

From the Director

Our new national Makar Jackie Kay said: "If poetry was a building, then it would be the Scottish Poetry Library." Our solid foundation is testimony to the tenures of my predecessors Robyn Marsack and Tessa Ransford, both of whom delivered successful major capital projects with our library on Crichton's Close, our home from 2000. I have inherited an iconic headquarters, and a talented staff that rose to the challenge of a temporary relocation to Argyle House during the renovation. Particular mention must go to our Librarian Julie Johnstone, who organised the removals, co-ordinated the resettlement and oversaw ongoing building snagging works with meticulous care. The Library's extension and refurbishment was achieved at a cost that exceeded the revised budget by 16 per cent, but having built up strong reserves, and worked hard on its fundraising, the SPL has succeeded in retaining a reserve level that meets with the Board's approval.

Both Robyn and Tessa saw the SPL in a global as well as a national context, and Robyn's tenure saw the expansion of the international programme, notably in the form of translation workshops, but also through collaborations with the BBC. Robyn initiated a publishing programme that counted over two dozen titles, including anthologies for young people and work

in translation. Under her leadership, the website was re-launched and the SPL's online presence became a reflection and extension of the depth and breadth of its collection and expertise; the Library gained the Edwin Morgan Archive; the SPL became Scotland's chief resource for a much more energetic National Poetry Day; and partnerships with organisations within Scotland, the UK and beyond enabled the SPL to extend its reach considerably. The Library and the poetry community expressed their gratitude and warmest wishes for the future at her farewell in May 2016.

Last year's report closed with the Scottish Poetry Library's vacating its premises in Crichton's Close in preparation for extension and renovation. This was scheduled to be a 16-week construction project (to the end of August) but took considerably longer: indeed the last exterior panels were being hammered on just an hour before the official opening on 28 October 2015! The formal event included speeches by the Chair, the Director and the Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Europe & External Affairs, Fiona Hyslop, along with readings by Lydia Roy (Poetry By Heart Scotland winner 2014) and the Makar Liz Lochhead, who wrote a poem for the occasion. This was followed by an informal open house later in the day, enjoyed by about 400 friends. We are very happy to

report that the reaction to the refurbishment has been overwhelmingly positive, and to record our warmest thanks here to the patient and painstaking project team from Nicholl Russell Studios: Douglas Binnie, Genevieve De Lorme and Euan McCallum.

The SPL website, with associated activities such as the podcasts and recordings which have a global audience, took on additional importance when the doors of the physical library were closed. In almost all areas related to the website and the SPL's use of social media there were month-on-month, year-on-year improvements. For example, May 2015 recorded an almost 100-per-cent increase in the number of visitors to the site over May 2014's total, while January 2016 saw the highest monthly number of visits yet made to the website: 181,389. Burns Night is always the SPL's high point, but this was extraordinary and perhaps reflected the Library's higher profile after re-opening.

With the support of partners, the SPL continued to be out and about in Scotland and to work with visiting poets. Our offsite events programme drew about 800 attendees, and once we returned to the building attendances increased encouragingly, notably for the Drag Queen poetry event which dramatically demonstrated the SPL's commitment to an 'open' library and

diversity of audience and art form. Partnership work with the Edwin Morgan Trust continued with a very successful translation workshop, bringing Scottish and Slovakian poets together in May 2015 and showcasing their work at the Edinburgh International Book Festival in August. Translation, poetry exchanges and podcasts will be features of the SPL's participation in the new Live Literature Europe platform initiated by Literature Across Frontiers, with European Union funding.

Participation in Poetry By Heart Scotland doubled from the previous year's pilot, and the finals in March were again held at the National Gallery. A short film about the PBHS competition and its benefits were circulated to schools. Additional funding from Cashlink enabled a partnership with Rally & Broad to offer well-received performance workshops to schools in East Dunbartonshire as part of the SPL's project to increase students' confidence through spoken poetry. National Poetry Day's theme of Light was welcomed by schools across Scotland, with its inter-disciplinary appeal to Science, Art and Drama departments as well as English. Digital statistics show that the SPL website page for downloading NPD teaching materials was accessed over 14,000 times by over 4,000 unique users, the best response to NPD so far. >>



Liz Lochhead, Robyn Marsack and Jackie Kay at Robyn's retirement party



Staff at the re-opening of the Library



January's The Library Is Open! Drag Queen Poems event



Our translation workshops brought together Scottish and Slovakian poets

Space for Sound

The Scottish Poetry Library gratefully acknowledges the support of trusts, funders and individuals towards the refurbishment and extension of the Scottish Poetry Library in 2015.

Principal funders include The Binks Trust, Cordiss Trust, Edwin Morgan Trust, Foyle Foundation, Garfield Weston Foundation, Monument Trust, National Lottery through Creative Scotland, Robert Gavron Charitable Trust, Trusthouse Charitable Foundation, The Wolfson Foundation, and several trusts preferring to remain anonymous.

Principal donors include Baillie Gifford & Co., John Barr, John Brindle, Lady Joyce Caplan, Peter France, Shields Henderson, Diana Hendry and Hamish Whyte, Colleen and Jack Holmbeck in memory of Ann D. Gwilt, Yazan Mufti, Ian Wall, Colin Will, the Zachs-Adams Family, together with legacies from Francis Brewis, Norman Kreitman and Mary Ringsleben.

We are grateful for donations from many friends of the SPL, named and anonymous, including: Kathryn Ailes, Stuart Airlie, Valerie Akhtar, Jane Alexander, Margot Alexander, Julie Amphlett, Association of Scottish Literary Studies, Geoffrey Bailey, Dorothy Baird, Joan Bakewell, Mary Baxter, Helen Beaton, Philip Bennett, Kayleigh Bohan, William Bonar, Alison Bowden, Sharon Brown, The Brownlee Trust, David Bruce, Pat Bryden, Antonia Bunch, Elizabeth Burns, Jenni Calder, Gerry Cambridge, Gerry Carruthers, Norma Christie, Alison Clark, Anne Clarke, Tom Cleary, C. Coghill, Kate Colgrave, Collective Architecture, Stewart Conn, Anne Connolly, Jane Cooper, John Coutts, Anna Crowe, Peter Daniels, Christine De Luca, Kari Dickson, Annie L. Duff, Sasha Dugdale, Rhoda Dunbar, Edinburgh Experience, M. & J. Elliott, D. & M. Elvin, Federation of Scottish Writers, Raymond Flint, Alastair Fowler, Iain Galbraith, Mark Goodwin, Linda Goulden, Liffy Grant, Stephen Grant, Anne Griffiths, George Gwilt, Mairi Hedderwick, Ian Higgins, Alan Hill, Richard Holloway, Jenny Honey, Alastair Hulbert, Alexander Hutchison, Marilyn Imrie, Kathleen Jamie, Peter Jarvis, Michael Johnson, J. Jones, J. Kaliski, Ann Karkalas, H. N. Kerr, Michael Kidd, Sandra Kohls, Peter Kravitz, Susan Kreitman, P. R. Lewis, Patricia Lines, Eleanor Livingstone, Euan McCallum, Ian Macdonald, Rob Mackenzie, Ann MacKinnon, Lindsay Macgregor, A. R. Marden, Ann Matheson, Peter McCarey, P. McCaw, Iain McGillivray, James McGonigal, T. McGrath, Jane McKie, K. McIntosh, Mrs E. McKinney, Margaret McLeod, Dorothy McMillan, Carol Ann McNelis, Michael Mitchell, Reid Moffat, Pete Mowat, Sheila Moy, Michael Munro, M. Neilson, Sheila Nichols, A. Noble, Iddo Oberski, Kevin O'Rourke, E. A. Packard, Sandra Phillips, David Pirnie & friends in memory of David Pirnie, Martha Pollard, N. Poyser, Richard Price, Pauline Prior-Pitt, John Reynolds, Eileen Ritson, Laurina Robertson, Mark Russell, Esther Rutter, Mrs E. S. Ryan, Alan Saunderson, School of Poets, Charles Scott, Nora Senior, Shirley Shaw, B. Shepherd, Samantha Smart, Norah Smith, The Society of Bookbinders, T. Stothart, Em Strang, John Stuart, Tricia Stuart, Ken Sutherland, Judith Taylor, Ros Taylor, S. Taylor, Peter Thierfeldt, C. G. Thom, Ben Thomson, Elizabeth Thomson, Emma Thomson, Adrian Turpin, Keith Walker, John Wall, Colin Waters, Roderick Watson, Ian N. White, Angus Whitson, Claire Willatt and Eric Wishart.

Random for Robyn Marsack

Go take a book down from the shelf and open it.
Listen, this isn't 'book' but box,
box full of sound you lift the lid on, opening.

Yes, open any item in this place and you'll release
some specific human noise and voice and
song that doesn't need a tune to all-the-truer sing.
Pick one. Pick anything.
Slim volume. Expansive, all-inclusive, fat anthology –
neither's a dumb tome of texts to tease mere 'meaning' from.
The song's the thing.

Liz Lochhead
from *Fugitive Colours*
(Polygon, 2016)

SCOTTISH POETRY LIBRARY ANNUAL REVIEW 2015-2016

From the Director

>> We received a boost in publicity from the huge poetry banner erected over scaffolding in Edinburgh's High Street, in partnership with the New Waverley construction project, which went up on National Poetry Day and had wide press coverage. NPD was very ably managed by Amy McDonald, who covered for Lillas Fraser's maternity leave, and brought enthusiasm and an eye for detail to all her projects.

Continuing our programmes that connect poetry and wellbeing, Living Voices was actively maintained after the end of phase one and the departure of the full-time manager, Emma Farragher Smith, by a part-time project co-ordinator, Martha Pollard. We are grateful to them both for the skills and commitment they brought to the programme. The emphasis in the second phase shifted from direct delivery to training facilitators, pooling artists' experience and developing a more sustainable model of delivery. We were delighted to be successful in obtaining funding in March from the Scottish Libraries Information Council's improvement programme to trial these models in several local authority areas, and will continue to work in partnership with the Scottish Storytelling Centre on this programme.

Alongside this work, a grant from the Baring Foundation's 'Late Style'

programme enabled us to commission work from three distinguished older poets – Douglas Dunn, Vicki Feaver and Diana Hendry – considering their reaction to ageing. The result was the collection *Second Wind*, published in the summer by the Saltire Society in its pamphlet series, with associated events in Aberdeen and Edinburgh.

A second edition of *Tools of the Trade*, our anthology for graduating medics in Scotland, was compiled during the year, with new funding from the Royal College of General Practitioners Scotland and the Medical and Dental Defence Union Scotland. This funding is sufficient to underwrite three years' distribution of the anthology, and we are ploughing back all proceeds from sales of the book to fund a future edition. Dr John Gillies, former Chair of RCGP Scotland and one of the editors of the book, has been active in publicising it outside Scotland, which saw a flurry of orders from the USA.

Another publication that drew on the strength of the SPL collection and expertise was the anthology *Beneath Troubled Skies: poetry from Scotland 1914-1918*, edited by the Assistant Librarian Lizzie MacGregor, with a foreword by the eminent historian Sir Hew Strachan. Co-published with Polygon, the anthology received very appreciative reviews, and was featured on BBC Radio Scotland.

In Liz Lochhead's final year as Makar, we continued to support her work as national poet. One highlight was witnessing the emotional responses of elderly people in care to a reading activity that Liz led on. This demonstrated the power of poetry to produce positive social outcomes, as well as the impact that the role of Makar can make on everyday life.

BBC Radio Scotland approached the SPL with a proposal that they host a poet 'in residence' for three months, launching on National Poetry Day 2015. The proposal grew out of past fruitful partnerships with the BBC during the Olympic and Commonwealth Games. Rachel McCrum was appointed to the residency from a very strong field, and appeared not only in the obvious poetry slots but also in sports, faith and countryside programmes, as well as participating in education work.

Our volunteers play a vital part in enabling many areas of the Library's work, and we greatly appreciate their contribution. Chief among them, and of longest tenure, was our Honorary Treasurer, Eric Wishart, who stepped down in the spring. Eric brought his cultural knowledge, passion for poetry, wide Edinburgh connections, accounting acumen and practical skills to the SPL from the founding years, and his contribution – invisible to many – has been vital to the life

and stability of the SPL. All our good wishes and thanks go with him.

Creative Scotland's review of the literature sector concluded in August and set out some of the context for future work. The SPL is an active member of Literature Alliance Scotland (formerly the Literature Forum for Scotland), which intends to take a more visible public role in advocacy and strategic development. It is clear that partnership working both within and beyond the literature sector will be key to sustainability in a period when funding from government and local authorities will be tightly controlled.

The Scottish Poetry Library will continue to bring people and poems together in familiar and new ways in the coming years. I am most grateful for the support and encouragement of the Board, Friends and Companions, as well as our funders and service delivery partners, who enable the Library to maintain its unique place in the nation's cultural life.

Asif Khan



Our huge poetry banner showcased a poem by Elizabeth Burns

The winners and runner up of Poetry By Heart 2016

Former US Poet Laureate Rita Dove at an SPL event in October

Our new display board advertises our presence

Summary accounts & financial statements

Income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2016

	2015-2016	2014-2015
Donations	1100	658
Interest receivable	813	2,463
Membership subs & gift aid	17,719	18,369
Programme income	22,561	31,241

Self-generated income

Creative Scotland revenue	305,666	269,230
Creative Scotland – other grants	19,314	71,500
Creative Scotland – Capital Project	133,750	0
Local authorities	4,632	16,457
Trust, foundation & public body grants	48,704	76,720
Other grants - Capital Project	167,280	99,839
	679,346	533,746

Total incoming resources

	721,539	586,477
Staff costs	243,742	250,251
Marketing costs	11,454	8,155
Governance costs	5,735	4,355
Programme costs	82,538	152,250
Administration costs	50,811	54,008

Total expenditure

	394,280	469,019
--	----------------	----------------

Net incoming resources

	327,259	117,458
--	----------------	----------------

Balance sheet as at 31 March 2016

	2015-2016	2014-2015
Fixed assets (tangible)	1,628,292	1,091,878
Current assets (stock, debtors, cash)	162,934	363,094
Creditors falling due within one year	(40,081)	(31,086)
Net current assets	122,853	332,008
Total assets less current liabilities	1,751,145	1,423,886

Financed by: capital and reserves

General Fund	38,405	79,820
Designated Funds (includes fixed assets)	1,634,724	1,117,240
Restricted Funds	78,016	226,826
	1,751,145	1,423,886

Financial narrative 2015-2016

Income

Our core revenue was supported by Creative Scotland (Regular Funding) and City of Edinburgh Council (Cultural Grant). As the Library was closed for much of the year, revenue from venue hire, in-house events and shop sales was down. We attracted funding to sustain and develop a number of key projects, including support from Scottish Libraries and Information Council (SLIC) for Living Voices; the Royal College of GPs and the Medical and Dental Defence Union Scotland for *Tools of the Trade*; Baring Foundation for *Second Wind* and Creative Scotland for the Makar programme. Our Space for Sound capital project campaign attracted substantial funding from Creative Scotland (Capital Investment) and also awards from trusts, including the Wolfson Foundation, Foyle Foundation and The Binks Trust, as well as generous individual giving.

Board Statement

These summarised financial statements have been extracted from the Scottish Poetry Library's Annual Report and Accounts, which were approved by the Board on 31 August 2015. Copies of the full accounts will be filed with Companies House. These summarised financial statements may not contain sufficient information to allow a full understanding of the results and affairs of the company. For further information, the full accounts, the Auditor's report of the Board should be consulted. Copies of these are available from the Scottish Poetry Library, 5 Crichton's Close, Edinburgh EH8 8DT.

Ann Matheson
Secretary to the Board
on 26 October 2016

Auditor's Statement to the Board of the Scottish Poetry Library

We have examined the summarised financial statements set out on these pages.

Respective Responsibilities of the Board and Auditors

The company's Board members are responsible for the preparation of the summarised financial statements. We have agreed to report to you our opinion on the summarised financial statements' consistency with full financial statements on which we reported to you.

Basis of Opinion

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 have been prepared.

Opinion

In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2016.

Alexander Sloan
Statutory Auditor
26 October 2016

Expenditure

Our staff costs remained on a par with last year. In addition to the key projects listed above, we increased spending on resources for National Poetry Day, with postcards distributed to school and public libraries. We increased our library collections spending on new books and resources for the reopening, as well as a rebranding initiative for 'Bringing people and poetry and people together', which was incorporated in our Promoting Equalities Programme. Overall our projects and activity costs were down by nearly a half, reflecting a reduced capacity to take on new initiatives until we had properly settled back into the Library.

Director

Robyn Marsack (until May 2016)
Asif Khan (from June 2016)

Librarian

Julie Johnstone

Assistant Librarian

Lizzie MacGregor

Senior Library Assistant

Mary Wright

Library Administrator

Jessica Galtan Johannesson (until May 2015)
Stephanie Haigh (from May to October 2015)
Gillian Hamnett

Communications Manager

Colin Waters

Learning Manager

Georgi Gill

Programme Manager

Jennifer Williams

Projects Manager

Amy MacDonald (maternity cover)
Lillas Fraser (from February 2015)

Project Managers

Emma Farragher Smith, Living Voices
Martha Pollard, Living Voices

Finance

Brenda Fox
Eric Wishart (Hon. Treasurer)

Honorary Presidents

Douglas Dunn
Liz Lochhead
Michael Longley
Aonghas MacNeacail

Board Members

Ian Wall (Chair)
Ann Matheson (Secretary)
Annette Bruton (from August 2016)
Dr Gavin Francis
Dr David Lanc
Gordon Moir
Helena Nelson
Dr Kyra Pollitt
Martyn Wade
Hamish Whyte

Bankers

Bank of Scotland
38 St Andrews Square
Edinburgh
EH2 2AD

Auditors

Alexander Sloan, Chartered Accountants
1 Atholl Place
Edinburgh
EH3 8HP

Solicitors

Gillespie MacAndrew
5 Atholl Crescent
Edinburgh
EH3 8EJ

To donors, funders and sponsors:

- Creative Scotland and the National Lottery through Creative Scotland, City of Edinburgh Council, the British Council
- The Baring Foundation, The Binks Trust, Dr David Summers Charitable Trust, Edwin Morgan Trust, The Gannochy Trust, Nancy Massie Trust, Paul Hamlyn Foundation
- Comhairle nan Leabhraichean / Gaelic Books Council. Polish Cultural Institute
- Sir Kenneth and Lady Keith for funding the ongoing NZ collection and to our community of Patrons, Companions, Friends and donors

To partner organisations:

- Aberdeen City Libraries, Aberdeen City Council Social Care and Wellbeing Directorate, Aberdeen Council for Voluntary Organisations, Alzheimer Scotland, Art in Healthcare, Baring Foundation, BBC Radio Scotland, Birlinn Ltd, Canongate-Holyrood Initiative, City of Edinburgh Council, Creative Scotland, Dr David Sommers Charitable Trust, Luminare: Scotland's Creative Ageing Festival, Edinburgh International Book Festival, Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature, Forward Arts Foundation, Literary Europe Live, The Medical and Dental Defence Union of Scotland, National Galleries of Scotland, National Library of Scotland, Neu! Reekiel, New Waverley, Perthshire Care Home Activity Co-ordinators Network, Perth and Kinross Libraries and Information Services, Polish Cultural Institute London, Royal College of General Practitioners (Scotland), Royal Mile Business Association, Saltire Society, School of Poets, Scottish Book Trust, Scottish Review of Books, South Ayrshire Libraries Service, South Ayrshire Council and Voluntary Action South Ayrshire, StAnza, Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland, University of Dundee, University of Edinburgh, Wigtown Book Festival.

To volunteers:

- Katie Ailes, Jackie Anderson, Nigora Asaeva, Anna Ballard, Anna Buck, Carly Brown, Ford Brownlie, Ciaran Campbell, Grace Campbell, Jemma Davies, Gillian Devine, Mhairi Duncan, Jillian Etherington, Carol Farrelly, Aiko Harman, Claire Halavage, Ben Hargreaves, Jennifer Higgins, Alex Highfield, Suzi Highton, Haitham Hussein, Ceilan Hunter-Green, Aditi Jehangir, Judith Kahl, Ioannis Kalkounnis, Blythe Lewis, Kayleigh McGarry, Phoebe Nicholson, Joanna Paterson, Marco Polvara, Emily Prince, Rachel Rankin, Kostas Rekleitis, Annie Rutherford, Jacqueline Thompson, Anneke Van Belle, Jemma Ward, Victoria Wickes

Company Number
155684

Scottish Charity Number
SCO23311

Open Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 10-5; Thursday 10-7; Saturday 10-4
5 Crichton's Close, Canongate, Edinburgh EH8 8DT
Tel 0131 557 2876 www.scottishpoetrylibrary.org.uk

Scottish Poetry Library
Bringing people and poems together

