming of a dedicated study area in the new library. The Watt family’s affiliation with the University goes back generations — his father, uncle, brothers, cousins and daughter also studied at Aberdeen.

Dr Watt’s wife Muriel said: “My husband had the good fortune to be a University of Aberdeen graduate, and was lucky to both live and work in the city, on the doorstep of his old University. He enjoyed his working connections with the University and, therefore, wanted to be able to recognise this by making provision for the institution in his will. I am delighted that part of the University’s new library will be named to recognise the Watt family.”

The donation from the estate of Hunter Caldwell, a long-standing supporter of the University, will also support a dedicated study area in the new library, to be named in his honour. David Allen, Mr Caldwell’s nephew, said: “My uncle hugely valued the education he received at the University of Aberdeen and felt privileged to have had that opportunity. He wanted to put something back in the system so that others could be afforded a similar advantage.”

Welcoming this support towards the new library Professor Christopher Gane, Vice Principal for Culture and Communities, said:

“The donations from Dr Harold Watt and Hunter Caldwell will provide a significant boost for our ambitious plans for the new library, enabling us to create a wonderful environment in which students, staff and the wider community can enjoy the rich collection housed in the facility. This magnificent building symbolises all that we hope to achieve in the sixth century of our great University. But, these aims will not be realised without the support of people who share them, people from all walks of life who feel a connection with Aberdeen and are united in the belief that we must never stop pushing the frontiers of knowledge. Over 3,000 individuals, companies and foundations have already made gifts towards the project, and we are extremely grateful to each and every one of them.”

Aberdeen Harbour Board have made a generous donation of £170,000 towards the new Photography Archive Room in the Special Collections Centre of the University’s new library. This gift will facilitate the re-housing and cataloguing of the University’s extensive photographic collections and will enable them to be stored in environmentally controlled stores, and allow them to be accessed by local, national and international audiences for the first time.

The Aberdeen Harbour Photographic Collection contains more than 6,000 glass plate negatives dating from the 1880s to the 1930s and includes images of Aberdeen harbour, the city of Aberdeen and the surrounding area which offer a unique perspective on the city’s economic and social history over a key period that saw the launch of the first steam trawler in 1883, the dawning of the deep sea fishing industry, the economic impact of World War I and the infrastructure developments that laid the shape of today’s harbour. The photographs, which record notable events in the history of the port, were taken by the Board’s engineering staff.
Another fascinating series of Museum Evening Lectures are on offer to all, many of which are free to attend. Aberdeen University invites you to come along and learn from the experts on a huge range of topics to fuel the imagination and bring the Museum’s internationally significant collections to life. Learn about treasure troves, burial rituals, scholarly life in the ancient world, bird songs, Scottish music and dance or the incredible life of Casanova, as well as many, many more intriguing topics which are open to you to explore, thanks to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, the University's Elphinstone Institute, Egyptology Scotland, the Old Aberdeen Heritage Society, the Aberdeen Scottish-Hellenic Society, and of course you, the Friends of Aberdeen University Library who all contribute to the organisation of these extraordinary events. The eclectic programme kicked off in September and lectures are scheduled to continue all through the Academic year up to June 2011, generally held on Tuesdays at 7:30pm in venues on the Old Aberdeen campus. Come along and see what treasures our Museums have to share!

For the full programme pick up a leaflet on campus or visit the website at http://www.abdn.ac.uk/marischal_museum/lectures.shtml

NEW HOME FOR MARISCHAL MUSEUM

A new home for the Marischal Museum’s exceptional collections has been secured at the heart of King’s College campus. Work has begun to redevelop the former Clydesdale Bank building on the High Street as an exhibition and teaching space, expected to open to the public in early 2011. The extraordinary objects in the museum’s care were awarded the status of Recognised Collections of National Significance last year and this new project has been made possible by an award of £85,000 from Museums Galleries Scotland which was allocated as a share of capital funding to improve visitor experiences to these recognised collections.

Dr Alan Knox, recently retired Head of the University's museums, said:

“This award will help us create an exciting cultural space for everyone in the centre of Old Aberdeen. We will have a temporary exhibition gallery, a display highlighting some of our outstanding collections and an education space for schools. This is a great opportunity to bring our nationally-important collections more effectively to the university and the wider community.”

Neil Curtis, new Head of Museums explains further:

“The idea is to have an exhibition venue on the campus with two purposes. One is to open up collections to the public a bit more. The second is to make the museum collections more accessible to staff and students. The exhibitions are going to be changing so there will be different collections each year”.

Dr Alan Knox has recently authored a book, with co-writer David T. Parkin, on his specialism of ornithology, which the RSPB ‘Birds’ magazine reviewed as “an up-to-date, comprehensive and detailed compilation “ calling it “an excellent reference book”. We wish Alan all the best with his retirement and his ongoing interests and projects.

The Status of Birds in Britain and Ireland, £50, A&C Black.
ISBN 978 1 40812500 7
HOW SCOTT IS YOUR SCOTLAND?

Dr. Hazel Hutchison, lecturer in English at the University and Friend of the Library, tells us about a previous Friend’s event, and reveals some of the extraordinary research and resources on the great man.

If you thought you knew about Walter Scott, think again. Scott is most famous now as the author of the Waverley Novels, but during his life he was much better known as a poet. He published his fiction anonymously, keeping readers guessing about his identity for years. However, Scott put his own name to his poems, and many of these, such as ‘The Lady of the Lake’ (1810), shaped the British Romantic movement, and inspired well-read tourists from far and wide to search out the beauties of the rugged Scottish landscape.

Dr Alison Lumsden of the English Department of the University of Aberdeen knows more about Scott than most people. Her career has included extensive work on editing Scott, playing a leading role in the Edinburgh Edition of the Waverley Novels. She is now a General Editor of the Edinburgh Edition and co-director of the University of Aberdeen's Walter Scott Research Centre. Her talk to the Friends of the Aberdeen University Library on 27 May 2010 offered a glimpse into the workings of her new project: a scholarly edition of Scott’s poetry for Edinburgh University Press, funded in part by the Carnegie Trust.

Despite its title, the Edinburgh Edition of Scott’s work is based at the University of Aberdeen, which not only has a longstanding tradition of research expertise on Scott’s work, but which also boasts an outstanding archive resource of Scott-related material. The Bernard C. Lloyd Collection was bought in 2002 with a grant of £209,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund. It contains printed editions, reviews and criticism, biographies and other spin-offs from Scott’s writings, such as plays, operas, chapbooks, even graphic novels based on his tales. As Dr Lumsden explained, this material demonstrates ‘the cultural aftermath of Scott’s work’, showing his impact on readers and audiences of different classes and generations. The Lloyd Collection is also a vital resource to editors of Scott’s work, providing a window into the cultural climate of his world and his target market.

But this project is not all about the past. As Dr Lumsden argued, Scott is still a strong presence in the life of the Scottish nation. Indeed his work has, over the centuries, played a key role in shaping how Scots think about themselves and the landscape in which they live. While he has at times been blamed for establishing some of the myths of Scottish culture, such as the glamorization of poverty in the Highlands, Scott was highly aware of the politics of national identity. By closely studying his poems, with their complex layers of narrative voices and contrasting characters, we can better understand how our cultural identity is constructed through the stories which we tell ourselves about our past.

The first volume of poetry in the new edition will be published in 2014, when the International Walter Scott Conference will be held at the University of Aberdeen.
Friends of the University Library - Autumn Talk

FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY - AUTUMN TALK

(part of the Museum Lecture Series)

Friends were treated to a soirée of siege weaponry at the recent FAUL event! On Tuesday 16th November. Professor Howard W. Chandler from the School of Engineering presented an intriguing overview of one of the ‘Fearsome Engines’ that will form one of the newly coordinated ‘Sixth Century’ courses on offer to students. These new courses, which are part of the extensive programme of curriculum reform, aim to address a vast scope of subjects relevant to life in the 21st century, giving opportunities to study topics from a modern maelstrom of topics such as ‘Digital Society’, ‘The Mind Machine’, ‘Health and Wealth of Nations’ and ‘Mankind in the Universe’, as well as the eponymous ‘Fearsome Engines’.

This course has been designed to address a host of technological leaps which have had a fundamental impact on the course of history and civilization: the spinning wheel and the loom; water and windmills; the steam engine; the printing press; and all those inventions that led to the development of agricultural machinery, musical instruments, ships, arms and armour. While, historically, the physical functioning of machinery has been relatively apparent, today the technology of the modern world - from microchips to mobile phones - has essentially become hidden away, with a disconcerting absence of visible moving parts. The emphasis on this course is to give students an engineering perspective on some of the mightiest of machines through the ages, to help preserve a practical understanding of their physical principles, help reconnect learners with extraordinary feats of engineering, and also to inject some fun into learning!

This particular episode from the history of technology focused on the trebuchet. This ancient siege weapon was developed in China between the 5th century B.C. and the 3rd century A.D. and its design requires remarkably complex and elegantly applied engineering principles to release a projectile with optimum force and trajectory, as illustrated by Professor Howard’s scale model, computer generated graphics and entertaining examples from video-sharing website YouTube. The flight of a flaming piano sticks in my mind especially, as does Professor Chandler’s memorable maxim: “If in doubt, built it stout out of som’t’ you know about!”

Our grateful thanks to Prof. Chandler for his entertaining and informative talk.

By Georgia Brooker, FAUL Editor.

Music for St. Cecilia’s Day

Music for St. Cecilia’s Day (supported by the Friends of Aberdeen University Library)

The well attended concert on Tuesday 23rd November at King’s College Chapel provided an opportunity to hear the violin by the eighteenth-century Aberdeen maker, Joseph Ruddiman. The Friends of Aberdeen University Library gave financial support to the playing of music from Special Libraries on this instrument. It was played alongside a matching instrument already owned by the University in a recital that included the kind of repertoire that would have been heard at concerts of the Aberdeen Musical Society in the eighteenth century. As well as a sonata by Arcangelo Corelli, who was a favourite with music societies throughout the British Isles, there was music by James Oswald and Scottish song settings by Joseph Haydn. It is hoped that the new instrument will make regular appearances at Friends’ events, bringing the collection of eighteenth-century music in Special Libraries to life.

Aberdeen Musical Society, directed by David J. Smith
A concert for Dr Roger B. Williams MBE on his retirement, including works by Corelli, Ross & Haydn

A concert for Dr Roger B. Williams MBE on his retirement, including works by Corelli, Ross & Haydn
Wendy Pirie’s article “Spik o’ the Toon” in the Spring/Summer edition of The Friends’ News looks forward to the New Library we expect to have by September 2011. Perhaps this is an appropriate moment to look back, with some nostalgia, at the building that it will replace.

When I came to the University in 1965, the brand-new Science Library stood gleaming on its site overlooking Bedford Road. It consisted of the main multi-storey block and a single-storey wing to the north. The main entrance was in this wing and faced east along the apparently un-named road that passes the front of the Chemistry (Meston) Building. This made access very easy from either the Chemistry Building, or what was then the Natural Philosophy Building (now the Fraser Noble Building) just across the road.

To a new undergraduate almost over-awed by entering university, a visit to the Science Library was an exciting experience. To the right of the main entrance was a highly convenient cloakroom, with racks where you could hang the coats and faculty scarves often made necessary by the cold Aberdeen winds. Somewhere in the ceiling of that area – I now forget exactly where – was an intriguing little copper tower with a translucent roof to admit extra daylight.

Retracing your steps past the entrance vestibule, you came to the issue desk on your right. Many readers will perhaps remember the little triplicate no-carbon-required (NCR) issue forms you filled in there with the name and number of a borrowed book, your name and your term-time address. The back copy was yellow and was given to you with the issued book.

Opposite the issue desk, if I recall correctly, was the catalogue area. The catalogue consisted of very many wooden boxes of index cards, in sets organised alphabetically by title or by author surname. To locate a book at busy times, you might have to queue while other readers finished browsing a particular index box. The cards gave the shelf-mark of the item you wanted, but of course did not indicate whether it was actually there or was out on loan; if the book was not on the shelf, you had to ask at the issue desk for its recall, and they would send a letter to the borrower. No computers in those days, yet we managed very well; how we did so must be a mystery to today’s students!

Continuing beyond the issue desk on the ground floor, you passed the stairs and were faced with the entrance to the Periodicals Room. This was a pleasant room, light and airy with windows on two sides letting in the Aberdeen sunshine, a good place for some semi-recreational reading of the latest science news. I think its location must have been where the readers and printers are nowadays.

The stairs themselves are one of the few areas of today’s building that are unchanged from the Science Library days. They even exude the same rubbery smell from the floor-covering!

As you passed from the stairs through the double doors to the first and third floors, on your left were doors to large and well-lit main rooms lined with shelving,
and equipped with large tables for study. On the first floor was the Soddy Room, devoted to chemistry: the commemorative plaque to Professor Soddy is still there on what once was the corridor wall. On the third floor was the Maxwell Room, devoted to the physical sciences. I failed recently to find any mention of James Clerk Maxwell’s name on that floor, but perhaps it is there in a less obvious place.

Both those rooms extended upward over two floors, making them well proportioned and giving the feel of halls of learning. Each had a balcony, or mezzanine, entered respectively from the second and fourth floors, with further stacks of books. Only on the topmost floor, today, can one still enjoy the natural daylight from south-facing windows that all these areas used to have.

Off the east end of those main rooms were study rooms with individually allocated spaces called carrels. These were reserved for honours-year students and much sought after, as they provided not only a quieter study space but somewhere you could safely leave materials while you were at lectures or whatever. I was lucky enough to have one for part of my final year, and found it very convenient.

Returning now to the corridors on the four upper floors, these are not much changed apart from the opening up of the left side where once were doors. On your right as you entered from the stairs were small rooms for specialised science topics (the Carnelley and Aubourne Clarke Rooms still exist). Beyond those, much as today, were stacks of older books, then toilets, and at the far end were intermediate-sized rooms, such as the Trail Room for botany (now the Cataloging Unit). Before I was allocated a carrel, I often studied in one of these end rooms as it was quieter than the Soddy or Maxwell Rooms, and benefited from evening sunlight. The windows of these rooms looked west to what was then Powis School (St Machar Academy now), and north to green fields and trees across the Don, a reminder of the pleasant rural environment not far outside the University campus. Alas, that is one aspect of the view which has gone forever: most of those fields now contain the sprawling housing estates of the hugely expanded Bridge of Don!

The Science Library was vastly better than the cramped and old-fashioned library available to Arts students across the High Street, in King’s College.

continued on pg. 10
“AN AFFA FINE BIGGIN”  
BY DR J. PIGGINS.  
(CONTINUED FROM PG. 9)

The Science Library was a magnificent facility for its time and an excellent place to study. It richly deserved the Civic Trust Award given to George Trew Dunn architects in 1966 for its design. (The University’s present website is a little disingenuous in mentioning this award in its article on the Queen Mother Library, as if it were for the design of the building as it is today). [ed’s note: enquiries are being made to amend this and I hope to see the website updated by the time of publication] The Award plaque was mounted adjacent to the original main entrance, which was walled up as part of the conversion and is now demolished along with the rest of that wing to make way for the New Library; I do hope that the plaque has been preserved. [This is being queried with the Estates section and I hope to have an update for the next edition!]

The Queen Mother Library is in my opinion a building spoiled, whereas the original Science Library was indeed “an affa fine biggin”. Let us hope that the New Library will recapture the pleasant ambience of its lost predecessor.

Almost every day for the past two years I’ve walked past the construction site on my way to work at the current Queen Mother Library, and have watched the extraordinary transformation from demolition site to the current state of tantalisingly close completion. The neck muscles of all campus regulars must have stretched significantly over the course of construction! So last month, when I was offered a guided tour of the work in progress, I jumped at the opportunity to get a sneak-preview inside the eagerly anticipated New Library.

We were suitably suited and booted in hard-hats, luminous yellow jackets and sturdy work-boots to keep us safe on site, and lead through the incredible spread of building materials laid out in preparation: from steel, pipes and slabs of all shapes and sizes, to whole staircases waiting to be installed.

The ground floor promises to be an truly extraordinary space for exhibitions and events, with a display room for public viewing of the collections’ treasures, and a whole wall where state of the art technology will project images and information to show visitors what Aberdeen has to offer. The space feels very open, airy and welcoming; much more inviting than the current, cramped QML.

Heading down into the vast lower floor where Special Libraries & Archives will be housed gives a real sense of the scale of our collections, and of the degree of care and attention that they will enjoy in these purpose built conditions. There’s still a lot of work to be done, but there’s a nice quiet corner down there where the dedicated FAUL-funded room will be, close at hand to the most ancient and valuable resources. (That’s me in the picture above, taking notes and pretending to be a builder!)

Climbing through the building it’s clear from the 2nd floor upwards just how astonishing the views will be, and at the top floor I was genuinely awe-struck at the eagle-eye panorama of the city. I know of no other public building in Aberdeen with such breath-taking 360 degree vistas, and with such a perfectly placed vantage point to look out over the beautiful north-east coastline, as well as the oldest and most architecturally impressive parts of the city. I cannot imagine a more serene and contemplative space in which to study and learn. This new library building will truly put a new perspective on Aberdeen.

By Georgia Brooker FAUL editor.
Wir Library

Fit’n fine ti see yi back – in if yer new am affa gled ti see yi here: Aiberdeen’s a rare place – caal kine, bit gweed folk. Noo yi mith be winnerin fit wye a i pailins hiv bin biggit ootside QML? Weel it’s a ti dee wi i new libray – yi kin see a bit better fit its gaan ti look like noo it a bit o i gless is on. It’ll bi lik aat a i wye up. Ah wis in jist it i eyen of last wik, it fit’n rare it is! It’s gaan ti be really bonny inside – nitih lik QML at aa! Here’s a fotie or twa so’s yi kin see fit ah’m spikkin aboot.

Bit i pailins? Ah weel , i staff car park’s deen awa wi in thir maakin i “Academic Plaza” – a boony bit wi trees in seats; appairtly ere’ll be thistles, in bluebells, in fine smellin hedging-stuff in aa. I pailins is ere eynoo seems it thiv heen ti dig richt doon ti sort oot i drains – thiv heen ti pit in a greit muckle box ti haad aa i waater fin it rains, ithirwise wid a be floodit (in seems it wi hid a flood in QML ower i summer, wir nae needin ony mair waater in aboot!). It’s a shame bit i pailins’ll bi bidin up or nearly Hogmanay. It’ll bi a richt scanner fir them thit’s tae gang atween Fraser Noble in Meston seen’s it th’ll hae ti gaang aa i wye roon raither thin jinkin throw– bit then aat’ll mebbey maak thim fitter!

Bit back ti i new libray – thir sayin i riggin’ll bi on afore Hogmanay, in wir aye hopin it wi’ll bi open in September neest eer. Fit a huntle o work wi’ll hae afore aat! Bit you guys’ll be OK seen’s it wir plannin ti keep aathin gaan is normal. Wi dinna ken yet faan wi’ll stop servin in QML in start in i new libray, bit wi’ll laat yi ken fin wi can.

If ere’s onthin yir needin to ken in i meantime, jist gi me a shout.

It is going to be beautiful inside – nothing like QML at all! Here are some photographs so you can see what I mean.

But the fences? Well, the staff car park is gone for good and they are building the Academic Plaza – a landscaped area with trees and seats: apparently it will also have thistles, bluebells and scented hedging too. The fences are currently in place as they have had to excavate to put drainage in place – they have inserted a very large container to cope with deluges of water when it rains heavily, to avoid the risk of flooding (and since we had a flood in QML over the summer we don’t want any more water!) It is unfortunate that the fencing will have to stay up nearly until Christmas. It will be really inconvenient for those who have to go between Fraser Noble and Meston as they will have to take the long way round rather than crossing straight over– but then that will perhaps make them fitter!

But back to the new library - it is said that the roof will be on before Christmas and we are hoping that it will be open for service in September next year. We will have a huge amount of work before then! But you folks will be OK as we are planning to maintain all services as normal. We don’t yet know when we will stop serving in QML and start in the new library, but we will let you know when we can.

If you’d like to know anything else in the meantime, just give me a call.

By Wendy Pirie, Administration & Planning Manager.
Tel: 01224 273321 E-mail: w.pirie@abdn.ac.uk
Aberdeen’s Renaissance Treasure On Display

The Aberdeen Breviary - the book for which printing was first introduced to Scotland - is an extraordinary 500 year old service book compiled for the pre-Reformation church in Scotland under the direction of William Elphinstone, Bishop of Aberdeen, who founded King's College and was counsellor to James III and James IV. This historic text was printed in Edinburgh by Chepman and Myllar, Scotland's first printers. To mark the anniversary, the National Library of Scotland have teamed up with the University of Aberdeen to put together a small display of illuminated manuscripts and incunables (books printed before 1500) to celebrate Elphinstone’s achievement and to set the breviary in its context of the Renaissance in Scotland during the reign of James IV. Two copies of the breviary are on show - one from NLS collections and one from University of Aberdeen Collections.

The Aberdeen Breviary:
the 500th Anniversary of the Printing of
“Our Own Scottish Use”
National Library of Scotland's
public exhibition space
George IV Bridge, Edinburgh
November 5th 2010 - January 9th 2011.

The Friends would like to express their sincere gratitude to Christine Miller for her many years of diligent and dedicated work as Editor of this Newsletter. Christine continues to support the Friends as a committee member.

Thanks also to Helen Stevenson, who will leave the University at the end of 2010, for her patient minute-taking at meetings, and membership of the FAUL Committee.

www.abdn.ac.uk/library/friends

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University Library
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Sandy Stuart was book binder in the library at the University of Aberdeen for many years until he retired in 1992. He died peacefully aged 83 years in September 2010.

Sandy had many interests, bowls, golf and Robert Burns (he was a past president of the Aberdeen Burns Club). Since his retirement he continued to maintain contact with the University Library until ill health in recent years meant he could no longer attend the Christmas party. Library staff and users will remember him as a friendly, helpful face in the Bindery, who prided himself on his craft, always producing a professional result, from binding the continual stream of student theses to working on a valuable volume.

QML, Taylor and the Medical Library
Monday – Saturday: 9.00 am - 10.00 pm
(all close at 8.00pm on Fridays)
Sunday: 11.00 am - 10.00 pm (QML)
1.00-10.00 pm (Taylor and Medical)

Special Libraries
Monday - Friday 9.30 am - 4.30pm

The Friends of Aberdeen University Library

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