

FRIENDS  
OF THE  
BRITISH  
LIBRARY

LIBRARY  
HSILIRB

23rd Annual Report  
2011/12

[www.bl.uk/friends](http://www.bl.uk/friends)



## Report of the Council

The British Library made headlines across the world during 2011/12 when it saved for the nation the late seventh-century St Cuthbert Gospel, the earliest surviving Western book still in its original binding. In recognition of its importance, the Friends made a grant of £50,000 towards its purchase. Because of this, in this current year, grants and donations by the Friends to the Library totalled £118,370 (£17,321). Details of all grants during this period are given below. There was a continuation of the trend, noted in last year's Annual Report, of making grants not simply to assist with the acquisition of collection items but to support other areas of the Library's work. At 30 June 2011, the number of Friends stood at 2998 (2913). Maintaining and increasing the Friends' membership remains our top priority.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 12 March 2012. Christopher Wright and Graham Allatt were re-elected as Deputy Chairman and Treasurer, respectively, for the coming year. Dr Peter Beal, Dr Ruth Coman and Paul Stevenson stood down from Council on the completion of their terms. Lord Hemingford and Miss Jane Dobson were elected to Council and Peter Barber was re-elected for a second term.

Dame Lynne Brindley, the Library's Chief executive, who was standing down in July 2012 after twelve years in post, then gave a valedictory address to the Friends in which she reviewed not only the British Library's achievements over the past year but also some of the highlights of her time with the Library. After surveying the Library's exhibition programme, she moved on to its use of new technology. Its prize-winning 19th Century Historical Collection app released in August 2011 had provided access to over 45,000 items in the British Library. Meanwhile, in June 2011 the Library had announced a major partnership with *Google* to digitize 250,000 out-of-copyright books dated 1700 to 1870. In line with the rest of the public sector the British Library had seen cuts to its funding. However, careful budget management meant that the indicative budget forecasts for the next two financial years showed that a balanced budget was achievable. Looking back at her years with the Library, she noted not only the outstanding acquisitions and exhibitions but the openings in 2006 of The Business and IP Centre, in 2007 of The British Library Centre for Conservation, and in 2010 of the Harry M Weinrebe Learning Centre. At the same time, the new Additional Storage Building at Boston Spa had

expanded storage capacity in optimum conditions and construction had begun of the Newspaper Storage Building. There had been a number of significant digitization projects, and new technologies had been used to improve services. International engagement had also been initiated with Iraq, India and China. She ended by thanking the Friends for the support they had offered the Library over the past years.

Following the AGM, at which the Friends played host to the American Trust for the British Library, our President, Lord Salisbury, introduced the guest speaker, Dr Richard Chartres, Bishop of London, who spoke on '*Common Prayer; Culture and the Challenge of the Digital Age*'. His talk was most warmly received by the audience.

Jean-Anne Ashton continued as Co-ordinator of the Volunteers. At the end of the year the number of volunteers was 30 and the Volunteers Desk in the Library's entrance hall was manned for four hours six days a week including Saturday. Volunteers continued to assist the Membership Secretary as required. During the year Volunteers were briefed by Mark Walton and Anna Gordon (BL Information Team) and by Kathleen Doyle and Rachel Foss on the exhibitions *Royal Manuscripts* and *Writing Britain*.

There was an active programme of visits and events during the year. These included tours of the Museum & Library of the Order of St John, the Thames Barrier, Kenwood House, The Kennel Club, The Supreme Court, The Royal Pharmaceutical Society, Kelmscott House (Hammersmith), St Pancras Renaissance Hotel, Handel House Museum, The Royal College of Physicians, The Royal Society, The Cinema Museum, The Charterhouse (Sutton's Hospital), the Emery Walker House, the Bank of England Museum, Harrow School and The Old Operating Theatre of St Thomas' Hospital. Friends also took part in a Southwark Cathedral Walk and Charles Dickens Walk and heard talks by Mark Wright, Sound Artist, and by Agnes Grunwald-Spier (Friend) on 'The Other Schindlers'. Another highlight was a private view of the St Cuthbert Gospel. The Events programme is also a valuable source of additional funds which contribute to our grants to the British Library.

Once again, the Friends have continued to receive practical help from the British Library and for this our thanks go to the British Library Board, the former Chief Executive, Dame Lynne Brindley and her colleagues.

## This Year's Grants



The *St Cuthbert Gospel* on display in the British Library's Sir John Ritblat Gallery.

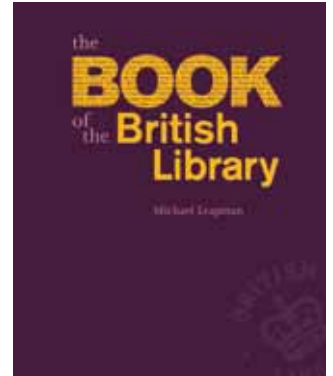
£50,000 towards the purchase of *The St Cuthbert Gospel*. A specimen of a 'pocket' Gospel intended for personal use, it is a copy in Latin of the Gospel of St John, probably written by a local scribe at the internationally renowned twin Northumbrian monasteries of Wearmouth-Jarrow in the late 7th century. It was interred with St Cuthbert (*d* 687) at his reburial on Lindisfarne in 698 and found in his coffin at Durham Cathedral in 1104. The manuscript retains its original, uniquely well-preserved, decorated red leather, goatskin binding and is thus the earliest surviving intact Western book.

£20,000 towards the purchase of the archive of Sir Alec Guinness (*d* 2000), including an extensive series of Guinness's diaries and correspondence (including, unusually, more than 900 letters from Guinness himself). Among the principal correspondents represented in the archive are John Gielgud, Alan Bennett, Eileen Atkins, Coral Brown and Vincent Price. Guinness was a refreshingly frank correspondent. His letters describe, for example, his experiences of active wartime service (and his disapproval of other leading actors who avoided the frontline), the strains of family relationships and the importance of his conversion to Catholicism. As a diarist, Guinness was particularly prolific; his diaries include both spontaneous accounts of daily life and detailed, reflective entries written with a view to publication, making for interesting comparisons between the two. The archive supplements the Library's rich theatrical holdings, including the papers of his contemporaries, Gielgud, Olivier and Richardson.

£20,000 to support the British Library's ongoing Exhibition Programme. The Library plans to hold two major exhibitions a year in its PACCAR Gallery.



Sir Hans Sloane.



The Book of the British Library.

£10,000 to digitize and make available online via British Library Sounds ([www.bl.uk/sounds](http://www.bl.uk/sounds)) selected recordings from the Archive of musical traditions from the British Isles assembled by Peter Kennedy (*d* 2006), one of the most important collectors in the field, over the preceding fifty years. These will complement the associated photographs already catalogued and made available online by a grant to the British Library from the National Folk Music Fund.

£10,000 to Collection Care to offer two three-month voluntary placements to interns from developing countries where few training or academic courses are available in the preservation of library material. The object of the initiative is to further British leadership in the development of Preservation and Conservation Education and to carry forward the British Library's work of cultural diplomacy.

£5,000 towards the publication of *The Book of the British Library* by Michael Leapman, containing at least 120 colour illustrations of the building and the collections. This is planned to become the standard introduction and guide to the Library in succession to Nicolas Barker, *Treasures of the British Library*, first published in 1988 and now out of print.

£2,370 to support the digitization of the famous Mewar *Ramayana*. The Mewar manuscript of this famous Hindu epic is widely held to be one of the finest of all illustrated copies in existence. It was commissioned in 1649 by Rana Jagat Singh I of Mewar (1628-52). The manuscript is now divided between the British Library, which houses the major part of it, and four other locations in India. This project will reconstruct the manuscript in its original form and make it available free online, together with accompanying commentaries.

£1,000 towards the publication of *From Books to Bezoars: Sir Hans Sloane and his Collections*, edited by Michael Hunter, Alison Walker and Arthur MacGregor. This volume makes available to a wider audience the papers given at the British Library's 2010 conference commemorating the 350th anniversary of Sloane's birth, bringing together a wide range of new research on all aspects of his collections.

# Statement of Financial Activities

## Year Ended 30 June 2012

	2012	2011
	£	£
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES (FROM GENERATED FUNDS)</b>		
Members' subscriptions	78,399	74,970
Donations	5,934	4,119
Legacies	3,817	16,500
Income tax recoverable under Gift Aid	13,584	15,475
Investment income	7,104	6,694
Events income	6,347	11,400
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES (FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES)</b>		
Other incoming resources	–	40
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b><u>115,185</u></b>	<b><u>129,198</u></b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		
Cost of generating funds:		
Fundraising and publicity	8,923	9,706
Membership administration	35,853	31,716
Charitable activities:		
Grants to British Library	118,370	17,321
Governance costs	1,680	1,872
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b><u>164,826</u></b>	<b><u>60,615</u></b>
<b>NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS</b>	<b>(49,641)</b>	<b>68,583</b>
<b>OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES</b>		
Profit/Loss on revaluation of Investments	(5,439)	12,999
<b>Net movements in funds</b>	<b><u>(55,080)</u></b>	<b><u>81,582</u></b>
Total funds brought forward	<u>367,507</u>	<u>285,925</u>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b><u>312,427</u></b>	<b><u>367,507</u></b>

# Balance Sheet at 30 June 2012

	2012	2011
	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		
Furniture and equipment	0	0
Investments	167,631	173,070
	<u>167,631</u>	<u>173,070</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Stocks	120	120
Debtors	14,063	31,284
Cash on deposit and at bank	189,750	198,549
	<u>203,933</u>	<u>229,953</u>
<b>LIABILITIES: amounts falling due within one year</b>		
Deferred income: life membership subscriptions	4,895	4,639
Grants payable	26,000	4,921
Trade Creditors and accruals	11,319	11,428
	<u>42,214</u>	<u>20,988</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>	<b><u>161,719</u></b>	<b><u>208,965</u></b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b><u>329,350</u></b>	<b><u>382,035</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES: amounts falling due after more than one year</b>		
Deferred income: life membership subscriptions	(16,923)	(14,528)
	<u>312,427</u>	<u>367,507</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>		
General	192,427	247,507
Designated	120,000	120,000
	<u>312,427</u>	<u>367,507</u>

Signed on behalf of the Council  
**Lord Hameed**  
 Chairman  
 12 November 2012

## Notes to the accounts

### NOTES

These summarised accounts may not contain sufficient information for a full understanding of the charity. For further information, the Annual Report and Accounts should be consulted. Copies are available from the Friends of the British Library, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB. The full accounts have been examined by MHA MacIntyre Hudson, Chartered Accountants, and received an unqualified report.

### INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' STATEMENT ON SUMMARISED FINANCIAL INFORMATION

We have examined the summary financial statements above.

We have carried out the procedures we consider necessary to ascertain whether the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements from which they were prepared.

In our opinion, the summarised financial statements above are consistent with the full financial statements for the year ended 30th June 2012.

MHA MacIntyre Hudson  
 Chartered Accountants  
 New Bridge Street House  
 30 – 34 New Bridge Street  
 London EC4V 6BJ

# Friends of the British Library

---

## Reference and administrative details of the Charity its Trustees and Advisers

For the year ended 30 June 2012

---

<b>President</b>	The Marquess of Salisbury PC DL
<b>Vice Presidents</b>	The Rt Hon the Lord Bragg of Wigton The Rt Hon Frank Field MP The Rt Hon William Hague MP The Lord Jones of Birmingham Sir Geoffrey Leigh FRSA Dame Penelope Lively DBE Sir Andrew Motion FRSL Cdr Michael Saunders Watson CBE DL The Rt Hon Lord Steel of Aikwood KT KBE DL

---

## Council

<b>Chairman</b>	The Lord Hameed of Hampstead CBE DL <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Deputy Chairman</b>	Dr Christopher Wright OBE <sup>*[4]</sup>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Graham Allatt FCA <sup>*[2]</sup>
<b>Secretary</b>	Stephanie Kenna <sup>*[4]</sup>
<b>Council Members</b>	Jean-Anne Ashton <sup>‡[3]</sup> Peter Barber OBE <sup>[2]</sup> Dr Peter Beal FBA (to 12 Mar 2012) <sup>[1]</sup> Dr Ruth Coman <sup>*(to 12 Mar 2012)</sup> <sup>[2]</sup> Jane Dobson (from 12 Mar 2012) <sup>[1]</sup> Nina Evans <sup>[1]</sup> Frances Hawkins <sup>[4]</sup> The Lord Hemingford (from 12 Mar 2012) <sup>[1]</sup> Ed King MBE <sup>[4]</sup> Robert Kirton FCCA FRSA <sup>*[2]</sup> Michael Leapman <sup>[4]</sup> Professor Kate McLuskie <sup>**[3]</sup> Dr David Shaw <sup>[2]</sup> Paul Stevenson (to 12 Mar 2012) <sup>[0]</sup>

---

**Membership Secretary** Nichole Chapman

---

[#] Denotes number of Council meetings attended

\* Member of Finance and Audit Committee

\*\* Appointed by the British Library Board

‡ Co-opted as Co-ordinator of the Volunteers

Four Council meetings, as well as the AGM, were held during the year

Friends of the British Library  
96 Euston Road  
London NW1 2DB

T 020 7412 7734  
friends@bl.uk  
www.bl.uk/friends

Registered Charity No 328095

## Bankers

Barclays Bank plc  
Bloomsbury and Tottenham  
Court Road Branch  
109 Tottenham Court Road  
London  
W1A 3AT

The Co-operative Bank plc  
1 Balloon Street  
Manchester  
M60 4EP

CAF Bank plc  
25 Kings Hill Avenue  
West Malling  
Kent  
ME19 4TA

Anglo Irish Bank  
10 Old Jewry  
London  
EC2R 8DN

## Independent examiner

MHA MacIntyre Hudson  
New Bridge Street House  
30-34 New Bridge Street  
London  
EC4V 6BJ

## Solicitors

Russell-Cooke LLP  
8 Bedford Row  
London  
WC1R 4BX