

Chapter IV group. This event will explore the literary, historic and cultural links between both countries and will follow the pattern of our highly successful Russian evening. Dinner will be served and a memorable evening is expected. Members will receive details well ahead of the evening. This evening is open to the public. Tickets should be bought in advance.

Monday March 21

Writing my Life – and Then Some

Robert Douglas came late to writing when aged 50. Real success came at age 66 when his best-selling volume of autobiography, *Night Song of the Last Tram*, first of a trilogy, was published. In 2009 came his first novel, *Whose Turn for the Stairs?*, which was a critically well-received return to the Glasgow of his childhood. Very much "faction", it follows the lives of the residents of a tenement close in 1949 Maryhill.

Monday April 18

Unquiet Slumbers: Jane & Rebecca

Jane Eyre and *Rebecca* were immediate best-sellers and have had a 'classic' status ever since. However, *Jane Eyre* attracted hostile criticism as well as fervent admiration from its early readers. **Dr. Priscilla Martin**, Oxford University Professor of English Literature and Classics, will consider why *Jane Eyre* was found shocking and will argue that *Rebecca* is both a more conservative and a more transgressive novel. Dr Martin is the author of *Chaucer's Women: Nuns, Wives and Amazons and Iris Murdoch: a Literary Life*.

Monday May 16

Annual General Meeting

After the Society's administrative business, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Robert Frost will be the subject of a talk by society chair, librarian and writer **Kathleen O'Donnell**. Frost, son of an adventurous New Englander and a Scottish immigrant, had family ties that reached back to colonial America, Scotland and England.

Stirling Literary Society

Committee

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Alan Rennie	Jane Robertson
Elizabeth Meehan	Tom McOwan
Elpeth King	

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Stirling Literary Society

Sept 2010 - May 2011

"Wear the old coat and buy the new book."

Austin Phelps



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Stirling Literary Society

All lectures at 7:30 pm in the Smith Art Gallery and Museum, Stirling, unless otherwise stated.

Annual membership £15.00
Admission (including refreshments),
Members £3.00, non members £5.00

2010

Saturday September 11

Leaving the Smith Museum at 9am returning 6pm

"All Hail Macbeth – Thane of Glamis"

A coach trip to Glamis Castle and some of the area which inspired Shakespeare's "Scottish Play". Route commentary by Jean Barlow. All welcome. Contact secretary.

Monday September 20

Muriel Spark: a friendship explored

Alan Taylor, Associate Editor and Books Review editor of the *Sunday Herald*, knew Muriel Spark for the last two decades of her life, visiting her often at her home in Italy and elsewhere. Their friendship is the heart of his talk which will range in time and place from Spark's upbringing in Edinburgh in the 1920s to her life in Tuscany in the 1990s.

Monday October 18

Becoming a Writer

Former police officer **Karen Campbell**, who is based in Glasgow, won the Best New Scottish Writer Award in 2009. Her three novels look at life, love and how

policing can affect the person behind the uniform. Her journey from police officer to writer will be the focus of her talk.

Monday November 15

**The Remarkable Reverend Kirk:
the faerie minister**

Oxford graduate and former owner of Browsers' Bookshop in Dunblane **Louis Stott**, will speak on the Rev. Robert Kirk of Aberfoyle, seventh son and author of *The Secret Commonwealth* (1691) and his experience of the faeries that he encountered on Doon Hill, a place that many still believe is enchanted.

Monday December 20

**Alison McMorland & Geordie McIntyre
celebrate the life of Hamish Henderson**

This promises to be a festive and delightful musical celebration in honour of the publication of the second volume of Timothy Neat's biography of Hamish Henderson. Traditional musical entertainment will be provided by the always entertaining **Alison McMorland & Geordie McIntyre**. Alison received inspirational guidance from Hamish Henderson early on in her musical career.

The Society aims to promote, encourage and deepen enjoyment of all branches of literature, poetry, prose, plays, scripts, stories and novels and including TV, radio and films.

**"Bidh ar canain is ar ceol beo anns an fhacal."
("Our language and our music will live forever in words.")**

2011

Monday January 17

The Road to Rome

Douglas Jackson is a former reporter with the Stirling Observer who went on to spend twenty years in national newspapers. He had a lifelong fascination with history in general and the Roman period in particular. His first book *Caligula* was published in 2008, followed by the sequel *Claudius*. The success of these novels led to a further contract to write a new trilogy for his publisher, *Transworld*. His talk will focus on his passions for history and writing historical fiction.

Monday February 21

**1611: The Authorised Version,
a Step in Liberation**

2011 marks the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James Bible, known equally as the Authorised Version. Society member the **Rev. Dr. Ian M. Fraser** will speak on why the Authorised Version was important historically, politically and educationally and will explain why the Authorised Version liberated its readers and scholars to obtain a deeper understanding of its text. Dr. Fraser has had an enormously varied life of well over 90 years and has been a parish minister, warden of Scottish Churches House and Executive Secretary of the World Council of Churches. He's the author of twenty-five books, including *Reinventing Theology*, which is used as a standard theological source book around the world.

Friday March 18

The Auld Alliance:

a Franco-Scottish evening

Our Society is holding a Franco-Scottish evening on Friday evening, March 18th, 2011, at the Park Lodge Hotel, Stirling. The speakers will include writer and broadcaster Billy Kay, with music provided by the

"A buik hauds a hoose o gowd."