



friends newsletter Issue 91 Winter 2023

Note from the Editor: **Priscilla Barlow** psbarlow@sky.com

2023 and the Friends have returned to a more normal working routine. In this issue we report on a live visit, welcome new committee members and say goodbye to those retiring. In particular we bid farewell to David Baillie and pay tribute to his service as convenor. David is also leaving the committee. We are

certain he will not miss the stress of our meetings. But we shall miss him and we wish him a healthy, peaceful, fruitful and fun retirement. We also introduce our new social media administrator and our new membership secretary. The newsletter is delighted to highlight the success of Jack Baldwin's incunabula

project and congratulate him on behalf of the Friends who funded the project. As always, we thank our contributors and acknowledge the support of Julie Gardham and Siobhan Convery who are ever ready to supply information and pictures; and editorial assistant Duncan Beaton.



David Baillie retires from convenorship

After five years of calm and thoughtful stewardship David Baillie has finally handed over the reins.

It is nothing short of miraculous how he has controlled the noisy rabble of our committee meetings, patiently enduring the tendency of some of the members to hold forth at great length. Despite these filibusters, David has steered us through revisions of the constitution, overseen several changes in our officers, witnessed the innovations in our structure and general management of our affairs. He has indeed been in charge when we have taken our first real steps into the 21st century, by embracing the digital age.

We now have Laura Cassidy as our social media administrator. Laura is enthusiastically and successfully pushing the committee and the Friends in general onto a wider stage.

At the November AGM Jean Anderson, on our behalf, presented David with a book in token of sincere appreciation.

She marked the occasion as:

An honour to thank David for his long service to the Friends on this, the occasion of his retiral, hopefully to a restful and fun retirement from the Chair and from being a committee member.

*David joined the committee in 2017 and became chair in 2018. He has been a calm, courteous, and collegiate convenor. Through challenging times, through covid lockdowns and through the loss of our friend Peter Davies, David has held us together with sense and fairness, and for that we are very grateful. We will miss you David and we give you this book *Imagining Mars: A Literary History (Early Classics of Science Fiction)* by Robert Crossley, as a token of our esteem.*

We hope that, as you journey in it through film and literature to Mars, you take some good memories of the Friends you leave behind. We also hope that you don't quite forget us and that we can look forward to some pleasant committee-business-free lunches in future.

THANKS AND WELCOMES

THANKS to David Baillie, Ramona Fotiade and Norah Gray who are standing down from the committee. A full appreciation of David's contribution as convenor to the smooth running of the committee is on Page 1. And thanks also to Freda Tuck who retired, returned and who has now retired again – definitely. Thanks for your diligence and patience and for handing over to Michelle an extremely well-oiled membership machine.

WELCOME to the committee to our new convenor Professor Ann Gow and Professors Gerard Carruthers and Laurence Grove; and to our new membership secretary, Michelle Craig and our social media administrator, Laura Cassidy.

Introducing our 3 new committee members



We are delighted to welcome our three new committee members. For the first time there will be 3 professors on the committee and we look forward to their contributions enhancing the Friends' links with the wider university community.

ANN GOW (now our Convenor)

Ann is Professor of Information studies, developing and delivering teaching across the Digital Media and Information Studies MA and the PGDip/MSc programmes in Museum Studies and Information Management and Preservation.

She has championed the development of the subject centre into an internationally renowned department and pioneered the development of the unique Single Honours Digital Media and Information Studies MA Hons degree.

Ann works closely with UofG Archives and Special Collections in her teaching and scholarship, knitting together practical experience with theoretical and critical activity. Ann's research and scholarship activity underpins her teaching on Information Studies' innovative programmes and courses.

Her strong links across the DH and Cultural Heritage communities, Glasgow Life, GU Library & Archives, and the Photographic Unit are evident in her scholarship-led teaching.

Ann was born in Stranraer but has



lived all her life in Glasgow. While not teaching and writing, Ann loves cycling and walking along the canal paths in the west Scotland. She also dabbles in gardening and loves to cook.

GERARD CARRUTHERS

Gerard was born in Stirlingshire, is a native of Clydebank and his forebears hail from Donegal, Kirkcudbright, and San Biagio Saracinisco.

Gerard (Gerry) is Professor of Scottish Literature at the University of Glasgow and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

He is General Editor of the Oxford University Press edition of the Complete Works of Robert Burns (2014) and is author or editor of 24 books and over 170 academic essays and articles.

He is currently completing editing the Wiley Blackwell Companion to Scottish Literature (2023) and the Oxford Handbook of Robert Burns (2023). He is also an Honorary Advisor to the National Trust for Scotland, a member of the Board of Trustees at Ellisland Farm and Museum, a member of the



Joint Advisory Committee for Walter Scott's library at Abbotsford, Trustee of the Scottish Catholic Heritage Collections Trust, and he serves on the Research and Ethics Panel for Paisley Museum.

Gerry says that much more than his academic activities, he loves guitars, popular beat music and watching football.

LAURENCE GROVE (AKA BILLY)

Billy was born in London. His father came from Wolverhampton and his mother and most of his family came from Tourcoing near Lille, France.

Billy is Professor of French and Text/Image Studies and Director of the Stirling Maxwell Centre at the University of Glasgow. His research focuses on historical text/image forms, and specifically bande dessinée.

He co-edits European Comic Art and has authored twelve books, four exhibitions and approximately sixty chapters. His hobbies include skiing (badly) at beautiful Glencoe Mountain and supporting Glasgow Warriors, Partick Thistle and Wolverhampton

An apology from the editor...

To Jean Gilmour Anderson, a former acting convenor and stalwart on the committee for failing to notice that her name (and picture) has been inadvertently omitted from the committee box on the back page of the newsletter for several issues. We are sorry and would remind the Friends of Jean's continuing, tireless contribution to the workings of the committee.

Annual General Meeting 3rd November 2022

Report: Jean Gilmour Anderson

The AGM was held in the Talk Lab, University Library. Our convenor, David Baillie, welcomed those attending and reported on the Library projects FGUL has supported; the events, outings and talks organised; our move to more online publicity; and the increase in funding of digital projects intended in future.

The Annual Financial statements were presented by Treasurer Graeme Smith. He drew our attention to the £85,100 of grants paid to Library projects.

Our investment funds have fallen in value along with everything else in the aftermath of Covid, Brexit, political

uncertainties in Westminster and the war in Ukraine. But we are assured that the funds would soon be improving.

The revisions to the Constitution were described and approved and the Committee now can have eleven ordinary members and two members of senior Library staff.

Welcomes were extended to our new convenor, Professor Ann Gow, the new committee members, Professors Gerard Carruthers and Laurence Grove.

We welcomed new staff: Dr Michelle Craig who succeeds Freda Tuck as Membership Secretary and Laura Cassidy, who was appointed to the new post of Social Media Administrator.

We thanked David Baillie, Dr Ramona Fotiade and Norah Gray who stood down from the Committee.

A vote of thanks was given to all members of the Committee for their work in the last year and especial mention was made of Freda Tuck; Priscilla Barlow (Newsletter Editor); Graeme Smith (Treasurer); Stephen Quaile who looks after our investments; GUL staff and everyone who has assisted in the year's work.

The meeting closed with a presentation to our retiring convenor, David Baillie, in appreciation of his excellent work over the past five years.

Message from our new convenor: Professor Ann Gow

I was delighted to be able to take up the role as Chair of FGUL at the AGM in October.

FGUL is a hugely collegiate group of people and I am looking forward to working closely with the Committee over the next few years.

As a Professor of Information Studies, I know just how valuable the work of the FGUL is and I am honoured to be able to help this by chairing the Committee meetings.

Working with the Committee and our new Social Media officer, Laura Cassidy, I hope to widen the reach of FGUL through academic networks and social media.

I have considerable experience of chairing committees across higher education issues and know that the committee and staff from UofG Library will give me all the support in my new role.

I hope to meet many of FGUL members in the coming months as the Committee work together to support the library in our various projects.

Laura Cassidy, our new Social Media Administrator reports

Last November I started my role as a social media administrator for FGUL.

Basically, I post on and monitor our social media pages. I find interesting content, books, projects, trips and other Activities.

We have a Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram account which all engage with people in slightly different ways. Growing a social media following from scratch isn't easy, but the main thing is to get your posts seen by lots of people and build a community - it's basically like advertising - you want them to think of you and look forward to your next post.

As I only take on this work 3 hours per

week, I usually aim to post midday on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Consistency is key when it comes to social media, so even posting once a week at the same time is better than posting lots of things randomly.

In 2023 I hope to grow our humble following and get more comments on our posts.

This will hopefully reach a wider audience to join us and advocate for the work the Friends do.

If you have a social media account, follow us! If there's anything you'd like to see more of, message us on one of the following accounts.

Facebook: Friendsofgul,

Twitter: FriendsofGUL



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Michelle Craig has now taken over from Freda as membership secretary and has been keeping the membership accounts up to date, updating correspondence details, replying to member enquiries and liaising with Library Services over borrowing rights for members.

The Friends currently have 121 members, including 12 life members. Most of the membership are based in Glasgow and the surrounding area but a smaller number are from other parts of Scotland or from abroad.

REPORT: JULIE GARDHAM

A catalogue of fifteenth-century printed books in Glasgow libraries and museums by Honorary Research Librarian Jack Baldwin has won the prestigious International League of Antiquarian Booksellers (ILAB) Breslauer Prize for bibliography. Chosen from a highly competitive field of 99 submissions, this is a significant accolade for the Library's Archives & Special Collections (ASC).

The catalogue was published in 2020 by Boydell and Brewer with support from FGUL. It is the culmination of over ten years of in-depth research to fully describe over 1000 incunabula (that is, books printed prior to 1501) found in Glasgow. The University's outstanding collection of 1062 incunables makes it one of the most important in the UK, but the catalogue also documents a further 62 from five other institutions – the Mitchell Library, Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, the Burrell collection, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, and the University of Strathclyde – making it a truly comprehensive guide to the city's earliest printed books.

The *Glasgow Incunabula Project* project to catalogue these remarkable books began in 2009, picking up on work that began in the 1980s when Jack Baldwin was the Keeper of Special Collections. Focusing on the unique 'copy specific' characteristics of each book, Jack painstakingly examined and researched every single book for the first time. The project initially aimed to promote this rich collection via a fully illustrated website catalogue that is now widely used by researchers and students: <https://www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/incunabula>.

The Boydell and Brewer publication now complements the digital resource and serves as a permanent and stable record of the project. As well as identifying each book bibliographically, details of provenance, binding, annotations, decoration, and imperfections are fully provided for each copy. A plethora of indexes further provide access to the idiosyncrasies of the books from a wide range of research angles – from printers to



FGUL funded Glasgow Incunabula Project publication wins the Breslauer Prize

prices paid, and from pinholes to provenances.

The ILAB Breslauer prize for bibliography is the world's leading prize to honour outstanding work in the field of bibliography and book history.

It is awarded every four years and the 2022 prize was the 18th to be judged. A jury of six – headed by competition organiser Fabrizio Govi, a bookseller based in Modena, Italy – examined all 99 entries, looking in particular for originality of content and usefulness of the research. The first prize was awarded to Jack at a ceremony held at the Weston Library, University of

Oxford, on 14 September 2022.

The entire ASC team were thrilled to hear the news, and Jack comments:

"I am truly astonished and profoundly honoured to learn that I have been awarded the ILAB Breslauer Prize.... When I looked some months ago at the list of titles submitted for the prize, I realised just how enormous the competition would be – the titles embrace such a wide range of scholarly research – and I never for a moment expected that my catalogue might be chosen. For me, the jury's decision comes as a wonderful celebration of some sixty years working with books".

Did you know about

The London Library

We are continuing our look at The Financial Times list of “the world’s most wonderful private libraries” with the London Library.

The **London Library** was founded in 1841 by Thomas Carlyle, who was dissatisfied with some of the policies at the British Museum Library.

It is the world’s largest independent lending library, with over 1,000,000 books located in a complex amalgam of six Grade II listed buildings in St James’s Square in the City of Westminster.

Membership offers access to an extensive collection of more than one million books dating from 1700 to the present day, almost all of which can be borrowed.

The collection covers more than 2,000 subjects with around 6,000



Members have access to over a million books and periodicals, a superb online offering, and an unforgettable building in beautiful St. James’s Square. Some 7,500 members, including some of the most

familiar names in the literary world, find the Library’s resources invaluable.

Membership is open to all, on payment of an annual subscription, and life and corporate memberships are also available.

Thomas Muir of Huntershill in the Archives and Records

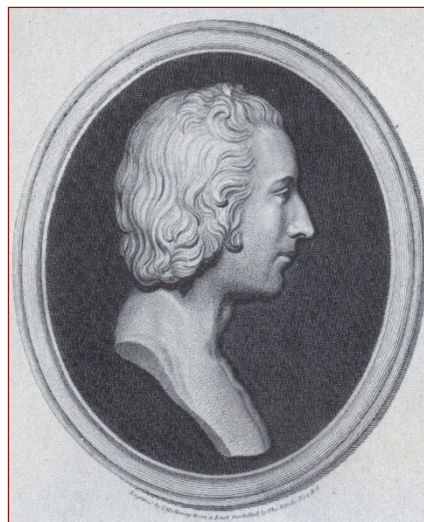
Following the AGM in November, Professor Gerard Carruthers gave this highly entertaining and informative talk.

ABSTRACT: This talk outlined Muir’s dramatic life, transported to Botany bay for sedition in 1793, escaping and travelling throughout the Americas and back to Europe where he was seriously wounded in a naval engagement, dying eventually in France in 1799, a republican exile unable to return to Scotland.

Muir’s is a life that would make for a scarcely believable film. However, just as dramatic are the cultural wars in which he is caught up as a young man: to begin with, removing himself prior to expulsion from the University of Glasgow in 1784 when his alliance with Professor John Anderson saw him implicated in slandering members of the Senatus.

Influenced by the politics and jurisprudence of Prof John Millar, another Glasgow professor, and so encouraged also to support political reform, Muir eventually graduated as a lawyer from the University of Edinburgh.

To his reputation for student politics,



he soon added a name for kirk politics, being part of a group that sought to pursue Rev William McGill (a friend of Robert Burns) for heresy, and he also defended the rights of the ordinary congregation at Cadder kirk against the claims of landowners.

His notoriety in university and church circles, both of which mark him out as a member of the more traditionally Calvinist Popular Party, meant that Muir collided with the same dominant

Moderate Presbyterian Party in each of these spheres as well as when it came to his momentous trial in an Edinburgh and Britain fearful of revolutionary turmoil during the 1790s.

Coming to court, Muir had consorted with the French revolutionaries, supported the United Irishmen and had recommended to West of Scotland weavers the reading of Thomas Paine, a key influence in both the American and French revolutions.

Gerry pointed out that the Moderate/ Popular Party divide, and the concentric circles in which antagonism was played out: university, church, and constitutional politics both await proper description towards a fresh intellectual biography of Thomas Muir, including the recent discovery of his Faculty of Advocates thesis opposing slavery.

Here, a full examination of University of Glasgow Senate Minutes, Court of Session papers, Church of Scotland records, journals and many print items including in Australia, Europe, and America (North and South) will need in future to be undertaken.

Friends visit Garnethill Synagogue



REPORT: DUNCAN BEATON

The Garnethill Synagogue at 129 Hill Street, Glasgow is a very handsome A-listed building, Scotland’s oldest surviving orthodox synagogue.

A party of 16 Friends and their friends was welcomed by Harvey Kaplan and Deborah Haase, who guided us through the history of Jewry in Scotland via a timeline on the wall, covering the first records of Jews in 17th century Scotland to the development of the wealthy Garnethill Hebrew Congregation.

The early 18th century saw European Jews coming to study in Scotland’s four universities, being unable at that time to matriculate at English universities. By the 1820s a merchant class, mainly of Jews from the Low Countries, was established in Glasgow and the first recognised place of worship was in a room in the back of a shop on the High Street in 1823. A synagogue was built in a tenement on the corner of George Street and John Street in 1858, and this beautiful building in Hill Street was opened in 1879.

Michael Simons, congregation leader and of the fruit-importing family, and at one time City Treasurer, also funded the building of some of Glasgow’s finest theatres, including the rebuilding of the Theatre Royal after a fire. The foundation stone was laid by Michael’s father Benjamin Simons in March 1877, and the completed building was consecrated on 9 September 1879. Local architect John McLeod from Dumbarton consulted with London-based Jewish architect Nathan Joseph in the design. The building has capacity for at least 500 people, with a Ladies Gallery to permit separate seating as required in Orthodox Judaism. The building came into use just as Glasgow had an influx of Jews from eastern

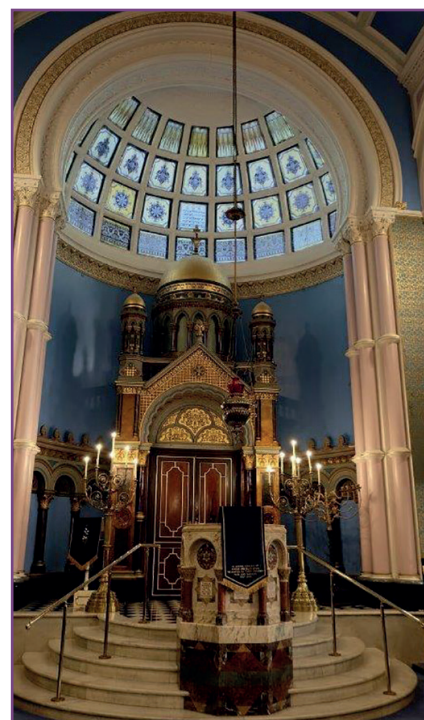


Pictures courtesy of Iain Wotherspoon

Europe and the Baltic states, fleeing the pogroms of the Russian Empire. At one time the Jewish population in Scotland was around 20,000, but is now in the region of 5,000 – 6,000.

Included in the tour was a visit to the Succah display room, showing how Scotland was a sanctuary to many fleeing Nazi persecution, from the 1930s up until the post 2nd World War period.

It showed how Scots people in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Ayr responded to the cry for help, and the contribution to Scotland’s society made by many of the survivors. Records are being digitised to allow access by researchers. The Scottish Jewish Archives, based at Garnethill since 1987, covers many aspects of Jewish life, and we also visited the new Scottish Holocaust-era study facility, with its hands-on learning kits often used by parties of School children: the past should never be forgotten.



Pictured from top left: The Friends examine scripts; in the archive; the impressive facade; the ark

PROFILE 33 GRAEME KEMP



In September this year, Graeme joined the library team as Senior Librarian and Archivist for discovery and systems. He grew up around Glasgow but left for University in St Andrew's in 1998 to study Modern History. Flash forward to now, and he has completed a master's in Reformation Studies, a PhD in book history, written and edited several scholarly works, and held several international fellowships, including the William H. Helfand Fellowship at the Grolier Club in New York. During all this time, he was employed as a researcher and project manager of the Universal Short Title Catalogue under the direction of Professor Andrew Pettegree.

Graeme has always been deeply interested in the role of technology in libraries. The opportunity to provide strategic leadership in digital access to the University of Glasgow's world-leading collections proved too good to pass up. He is looking forward to developing networks and engaging with key groups, like the Friends of the Library, to deliver the University's unique content to a global audience.

Graeme recently moved back to Glasgow with his family, and his only hobby right now is house renovation. He is still determining if it is right to define this as a hobby rather than a chore. It indeed occupies all his free time.

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Travels into several remote nations of the World by Lemuel Gulliver

The third in our series of highlighting Archives & Special Collections items from their *Book of the Month* virtual exhibition feature is from January 2006. Extracts printed by permission of ASC. Thanks to Julie Gardham.

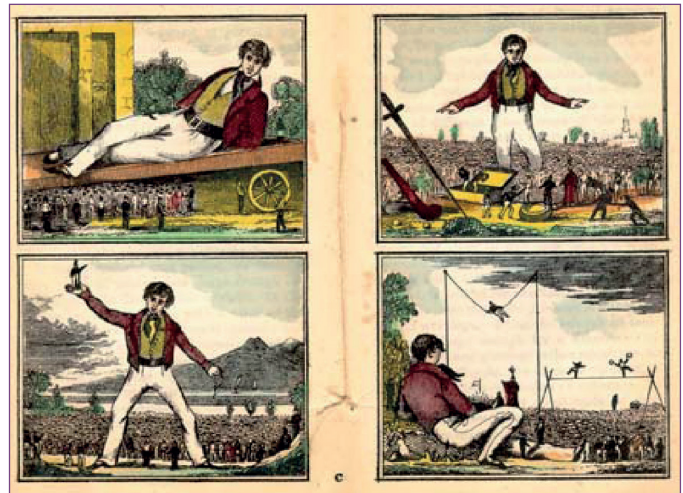
More commonly known as *Gulliver's Travels*, this book by Jonathan Swift is regarded as one of the most important satirical works in the English language.

Described as "Hans Christian Andersen for children, Boccaccio for adults", *Gulliver's Travels* appeals on at least two obvious levels. It is both a fantastical narrative of giants, flying islands and talking horses and a trenchant allegorical critique of politics and projects in early Eighteenth Century Europe.

First published in October of 1726, *Gulliver's Travels* probably took at least five years to write. From the day of publication, it was popular with both adults and children; indeed, Swift's friend, John Gay, remarked in correspondence between the two that it was "universally read, from the cabinet council to the nursery".

Owing to its immediate popularity, booksellers quickly sold out of the work necessitating several re-prints in the first few months. On each occasion minor variations to the text and page layouts have given later bibliographers the difficult task of identifying each edition by tracing the textual and bibliographic minutiae. The copy featured this month can be described as a variation of the "A" edition. According to some bibliographers it could represent the first printing of the first edition. Published by Benjamin Motte in London, in two volumes with mint-condition 18th Century bindings.

Perhaps some of the divisions over Swift's true intentions might be cleared up if it were not for the confusion and mystery surrounding the initial publication of *Gulliver's Travels*. The original manuscript was delivered to the publisher anonymously thereby denying Swift access to the final proof. In subsequent correspondence he complains of the "mangled and murdered pages" found in Motte's edition: seemingly an accusation that the publisher had amended or altered the text.



Modern opinion once again diverges on the truth of Swift's assertion. The publication in 1735 of a new edition apparently approved by Swift includes some very conspicuous allegory not found in the 1726 editions.

Since the original manuscript is no longer extant, it is debateable whether this allegory represents Swift's original intention or a later addition to the original text. Orthodox academic opinion holds that the 1735 edition is the more authoritative version of Swift's text; therefore, all modern publications are transcribed from this later proof.

The fact that academics are still arguing over what Jonathan Swift was really trying to say in this significant book is testament to the important place it holds in the literary canon. Undoubtedly a classic, this work certainly debunks Mark Twain's droll assertion that "A classic' is a book that people praise but don't read"!

Gulliver's Travels has thrilled and frustrated its readers in equal measure for the last 280 years and will most likely continue to do so for the next!



Dates for your diary

Thursday 16 March

Adam Smith and His Books

Dr Craig Smith

Adam Smith Senior Lecturer in the Scottish Enlightenment in School of Social & Political Sciences.

Talklab in the Library 7pm

We also have a list of extremely interesting speakers who have agreed to talk to us in the coming months. These include Professor Louise Welsh, Professor Laurence Grove, Professor Deirdre Heddon Dr Pauline Mackay and Professor Marc Alexander. We also are hoping to arrange a visit to Craufurdland Library which is situated in Craufurdland Castle near Fenwick. As soon as dates are fixed we will get in touch

FRIENDS OF GLASGOW UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

c/o University of Glasgow Library, Hillhead Street, Glasgow G12 8QE

EMAIL: friends@lib.gla.ac.uk

(This email address may be used to contact the membership secretary and committee members.)

WEBSITE: www.gla.ac.uk/fgul

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Meet our committee



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Helen Durdell
Honorary Vice President



Ann Gow
Convener



Graeme Smith
Honorary Treasurer



Susan Ashworth
Exec Director Information Services
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Siobhan Convery
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Duncan Beaton
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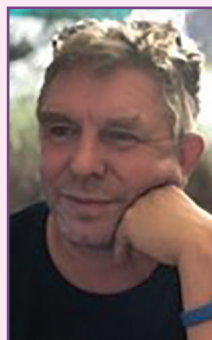
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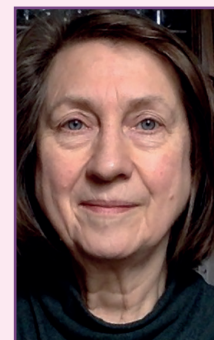
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Professor Gerard Carruthers



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