

the Society. Professor Gunn is Chair of Writing Practice and Study at the School of Humanities, University of Dundee.

Monday April 16

Madeleine Bunting

Love of Country: finding a place for the Hebrides in the nation's imagination

Madeleine Bunting is a writer and former journalist. She has written four books, *Love of Country* was Radio Four's *Book of the Week* in 2016 and has been widely reviewed. Her previous book, *The Plot* published by Granta in 2009, was shortlisted for the Royal Society of Literature's Ondaatje Prize and won The Portico Prize. She was a prize winning journalist and columnist on the Guardian until 2003. She is an Honorary Fellow of Cardiff University and a Visiting Fellow at Manchester University.

Monday May 21

Annual General Meeting

Professor Richard Roberts

Daughters of Jephthah? Tessa Ransford and Scottish women's poetry in the borderland between patriarchy and feminist theory

Richard H. Roberts has held the Chair of Divinity in the University of St Andrews and then a Chair in Religious Studies at Lancaster University. His most recent book, *Religion, Theology and the Human Sciences* was described by Dr Rowan Williams in the *TLS* as '... a highly original, difficult, exasperating and important collection' Roberts' engagement with the history of Scottish women's poetry developed in the course of a long friendship with the poet Tessa Ransford, founder of the Scottish Poetry Library.

Stirling Literary Society

Committee

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Committee Members

Prof. Richard Roberts
Clive Wright

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Jean Barlow
Mary Cooper
Dr. Ian M. Fraser
Dr. Elspeth King
Agnes McOwan
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Margaret Sutherland
Mary Whyte
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Stirling Literary Society has attractive
fine bone china mugs available for purchase.

www.stirlingliterarysociety.org.uk
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Stirling Literary Society

Sept 2017 - May 2018

**"Literature is a power line and the
motor, mark you, is the reader"**

Charles P. Curtis

www.stirlingliterarysociety.org.uk



Stirling Literary Society

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

Annual membership £15.00

Admission (including refreshments),
Members £5.00, non-members £7.00

2017

Monday September 18

Clive Wright

The Lyric Muse

Prize-winning poet Clive Wright read Classics at Cambridge University and was appointed Makar of Stirling in 2016. His work has been widely anthologised in Britain and in Ireland and he is currently completing his Stirling collection, *Faces of the Rock*. His poems have been set to music, as song cycles, by leading composers from Britain and Germany, with performances in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Munich, as well as here in Stirling. Clive is accordingly no stranger to the *Lyric Muse*.

Monday October 16

James Robertson

Scottish Stories, Places and People

James Robertson is a poet, fiction writer, essayist and editor. He grew up in Bridge of Allan. James studied History at Edinburgh University and, from 1993-1995, was writer-in-residence at Brownsbank Cottage, home of Hugh MacDiarmid. He has published four collections of short stories and six novels. James co-founded *ITCHYCOO*, which publishes books in Scots for young readers, and he has translated the work of

several leading authors into Scots. Projects in progress include essays for Historic Environment Scotland's *Who Built Scotland?*; and a book about late songwriter and performer, Michael Marra.

Monday November 20

Dr Maureen Farrell

Good Neighbours, Beasties and Bogles:
Celebrating non-humans in Scottish
Children's Literature

The Scots have long been fascinated with the supernatural, seen partly in the popularity of the fairy-tale which tells of a world inhabited by fairies, kelpies, shape-shifters, devils and witches. Scottish children's literature has been awash with 'non-human others' almost from its beginnings. In this fascinating talk, Dr Farrell explores examples from Scottish children's literature and their effect on the human protagonists. Dr Farrell is a Senior Lecturer at the School of Education, University of Glasgow.

Monday December 18

Dr Nicola Cowmeadow and Syd House

The Songs of Carolina Oliphant, Lady Nairne

Nicola Cowmeadow is the Local History Officer for Perth and Kinross. A Carnegie scholar, she completed her Ph.D. at the University of Dundee, producing her thesis on *Scottish Noblewomen, the Family and Scottish Politics: 1688-1707*. Her interest in women in history continues to influence her writing and singing. Nicola has sung with various groups, in addition to performing as a soloist. Syd House MBE is a professional forester.

The Society aims to promote, encourage
and deepen enjoyment of all branches of
literature and media.

A native of Gourock and graduate of Edinburgh University, he spent his professional life working for the Forestry Commission across Scotland and overseas. Syd has co-authored two books: *The Good Tourist* (1991) and *The Tree Collector* (1999). He chairs the Forest Trust. He has also co-produced and appeared in a TV documentary, *Finding David Douglas*. Syd has a love of the history and music of Scotland especially the works of Lady Nairne.

2018

Monday February 19

Professor Fred Freeman

Poetry and Sang Gang Thegither

Professor Freeman will investigate the Scots tradition of poetry and song across the centuries; arriving at Hamish Henderson's provocative conclusion that there is indeed 'a constant fruitful cross-fertilisation in the fields of literature and 'folk' poetry in the Scottish cultural tradition'. Moreover, this unique exploration, ranging from Medieval Makars to Scots Ballads, sheds new light on Scottish culture, literature and song. Fred Freeman is Visiting Professor at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

Monday March 19

Professor Kirsty Gunn

'Caroline's Bikini' - Scotland and the
London Publishing Scene: A perfect fit
Author of the brilliantly successful novel, *The Big Music*, Professor Gunn will discuss her new novel, which is due for release around the time of her first visit to

"Teirigidh an saoghal ach mairidh bàrdachd is gaol"

The world will come to an end but poetry and love will endure - Gaelic proverb

"Ilka buik a ferlie"

Every book is a marvel