

Monday March 16

"The Lost Art of Letting Go"

Nick Thorpe discusses and reads extracts from his current book, a whimsical inquiry into the self-improvement industry first captured 150 years ago by the best-selling Scottish author, Samuel Smiles, in his book "Self-Help."

An English author and journalist, who has lived in Edinburgh for 15 years, Nick Thorpe's last book, "Adrift in Caledonia", recounted his boat-hitching odyssey along the coasts, canals and rivers of his adopted homeland, while "Eight Men And A Duck" told the story of his voyage to Easter Island on a reed boat.

Monday April 20

"The Truth and Mister Blair"

Lecturer and author **Denis Frize**, who has been in international teaching for 38 years, will analyse the thought and work of George Orwell, (Eric Arthur Blair) and his significance today as an apostle of truth. Words and phrases like Big Brother, Newspeak, the Thought Police and 1984 have been woven into the English language and yet there is more to him than that.

When in Singapore, Denis Frize published the "Student's Guide to Modern Short Stories" and currently writes for Classroom Resources of Bristol.

Monday May 18

Annual General Meeting

Richmal Crompton's incorrigible William Brown will be 90 years young in 2009.

After the Society's administrative business, historian and committee member Jean Barlow will take a light hearted look at the social changes which occur in the "William" series. (Admission Free).

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

Stirling Literary Society

Committee

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Janet Craig	01786 472319
Kathy O'Donnell	01786 870724
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Honorary members:

Pat Greenhill OBE	Jean Angus
Alan Rennie	Jane Robertson
Eileen F.B. Sedgewick	Elizabeth Meehan
Elspeth King	



Stirling Literary Society

Sept 2008 - May 2009

**"One only writes half the book;
the other is with the reader."**

Joseph Conrad

Live
Literature
Scotland





Stirling Literary Society

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

Annual membership £12.00

Admission (including refreshments),
members £3.00, non members £5.00

2008

There will be **coach outings** in the autumn of 2008 and spring of 2009 (details to be announced).

Monday September 15

"In Stevenson's Footsteps"

To mark the 130th anniversary of Robert Louis Stevenson's classic "Travels With A Donkey In The Cevennes", a group of RLS Club members are to follow the 140 miles route taken by Stevenson and Modestine, the donkey with attitude. The trek will be led by RLS club committee member **Ian Gardiner**, who will present his account of the route in words and photographs.

Monday October 20

"Scotland's Wells And Springs"

Internationally regarded poet **Valerie Gillies** was Edinburgh's Makar (poet laureate to the city) in 2005 and her work ranges from the Borders to the Highlands, from the Inner Hebrides to the Angus Glens and Orkney to Galloway.

"To cut the winter nicht and mak it schort, I pick one quair and left all
uther sport" - Robert Henryson (1425 - 1490), "Testament of Cresseid"

She works with visual artists and her award winning volumes include "Tweed Journey", "Each Bright Eye", "The Ringing Rock" and "The Lightning Tree".

Her latest book, "The Spring Teller", is a volume of landmark poems inspired by Scotland's wells and springs.

Monday November 17

"The Red Bull And The Black Bull"

The Red Bull is Dr. Samuel Johnson. The Black Bull is the Highland people and their spokesmen. They came head to head in the 1770s over Johnson's offensive remarks about Oisian, the Gaelic language and Scots in general. **Ronald Black**, the most recent editor of Johnson's "Journey To The Western Islands," explores this most entertaining of controversies.

Mr Black is Gaelic editor of "The Scotsman" and a former Senior Lecturer in Celtic at Edinburgh University.

Monday December 15

"The Life And Songs Of Lady Nairne"

Caroline Oliphant, Lady Nairne, ranks with her contemporaries Burns and Hogg, as a keen collector of Scottish folk tunes and like them she provided new work and her songs are among Scotland's best loved. Two young music students, **Siobhan Anderson** and **Sarah MacNeil**, will entertain with some of Lady Nairne's melodies, with caracasach accompaniment. Historian **Jean Barlow** will link up the songs with anecdotes of "The Flower of Strathearn".

2009

Monday January 19

"Nice Work If You Can Get It"

The role of Literary Editor sounds like the best job in the world. What could be better than being paid for reading books and sounding off in print about them? But is it as a delightfully Edwardian occupation as it sounds and what, in fact, does it entail?

Rosemary Goring has been Literary Editor of the "The Herald" since 2002 and was previously Literary Editor of "Scotland On Sunday". She recently gained a fresh perspective on the trade by publishing her own book, "Scotland, The Autobiography," thus getting a revealing glimpse of the literary press from the author's rather than the journalist's perspective.

Friday January 23

The Burns Supper

The Society's Burns Supper will be held in the Park Lodge Hotel with writer, broadcaster and historian **Billy Kay** delivering "The Immortal Memory" and singers **Geordie McIntyre** and **Alison McMorland** providing much of the music. (Details to members by letter).

Monday February 16

"Victorian Poets of Stirlingshire"

Peter Paterson is principal teacher of English at St. Modan's High School. He is an avid Cambusbarronian, having written two books about his native village. He is a prominent member of the campaigning "Save Gillies Hill" group.

In 2004 he completed a study of local Victorian poets whose reflections, especially on William Wallace, offer interesting insights into the age in which they were written.

"Tha solus ar beatha laiste le leabhraichean"
("The lamp of life is lit by books," Gaelic proverb)