



THE PIPER

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

NUMBER 54 AUTUMN 2020



‘ONLY CONNECT’

Detail of a hand-drawn map of Mount Etna from the newly acquired Sir Charles Lyell archive. Photo: David Cheskin

Below. Letters from Sir Charles Lyell to his fiancée, Mary Horner, from the newly acquired Sir Charles Lyell archive. Photo: David Cheskin

'Only Connect'

E. M. Forster, *Howards End*, 1910

Forster's words are even more apt in a time of virtual connections when they can be just as messy, unreliable and elusive as real ones. However we are delighted to deliver *The Piper* to you again as a marker of continuity in these confusing times.

The Library awaits the coming students: adapted to the necessary changes but ready to provide what is needed. The CRC has been serving research students since July 7th, as all containments of culture are even more important now. Richard Ovenden, a previous head of CRC now in charge of the Bodleian Library, has just written a much lauded book that looks at the history of Libraries over 3,000 years and their tenacious survival in the face of destruction and repression. 'Burning of the Books' reminds us vividly what needs preserving in difficult times.

Daryl Green, the new Head of CCRC has an article for us on his role during lockdown and his own journey through books to come to us.

We are proud of our Collections and the Friends support of them was again epitomised by your Committee's decision to donate £500 towards an additional acquisition to the Lyell Collection. Elise Ramsay outlines this in her article. These new acquisitions provide fascinating details of Lyell and his family through letters and photographs and we see this as part of our ongoing support of CRC as this year we have not been able to participate in our usual 'on site' choices on the Friends' behalf.

We hope you will all join us live on line on 15th September for Tom Harrison's talk on the Halliwell-Philipps Collection as well as our AGM. Be with us in a new kind of Connection.

Till we meet again.

**Lady Caplan,
President, Friends of Edinburgh University Library**



Introducing Daryl Green FSA

Head of Special Collections and Deputy Head of the
Centre for Research Collections

Photo: David Cheskin



When I accepted my new position back in early November 2019, there was nothing to suggest just how 'eventful' 2020 would be. I wrapped up my previous post as Fellow Librarian at Magdalen College, Oxford, in early February, and jumped onto a long-distance airliner with my family for a long-planned reunion with my parents and brother in Kauai. The growing pandemic started

to rear its head while we were sitting on tropical shores, sipping mai-tais and watching the boys play in the surf, and by the time we were on our return journey the airports were already looking empty and strange. By the

time I reached Edinburgh for my first day on 2 March 2020, the world was already changing.

My first five months in post at Edinburgh, largely in lockdown, have taught me many things that it would've taken much longer to learn had the world not been in the throes of a pandemic. Ironically, I have had more 'face time' with my staff than I would've had if the world was operating normally. I've been able to learn their interests, their specialties, their aspirations and their shared vision for the CRC. I have also been able to 'stress test' some of our digital systems like our catalogues and our digital image database, and I have had some time to think about the nature of the work we do collectively and why it is important.

The one thing that I haven't had any chance to work with during this whole lockdown has been the collections, perhaps the most alluring thing about

Below. The World, from Ptolemy, *Cosmographia*, (Ulm: Leonhard Hol, 1482).
CRC Inc.FF.18



Below. Diagram of lecture theatre aides for one of the lectures delivered by Lyell in Boston (1841–42). Photo: David Cheskin

Right. Magdalen College, Oxford: quadrangle. Line engraving by M.A. Credit: Wellcome Library, London. Wellcome Images, CC BY 4.0

taking up my new post. I am no stranger to the University's collections: I spent a few very fruitful afternoons many years ago looking at a number of 15th century manuscripts and printed books owned by early Scots as part of my wider work on the first printed books that came to Scotland, and my time in St Andrews (more on that below) brought me into regular contact with both the collections and the staff of the CRC. But, I only had a glorious hour-long session in early March where Rachel, Ruth, Fran and Elizabeth took me through some of the highlights of the CRC 'Iconics' and another 45 minutes or so at New College to see the tip of the iceberg of those glorious collections. Now that we've been back in the building since the beginning of July, I have had quick glimpses at the depth and breadth of the overall collections, I've heard snippets of sound recordings from the School of Scottish Studies Archives, I've seen some of the highlights of the University's art collection, and I am itching to plunge in with both feet.

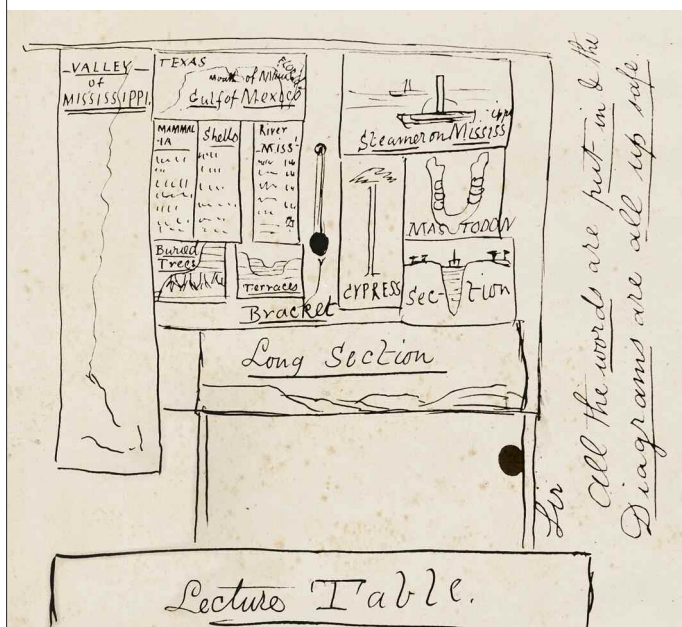
I've had a chance to meet a few of the Friends in March, and know a few others from previous times in Scotland, and it likely will be some time before the group might meet again in any physical meeting so I thought the readers of *The Piper* might like to know a bit more about my professional journey to Edinburgh and a bit more about my background. I first came to the UK in 2006 to pursue a M.A. in Medieval Studies at the University of York. While writing up my dissertation I took up a part-time position at York Minster Library which ended up being a life-altering decision. My time



in the Minster, during a heady summer of unseasonable Yorkshire warmth, dissertation write-up and my daytime-haven of working in the historic upper library of the Minster set me on the path I'm on today. I continued to work at the Minster Library for another 18 months as a full time assistant librarian, learning the intricacies of rare book cataloguing, developing small exhibitions and curating a new volunteer programme. I returned to the Midwest in 2009 to pursue my postgraduate qualification in Library and Information Science, and kept myself in groceries and good health by working part time as a rare book cataloguer for the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

I set foot in Scotland for the second time in my life when I arrived in the summer of 2010 to take up a temporary role at St Andrews as a rare book cataloguer for the University. I spent many happy months cataloguing the 15th and 16th century printed collections and engaging with academics and students around these holdings; about two years in I accepted a permanent position, and then took on the role of Rare Books Librarian, at first during maternity cover and then permanently in a shared capacity, acquiring new material, managing a large-scale retrospective cataloguing project and teaching with the collections. It is here that I began getting curious about Scotland's 15th century relationship with the printed book, and when I first came into contact with Edinburgh's collections in my research. My article on this work, 'The first printed books to arrive in Scotland: fifteenth-century St Andean owners of fifteenth-century books', is due to appear in late 2020/early 2021 in an edited volume of Brill's *Library of the Written Word* series.

In the spring of 2016, I accepted the offer to take the role of Librarian, and later Fellow Librarian, of Magdalen College, Oxford. We uprooted our young family from our beloved East Neuk of Fife and migrated to the 'golden triangle' for three frenetic years and wonderful years. At Magdalen I ran both the College library (read: modern collections) as well as the historic Old Library and the College's Archives and Muniments. Here, I brought into line the College's collecting policies with wider Oxford initiatives, ran a series of



high-profile exhibitions and events around a new research project, *Thinking 3D*, and built up the College's own set of cultural heritage exhibitions and nascent digital library.

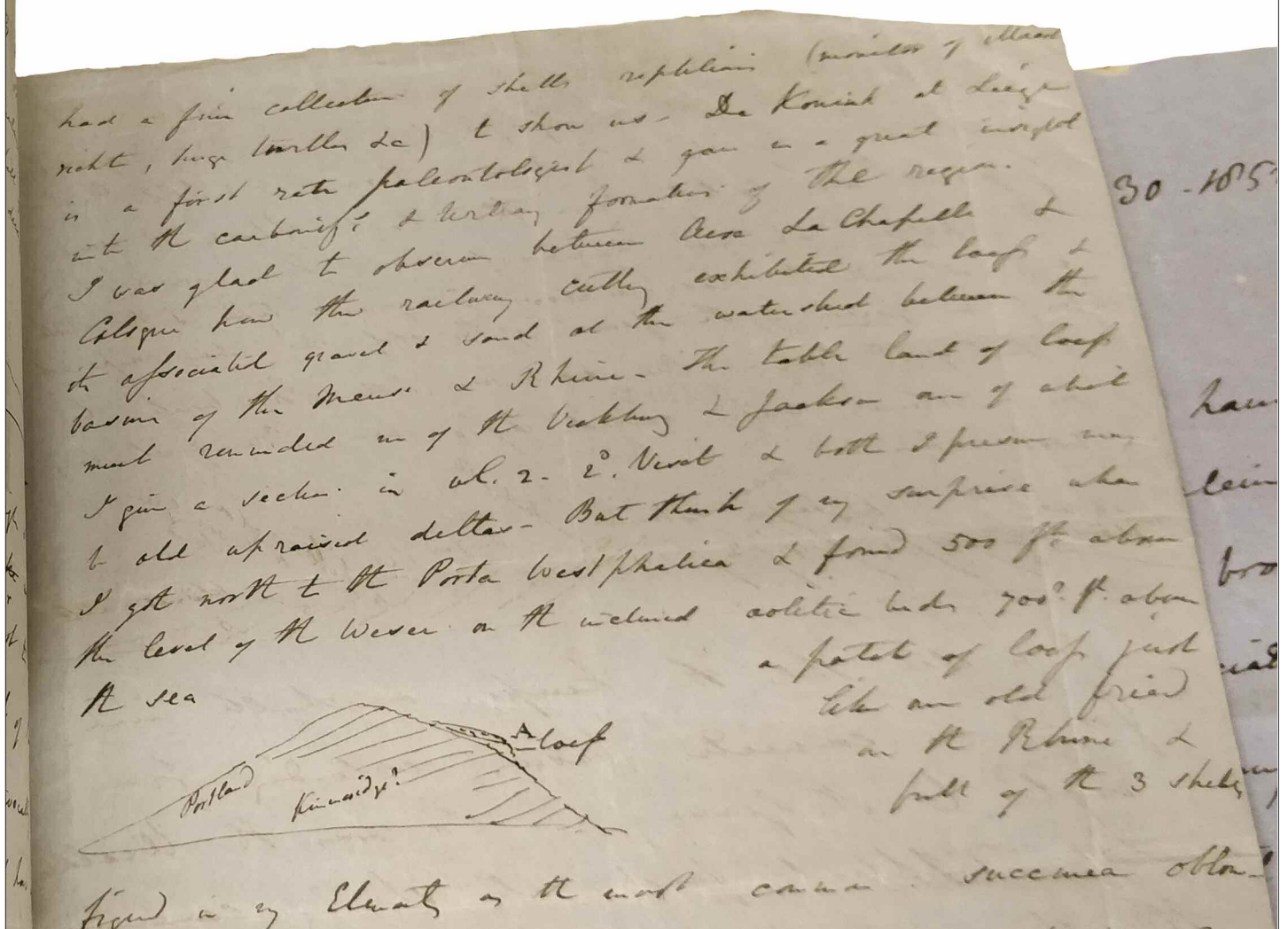
Perhaps the element of my career thus far that I am most proud of has been my continued commitment to opening up heritage collections in my care to the widest possible audience. Having spent most of my career in academic libraries, my work naturally led to teaching or facilitating academic sessions and tutorials using rare books, archives and photographs. At St Andrews, I was course coordinator of Material Bibliography in the School of History, and at my busiest I was delivering three classes a week across seven faculties with heritage collections. At Magdalen, my goal was to change the culture in College around using the historic Old Library and its collections. This has been done by attracting subject tutors to use the space and collection as part of their teaching, and for one-on-one tutorials, which has resulted in a manifold increase in the pedagogical use of the collections over the last three years. Both at St Andrews and Magdalen, I have also been integral in developing visiting scholar and artist-in-residence programmes, as well as school group visits, which have brought new audiences to both collections.

Now, at Edinburgh, I am keen to grow the already strong academic relationships and try to make Special Collections part of the core student experience for as

Below. Detail of a letter to Sir Charles Bunbury from the newly acquired Sir Charles Lyell archive.

many students as possible, whether that is through teaching sessions, events, or exhibitions. I am also keen to engage with new audiences who haven't had the chance to be exposed to some of our shared cultural heritage. We are investing time and resources into new platforms for telling our collections' stories in online environments and we are working towards engaging new and diverse communities with our collection and our professions. Lockdown has highlighted just how important it is to have our collections freely available online, and I will be working with our Digital Library to enact transformative change in this area.

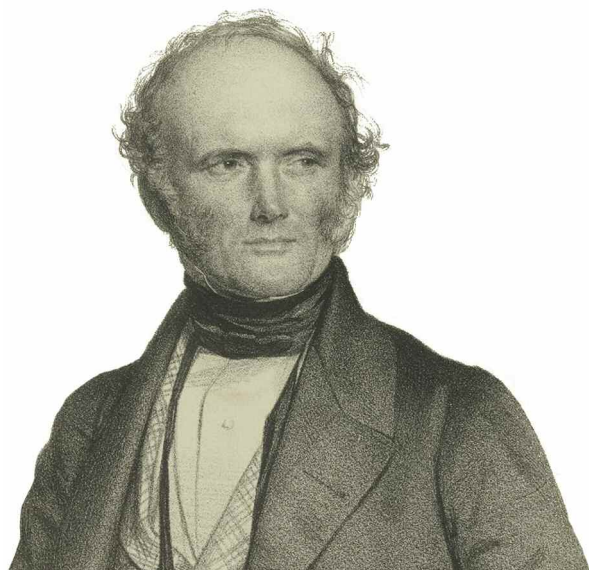
I have already benefitted from the Friends support this summer, as can be read in Elise Ramsay's article on new Lyell acquisitions, and I look forward to working with this group in the immediate future towards our shared goal of promoting the University's cultural heritage collections.



Expansion of the Charles Lyell Collection

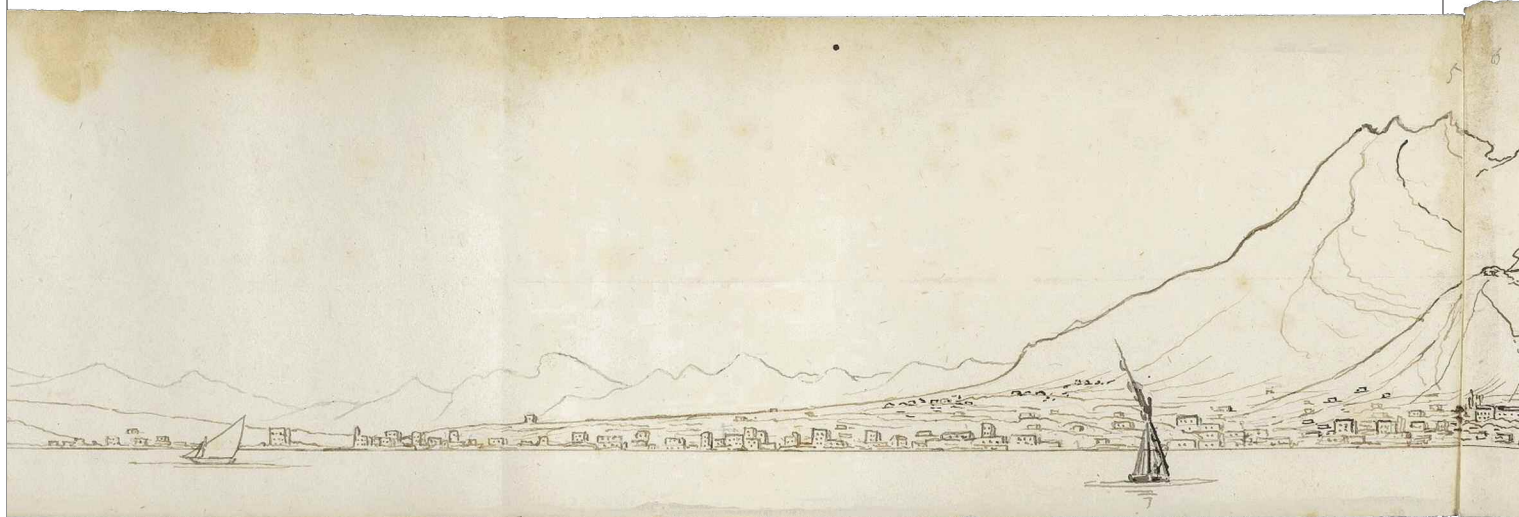
Elise Ramsay, Project Archivist, Lyell Collection

July was a busy month for the Sir Charles Lyell Collection, and the Centre for Research Collections. After much planning and advice, the CRC passed inspection, and we opened again for University of Edinburgh researchers on 8 July with new ways of working but offering access to our collections once again. This has also meant that we were able to welcome in new acquisitions whose delivery was paused during the nation's lockdown. Which means, at long last, we are able to share the news of a very exciting addition of papers, correspondence, and rare manuscripts to the University's Sir Charles Lyell Collection.



As many may remember, the purchase of the Sir Charles Lyell scientific notebooks was only possible with the generosity of the Friends of the Edinburgh University Library and individual members. With your support, the campaign picked up the momentum we needed, reaching 1200 supporting individuals and organisations, and raised the necessary funds to secure the notebooks for wider, global research. Further support from the Friends, together with a grant of £10,000 from the Friends of the National Libraries, allowed the purchase of a Lyell family album of letters and photographs, which complements the existing collection perfectly and will reveal new details of the Lyell's family life.

We said July was busy; in addition to working on cataloguing and conserving the notebooks for wider access, we received an additional collection of papers of Sir Charles Lyell. This additional collection was allocated to the University of Edinburgh Library in 2020 by HM Government under the Acceptance in Lieu of Inheritance Scheme, from the estate of the 3rd Baron Lyell. This new collection includes over 900 letters to and from Sir Charles Lyell (including additional letters from Charles Darwin, Joseph Dalton Hooker, John Murray, and others); intimate correspondence between Lyell and his wife, Mary Lyell (née Horner), and their wider family; autograph manuscripts of a number of lectures delivered both in the United States and in the United Kingdom; a part of the autograph manuscript of *Principles of Geology*; maps commissioned for lectures and publications; and heavily annotated editions of *Principles*





Left. Rachel Hosker, Archives Manager, oversees the arrival of the newly acquired Sir Charles Lyell Archive in late July.



Right. Katharine Richardson, inspects the first few boxes of the archive upon arrival.

Below. Geological cross section of Mount Vesuvius, Lyell, Coll-1518/1/1, f.2r

Opposite. Engraving of Sir Charles Lyell.

of *Geology* and other works marked up for later editions.

Daryl Green, our Head of Special Collections and Deputy Director of the CRC, has had a chance to have an initial dive into this collection in order to check its inventory and gauge its quality. Here's some initial reactions:

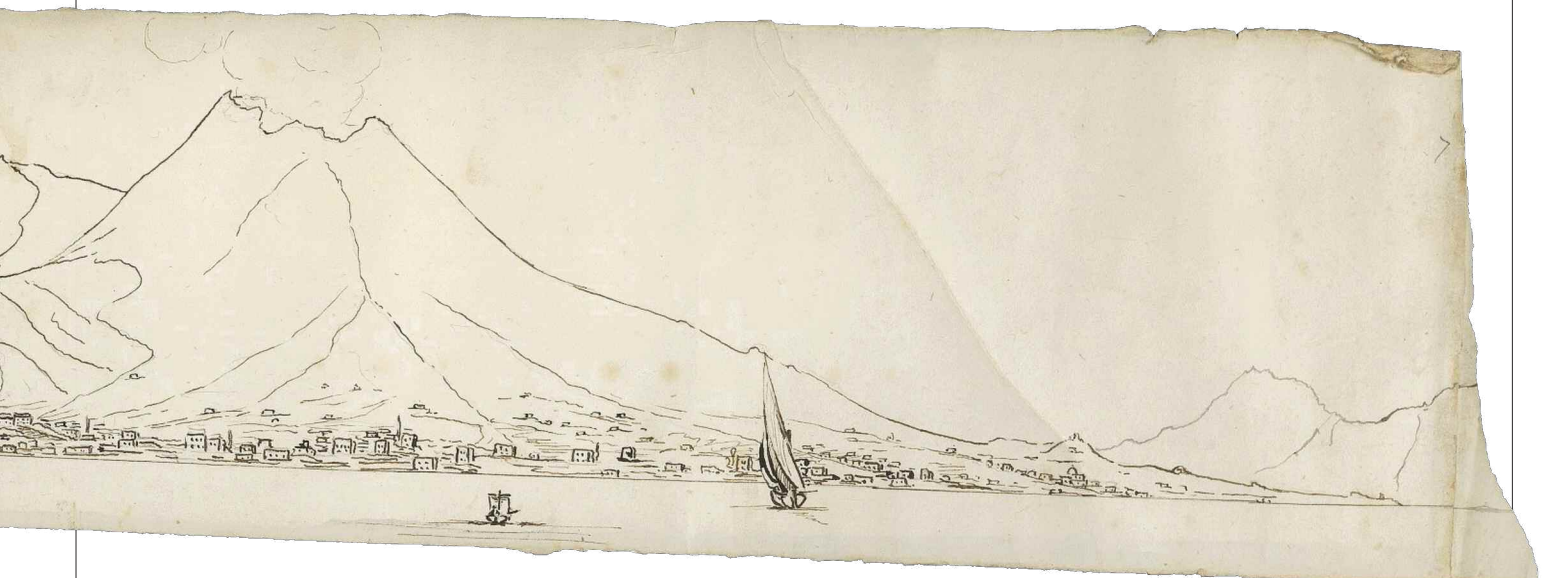
'Having arrived in March to my new post as Head of Special Collections, one of my first tasks was to oversee the transfer of this material from its holding location in London to the University. Lockdown prevented our best laid plans, however, and the Acceptance in Lieu material finally arrived on a warm and quiet day mid-July. Sifting through this material in an initial "getting to know you" session, I was struck at how thorough the correspondence archive was. There are folders and folders of correspondence with Charles Bunbury, Joseph Hooker, John Murray and many others, but also transcripts of letters going out that were copied by one of Lyell's sister-in-laws. Here, too, is a lifetime of correspondence between Charles and his wife Mary, from initial courting, to intellectual romance, to letters later in life.

As I sorted through folders I came across diagrams

for how Lyell wanted his lecture theatre laid out for his tour of the States, I found hand-drawn maps and illustrations, both by Lyell and commissioned from others, including alluring diagrams, a gorgeous watercolour map of Etna, and a huge geological map of the Kinnordy Estate and its district. Letters upon letters between geologists, students, and admirers have all been beautifully preserved and organized by the Lyell family. Among these in the archive was some of the work done by a member of the Lyell family in the 20th century to track down and copy correspondence, especially between Lyell and Charles Darwin, which had ended up in other collections. This archive is by all accounts an amazing resource in its own regard and, when paired with the notebooks, the further archive material, the publications and the geological samples, gives a more complete picture of how science was conducted in the 19th century than any other archive I am aware of.'

To follow the journey of the Lyell collection, and keep up with our news, follow our blog posts here:

<http://libraryblogs.is.ed.ac.uk/lyell/>





Above. Anton Koberger, *Biblia Germanica*.

Events: until further notice all events this autumn and winter will be online.

Tuesday 15th September at 15.00:

Dr Tom Harrison will give a talk on The Halliwell-Phillipps Collection

Dr Tom Harrison, Library Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities

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Gift aid

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If you have not previously provided a Gift Aid Declaration and now wish to do so, please complete the appropriate section of the Membership Application Form on the Friends' website. Please send the signed form to the Friends' Administrator.

Tuesday 3rd November at 15.00: AGM

David McClay and colleagues, will also present an illustrated update on exciting recent activities, projects and plans. The success of saving geologist Sir Charles Lyell's notebooks has been extended with significant additional donations and purchases, some supported by the Friends. This enlarged collection is now the focus of an extensive Lyell access and engagement project which Friends will be able to learn more about. There will also be an update on a new initiative to provide professional student placements with the collections, followed, finally, by an opportunity to question and discuss these and other areas where philanthropy and fundraising are making a difference with Library and University Collections.

Mr David McClay, Philanthropy Manager, Library and University Collections



The Piper is the newsletter of the Friends of Edinburgh University Library, and is published twice a year.

ISSN: 0963-4681

Scottish Charity Number: SC001518

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Managing editor: Fiona Graham

Photography: Edinburgh University Library Digital Imaging Unit (pages 3, 6 and 8)

Design: Mark Blackadder

Print: University of Edinburgh Printing Services