



*Chanonry Lodge*

## THE FRIENDS OF ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

**Reception at Chanonry Lodge  
Old Aberdeen  
[opposite St Machar Cathedral]  
on  
Monday 20 June at 5.30 pm**

The Principal of the University, Professor C Duncan Rice, has most graciously invited Friends, together with prospective Friends, to a Reception at his home in Chanonry Lodge, Old Aberdeen.

The Reception will allow us to hear the Principal and others involved speak on plans for a major new building phase for the University Library on the Old Aberdeen campus.

Friends will have read about this new Library Project in the last Spring/Summer *Newsletter* and may have been at last year's June meeting when the then Librarian, Carole Munro, together with Professor Chris Gane, now Vice-Principal with responsibility for library and information services, talked to us on these developing plans. The Project is also the focus of the latest (March) edition of the University's *Aberdeen Magazine*, where Professor Rice uses his foreword to emphasise the importance of the collections.

You are invited to bring a friend or friends as your guest/s and so introduce others to the work of the Friends. A form for you to complete and return is included with this *Friends' News*. You and your friend/s will receive a personal invitation from the Principal in due course.

*All Friends and their friends are most welcome*

### FRIENDS' ACTIVITIES

Date for your Diary

THE FRIENDS OF  
ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

AGM and Spring / Summer Meeting

*in*

*Old Senate Room  
King's College  
Old Aberdeen*

on

Thursday 9th June

7.00 pm - AGM

followed at approximately 7.30 pm  
by *an illustrated talk* :

**The Collection:**  
*Archives in the University Library*

*by*

**Siobhan Convery**  
*Senior Curator, Historic Collections  
University of Aberdeen*

We hope, also, to have some of the items  
which the Friends have helped to  
purchase on show

*All Welcome*

*Light Refreshments will be served  
after the meeting*



## Top Library Management Changes

In March, **Carole Munro**, Honorary Secretary of the Friends until December 2004 and Librarian and Manager of Library Services, left the University of Aberdeen to take up a new post as Director of Knowledge and Information Services at the Robert Gordon University.

Carole arrived at the University of Aberdeen as Library Services Manager in 1998 and following the retirement of Colin McLaren in August 1999 was appointed to the post of Librarian and Manager of Library Services. Carole's time at the helm of Library Services has seen many changes and she has had a leading role in plans for new library build in Old Aberdeen.

We thank her for her work on the Friends' Executive Committee, both as Honorary Secretary and previously as Honorary Treasurer, and wish her well in her new post.

Meantime, **Wendy Pirie** has taken on the role of Acting Librarian & Manager, Library Services. Wendy is a long standing and highly experienced member of Directorate staff. She has a long association with the Medical Library, in particular, and her most recent post has been as Information Consultant for Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. We welcome Wendy to her new post and to Friends' Executive Committee meetings in her new capacity.

## Library Moves

In June 2005 the Education Library at Hilton Campus will close. The past year has seen older and duplicated Education Library material being removed from the shelves and sold. In the next few months the remaining material from Education Library will be moved to Queen Mother Library.

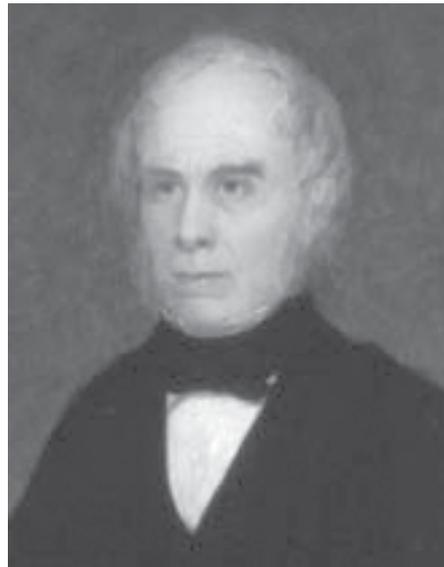
To create the necessary space needed to successfully move the Education Library material into Queen Mother Library, library staff are currently identifying and moving print journal parts that are also available electronically to offsite storage. Soon after that will follow the relegation

of some less used monograph materials to a new local library store and internal moves within QML.

A busy summer of library stock moves and catalogue updates is ahead.

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## William MacGillivray - Aberdeen's forgotten artist and naturalist



*Courtesy of Special Libraries and Archives,  
Historic Collections*

Thirty-five members of the Friends of the Library and their guests gathered in the Zoology Building on the evening of Thursday 10 March to hear Robert Ralph (*previously Curator of the Zoology Museum*) present an enthralling account of the remarkable life of the Old Aberdeen naturalist William MacGillivray.

MacGillivray, an illegitimate child born in 1792, was brought up on his uncle's farm on Harris, but returned to Aberdeen to study for a general degree at King's College.

Later he walked the whole distance to London, even taking a circuitous route including Ben Nevis. This culminated in the study of the bird collection in the British Museum, resulting in his resolve to be an ornithologist.

William MacGillivray's work on birds was closely linked with the American naturalist and artist John James Audubon who painted all the known species of North American birds in the early 19th century, his paintings notable for setting the bird illustrations in a natural setting.

Audubon travelled to Europe in search of patrons and a publisher for his paintings and met MacGillivray in Edinburgh around 1830. MacGillivray was subsequently responsible for much of the text which accompanied the paintings in Audubon's *The Birds of America*.

MacGillivray was himself a prolific author and artist, producing over 200 paintings of birds, mammals and fish. Dr. Ralph illustrated his talk with a number of reproductions of both Audubon and MacGillivray's paintings.

MacGillivray returned to Aberdeen on his appointment to the Regius Chair of Natural History at Marischal College where he continued his natural history studies together with teaching, emphasising the importance of fieldwork to his students.

Professor Ralph was thanked by Roy Thomson for providing such an informative and entertaining evening.

After an interval for refreshments Friends had the opportunity to visit the Zoology Museum which was founded by William MacGillivray. A plaque and the portrait of MacGillivray shown here, recently donated by his descendants in Australia, adorn the walls.

*Professor Derek Ogston*



# THANKS TO YOU ...

## New Developments in Aberdeen University Library Buildings

At our Autumn / Winter meeting in November Friends agreed to guarantee £100,000 towards the Principal's request for assistance with the new Library building developments. The bulk of this does, of course, come from the very handsome bequest to the Friends from Lewella Keith, wife of the late Alexander Keith, in 1998.

We are immensely proud to be able to contribute in this way to the University's ambitious and exciting plans, which demonstrate its future commitment to the Library. Those of you who have been Friends for any length of time will know that this project has been in the pipeline for quite some time and we are all highly encouraged to see that it should now come to fruition over the next few years.

The Friends have also indicated that there may be more financial help from us, assuming there are guarantees from the University and appropriate acknowledgement of the Friends' contribution. However, we will, of course, ensure that we always retain enough funds to carry on the work we have been able to do in the last few years.

In the latest issue of the University's *Aberdeen Magazine* the Principal writes, "At the moment the library is our priority principally because the challenge of housing and using our special collections coincides with the desperate needs of our student body for better reading and studying facilities.

The impact of building a new library will also strengthen our visibility by making a statement about what we think important, and our competitiveness by meeting the needs of the students and staff we have here and would like to have here."

We hope you will all be as pleased as we are by this flagship project of the University's Sixth Century Campaign.



### Reminder ... Friends on the Web



<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/diss/friends>

## Friends of Aberdeen University Library

### Executive Committee

#### President

Mr Jack Webster

#### Chairman

Mr Roy H Thomson

#### Honorary Treasurer

Mr Graham Hunter

#### Honorary Secretary

Miss Christine A Miller

#### Members

Miss Sheona C Farquhar

Professor Trevor Salmon

*(Chair*

*Library Users' Committee)*

Professor Michael C Meston

Professor Bill Nicolaisen

Professor Derek Ogston

Mrs Wendy Pirie

*(Acting Librarian)*

Miss Eilidh M Scobbie

Mrs Helen Stevenson



### 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

#### Special Libraries

Monday - Friday 9.30 am - 4.30 pm

The Friends of Aberdeen University Library

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