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How the *Scotsman* was born

DISCOVER

The magazine of the National Library of Scotland • www.nls.uk • Issue 36 Winter 2017



Bright Spark

Celebrating the life of Dame Muriel Spark –
the crème de la crème




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Leabharlann Nàiseanta na h-Alba

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THE WEIR

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DISCOVER
ISSUE 36 WINTER 2017

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We welcome all comments, questions, submissions and subscription enquiries. Please write to us at the National Library of Scotland address below or email discover@nls.uk

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Exhibitions and events celebrate authors who have gained an international reputation, been cruelly overlooked or are experts in crime

Our writers of renown

Few 20th century Scottish writers have had greater global appeal than Muriel Spark. Though Edinburgh-born and raised, she was always looking outward, and life circumstances, as well as her determination to be a successful writer, saw her take up residence in places as diverse as Southern Rhodesia, London, New York, Rome and Tuscany.

The Library's winter exhibition, "*The International Style of Muriel Spark*", allows us to showcase items from her amazing archive that have never before been seen by the public. It is our main contribution to a nationwide celebration of her work and life in the centenary year of her birth which falls in 2018.

A sadder centenary took place in November – the death during the First World War of another Scots writer, EA Mackintosh. Compared favourably with fellow war poets Wilfrid Owen and Rupert Brooke, Mackintosh's life was all too brief. He died aged just 24, nevertheless his words take pride of place on the Scottish-American War Memorial in Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh.

Many of today's successful Scottish authors operate in the genre known as "Tartan Noir". Eager to support all of the country's literary sectors, we were delighted to back the annual Bloody Scotland festival in Stirling which celebrates the country's rich crime writing tradition.

We also focus on the extraordinary tale of runner Kathleen Connochie whose 1955 performance in "the world's toughest race" proved a pivotal moment in the perception of female athletes.

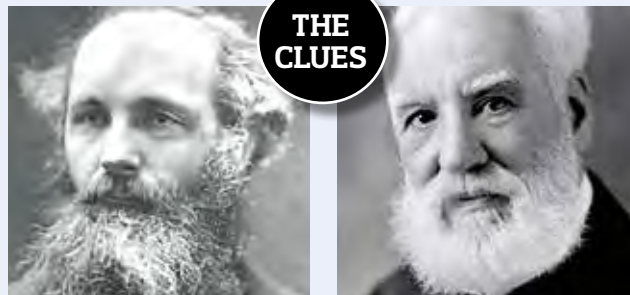
As always, there is a lot to stimulate and fascinate – enjoy!

Dr John Scally, National Librarian
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THE ANSWER IS IN OUR ARCHIVES!

Can you name these illustrious members of Scotland's scientific Hall of Fame?

Let us know if you guess correctly!
Tweet [@natlibscot](https://twitter.com/natlibscot) using hashtag #natlibquiz

6 NEWS

Discover more about our new map search facility, a move for the Maps Reading Room, our summer interns and the latest from Scotland's Sounds

14 STAR IN A GOLDEN ERA

How Kathleen Connachie proved that she was more than a match for the men in "the world's toughest race"



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We explore how Muriel Spark, the crème de la crème of Scottish writers, was truly a woman of the world

22 STRONG IN PRIDE

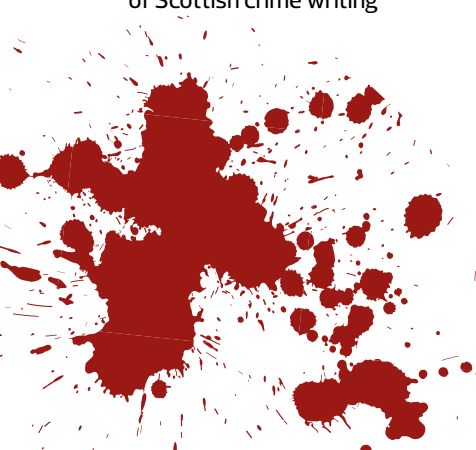
First World War poet EA Mackintosh has been compared to Owen and Brooke but his work has often been overlooked

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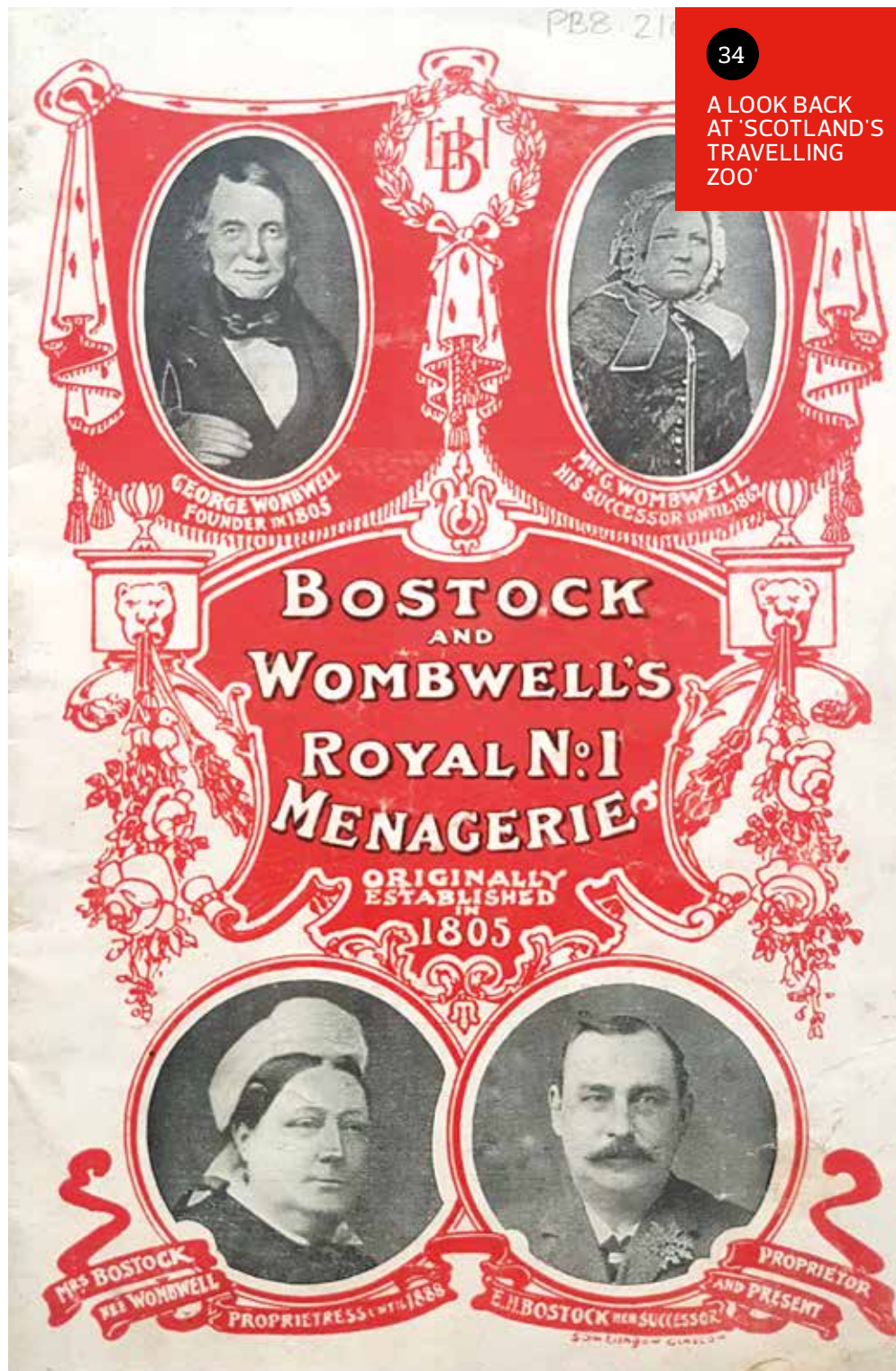
We look back at a venerable national institution, the *Scotsman* newspaper, which is 200 years old in 2017

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The Library celebrates the best of Scottish crime writing



A LOOK BACK AT 'SCOTLAND'S TRAVELLING ZOO'



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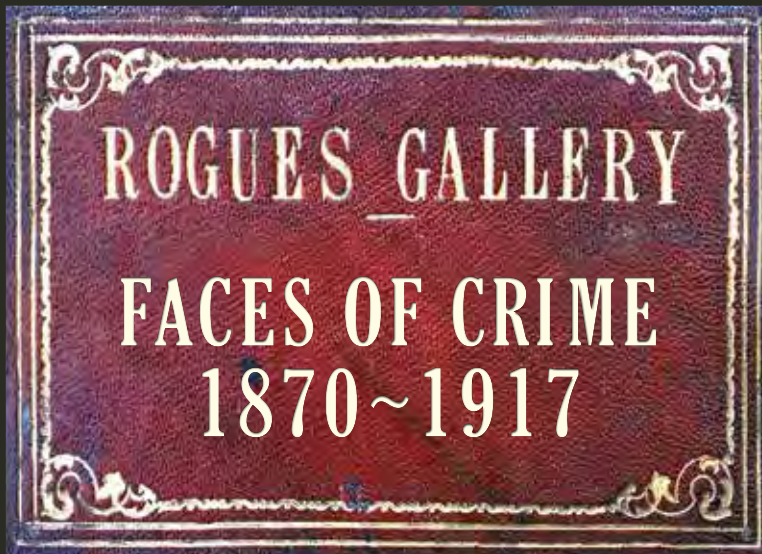
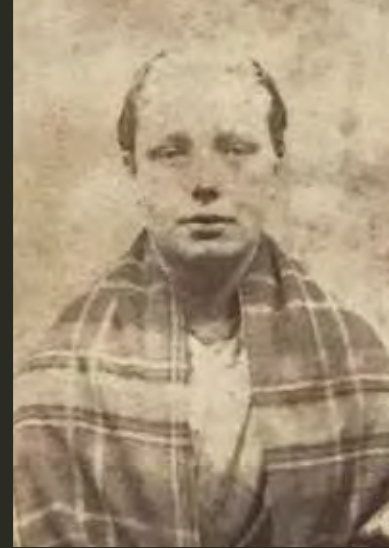
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Laura Cumming
Art Critic at the *Observer*



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MAKING A MARK - NEW SEARCH INTERFACE FOR OUR ONLINE MAPS

The Library now has 200,000 maps online (maps.nls.uk), so it is ever more important to be able to find the right one quickly.

We have just launched a new, easy way of finding all our online maps using a marker pin - you just place the marker pin over your location of interest, and the maps that cover it appear straight away.

It's also possible to position the map and marker by searching for places using a gazetteer of names, addresses or postcodes, and the map locates to your place of interest. As before, you can also search for all our maps by mapmaker and by series/groups too.

[Try it out at: maps.nls.uk/geo/find/marker/](http://maps.nls.uk/geo/find/marker/)



NEW LOCATION FOR MAPS READING ROOM



The Library's Maps Reading Room is in a new home.

It is now located on the third floor of the Causewayside building in Edinburgh, close to the public entrance on Salisbury Place.

It is open to anyone wishing to consult printed or digital mapping from the Library's collections. The map collection includes approximately 2 million items, from early printed atlases to modern digital mapping, and unique manuscripts to books about maps and mapmaking.

The room is equipped with a large height adjustable map table, as well as smaller height-adjustable desks. PCs are available for readers, and there are plug points if readers wish to use their own laptops.

Opening hours are 10am to 1pm, and 2pm to 5pm, Monday to Thursday. Access is by appointment, which can be made at www.nls.uk/using-the-library/reading-rooms/maps/appointments or by phoning or e-mailing the maps team.

Join us for our annual Christmas shopping day

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The Centre for Lifelong Learning is part of the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow and has been offering classes to adults for 30 years. Blaze, online creative writing courses allow us to take our expertise in writing tuition to a much wider audience. The three courses are designed to suit writers of all levels and will inspire you, motivate you, keep you on track and put you in the virtual company of other writers. You can study from anywhere, at any time.



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Writing is a balance of inspiration and hard graft. Staying motivated and excited about writing, even through the difficult patches, remains crucial for all writers. This course is for you if you are already writing on your own and have some confidence in sharing your work with others.

Commencing 15 January and 16 April 2018.

Inferno: novel writing (10 University of Strathclyde credits)

For those who are writing independently and want integrated feedback from the tutor and other writers. This is an intensive course in which you engage in critical feedback with your tutor and other students and there is an open forum where issues of writing, creativity and editing can be discussed. Commencing 16 April 2018.

If you are resident in Scotland and meet the criteria, you can use SAAS Part-time Fee Grant to fund these classes (if you study 30 credits in year 2017-18)

Courses last for 10 weeks and cost £152.

For further information or to receive a factsheet please contact 0141 548 2116 or email cil-learn@strath.ac.uk or visit us at www.strath.ac.uk/studywithus/centreforlifelonglearning



Why not also consider our Creative Writing Mentoring Programme for writers wishing bespoke feedback on their work? Visit www.strath.ac.uk/studywithus/centreforlifelonglearning. (Find us in online courses)

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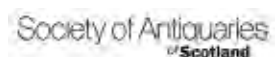
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INTERNS PRAISE A 'VARIED AND INSIGHTFUL' EXPERIENCE

This summer saw the successful completion of two internships at the Library in a programme funded by The Cross Trust

Amy Kerr, who is currently completing her MSc in Information and Library Studies at the University of Strathclyde, and Jennifer Roach, who is finishing her MSc in Information Management and Preservation at the University of Glasgow, attended the Library between 31 July and 25 August.

Their four-week internship covered special collections, archives and manuscripts, auditing and digitisation. There was also the chance to find out about areas such as marketing (including the Library's social media strategy), intellectual property, reference services, and conservation.



Interns Amy and Jennifer

Amy said: "For someone who has recently completed an Information and Library Studies postgraduate course and is entering the field of

Librarianship, this internship was a terrific introduction to the career."

It was an especially notable time for Jennifer. She had

an interview for an Archives Assistant job part-way through the internship and has since taken up that post. She said: "I really enjoyed this internship and the knowledge I've gained has been invaluable. Overall, this has been a varied and insightful experience."

The programme will see two more pairs of interns receive valuable experience during the summers of 2018 and 2019.

[You can read more about Amy and Jennifer's experience by visiting the blog they wrote for the Library: \[blog.nls.uk/cross-trust-special-collections-interns/\]\(http://blog.nls.uk/cross-trust-special-collections-interns/\)](#)

The Sport of the Gael: 80 years of the BBC and shinty

Shinty and the BBC have been inextricably linked for nearly 90 years and, for the first time, the history of the relationship has been recounted to mark the 80th anniversary of the first ever live radio broadcast, or "running commentary" of Camanachd Cup Finals.

It was in 1937 that the BBC first broadcast the Camanachd Cup Final in a match between Newtonmore and Oban Celtic. It eventually ended in controversy, following a replay which involved police intervention. It was also the first shinty match where teams used

numbers on players' backs to help the commentators to identify them.

The lead commentator on the first ever live radio coverage was the Rev Roderick MacSwan Boyd (pictured), who had played with some distinction alongside his brothers in Portree for Skye. He also played for Glasgow Skye and against the Irish at Parkhead, although his mother apparently would not allow him to go to Dublin for the return match. He had a fascinating history in a really interesting period when Gaelic, and indeed Scottish broadcasting



were in their earliest days. The Rev MacSwan Boyd eventually ended up playing shinty for Aberdeen University and it was when he was a minister in Alness that he was taken on board by the BBC by Hugh MacPhee of Ballachulish, who had recently been appointed as a producer.

Over the intervening years, some of the biggest names in sports

broadcasting have been involved in shinty coverage, including commentators such as David Francey, Alister Alexander, Bill Johnston and David Begg.

The BBC's current shinty commentator, Dr Hugh Dan MacLennan, is currently Sports Writer in Residence at the National Library of Scotland. He delivered a series of talks in the autumn on the subject of shinty and the BBC.



Press Play animation workshop, Hawick Library © Phil Wilkinson

Hearing our heritage

The Library has been playing host to a unique initiative to help preserve and share Scotland's sounds.

It is co-ordinating the Scotland's Sounds network – a forum for people who hold or have an interest in archive sound recordings – to find ways to preserve access to the country's audio heritage.

Over the past two years, more than 80 organisations have come together to champion Scotland's rich sound heritage through the Connecting Scotland's Sounds project. Funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, these partnerships have helped to deliver training events, coaching programmes and engagement activities with public audiences and communities across the country.

Alistair Bell, Sound Collections Curator at the Library, said: "Over the past two years we've run 18 training events to grow the skills and expertise of a wide range of people looking after archive sound recordings. We look forward to building on this momentum through continuing to champion and co-ordinate the Scotland's Sounds network of over 300 stakeholders."

Audiences have had the opportunity to connect with Gaelic and Scots song,

interviews with LGBT people, spoken testimonies from the Borders, and fishing music from across Scotland to name just a few items.

Amy McDonald, Engagement and Learning Co-ordinator, said: "Through Connecting Scotland's Sounds we've worked with lots of project partners to creatively engage new listeners with Scotland's rich sound heritage through drama, film, poetry, print-making, song, animations, music, podcasts and more. We've been delighted by how inspiring our audiences have found the recordings."



Spread the Word day at the Rockfield Centre, Oban © Ewen Munro



All Ears seminar, McManus, Dundee © Phil Wilkinson

THE EARLY YEARS OF THE REFORMATION

Five hundred years ago, Martin Luther nailed his '95 theses' to a church door, an act which ignited religious revolution across Europe

CURATOR'S CHOICE – BY DR ANETTE HAGAN



In the autumn of 1517, Martin Luther, a relatively unknown monk lecturing in a minor German University town, put up a poster with 95 theses in Latin with the intention of stimulating an academic debate. The debate never took place, but the publication and translation of these 95 theses sparked developments which splintered Catholic Europe and changed the course of history.

The nailing of the 95 theses to the door of the Castle Church at Wittenberg is officially commemorated on 31 October, and 2017 marked the 500th anniversary of this far-reaching event. A selection of the Library's original tracts from 1517 to 1523, most of them on deposit from the Balcarres Heritage Trust, will be on display to tell the story of the early Lutheran Reformation: what sparked it, what was it about, and how it unfolded.

Martin Luther (1486–1543), an Augustinian monk, priest and university lecturer, heard about the hard sale of indulgences from his parishioners in the confessional. Indulgences were basically an insurance against the wrath of God: by buying one, you could avoid

Facing page: Luther as a monk.
 Right: the papal coat of arms with the three-tier tiara and St Peter's keys, a typical Reformation tract with an illustrative border. Inset: a medallion portrait of Pope Leo X

● The spread of the Reformation was unthinkable without the printing press. Luther and his followers, as well as their opponents, were quick to harness what was the social media of their day ●

temporal punishment in purgatory. The sale of indulgences was a lucrative source of income for the Pope and the papal administration, the Curia, and Luther was certainly not the first to criticise the practice. However, his 95 theses had an entirely unprecedented and indeed unexpected impact. They were printed in both broadside and book form and translated into German, and copies spread like wildfire across the Holy Roman Empire. This Empire was a multilingual realm consisting of several hundred territories in northern and central Europe. Politically, socially and spiritually it was in turmoil. The Emperor Maximilian I was on his deathbed and looking for a suitable successor. Meanwhile Pope Leo X, a Medici Renaissance prince, was not only concerned with the spiritual welfare of the Church but also with maintaining the political power of the Vatican State. Political intrigue was rife.

The last thing he needed was Luther's attack on his authority. Intent on nipping the protest in the bud, the Pope set out to silence the unruly monk. In 1518, Luther was interrogated by a papal legate during the Imperial Diet of Augsburg where the Holy Roman Emperor met with the Imperial Estates. However, the Pope depended on Luther's patron, Elector Friedrich III of Saxony, to elect the Pope's favourite as the next Emperor, so Luther was left in peace for the time being. A year after the election, which incidentally did not put the Pope's favourite on the throne, the Pope threatened Luther with



excommunication. A papal bull was issued to that effect, but it took four months to reach Luther in Wittenberg. In the interim, Luther published a series of texts now seen as crucial to the Reformation. They included his address to the German nobility, which presented a comprehensive social, educational and economic programme for their subjects, and his revolutionary thoughts on the freedom of Christians, who he argued were only answerable to God and their conscience based on the Bible.

The papal bull demanded that Luther recant 41 of his 95 theses. In response, he threw the bull along with church law books into the bonfire of a book burning in Wittenberg. Now the Pope acted on his threat and issued the bull that finally excommunicated Luther as a heretic. This church ban meant that Luther was no longer a monk and priest, was not allowed to preach or take part in the sacraments. Again, he was summoned to an Imperial Diet, at Worms in April 1521. He famously refused to recant, concluding with the words "To that God help me". The new Emperor Charles V followed suit and imposed the imperial ban on Luther. Now his works could no longer be printed, sold and distributed, nobody was allowed to house, feed or help him or his followers, and anybody could kill him with impunity: the heretic Luther was outlawed.

He had been granted safe conduct back to Wittenberg, but Luther's patron, Elector Friedrich III of Saxony, didn't want to take any chances and had Luther



abducted and taken into protective captivity in the Wartburg Castle. Enconced in the castle's tower, he used the unexpected free time to translate the New Testament into German. He completed this monumental task within an astonishing eleven weeks. Luther's translation of the Gospel for the people has shaped the German vernacular language to this day.

The spread of the Reformation was unthinkable without the printing press. Luther and his followers, as well as their opponents, were quick to harness what was the social media of their day. By 1525, some 287 tracts by Luther had been printed producing some two million copies. Luther emerged as the most popular author in the Holy Roman Empire and, in the process, established the Protestant church.

Reformation: What was it all about?
 National Library of Scotland,
 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh
 19 October 2017 to 14 January 2018

Words, words were truly alive on the tongue, in the head
Warm, beating, frantic, winged; music and blood FROM 'LITTLE RED-CAP' BY CAROL ANN DUFFY

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There are many positives to be engaged with Scots



Our Scots Scriever says farewell as his time in post comes to an end

As the two year tairm o the Scots Scriever residency at the National Library o Scotland draws tae a close – it is time tae gie some thocht as tae whit haes been for the maist pairt a byous carrant throu lang centuries o Scots literatur, as weel as some gey intrestin educational engagement in the various airts o Scotland. We glent back wi some howp that these efforts might even gang some smaw wey in takkin tent o the mony challenges faced in the future promuin o Scots in its true licht, a leid wi genuine European provenance whase wirts an wisdoms continue tae impack oan oor speech, literatur an braider consciousness intae these praisent times. Gien that Scots has had tae thole a when adversities ower lang centuries; nae least its submission (leastweys in tairms o its official context) tae the mair dominant scribeit leid o staundart English, it remains the case that Scots continues tae face some frawart an aftimes ill-conceived judgements oan its staundin, as a glisk at ony comments section or social media forum will attest when the question o Scots comes tae the fore. Scots, tae its dowie misfortune, remains misunderstood by an apparently muckle swade o the populace, even amang thaim that yaise it oan a daily basis! The chairacteristic slanders are (somewhit predictably) reenged up, namely that Scots is: slang, chavvie, poor English, inferior English, just a dialect (of English), bastardised English, etc. A linguistic abberation it wid seem, unfit fir purpose in any civilised dialogue,

scribeit or spoken.

Aw the mair important then that some opportunity is gien in endeavours sic as the Scots Scriever residency tae conter these obtrusive an damaging misconceptions. Tae kythe hou the muckle positives tae be takken frae Scots – throu its literary an oral traditions – can faur ootweigh these ill-thocht negatives. Tae fuse anither particle tae the critical mass o understaundin (though yet still a faur wey aff). Tae add anither stane tae the cairn.

As the Scribeit residency has howpfully shawn – ther are mony positives tae be takken frae the public's engagement wi Scots. Oor Wee Windaes website, biggit frae jist a puckle o the Library's literary treisurs, frae the fifteenth century 'Buke of the Howlat' tae twintie century novels an reflections on contemporary literatur an attitudes tae language, has haed an eident pairtner in the shape o Education Scotland wha hae contributit education packs tae each feature or 'windae'. Anither recent welcome pairtner haes been the University o Edinburgh's Linguistic Department wha will gie further educational scowth tae the site. It is o muckle satisfaction that Wee Windaes haes growne as an interactive educational resource.

The ootreach programme oot-throu the Scribeit residency haes ainly served tae strengthen the realisation that frae primary schuil bairns tae pensioner groups ther is genuine passion an intrest in the Scots leid, tae lairn, share, an maist importantly tae enjoy the experience o Scots. Frae East Kilbride tae Dundee, Tain, Inverness, Perth, Melrose, Ayr, Lanarkshire an a when ither places in atween, workshops an discussions

ABOVE: Scots Scribeit Hamish MacDonald

wir takken tae nurseries, schuils, libraries, community groups, buke festivals, music festivals, a prison, ceilidhs, cinemas, universities (in Scotland an via Skype tae Barcelona). The experience wis invariably positive. The future, it is apparent, wi the richt political, financial an educational support cuid potentially be brichter an gey healthier than the ill-hauden comments o the naysayers might suggest. Mair particles, please, tae the critical mass. Mair stanes, aye, chuckies, boulders an aw, tae the cairn.

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