



Post-Lib

RPG Committee 2019

Chair: Sian King

chair.rmg@cilip.org.uk

Hon Secretary: Alison Hall

secretary.rmg@cilip.org.uk

Hon Treasurer: Joan Woollatt

treasurer.rmg@cilip.org.uk

Post-Lib Editor: Christiana Ikeogu

editor.rmg@cilip.org.uk

christieikeogu@gmail.com

Web Editor: Alan Cooper

info.rmg@cilip.org.uk

Marketing and Communications:**Mrs Sian King**

chair.rmg@cilip.org.uk

Other Committee members**Charmaine Bourton**

charmainebourton11@hotmail.co.uk

Ian Orton

ianorton@btinternet.com

For general enquiries about the Retired Professionals Group please contact
info.rmg@cilip.org.uk

For changes in membership circumstances
contact membership@cilip.org.uk

Contents

Chair's note

Sian King 2

Editor's introduction

Christiana Ikeogu 3

News and views

Message from Alan Cooper 4

Making connections

An Invitation to lunch 5

Trending

Life as a Volunteer Archivist and Researcher 7

Annual Report

Accounts and Business Plan 11

People

AGM – Elaine Harwood 14

Obituary

Peter Davis 15

Events and announcements 16



A note from the Chair

Sian King

HOT OFF THE PRESS!

Retired Members Group Is now Retired Professionals Group (RPG)

We are changing our name! The Committee agreed in November 2018 to submit a name change to the CILIP Board to reflect our more professional status, and this has now been agreed. So from now on, you are a member of the Retired Professionals Group. As you can see, the new name is already being used in the journal, and, in due course, on all pages on the CILIP website. Please bear with us as amendments are worked through.

Other plans include:

- Continuing our popular programme of visits to special libraries, archives, museums and collections
- Working more closely with other CILIP's Regional Groups and Special Interest Groups
- Get much more feedback from members about what sort of support might be helpful to them in pre-retirement planning, as well as professional, social and leisure pursuits when they have retired. Ideas so far suggested (through a short survey) include:
- Free (or inexpensive) talks/lectures combined with networking
- Trips to overseas libraries
- Opportunities to share our lifelong experiences and expertise with younger professionals
- Pre-retirement guidance
- Is freelance indexing a viable option after retirement
- Social contact with retired librarians in my area
- Offering reduced price (or free!) admission to priced CILIP events
- More opportunities to visit relevant libraries, not just in the south. Perhaps even a tour over several days.
- Author talks

Please feel free to comment on these ideas by emailing me at **chair.rmg@cilip.org.uk**



Welcome to the 88th edition of CILIP (RPG)

Post-Lib

Christiana Ikeogu

Welcome to *Post-Lib*, the voice of the Retired Professionals Group of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP).

I am continually encouraged by the number of our members showing greater interest in this magazine, not only by sending comments and appreciation of the articles, but wishing to contribute their piece. It is the easiest way to share the exciting and challenging moments of our lives and making connections with former and forgotten colleagues and friends.

Inside this issue, I hope you will be inspired by the contribution of our Web Editor, Alan Cooper has made in highlighting the need to get connected electronically in order to get the full benefit of your membership. You will notice that there are many invitations to volunteering internally with CILIP and externally with specialist collections like the Salisbury Cathedral Archive.

Lunch Clubs and networking with friends are growing initiatives among Retired Professionals as you will obviously notice from the article by Mark Lunt. This could be replicated in other areas. As a new joiner to this London group, I can vouch for the benefit of sharing the light-hearted moment at the venue. The restaurant treats the

group with high respect, excellent food and services. The established RPG's Annual Lunch at the Civil Service Club seems to be getting ever popular. Please see Ian Orton's report. I can only say, *wish you were there* this April and encourage you to note Ian's date for 2020.

Thank you, Ian McCracken, for sending the article on volunteering at Govan High school in Glasgow at short notice. If his report inspires you, check around your area for a similar project to get involved in and make a difference. You will notice from the Annual Lunch report, that we missed Salley Vickers' talk on her book, *The Librarian*. I have therefore done a short review, just to whet your appetite in case you have not already read it.

As our AGM is fast approaching, I am sure you will want to know how our Special Interest Group, RPG has been performing administratively and financially. These are covered within the Annual Report by Sian King who has chaired the Committee so wonderfully; and the Annual Accounts meticulously worked on by our Honorary Treasurer, Joan Woollatt. Sian has also provided the Business Plan for 2019. Please bring copies of these reports when coming to the AGM on 18th June. You may also be interested to know that Elain Harwood will

be giving a presentation on post-war listed library buildings immediately after the meeting. So, don't miss the AGM.

Future publications

The next two issues will be digital.

Please keep the articles coming, in order to keep RPG relevant and attractive to potential new comers. Don't forget to check on forthcoming events and announcements. Peter Davis's obituary has been repeated here to include his picture and for those who had no access to issue 87 which was digital. **PL**

Next Issue:

Materials for the next issue should reach the editor by Monday 12th August 2019. Please forward articles as an attachment through the following:-

Email: christieikeogu@gmail.com.

Alternatively, please post typed documents in double-spacing and single sided to Christiana Ikeogu, 130 Elphinstone Road, London E17 5EX. The editor is also accessible on the phone – 07957 726 215.

Please note that articles presented in *Post-Lib* are not necessarily the opinions of the Committee or the editor.

News and views

Message from the Retired Professionals Group web editor

Alan Cooper

Not receiving RPG email or the electronic issues of *Post-Lib*?

The Retired Professionals Group now publishes *Post-Lib* twice a year in electronic form and once a year in print form (i.e. this issue you're currently reading). Here's what you need to do in order to ensure that you'll receive all future issues in either electronic or print format.

Go to the CILIP website (<https://www.cilip.org.uk/>) and sign in using the **Sign In** button at the top of the page. (If you've never signed in before, you'll be asked to go to the Reset Password page to request a login password).

Once you're logged in, go to the Welcome message at the top and select the Account + Settings drop-down. Select Email Preferences in the Account Information section of this page.

Now you'll see:

'Please manage your general email preferences [here](#).'

'Please manage your Devolved Nation, Regional Network and Special Interest Group email preferences [here](#).'

If you choose the second set of preferences you will be able to ensure that the Retired Members Group is one of the providers of your email messages you receive from CILIP.

As well as the electronic issues of *Post-Lib*, RPG will be sending you an occasional brief email newsletter with information about our events, volunteering opportunities and other news items of interest to RPG members.

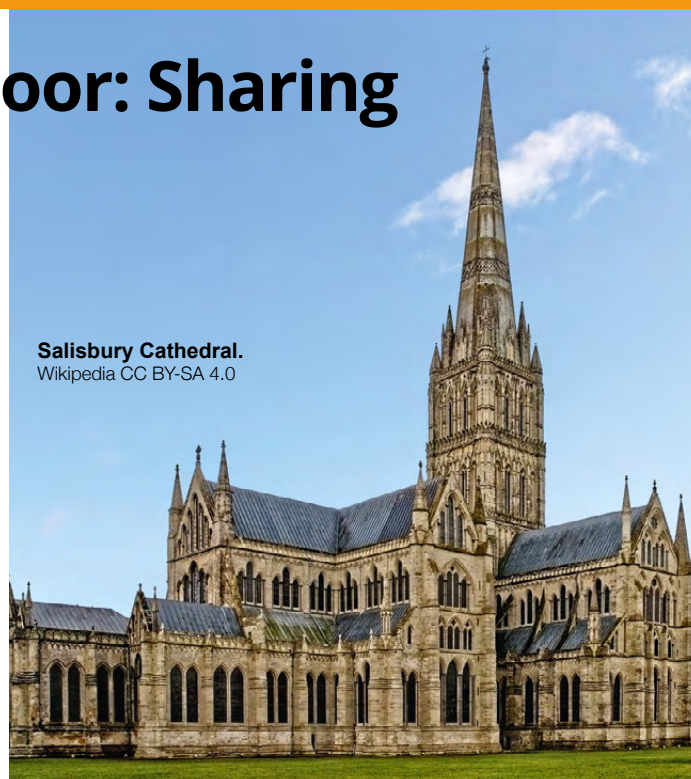
Please note that the two previous electronic-only issues are:

- Issue no 86, SEPTEMBER 2018 and
- Issue no 87, FEBRUARY 2019 can be accessed on the CILIP website at www.cilip.org.uk/rmg under 'Our News'. **PL**

'Beyond the Library Door: Sharing books and bindings'

'Beyond the Library Door' is a project to catalogue over 10,000 books in the Cathedral Library and in Sarum College Library. We would very much like to recruit, if we can, some willing volunteers with library cataloguing experience to help out. Would you be able to circulate our request as below to anyone who you think might be interested! I have also attached the role profile FYI.

Salisbury Cathedral Library and Sarum College Library are together working on a Heritage Lottery Funded project to catalogue our historic book collections so they are discoverable by anyone online. The Cathedral's printed book collection dates from the 15th century and consists of over 10,000 books, Sarum College's rare book collection is smaller but nonetheless of great interest. We would love to hear from anyone with past experience of library cataloguing who might be able to spare a few hours a week volunteering as part of our project. If you are interested please contact Emily Naish at Salisbury Cathedral.



Salisbury Cathedral.
Wikipedia CC BY-SA 4.0

Contact:

Emily Naish

Cathedral Archivist

Phone: 01722 555 107

Email: e.naish@salcath.co.uk

Salisbury Cathedral, The Chapter Office,
6 The Close, Salisbury, SP1 2EF

Making connections

An invitation to lunch

Mark Lunt

Since the former London and Home Counties Branch of the former Library Association was dismantled in 2004 after a very distinguished 80 years history, with the establishment of CILIP and its regional branches, now regional member networks, I have organised quarterly lunches for former chairs, committee members and ordinary members of the Branch for the past fifteen years. For 44 years, in addition to our day jobs, we contributed to the work of



the Branch which carried out professional activities and operations for LIS colleagues and LIS services locally, regionally, nationally and internationally and which were recognized as of major significance worldwide. Much of this work

was carried out with the Branch's Executive Secretary, the late Eric Winter, at the helm.

As we had worked together for so many years on so many projects, had contributed so much professional expertise to the profession, and had been through professional highs and lows, we agreed to continue in our retirement years the fellowship we enjoyed in those previous years. The continuing professional contact has been much appreciated and we continue with our meetings. The lunches are purely social occasions but we exchange news and gossip about professional matters and our current activities. Recently, we discussed widening membership of the lunch group to other retired LIS colleagues. Consideration is also being given to the frequency. On lunch days we meet initially at CILIP Ewart Room at 12.30pm and then proceed to Olivellis restaurant opposite in Store Street at 1pm. We have been using this restaurant since our

London and Home Counties days because it is not only convenient but the meals are enjoyable. We usually have a main course, a desert, wine and coffee.

If any colleagues would like to join the lunch group, please contact me preferably by email, or phone or letter, details below. A note about your professional background would be helpful and whether you would be interested in the quarterly lunches held at present on Thursdays in September, December, March and June. I will then notify any interested colleagues about dates. **PL**

Contact:**Mark Lunt**

Phone: 020 8399 8090

Email: markwlunt@yahoo.co.uk

12 Moresby Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey, KT5 9DS

Opportunity with CILIP

CILIP's Knowledge and Information Management Special Interest Group are looking for a volunteer to help put together an exciting programme of training and events as part of their offer to members.

This is an opportunity for someone from the Retired Professionals Group, with good practical experience in this area, who could carry out the role on an interim basis, or perhaps act as a mentor to someone taking on the role who could benefit from such expertise. If you are interested in this, or would like more information, please contact the secretary of the group.

Anne Fraser

Email: secretary.KandIM@cilip.org.uk

Hackney Library mini-conference call

I am a retired librarian who spent most of my working life delivering library services to housebound people.

I am involved in planning a mini conference at Stoke Newington Library, Hackney, on Tuesday, 15th October.

One aspect of this is the past history of such services and wondering whether any RPG members may have been involved. Hackney's service started 70 years ago and photos have been found detailing aspects of the early service. Perhaps other services may have such records? If you know of any can you get in touch.

Tom Berry

Email: email_tom_uk@yahoo.co.uk

Retired Professionals' Group Annual Lunch

Ian Orton

The Annual Lunch was held on Tuesday, 9th April 2019 at the Civil Service Club in central London and a good time was enjoyed by all! Thirty-seven people attended who caught up on memories and made good friends not every lunch involves a discussion on the Dewey Classification Scheme and the benefits of the Browne Borrowing system!

The only sad note was Sally Vickers who wrote *The Librarian* was due to give a talk about the book and the debt to librarians, but was sadly was not well enough to attend.

Those who like to plan ahead the date for the Annual Lunch next year is Tuesday, 7th April 2020 a chance to enjoy good food and drink with friends old and new!



Trending

Life as a Volunteer Archivist and Researcher

Ian McCracken

In 2010, my post as School Librarian in Govan High School, Glasgow was made redundant and after twenty-nine years I accepted a Retirement and Redundancy package. I naturally took it for granted that my long association with the school would come to an end; however 2010 happened to be the Centenary of the school, and many celebratory activities were organised by a committee chaired by the Headteacher, Mr White, and comprising several staff, former pupils and including me.

One of the decisions taken was to produce a

Centenary book. There had been no school archive, and all I had in the library were some old school magazines and various random photos and newspaper articles about the school that I had in a couple of boxes. However, the school's centenary got extensive publicity, and this resulted in many former pupils donating or lending photographs. So a book that we thought might struggle to reach 40 pages ended up with 120.

Having no connection now with the Library, I had been given a former Medical Room so that I could start to organise the material and gather



Mitchell Library.

more – former pupils, memories stimulated by reminiscences, started coming forward with enquires, which it became my “job” to answer. I know it’s a cliché, but I was really on a steep learning curve here – I had previously no experience in dealing with such things as old school registers and log books. The former proved to be quite confusing – all the volumes are in the Mitchell Library in central Glasgow but had not been numbered in the original school; there are overlaps as the school was split between a junior and senior secondary which were registered separately and many other anomalies, which made seeking individual pupils quite a challenge. The local newspapers for many years were only available in a negative microfilm – and I also discovered that people’s memory regarding dates and events could be (understandably!) hazy.

A Centenary website was set up, and all the photos were uploaded. Mr White also arranged

Studying the First World War Memorial names.



for many to be framed – we ended up with 175 frames covering many aspects of the school’s history.

This produced even more photo donations and enquiries, so I was virtually back to a five day week – although of course on a voluntary basis. I found it very stimulating, as former pupils who contacted me or came to view the framed photos were always very positive about their school experiences, and very appreciative that I was willing to help them, even when my efforts came to nothing. I also I learnt a whole range of new skills – for example, I was now cataloguing large numbers of photographs and artefacts (such as the flag made for the school’s 50th anniversary). I was also learning to use the vast resources of the Mitchell Library’s Archives and Special Collections Department – the staff in both being very patient with my other naive questions.

One of my first self-imposed tasks was to research the sixty-four names on the school’s First World War Memorial. This took several years, but I finally succeeded and have even been able to make contact with a number of relatives. I also mounted an exhibition with photographs, newspaper articles and some tragic stories in the Glasgow Scotland Street Museum. As a consequence of my work, I was honoured to be invited to the National Commemoration Ceremonies in Glasgow Cathedral at the beginning and end of the Centenary period.

In 2014, the school’s Art Department won first prize in a competition organised by a group that supports the local public park. Two members of the group visited the school to present prizes, and this turned out to be very lucky for me as it turned out they were also members of a group called “Govan’s Hidden Histories” which was trying to rediscover recent history of the Govan area, which was much more extensive and in some cases more significant than was appreciated even locally. I was introduced to them, and soon started trying to research local history as well as school history – another new and fascinating experience.



Mary Barbour, activist, city councillor and latterly a Magistrate and Justice of the Peace.

Our first focus was the Rent Strike of 1915. A local resident, Mary Barbour had instigated a whole range of local protests against rent increases and evictions which were taking place in the area. The culmination was a huge protest which resulted in telephone frantic calls being from Glasgow to Lloyd George, Minister for Munitions, and soon after legislation was passed to keep rents at pre-war levels. The protest was featured by Jeremy Paxman in his *First World War* series, and more recently by Michael Portillo in his *Great British Railway Journeys*.



Upper Clyde Shipyard work-in, 1971.



Visiting the statue of Mary Barbour in Govan, Glasgow.

Our group has organised a number of walks showing where protests took place, and where those involved lived at the time. It would not have been on any "bucket list" I might have compiled, but I have enjoyed these walks, meeting new people and addressing the audiences that have come along.

More recently, we have been looking into the further activities of the women involved-Mary Barbour herself became a City Councillor and Magistrate; another was prominent in the Parish Council and yet another was elected to the local Education Authority.

As well as research activities, walks and extending or initiating Wikipedia entries on Mary Barbour, Mary Burns Laird, Mary Jeff and others, the team has also mounted a number of exhibitions, and the attached photo shows me and several of my friends and fellow volunteers in front of an exhibition last year at the new Queen Elizabeth Memorial Hospital. This focussed on the Upper Clyde Shipyard work-in, and parallels with the similar Gdansk yard occupation which gave rise to the Solidarity movement.

I would encourage anyone reading this article to find out about their own area's local history. None of what we have found was in any books on the area and maybe it's the same where you live -finding out more is something I have enjoyed and have contributed; perhaps you would feel likewise if you started looking! **PL**

Book review

Title: *The Librarian*

Author: **Sally Vickers**

Publisher: Penguin

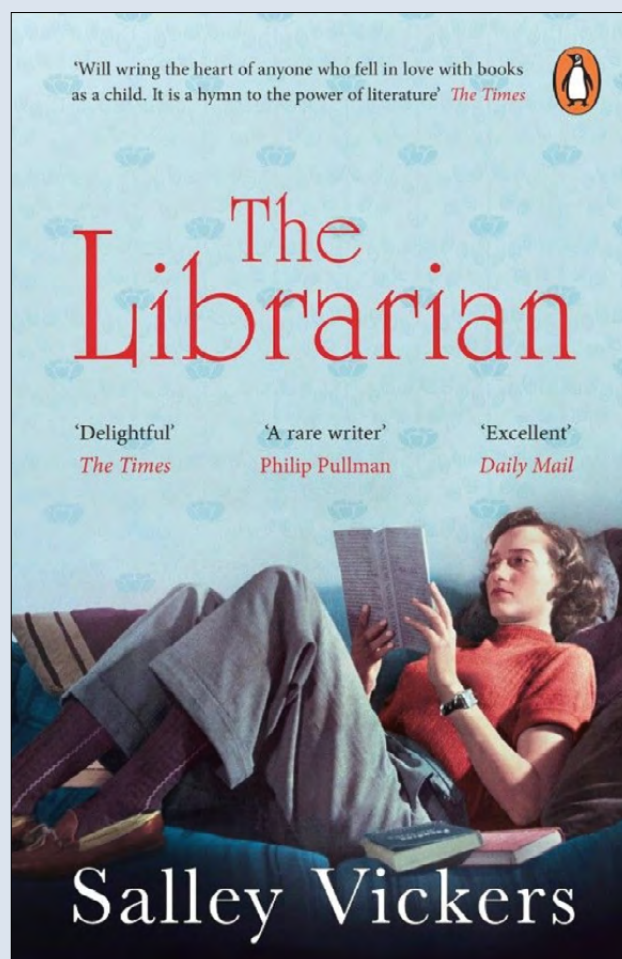
Publication Date: 2018

In 1958, Sylvia Blackwell, a newly-trained librarian, takes up the post of Children's Librarian in a run-down library in the market town of East Mole. But her project to inspire the local children to read is threatened by undercurrents of prejudice in the seemingly pleasant town. Her position is also affected by her love affair with a married GP. The relationship his precocious daughter forms with the son of Sylvia's neighbour, and a deprived child struggling to pass the impending eleven plus exam, puts Sylvia's job and existence of the library in danger.

How does the library alter the young children's lives and how do the children fare as a result of the books Sylvia introduces them to?

Review

In *The Librarian*, Sally Vickers meticulously reveals how a young woman's life is threatened when work ethics and human relationships colluded to play devil's advocate. Sylvia arrived at her new job, as the Children's librarian, in East Mole with great enthusiasm and poise – wanting to make a difference in the lives of young people by inspiring them to read, explore and widen their horizon. In the process of making herself accessible and friendly to the community, Sylvia got entangled in a relationship with a local married GP, whose daughter was equally her fan. Things got messy when the GP's daughter and the son of Sylvia's neighbour



played tricks and truancy that led to an unpleasant atmosphere between Sylvia and her colleagues, and the threat to her job as well as the plan to close down the children's section of the library.

Sally Vickers brought back memories of my early years as a young professional, very keen, and energetically striving to please both manager and library users. This is a must-read for all librarians. But you will appreciate it more when you get towards the end and enter into the forum shared by the main characters.

Sally is obviously a skilful novelist. *The Librarian* shows how books and reading can influence and enhance our lives. I can't wait to listen to Sally Vickers talk about this beautiful work, as she has promised to do for the Retired Professionals Group.

Christiana Ikeogu

Retired Professionals Group

Annual Report 2018

At the beginning of 2018, the Retired Members Group (now RPG) had completed its transition into a CILIP Special Interest Group, although it was still a period of adjustment to a quite different way of managing many aspects of the work. This was helped by the new Committee members who came on board in 2017, supported by long-standing members who are so essential for continuity. Pauline Blagden stood down as Chair in March, and Sian King took up the role just before the June AGM. We were sad to lose Peter Davies later in the year.

Throughout the year, we were grateful to receive pro-active guidance from CILIP's Member Networks Development Manager, Paul Caton, who attended all our Committee meetings and gave lots of encouragement and advice in between. The main activities of 2018, in line with the targets in the Business Plan are summarised below.

- An active programme of visits was carried out:
[MCC Cricket Ground](#)
[London Society Library](#)
[Thomas Plume Library](#)
[Windsor Chapter Library and Archives](#)
[The Spike, Guildford and Abbot's Hospital](#)
- The annual lunch in London was attended by 35 members in April 2018.
- Awareness of the group was raised through a brief item in *Informational Professional*. This resulted in a small surge in numbers joining the group.
- Networking with other CILIP Groups took place through attendance at Member Network events.
- The goal of financial sustainability became closer through a radical decision to publish *Post-Lib* electronically for two out of its three issues over the year. CILIP were able to bear the cost of the electronic issues by designing, creating and distributing them in collaboration with our editor.

By the end of 2018, there were 565 members, and plans to increase our offer to them in a variety of ways now that the group is firmly settled within the CILIP family (see Business Plan on p. 14).

Sian King – Chair RPG

CILIP RMG ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2018

	2018	2017
INCOME	£	£
CILIP Capitation-RMG from FY18	1,500-00	1,500-00
CILIP's Sponsorship income		762-40
CILIP's Sponsorship accrued income		307-60
RMG London lunch	1,073-00	888-00
Library Services Trust		1,450-00
East Midlands Christmas lunch	522-50	530-00
Member Network Central Fund grant	2,164-00	2,640-00
	5,259-50	8,078-00
EXPENDITURE		
POST-LIB	3,147-00	4,541-50
Committee	1,126-51	509-68
Postage & telephone	16-62	40-89
Stationery & printing		
RMG London lunch	861-84	861-91
East Midlands lunch	427-75	404-42
Irrecoverable VAT	23-14	8-09
Room booking (tea & biscuits)	12-25	
	5,615-11	6,366-49
Surplus/(Deficit for the year)	(355-61)	1,711-51

BALANCE SHEET on 31 December 2018

	2018	2017
Assets	£	£
Comment		
Debtors		307-60
Income from HQ not yet trans. to Group		
VAT	208-27	72-79
VAT to refund to RMG		
Cash at Bank	2,474-72	2,645-96
as per bank reconciliation		
	2,682-99	3,026-35
LESS LIABILITIES		
Creditors	12-25	
VAT		
	12-25	0-00
NET ASSETS	2,670-74	3,026-35
ACCUMULATED FUND		
Unity Trust Bank	3,026-35	1,344-84
Unity Trust bank a/c		
opened 28 March 17		
Surplus (Deficit) for the year	(355-61)	1,681-51
	2,670-74	3,026-35

Independent Examiner's report.

I confirm that the above Balance Sheet and accompanying Income and Expenditure Account are in accordance with the Cash Book and that I have examined samples of the records and Unity Trust bank statements to verify their accuracy.

Signed

Independent Examiner:
Abosede Dada (FCCA)

17 February 2019

Retired Professionals Group Business Plan 2019

These are our priorities for the year:

- Change name of group to Retired Professionals Group, and then design new logo
- Arrange a programme of visits for members, aiming to be cost neutral and using the online registration system
- Consider offering an online course retirement course at discounted rate.
- Arrange at least one event focussing on opportunities for retired information professionals
- Arrange a high profile speaker for the annual lunch in April 2019
- Publish two electronic issues and one printed issue of the journal Post-Lib
- Send an email message of welcome to every new member
- One member of committee to attend the CILIP conference in July 2019
- Systematically examine the 'offer' of all the other CILIP SIGs as a source of ideas for further development.

People

Retired Professionals Group Annual General Meeting

Post-war Listed Library Buildings: A Presentation by Elaine Harwood

The RPG Annual General Meeting will be taking place on Tuesday, 18th June 2019 at 2.00 pm. It will be followed by a presentation by Elaine Harwood on Post-War Listed Library Buildings.

Her lecture will look at the development of public libraries after 1945, when large numbers were built, particularly by county councils. Scandinavian, especially Danish, libraries were particularly influential and the Library Association organised special tours to see the latest examples there. These had an influence on the briefs given to architects here. There was a burst of innovative buildings in the early 1960s and again in the early 1970s. In 2013, Historic England embarked on a programme to identify examples for listing, which led to the listing of the British Library and a dozen public libraries across England.



The Central Library, Milton Keynes, of 1979-81 by Buckinghamshire County Council, listed at Grade II, Photograph supplied by Milton Keynes City Discovery Centre.



Elaine Harwood.

Elaine Harwood is a distinguished architectural historian with Historic England. Between 1996 and 2004 she was responsible for most of the recommendations for listing buildings from the period after 1945.

Among her publications are *Space, Hope, and Brutalism: English Architecture, 1945-1975* and *The English Public Library 1945-85*.

Peter Davis

Sadly, Peter passed away in early October at the age of 90. Peter spent several years of his childhood in Jamaica as his father was posted there. Peter, himself, did his National Service in Cyprus.

Peter had always been a keen bookman and reader of diverse subjects, such as travel literature, classics and he had a special interest in Roman history – no wonder he chose a career in librarianship. For many years he worked for the London Borough of Barnet, finally becoming Branch Librarian of Church End library in Finchley. Peter was also a committee member of the national NALGO/UNISON, still serving till his passing.

During his career he became an active member of the LA, Association of Assistant Librarians and participated in international relations and took part in many AAL study tours to such countries as USA, Holland, Norway and Poland and maintained contacts with librarians worldwide.

In retirement, Peter became a founder member of the Retired Librarians Guild in the mid-1990s and was still a member of the committee of the Retired Librarians Group at the time of his death. He attended his last committee meeting in June 2018.



Peter was very active in local organisations such as Banbury/Bodecote Town Twinning where he was Honorary Secretary for 40 years and he attended several visits to Germany and France. He was Honorary President of the Oxfordshire Liberal Democrats and was a candidate on many occasions. He was still canvassing regularly right up until his 90th birthday. He was also an active member of the local U3A, attending French and German conversation every week.

Peter was a keen theatre goer, mainly with library colleagues, visiting Chichester Festival Theatre every year since its foundation right up to this year to see “Me and My Girl” driving the full round trip! He was a follower of classical theatre and made regular trips to Stratford Theatre.

Although Peter lost his civil-partner, Harry, several years ago, he remained a very busy man who lived life to the full.

Barry King and Joan Woollatt

Contribute

If you would like to contribute articles and pictures for the next edition, or future editions, of *Post-Lib* please contact the editor at christieikeogu@gmail.com or phone **07957 726 215**.



FORTHCOMING GROUP TOURS AND LIBRARY VISITS

Tour of the Royal Courts of Justice

The Strand

When: Thursday, 27th June 2019
11:00 am

Where: Royal Courts of Justice,
The Strand, Holborn,
London WC2A 2LL



Tours last between about one hour and one hour and fifteen minutes. There might be the opportunity to watch a case afterwards.

The Royal Courts of Justice houses the High Court and Court of Appeal of England and Wales. It was designed by George Edmund Street, who died before it was completed in the 1870s. It is believed that the stress of the task may have contributed to his death at the age of 57. It is in the Victorian Gothic style and was opened by Queen Victoria in 1882. The finished building contained 35 million Portland stone bricks, more than 3.5 miles of corridor and over 1,000 clocks. Many of these need to be wound by hand; "The Dawn Winder" comes in a couple of mornings each week to do this.

It used to be the court of last resort and highest appellate court in the UK, until the Supreme Court was established in 2009. (It shouldn't be confused with the Central Criminal Court, the Old Bailey, which is about half-mile to the east.)

Website: <https://theroyalcourtsofjustice.com/>

Tour Highlights:

- The Great Hall
- Viewing of original court documents relating to Guy Fawkes from year 1605
- Exhibition of legal costumes
- Art history, including works by Wright, Lawrence and Shee
- History of famous cases and Inquiries

More information on this RPG event: www.cilip.org.uk/event/rmg-law-courts or email informg@cilip.org.uk

RPG's Annual General Meeting

Do come to our AGM on 18th June to find out more about your group where you can make a difference, or contact Sian King chair.rmg@cilip.org.uk For further information about the lunch and a sample menu please contact Ian Orton on ianorton@btinternet.com or phone **07841 577 991**.