

Newsletter

Airs and Dances

A small oblong manuscript of 179 pages containing music for keyboard written in England in the middle of the 17th century has been purchased by the Library with the aid of a grant from the Friends. The pieces are mainly dances ('Courante', 'Allemande', 'Eare' [Air]), but they also include 'An Overture, which the Organist of Chichester desired to have set'. Two are described as 'fitt for the Manicorde', an early name for the clavichord. The music, by unnamed composers, is neatly written on staves of six lines by one main scribe and at least one other hand. The book was purchased by Thurston Dart in 1951, and later by Christopher Hogwood whose executors offered it to the British Library.

The conductor Christopher Hogwood was a notable collector of music and a regular reader in the BL, as well as a lively advocate of the Library's work and supporter of many of its fund-raising activities. After his death on 24 September 2014 it was revealed that all of his property was to be sold, in order to endow five studentships at Pembroke and Jesus Colleges in Cambridge, the Royal College and Academy of Music in London, and one associated with the orchestra he founded, the Academy of Ancient Music. He made specific provision in his will that the British Library should be offered the first option to purchase any of his music.



'An Allemande fitt for the Manicorde', one of the dances in a book of 17th-century musical pieces most recently owned by Christopher Hogwood, which was acquired last month by the Library

This manuscript, which is the most valuable and the most important item in the collection, was purchased by Hogwood, probably in the 1980s, at an auction where the estimate was £3–5000 (though we do not have a record of the actual price he paid). His estate has generously agreed to sell the manuscript to the Library. The Friends have given a £5,000 grant for the full purchase price. This will benefit both the Library and the Hogwood estate, and will help the five endowments being set up through his will.

Recent Grants

The Friends have recently supported the Library's acquisition of the papers of Admiral Sir Albert Hastings Markham. The most important relate to the British Arctic Expedition of 1875–76, of which Markham was second in command, and which reached a point further north than any previous expedition. The papers include Markham's Diary, which describes the sinking of HMS *Victoria* in 1887 when Markham commanded the *Camperdown*, which rammed her.

Support has also been pledged for the Library's purchase of Erasmus's *Enchiridion militis Christiani*, in the first English translation (1523), possibly by William Tyndale. This had been sold to an overseas buyer in 2014 but an export licence has been withheld on the recommendation of the Reviewing Committee.

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Behind the Scenes

Crossroads of Curiosity

It is quiet at the British Library in late July. Visitors still flock to the Magna Carta exhibition, and its catalogue and related books are selling well in the Shop, alongside a few souvenirs of the Gothic exhibition and selected summer reading. Cornelia Parker's 'Magna Carta (An Embroidery)' is still attracting attention and the Sir John Ritblatt Gallery displays its Treasures.

Outside on the Piazza in Poet's Circle is an unusual new attraction, an installation of David Normal's 'Crossroads of Curiosity', a light box collage mural originally seen as part of the Burning Man Festival in the Black Rock Desert of Northern Nevada in May 2014. The installation, which uses some of the million out of copyright images from the British Library collection released onto Flickr, was shipped to the UK and opened to celebrate the Summer solstice on 21 June. The Friends had given a grant of £5,000 towards the installation.

A four-sided wooden structure displays images from Victorian illustrated monographs in a series of dramatic tableaux. The panels are a mixture of the fantastic and the closely observed and the effect is a little like the childhood experience of feeling inside a book, as incomprehensible

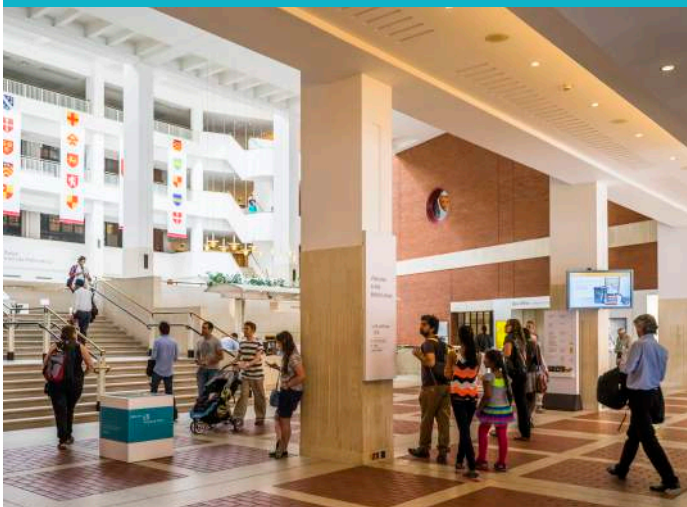


David Normal's 'Crossroads of Curiosity'

scenes of violence and despair, featuring ostriches, crocodiles, tigers and jellyfish, as well as gentlemen in frock coats, enact strange dramas. Among the juxtapositions are crusading knights, robed orientals and the figures of the god Pan and Christ on the cross, grouped under mock-scientific headings such as 'Ostrischizocracy', and 'Curioscillotropy'. Inside the wooden structure on the benches underneath the swooning figures, visitors are taking photographs, eating sandwiches, explaining the pictures to each other and holding informal business meetings.

Volunteers

Do you have experience of dealing with the public? Do you enjoy talking to people? The Friends' desk in the hall is kept open six days a week, with one evening opening, and the volunteers who staff it are needed for approximately two days a month. The work is pleasant and sociable and it is a way of helping the British Library. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer contact Jean-Anne Ashton on ashtonjeanne@aol.com

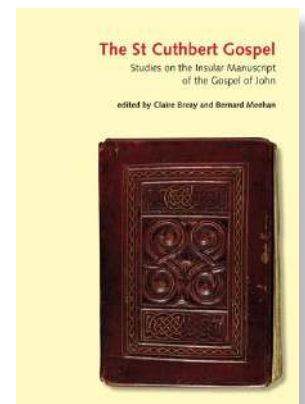


The St Cuthbert Gospel: Studies on the Insular Manuscript of the Gospel of John

Edited by Claire Breay and Bernard Meehan
British Library £45

The St Cuthbert Gospel (formerly known as the Stonyhurst Gospel) is the earliest intact European book. Dated to the early 8th century, it was found in Cuthbert's coffin in Durham Cathedral in 1104 and was acquired for the national collection in 2012. This new collection of essays is the most substantial study of the book since the 1960s. It includes detailed commentary on Cuthbert in his historical context; the codicology, text, script and medieval history of the manuscript; the structure and decoration of the binding; the other relics found in Cuthbert's coffin; and the post-medieval ownership of the book.

A grant of £5,000 was given by the Friends towards the production cost of the book, which is available in the British Library Shop at a special Friends' discount price of £22.75 for three months from 1 September.



Scholar and Statesman Sir Thomas Smith (1513–77)

I had never heard of him a couple of years ago, and nor have many people. But why not? He was a great scholar and statesman of the 16th century. We have all heard of Walsingham, Burghley and Gresham, but why not Smith?

What claim on us does he have, this Regius Professor of Law and Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge, Secretary of State to Edward VI and Elizabeth I? A brilliant classicist, he was one of the leading proponents of the ‘new’ and controversial pronunciation of ancient Greek, a pronunciation that has lasted until the present day. *De recta et emendata linguae Graecae pronuntiatione* was, however, only one of his works. More fame attached, perhaps unintentionally, to his *De Republica Anglorum*, in which he set out his view of the mixed constitution of England, of ‘the king in parliament’, a doctrine that was to attract attention as the events of the following century unfolded. If you take a trip on the Central Line out east you can find Smith’s lovely villa, Hill Hall, with its remarkable surviving paintings and its early use (for England) of Renaissance architectural forms, not spoiled at all by its fine view of the M25/M11 interchange.

I was invited to speak at his centenary conference on, *On the Wages of the Roman Footsoldier*, an unpublished work of about 1562, two copies of which can be found among the British Library’s rich collection of manuscripts. The question – how much was a Roman soldier paid? – remains unresolved, over 500 years later, but Smith’s account is remarkable for its day, drawing not only on classical texts, often by obscure authors (including one



The funerary monument of Sir Thomas Smith in Theydon Mount Church, Essex

Cleopatra, who was possibly the famous queen), but also for its insistence on weighing and analysing ancient Roman coins themselves. We hear of the first gold Roman coin recorded from Britain, found at Saffron Walden in 1537, appropriately a coin of the Emperor Claudius commemorating his triumph DE BRITANN, his successful invasion of Britain in AD 43.

‘Well shall some paradvanture saie those coines I like well.’ We can agree and sympathise, as we pore over his text in the manuscripts’ reading room, our day already improved by the cheery demeanour of the staff and buoyed up by the recent decision to allow photography – we can now spend more time deciphering the words at home rather than rushing to form a view before the sonorous closing announcement that always seems to come too soon, however long the day.

Andrew Burnett

Andrew Burnett is currently working on a history of numismatics in Britain.

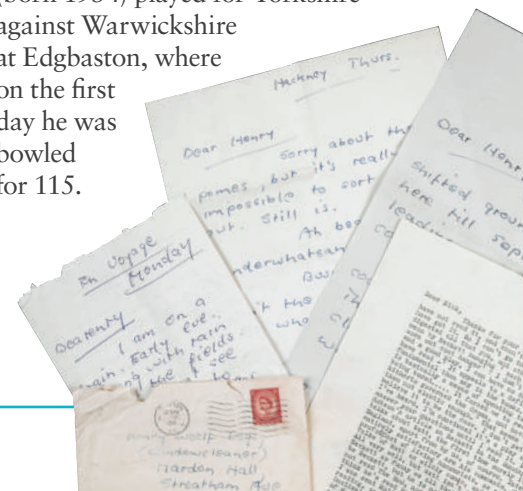
Harold Pinter’s letters

Last November it was announced that the British Library had acquired over 100 previously unseen letters written by Harold Pinter to his lifelong friends, Mick Goldstein and Henry Woolf, fellow members of the self-styled ‘Hackney Gang’. The letters give new insights into Pinter’s life between the ages of 18 and 30. They describe nights out on the town (‘pissed as 10 newts’) and make mock-grandiloquent statements (‘Henry, my dear, when I am a great, successful actor we shall form a company . . . It will be a great success. And will give us all something to live on. The theatre is one of the good things of civilisation.’)

Pinter gives passionate accounts of what he is reading and comments on the films and plays he sees with especial interest in the work of Samuel Beckett.

Many of the letters are undated. But Pinter often writes about cricket and the curators have been able to date about a third of them by referring to the *Wisden Cricketers’ Almanack* and to the online resource Cricinfo. For example, in a letter to Goldstein, praising Samuel Beckett, and insisting that his friend sees ‘En Attendant Godot’ at ‘the Arts in London’ (‘Are you going to do this?’; Pinter had not himself seen the play), it is the reference to ‘Padgett’ (‘you

brought his stroke to me, and lo, didn’t he get a century yesterday, to bear out your words’) that helps the curators to decide that the letter must have been written in August 1955. Doug Padgett (born 1934) played for Yorkshire against Warwickshire at Edgbaston, where on the first day he was bowled for 115.



British Library vs Bibliothèque nationale de France

Before they even opened, the Bibliothèque nationale de France and the British Library were replaying an episode of the Hundred Years War complete with poems of scorn. In Paris, members of the staff would tell readers in confidence that their rivals were lagging far behind. Perhaps they should have gracefully let the Brits win, and learnt from their trials.

Instead of queueing at the doors of the old Richelieu room, readers now had to travel miles to the outlandish site, descend to the depths of a huge submarine, and once there, find that the sophisticated computerised system had crashed again, as it would for months before the experts managed to make it work properly. A number of us grumbled we would waste less time commuting to London on the Eurostar, get to see some books, and return home in time for dinner.

In contrast, the British Library seemed blissfully simple and efficient. The first impression was not welcoming, though: that Mussolinian Newton in the courtyard, for all its Ancient of Days look, and the book in the

entrance hall, tied to the ground by a convict's chain, offer rather grisly views of what is in store. But these are soon dispelled upstairs by the handsome rows of old leather bindings, and the well-furnished cafeteria, something else the designers of the BnF forgot to provide for their supposedly disembodied customers.

At the BnF you must have a reserved seat before you can enter the room, consult the volumes in open access, or order books, which incites readers to reserve in advance, creating a dearth of seats. At the British Library you walk in and roam around as you wish. I have yet to be denied entrance to Humanities 1, and if it gets crowded, there are other less busy rooms. Trouble begins with the catalogue. Among various oddities of the British Library search engine, when you type an author's name and title, the exegeses appear before the work itself. Another is that the British Librarians seem to have grown security obsessed. Until recently, you just entered your reader number to order. Now, you are required to give your username and



password at every turn, which soon drives you mad if you are composing a bibliography, worse still if you must move back and forth from a French to the Library's keyboard. It is one of the few points on which the BnF is more user-friendly: all you need to do is insert your pass and you are free to wander from catalogue to internet or any electronic material available without having to reassure the system every three minutes you do not plan to steal its data or infect it with viruses. Workers of the British Library and the BnF, please unite, and make us readers happy with the best of both worlds.

Dominique Goy-Blanquet

Book Review

The Second I Saw You: The True Love Story of Rupert Brooke and Phyllis Gardner

By Lorna C Beckett
British Library £16.99

The publication, soon after his death in 1915, of editions of the letters and poems of Rupert Brooke helped to fix an image of the young poet as a romantic figure. Later publications revised and complicated this view. Lorna C Beckett's *The Second I Saw You* contains 100 letters exchanged between the poet and a young artist, Phyllis Gardner, from 1911 to 1915, as well as Gardner's memoir of their time together, which was written in 1918. Gardner's papers, which were not published by Brooke's first biographer Eddie Marsh, were donated to the

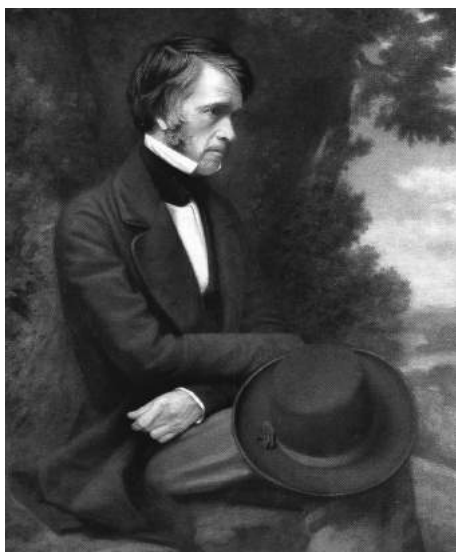


British Museum by Gardner's sister in 1948 and placed under an embargo until 2000.

The memoir paints a nostalgic portrait of family tea parties at Gardner's home, clandestine meetings in London and Cambridge, swimming in the Cam,

meeting at railways stations and dodging a disapproving aunt. The letters are full of ardent personal statements. Gardner describes her paintings. Brooke tries to shock: 'Well, you strange Phyllis, what I wanted to say was this: you are incredibly beautiful when you are naked'; 'All women are beasts'. The cards and letters suggest the difficulties of pinning down a man who is often overseas and who was at that time also romantically involved with other women. As the correspondence winds down in 1914, the tone changes. Gardner's poignant plea in August 1914 is: 'Don't get killed without letting me know'. Brooke writes from training camp to say: 'Many thanks for the socks'. *The Second I Saw You* ends with an account of Gardner's life after Brooke's death until her death in 1939 at the age of 48.

My British Library Victorian values



Thomas Carlyle, portrait by Robert Tait, 1856

I spent my first twenty years in London studying in the famous Round Reading Room in the British Museum, moving in 1997, along with the great collection of books and manuscripts, to Colin St John Wilson's new British Library at St Pancras. Unlike many of my contemporaries, I am not nostalgic for the old quarters, finding the St Pancras reading rooms light, airy, and quiet, and the staff friendly and attentive. Nor do I mind the hubbub going on immediately *outside* the reading rooms, where people without a reader's ticket can sit and read or – more likely – use their computers freely. Their presence is a reminder that just outside the hallowed and privileged place of study human curiosity and intelligence are at work on all sorts of subjects, playful and serious.

On the other hand, the Round Reading Room, a model of design and engineering when it opened in 1857, has a special resonance for students of Victorian culture like me. From my arrival in the English Department at nearby UCL, I sat in the Round Reading Room's old leather chairs, breathing its musty air, pleasantly aware that many of the people I was reading and writing about had sat there in their day, reading and writing too. Among these were George Eliot, Marx, Dickens, Thackeray, and the

doughty Thomas Carlyle. I have written about all these, and my most recent book, *Victorian Bloomsbury* (2012), concerns, among other great Bloomsbury institutions, the British Museum itself as an example of the area's dedication to education and culture in the 19th century.

One hero of the book is Anthony Panizzi, the greatest of all the library's directors, who began the proper cataloguing of the collections, enforced the law obliging all UK publishers to lodge a copy of their works in the library, and proposed and helped to design the Round Reading Room, which was a great improvement on the old, cramped room which preceded it. Panizzi's clash with Carlyle in 1838 famously led the latter to abandon the Museum – though only temporarily, as it turned out – in order to found a more amenable library than one with inconvenient opening hours, no facility to borrow books, and a reading room in which, he said, 'no man could read a book well with the bustle of three or four hundred people about him'. The London Library was founded in 1840 to answer these needs. Carlyle also complained of 'Museum headache', and told a commission of inquiry in 1849 that 'there are several persons in a state of imbecility who come to read in the British Museum, sent there by their friends to pass away their time'. Nonetheless, he was forced to return to the British Museum to consult the books in German, French, and English which he needed to complete his six-volume history of Frederick the Great of Prussia. The library's holdings, then as now, were sans pareil. Fortunately, library headaches and insane neighbours are absent from today's reading rooms.

Rosemary Ashton is the author of *George Eliot: A Life* (1996), and *142 Strand: A Radical Address in Victorian London* (2006). She is currently working on a literary and historical survey of the significant events of the summer of 1858.



Festive Friends

To celebrate the Festive Season, the Friends of the British Library are joining with the Friends of the National Libraries to host an event to be held at the British Library Conference Centre on 23 November 2015. Join us for an evening of talks on some of the wonderful books and manuscripts acquired by the British Library and other UK libraries and archives with the help of grants from the Friends of the National Libraries and the Friends of the British Library.

Both sets of Friends have provided funds over many years to help libraries and archives acquire collections of national and regional significance. The Friends of the British Library, together with the Friends of the National Libraries and other charities, regularly assist the Library with its purchase of individual items of outstanding importance, or of archives, which span many years of activity on the part of a particular family or of a company.

Recent examples include contributions towards the acquisition of the *Mystère de la Vengeance* <http://britishlibrary.typepad.co.uk/digitisedmanuscripts/2014/03/medieval-drama-acquired-by-the-british-library.html>

Tickets are free, but must be booked through the British Library Box Office. Go to <https://boxoffice.bl.uk/category.php>, then click on **Events**, and choose **November** from the menu on the left.

Events – How to book your place

The question of how to book a place has been raised quite a few times recently and I want to take this opportunity to tell you all how event places are allocated, how notifications are made, and when charging takes place.

I receive all the forms by post, and they are entered on to a spreadsheet. There is no benefit to getting your form in first, but it does help me greatly if you can get the forms back to me as soon as possible. We do not operate a first-come, first-served system because we have overseas members who need more time, and because we have new members joining regularly. It would be a pity for someone to join and not be able to attend any events because they were all sold out for months in advance.

About a month before each event, I randomly allocate places, one event at a time. Emails are sent out at this point whether you have been successful or not. If an event is less than four weeks away and you have not heard, please get in touch. If you don't have email, I send the notification in the post, which will take an extra day or two.

The email will have details of where and when to meet. If you cannot make it and let me know more than

14 days before the event, I just take you off the list without a charge. If it is less than that, you will be liable for the full charge, as we have to confirm numbers no later than two weeks before, and I cannot guarantee that I can get someone to cover a late cancellation. In any case, it is always best if you let me know that you will not be there so that we will know not to wait on the day.

If you do get a place, turn up at the allotted place and time and let me know that you have arrived. There is no need to print the email I sent, unless that would be helpful for you. I will have a list of names to tick off, or tickets to hand out. I try to go to every event, even if I don't accompany the group on the visit.

Charging for event places is done once per quarter, at the end of each quarter. This saves us transaction charges on credit cards and trips to the bank with cheques.

I hope that demystifies the process. Please feel free to ask if you have any questions.

Nickie Chapman, Membership Secretary

Autumn visits

Florence Nightingale Museum
London SE1
Wednesday 7 October, 2.30pm, £11
Maximum 25 people



Florence Nightingale was famous for being the 'Lady with the Lamp', the woman who organised the nursing of

sick and wounded soldiers during the Crimean War. Her far-sighted ideas and reforms have influenced many aspects of modern health care.

From the slate she used as a child and her pet owl Athena, to the Turkish lantern used in the Crimean War, the collection in the Museum spans the life of Florence Nightingale, the

Crimean War and Florence's nursing legacy up to the present day.

Friends will have a guided tour, and time to look around on their own.

Armourers' Hall
London EC2R
Wednesday 28 October, 11am, £16
Maximum 40 people

The Armourers and Brasiers' Company first emerged in 1322 when a group of 26 Armourers and Helmetmakers was granted the right to oversee standards in the making of armour and helmets in and around the City of London.

The Company has used the current site for its gatherings since 1346 when it was an inn known as 'The Dragon and Five Shoppes'. The building survived the Great Fire and was further



extended in 1795. It was completely rebuilt in 1839 to become the beautiful listed building to be seen today with its impressive collection of 16th- and 17th-century armour, weapons and paintings.

The Friends will have a guided tour of the major rooms, with information about the key items, lasting around 90 minutes.



Theatre Royal Haymarket

London SW1Y

Wednesday 4 November, 2pm, £15

Maximum 20 people

Known originally as ‘The Little Theatre in the Hay’, the Theatre Royal Haymarket is a Grade I listed building situated in the heart of the West End. Designed and constructed by John Potter in 1720, the theatre seats 893 patrons and is the third oldest London Playhouse still in use.

Friends will have a 90-minute tour, where we will explore the theatre, go backstage briefly, and also visit the famous No.1 Dressing Room.

Apothecaries' Hall

London EC4V

Friday 13 November, 11am, £20

Maximum 25 people



The Worshipful Society of Apothecaries lies at the heart of the early foundations of modern-day medicine and remains an important medical institution today. The Society plays a key role in the advancement of specialist areas of medicine, and in post-graduate education and qualification of practitioners.

The Society of Apothecaries was incorporated by royal charter from James I in 1617. The Letters Patent gave the Society the right to “have, purchase, retain and appoint a certain Hall, or Counsel-House” in the City, and Cobham House in Blackfriars was chosen. It was destroyed by the Great Fire but rebuilt and completed in 1672.

The Beadle will lead the tour, and Friends will learn about the historical significance of the site and the history of the society. We will also have a chance to look at the artefacts which are on display during our 90-minute visit.

Mansion House Art Tour

London EC4N

Friday 20 November, 2pm, £12

Maximum 20 people



Mansion House is the official residence of the Lord Mayor of London. It is used for some of the City of London’s official functions, including the annual dinner, hosted by the Lord Mayor, at which the Chancellor of the Exchequer gives his ‘Mansion House Speech’ about the state of the British economy. It also houses the Harold Samuel art collection, a unique collection of 17th-century paintings from Holland’s Golden Age.

Left to the City of London in 1987, this remarkable collection of 84 pieces is perhaps the best of Dutch art in Britain. Friends will be given a tour of the art collection specifically, led by a qualified art guide, lasting for approximately 90 minutes.

Festive Friends

Monday 23 November, 2pm–4pm

Free, no need to book

Our annual Christmas Shopping afternoon will be held again in the Friends’ Room, with a 20% discount in the Shop, refreshments, and a chance to socialise with other Friends. Additionally, tours of the Centre for Conservation and the British Library will be organised. Look out for a mailing to follow later in the year with details of the tours and how to book, as well as your discount voucher. An evening of curatorial talks has also been arranged for the same day. Please see page 5, with more information on the event and how to book your free ticket.

Handel House Museum

London W1K

Tuesday 8 December, 1pm, £16

Maximum 20 people

Its continued popularity has encouraged us to repeat our visit to the house which was the home of George Frederic Handel from 1723 until his death in 1759. The Museum celebrates his life and work in finely restored Georgian interiors. The visit will begin with a tour of nearby St George’s Church, where Handel played the organ. Then we will head back to the house for a guided tour and a harpsichord recital lasting around 30 minutes.

Whitechapel Bell Foundry

London E1

Saturday 12 December, 4pm, £19

Maximum 14 people

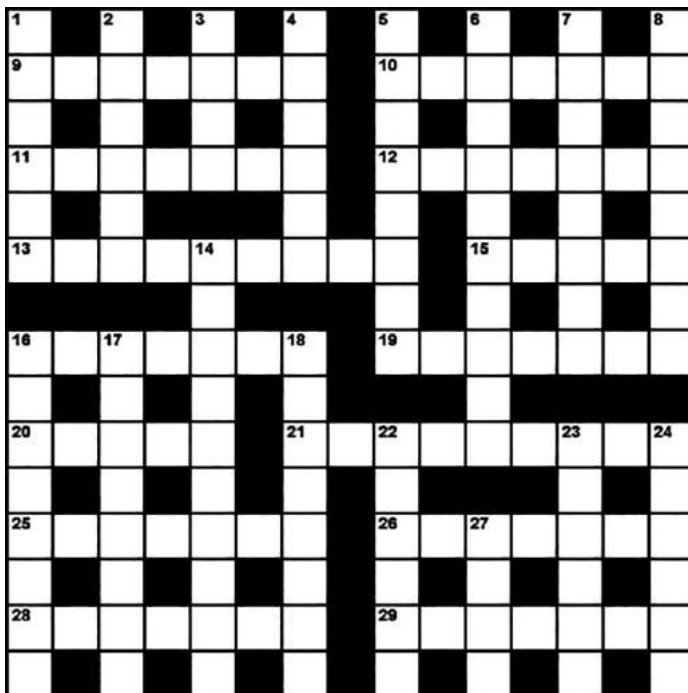
The Whitechapel Bell Foundry is Britain’s oldest manufacturing company, established in 1570 and in continuous business since then. The present buildings date from 1670, four years after the Great Fire. Whitechapel’s famous bells include the original Liberty Bell (1752), the Great Bell of Montreal and ‘Big Ben’. This is expected to be our last visit to the Bell Foundry for the foreseeable future.

Win vouchers to spend in the Library shop

The senders of the first two correct solutions opened will each win a **£25 voucher** to spend in the British Library Shop. Send entries to the Friends' office at the address below, marking the envelope 'Crossword' and including your name, address and membership number. Closing date is **9 September** or seven days after delivery of your Newsletter, whichever is the later.



Shop photo by AVM



Answers to Summer crossword

Across: 1 Man and superman, 10 Coded, 11 Flip chart, 12 Oloroso, 13 Scatter, 14 Solar, 16 Know-it-all, 19 Post codes, 20 Theme, 22 Ousting, 25 Indians, 27 Americana, 28 Tudor, 29 Across-the-board.

Down: 2 Androcles, 3 Audio, 4 Defrocked, 5 Units, 6 Eucharist, 7 Meant, 8 Natural, 9 Actors, 15 Rectifies, 17 Obstinate, 18 Alexander, 19 Pro rata, 21 Ensure, 23 Steer, 24 Grant, 26 Ditto.

Across

- 9 As satisfied as a philosopher but not as happy, said Johnson (7)
- 10 Chronicler of pilgrims' progress (7)
- 11 Raised in a seat of learning (7)
- 12 The heretic in a revolutionary leader (7)
- 13 Bag Lady in Berkshire? (9)
- 15 Look, I have this for my objective (3,2)
- 16 After Hamlet, all that remains (7)
- 19 Creeps raggedly around triple junction to find regal accessory (7)
- 20 High voices in trial to sing aria (5)
- 21 Easily enough to fill up net when sorted (9)
- 25 Sounds as though it apes irregular warfare (7)
- 26 Period when a substitute can take 14 (7)
- 28 Scramble to reach A and E for minor ailment (7)
- 29 My late pal reorganised protection for this joint (7)

Down

- 1 Assured demeanour, but sounds fruity (6)
- 2 In South Africa, the prophet created an eastern delicacy (6)
- 3 Post in chaos in African state (4)
- 4 On the Anglican church, Laurel has a position (6)
- 5 Hero is cool in turbulent sea (8)
- 6 What this (or any) tricky clue might cause (10)
- 7 The ultimate trial finds detectives in confused state (4,4)
- 8 Internet fiend starts on bicentennial author (8)
- 14 A right royal venue (seemingly) not far from BL (5,5)
- 16 Special viewpoints make things sparkle (8)
- 17 These lions roar at Hay and other festive locations (8)
- 18 Ma's sheep strayed – and made some strong points (8)
- 22 Yes we're in, no we're out of here (6)
- 23 Many take them before they become 11 (6)
- 24 A manly resolution for the unqualified (6)
- 27 For a scandal, just add water (4)

Winners of our Summer crossword, who won tickets to the West End production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*, were **David Lumsdaine** of York, **Susan Robinson** of West Dulwich and **Shirley Scrutton** of Milton Keynes.

Membership Secretary
Nichole Chapman

Editor Lindsay Duguid

Volunteer Co-ordinator
Jean-Anne Ashton
T +44 (0)20 8964 2292

Friends of the British Library
The British Library
96 Euston Road
London NW1 2DB
T +44 (0)20 7412 7734
F +44 (0)20 7412 7017
friends@bl.uk
www.bl.uk/friends

Registered charity number 328095