

and Edinburgh, some of which have only recently entered the public domain, can enrich our understandings of Sorley's two major works, the love cycle 'Dain do Eimhir' and 'An Cuilithion'. Christopher Whyte is well known as a critic and as a novelist in English. "The Scotsman" described him as "the most interesting poet writing in Gaelic today".

Monday April 24 Censorship

Where are we? Where should we be going? What are the boundaries and the problems? A wide ranging discussion on the lines of the BBC programme 'Any Questions?' We want vigorous audience participation. **Richard Holloway** (Chairman of the Scottish Arts Council) will chair the meeting and keep us in order and special guest contributors will include **Owen Dudley Edwards**, Reader in History at Edinburgh University and one of our most popular speakers on previous occasions, and the Rev. **Douglas Aitken**, formerly Senior Radio Producer Religious Broadcasting, BBC Scotland. This is a contemporary issue of real significance, and we look forward to lively debate.

Spring Outing

This will be announced nearer the time.

Monday May 15 AGM and The Oral Culture Of Scotland's Travelling People

Stanley Robertson is one of the best known traveller writers and traditional story-tellers in Scotland and also has an international reputation. Born in Aberdeen, he was brought up in the rich culture of stories and music of the travellers and his books include "Exodus To Alford", "Land Of No Death" and "Ghosts And Ghoulies". He has a special liking for supernatural tales and is a member of the Scottish Storytelling Forum.

Admission Free. Refreshments after the meeting.

Stirling Literary Society

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Pat Greenhill OBE	Jean Angus
Alan Rennie	June Robertson
Eileen F.B. Sedgewick	

The society aims to promote, encourage and deepen enjoyment of all branches of literature, poetry, prose, plays, scripts, stories and novels



Stirling Literary Society

Sept 2005 - May 2006

"Reading is to the mind
What exercise is
to the body"

Sir Richard Steele
"The Tatler"

Live
Literature
Scotland





Stirling Literary Society

All lectures at 7.30pm in the Smith Art Gallery and Museum, Stirling, unless otherwise stated.

Annual membership £7.00
Admission (including refreshments)
members £2.00, non members £3.00

2005

There will be **theatre outings** in the autumn of 2005 and spring of 2006.

Monday September 19

Scotland's Writing

Carl MacDougall wrote and presented *Writing Scotland* for BBC 2 last year. He is presently working with Hopscotch Films on a series on the Scots language to be shown this year. His first collection of stories, *Elvis is dead*, was published in 1986 and since then he has edited several books, including *The Devil and the Giro*, written stories, works of non-fiction and three prize-winning novels. He will be talking about the series and some of the issues it raised. He makes a most welcome return following his visit to us with *The Keekin' Glass* two years ago.

As this is the 15th year of the society we will have some celebratory eats and drinks after the talk.

Monday October 17

Lord Sutherland's Favourite Authors - Edwin Muir And Arthur Miller.

Edwin Muir's constant battle with the erosion of time and place in human life (viz. autobiography) is

paralleled in **Arthur Miller's** commentaries on U.S. social and economic structures in for example *Death Of A Salesman* and *A View From The Bridge*.

Lord Sutherland began his academic career as Lecturer in Philosophy in Wales and then at Stirling University. Later, following posts as Professor at Kings College, London, and Principal of London University, he was appointed Principal of Edinburgh University. An enthusiast for Russian literature, he has also been a Director of the Saltire Society.

Monday November 21

Roull of Corstorphin

Earlier this year **Stewart Conn** completed his tenure as Edinburgh's first official Makar or Poet Laureate. Very much the centre-piece of his latest collection, *Ghosts at Cockcrow*, is a sequence of poems sparked off by his occupancy of the role and an awareness of Edinburgh's past. In it he breathes life warmly, but not over solemnly, into the shadowy figure of Roull - envisaged as the capital's first recorded poet. A reading of the sequence will be prefaced by retracing its literary origins and the poetical sources which were to prove its inspiration.

Monday December 19

Other Worlds

A presentation in poetry and song to stress the essential oral nature of the Scottish song tradition and how it has resisted standardisation and to highlight the significance of the classic ballad as 'the narrative heart of our singing tradition'.

Alison McMorland's involvement in traditional music has been multi-faceted, embracing collecting, publishing, broadcasting, theatre and teaching. She is a tutor at the RSAMD Glasgow.

Geordie McIntyre is a highly respected singer of wide experience and extensive repertoire. In 2003 Geordie and Alison released an album of classic ballads, *Ballad Tree*. Christmas Refreshments.

2006

Monday January 16

Whittos Weddings - Visionary Moments

A critique of **Philip Larkin's** famous poem. **Bruce Ritchie** was born in Stirling and educated at Dollar Academy, St Andrews and Cambridge. He taught English for 30 years at Merchant Taylor's School and also in the United States and Australia. He has a particular interest in the works of Larkin, one of the 20th century's most controversial poets. We warmly welcome him back to our society.

Monday February 20

Charles Dickens; A Popular Genius

The word *"Dickensian"* entered the English language long ago, but it can mean diametrically opposed things. Living conditions are said to be Dickensian when they are marked by extreme poverty, filth and degradation. On the other hand, a Dickensian Christmas is the kind of celebration we all aspire to. These contradictions will be explored by **Graham Smith**, Emeritus Professor of English Studies, University of Stirling, who has published widely in the field of Dickens studies over the last 30 years in an attempt to throw light on another paradox, that Dickens is both one of the greatest literary artists and a widely popular writer.

Monday March 20

New Light On Sorley Maclean

Born in Glasgow, **Dr Christopher Whyte** spent 12 years living in Italy. His debut collection of Gaelic poems won a Saltire Award. He will discuss the way the manuscript holdings in Aberdeen, St Andrews

"Is e Litreachas Lannair na Firinn"
(Literature is the lamp of truth).

"Whit, him write books? Why, I kent his Faither!" A disparaging Scottish comment on success, now happily falling out of use.