The Year Under Review

The Friends marked the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta in 2015 with significant grants to assist the Library’s major exhibition on the charter. It also formed the subject of the talk at the Annual General Meeting. Meanwhile, the celebrations for the Friends’ own twenty-fifth anniversary, which had begun in January 2014, continued in July 2014 with a Reception given to the Friends by the Chief Executive of the Library and concluded in November with a concert at St Pancras Church. In the twenty-five years since their founding the Friends have raised over one million pounds for the Library. To mark their anniversary and to ensure that the Friends will have the potential to make major grants in the future, the Silver Jubilee Fund, an expendable endowment fund, was established to provide a long-term income stream. This already stands at well over £100,000.

In this current year, grants and donations by the Friends to the Library totalled £169,287 (£118,000). A grant of £60,000 towards the Library’s own endowment fund, a ‘Fund for Knowledge’, proved particularly valuable to the Library, attracting as it did 50% complementary funding through the Catalyst Endowment programme, a joint initiative between the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and the Arts Council England. Details of all grants during this period are given below. There was an increase in the trend, noted in Annual Reports over several years, 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 2015 the number of Friends stood at 3,473 (3,312). Maintaining and increasing the Friends’ membership remains a top priority, the better to fulfil our mandate to help the British Library.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 9 March 2015. Christopher Wright was re-elected as Deputy Chairman. Peter Barber stood down on completing his second term on Council and Nicolas Bell was elected in his place. Lord Hemingford and Jane Dobson were re-elected to Council. The Chairman thanked Professor Kate McLuskie, whose membership of the BL Board ended in March, for all her work for the Friends as the Board’s representative on Council.

The Chairman then welcomed the Library’s Chief Executive, Roly Keating, who reviewed the British Library’s activities in 2014–15. He announced that a new strategy, Living Knowledge, had just been published. Its strap line was “we make our intellectual heritage accessible to everyone, for research, inspiration and enjoyment.” The Library’s purposes had been defined as custodianship, research, culture, learning and international partnership. It also discussed the increase in digital materials housed by the Library, completing the digitisation of the Sound Archive, the future of the Boston Spa site and plans for continuing investment at St Pancras. In addition to this, the National Newspaper Building had been opened at Boston Spa and a new Newsroom at St Pancras.

There were now six affiliate Business and Intellectual Property Centres in various parts of the country and the Qatar Digital Library had been launched, making freely available a vast resource of material on the Gulf. Successful exhibitions had included Comics Unmasked: art and anarchy in the UK which had attracted 54,000 visitors with a diverse age range and Terror and Wonder: the Gothic imagination with 60,000 visitors. A highlight of the current year had been the re-uniting in February of the four surviving 1215 copies of Magna Carta and he looked forward to the Library’s major Magna Carta exhibition which was opening shortly.

Following the AGM, our President, Lord Salisbury, introduced the guest speaker, Lord Sumption, the distinguished historian and a Justice of the Supreme Court, who spoke on Magna Carta then and now. 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. An active recruitment programme continued. The Volunteers Desk in the Library’s entrance hall was manned for four hours six days a week including Saturday and from 11am to 7.30pm on Tuesdays. Volunteers continued to assist the Membership Secretary as required and now provide a basic service in the Friends’ Office when the Membership Secretary is on leave. During the year Volunteers were briefed by Ed King on Victorian decorated book covers, by Mark Walton on Information and Customer Services and by Dr Claire Breay on the Magna Carta Exhibition.

An active and well attended programme of visits and events during the year included tours of Kings Place, Hogarth’s House, Valentines Mansion (Ilford), Senate House Library, Queen Elizabeth’s Hunting Lodge (Chingford), Two Temple Place, BBC Broadcasting House (3), Southside House (Wimbledon), The Poppy Factory, Freemasons’ Hall, Shri Swaminarayan Mandir (Neasden Temple), The Royal Hospital Chelsea, Whitechapel Bell Foundry (3), Handel House, The Petrie Museum, The Hunterian Museum, Art at the Mansion House, The Fashion & Textile Museum, Somerset House, The Middle Temple, The Royal Albert Hall, The Chelsea Physic Garden, and Hall Place (Bexley). Other highlights were a Walking Tour in London, entitled ‘Memorializing conflicts; Waterloo to the World Wars’ and a talk on the Library’s Map Collections by Tom Harper. As well as being much enjoyed by the Friends, the Events Programme is a valuable source of additional funds for 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 Chief Executive, Roly Keating, and his colleagues.
This Year’s Grants

£60,000 to the British Library’s Endowment Fund, which attracted 50% matching funding (£30,000) under the Department of Culture, Media and Sport/Heritage Lottery Fund/Arts Council England’s Catalyst Endowment Scheme.

£20,000 towards the conservation and reframing of the British Library’s two 1215 Exemplifications of Magna Carta, together with four associated documents, prior to their display in the Library’s 2015 exhibition ‘Magna Carta: Law, Liberty, Legacy’ to mark the eight-hundredth anniversary of the granting of the Charter.

£20,000 towards the salary of a member of staff to catalogue and make publicly accessible the Archive of the D’Oyly Carte Company, which the British Library has purchased. The collection comprises a complete record of the activities of one of the country’s most famous, distinctive and long-lasting theatrical companies, including Sullivan’s autograph score of Iolanthe, prompt books, cast lists and photographs.

£11,287 towards the costs of loans from France for the Library’s 2015 exhibition ‘Magna Carta: Law, Liberty, Legacy’, including, from the Archives Nationales, the Statute of Pamiers issued by Simon de Montfort in 1212 and the ‘Unknown Charter’ of King John, both important precursors of Magna Carta, and, from the Musée Carnavalet, the painting by Jean-Jacques François Le Barbier of ‘The Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen’ (1789).

£10,000 towards the purchase of the Journals of Sir Albert Hastings Markham (1841–1918). These include a description of the British Arctic Expedition of 1875–76 under Sir George Nares, on which Markham served as second-in-command. The expedition, sponsored jointly by the Royal Navy and the Royal Geographical Society, established a record for ‘Farthest North’, which stood until broken by Nansen in 1895, and also disproved the long-held theory of an ice-free polar sea.

£10,000 towards the purchase of the Enchiridion militis Christiani (‘The Handbook of a Christian Knight’) by Erasmus, which was the subject of an Export Stop. This manuscript, unknown to the scholarly world before its recent sale, contains the earliest English translation of any of Erasmus’s works and its date, 1523, suggests that it may well be a copy of the lost translation which William Tyndale, whose translation of the New Testament forms a basis of the Authorised Version of the Bible, is known to have made in that year.

£10,000 towards the purchase of the Bryanston Estate Map, 1659. The lands of the late Richard Rogers of Bryanston, Dorset, were surveyed by William Bowles in 1657 and 1658 and this plan was drawn by Mary Bowles in 1659. It is thus an early and rare surviving example of work by a female mapmaker and, being richly illustrated, provides an important snapshot of the agricultural landscape of the seventeenth century. It also includes one of the earliest depictions anywhere of English surveyors at work.

£10,000 towards the third and final part of the Greek Manuscript Digitisation Project, which will complete the digitisation of all the Library’s Greek Manuscripts. This phase includes many manuscripts from the collections of Charles Burney, Robert Curzon, Lord Zouche; Samuel Dawes, and Sir Ivor Bertie Guest, Lord Wimborne, as well as the Gospel lectionary formerly owned and annotated by John Ruskin.

£8,000 for a twelve-week placement of a Conservation Intern from abroad as part of the British Library’s mission to maintain its international leadership role in the development of Preventive Conservation education and training, and to foster relations with foreign librarians, promote best practice and cultivate opportunities for collaboration.

£5,000 for the purchase of a seventeenth-century music manuscript from the Hogwood Collection, containing hitherto unidentified music for keyboard by unnamed composers of the period. The pieces are mainly dances (‘Courante’, ‘Allemende’, ‘Eare’ [Air]), but also include ‘An Overture, which the Organist of Chichester desired to have set’. Two works are described as ‘fitt for the Manicorde’, an early name for the clavichord. The book was purchased by Thurston Dart in 1951, and later by Christopher Hogwood, whose executors offered it to the British Library.

£5,000 towards the installation in the Poets’ Circle of the Library’s Piazza in summer 2015 of ‘Crossroads of Curiosity’, a light-box artwork by David Normal. First shown at the Burning Man Festival in the Black Rock Desert, Nevada, it was created from the over one million out of copyright images released by the British Library.
# Statement of Financial Activities

Year Ended 30 June 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>INCOMING RESOURCES (FROM GENERATED FUNDS)</strong></td>
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<td>Members’ subscriptions</td>
<td>99,510</td>
<td>93,924</td>
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<td>Donations</td>
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<td>Legacies</td>
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<td>Income tax recoverable under Gift Aid</td>
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<td>Investment income</td>
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<td>Events income</td>
<td>8,232</td>
<td>8,679</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endowment Fund Donations</td>
<td>136,370</td>
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<tr>
<td>Restricted Donations</td>
<td>10,870</td>
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<td><strong>Total incoming resources</strong></td>
<td>337,382</td>
<td>217,789</td>
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<td><strong>RESOURCES EXPENDED</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cost of generating funds:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising and publicity</td>
<td>11,297</td>
<td>11,126</td>
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<td>Membership administration</td>
<td>35,782</td>
<td>34,398</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Charitable activities:</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants to British Library</td>
<td>169,287</td>
<td>118,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Governance costs</td>
<td>1,848</td>
<td>1,680</td>
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<td><strong>Total resources expended</strong></td>
<td>218,214</td>
<td>165,204</td>
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<td><strong>NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS</strong></td>
<td>119,168</td>
<td>52,585</td>
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<td><strong>OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Profit/Loss on revaluation of Investments</td>
<td>5,800</td>
<td>17,090</td>
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<td><strong>Net movements in funds</strong></td>
<td>124,968</td>
<td>69,675</td>
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<td>Total funds brought forward</td>
<td>420,426</td>
<td>350,751</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total funds carried forward</td>
<td>545,394</td>
<td>420,426</td>
</tr>
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</table>
## Balance Sheet at 30 June 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FIXED ASSETS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>355,477</strong></td>
<td><strong>213,107</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Stocks</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>120</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debtors</td>
<td>22,722</td>
<td>20,713</td>
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<td>Cash on deposit and at bank</td>
<td>249,957</td>
<td>269,111</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>272,679</strong></td>
<td><strong>289,944</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LIABILITIES: amounts falling due within one year</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred income: life membership subscriptions</td>
<td>4,426</td>
<td>4,216</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants payable</td>
<td>44,287</td>
<td>45,500</td>
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<td>Trade Creditors and accruals</td>
<td>11,434</td>
<td>11,431</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>60,147</strong></td>
<td><strong>61,147</strong></td>
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<td><strong>NET CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>212,532</strong></td>
<td><strong>228,797</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td><strong>568,009</strong></td>
<td><strong>441,904</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LIABILITIES: amounts falling due after more than one year</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Deferred income: life membership subscriptions</td>
<td>(22,615)</td>
<td>(21,478)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>545,394</strong></td>
<td><strong>420,426</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FUNDS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>268,461</td>
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<td>Restricted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Designated</td>
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<td>120,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endowment Fund</td>
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<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>545,394</strong></td>
<td><strong>420,426</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Signed on behalf of the Council  
**Ferdinand Mount**  
Chairman  
8 February 2016

### Notes to the accounts

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 Chris Harris CPFA, MHA MacIntyre Hudson, and received an unqualified report.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS’ STATEMENT ON SUMMARYED 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 2015.

MHA MacIntyre Hudson  
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor  
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 2015

President
The Marquess of Salisbury PC DL
The Lord Bragg of Wigton
The Rt Hon Frank Field PC DL MP
The Rt Hon The Lord Hague of Richmond FRSL PC
The Lord Hameed of Hampstead CBE DL
The Lord Jones of Birmingham
Sir Geoffrey Leigh FRSA
Dame Penelope Lively DBE
Professor Sir Andrew Motion FRSL
Cdr Michael Saunders Watson CBE DL
The Lord Steel of Aikwood KT KBE DL

Vice Presidents
The Lord Bragg of Wigton
The Rt Hon Frank Field PC DL MP
The Rt Hon The Lord Hague of Richmond FRSL PC
The Lord Hameed of Hampstead CBE DL
The Lord Jones of Birmingham
Sir Geoffrey Leigh FRSA
Dame Penelope Lively DBE
Professor Sir Andrew Motion FRSL
Cdr Michael Saunders Watson CBE DL
The Lord Steel of Aikwood KT KBE DL

Council
Chairman
Ferdinand Mount [4]
Deputy Chairman
Dr Christopher Wright OBE * [4]
Treasurer
Keith Stephenson FCMA * [4]
Secretary
Stephanie Kenna * [3]
Council Members
Jean-Anne Ashton ‡[3]
Peter Barber OBE (until 9 Mar 2015) [2]
Dr Nicolas Bell (from 9 Mar 2015) [1]
Caroline Brazier (co-opted 9 Feb 2015) [2]
Frances Brindle (resigned 28 Nov 2014) [1]
Jane Dobson [1]
Lindsay Duguid [2]
Nina Evans [1]
Celia Gould [4]
The Lord Hemingford [2]
Dr Norman James [2]
Edmund King MBE [4]
Professor Kate McLuskie (until 31 Mar 2015) ** [2]
Anthony Payne [3]
Professor Andrew Prescott [1]
Dr David Shaw [2]

Membership Secretary
Nichole Chapman

[4] 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

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

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

Independent examiner
Chris Harris CPFA
MHA MacIntyre Hudson
New Bridge Street House
30-34 New Bridge Street
London EC4V 6BJ

Solicitors
Russell-Cooke LLP
2 Putney Hill
London SW15 6AB