

## Finance

As reported last year, financially we are still, as always, in a state of contradiction. On the one hand we have healthy balances, thanks mainly to bequests from supporters, but on the other hand our core annual expenditure (i.e. the day to day running costs) continues to exceed our core income.

We have been very fortunate in being remembered in the will of the late Jonathan Carritt, the Library benefitting by £173,000 from his estate. It is thanks to generous bequests like this from Jonathan, and the regular donations given to us by our Friends, that the Library enjoys relative financial buoyancy.

In addition, this year we had an innovative fund-raising event when three of our famous actor supporters gave their services free and the University of Salford provided the premises and organisational support. We plan another similar event in November.

We also express our gratitude to Salford City Council for continuing its grant to the Library for another year despite the Government's horrendous cuts.

So, the Library is secure for the foreseeable future, but we have to keep up the fundraising efforts to replenish our reserves so that they don't, over time, dwindle to nothing. Our total income for 2014–2015 was £330,351. The bulk came from Jonathan's estate, the significant other income being £69,425 from donations, £22,872 which was our Salford Council grant, and £29,566 interest earned from our investments. Our outgoings for the year totalled £134,519.

## Conclusion

The Trustees wish to record their gratitude to the staff, volunteers, friends and all our active supporters for their invaluable personal contributions to the Library which enable it to be run to both high professional standards and to retain its unique atmosphere.

We are grateful to all those who support us financially either individually or through their organisations.

We wish to repeat our determination to do everything in our power to ensure the long-term future and continuing development of the priceless collection we hold in trust which gives a lie to the establishment's attempt to rewrite our history to suit its own ends.

## Social Media

The Library's Facebook page has over 3,000 'likes' (2,660 in April 2014) and our Twitter feed has over 2,600 followers (1,950 in April 2014). The e-bulletin publicising our activities goes out about once a fortnight to over 2,000 people (1,600 in April 2014).

## Raising The Profile Of The Library

Invitations to the Library to take part in events and projects across Greater Manchester continue to increase. The Library has been represented, for example, in the 'No Glory in War' campaign and conference, the Peace History Conference and the campaign to restore a Peace Garden in the city centre. The Small Heritage Organisations Working Together (SHOWT) network formally launched itself as HIDDEN with a publicity campaign funded by Museums Development North West in March, bringing together eight 'small heritage attractions in Manchester/Salford who otherwise have little in the way of funds for promotion.

## Publicity

The Library was featured in *The Observer* and the *Manchester Evening News* in May and the *Historic Libraries Forum Bulletin* in June in the wake of the Salford Tory controversy. Our subsequent 'Radical Readings' event received a wide range of publicity, in national (*Daily Mirror*, *Observer*) and local print and Web-based media and via social media.

The donation of a minute book from the Rochdale Women's Social and Political Union was widely publicised in local papers and Web sites.

The Library's Peterloo kerchief has featured twice on television – in the documentary *The Real Mill* on Channel 4 and in Amanda Vickery's *Suffragettes Forever* on BBC2.

## Working Class Movement Library



## Annual Report



**WCML**  
Working Class Movement Library

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April 2014 – March 2015

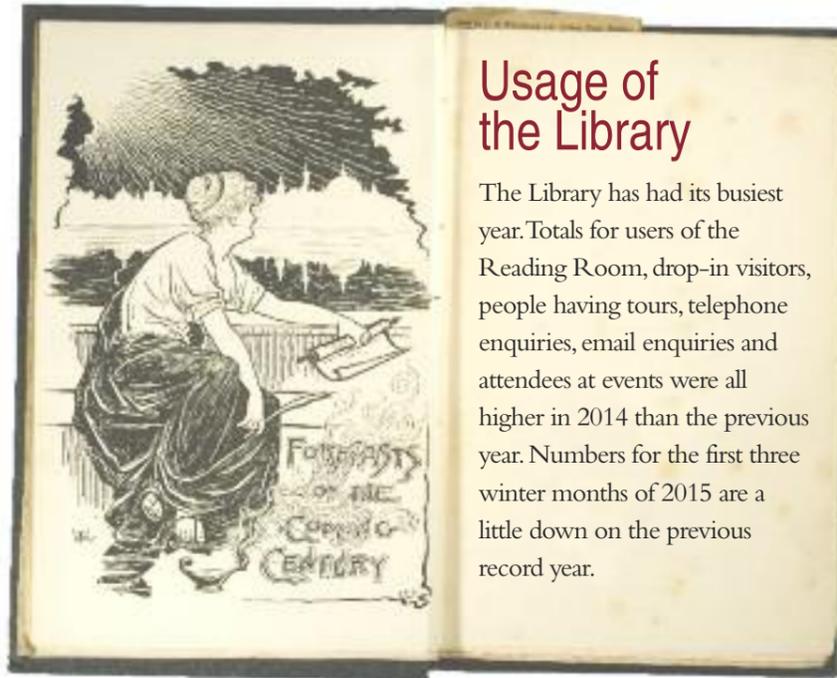
## Introduction

It is heartening to report once more that the year under review has been one of growth and achievement. It is also particularly pleasing in these difficult times to report that income from supporting labour movement organisations, our generous friends and fund-raising events is well above budget

## Volunteers



We have a full complement of volunteers and continue to have a waiting list of people seeking work experience. Volunteers undertake a wide range of tasks from welcoming visitors and creating exhibitions to digitising tapes, adding descriptive detail to photographs and hall display items, preparing Library publications for reprinting, and rebinding books.



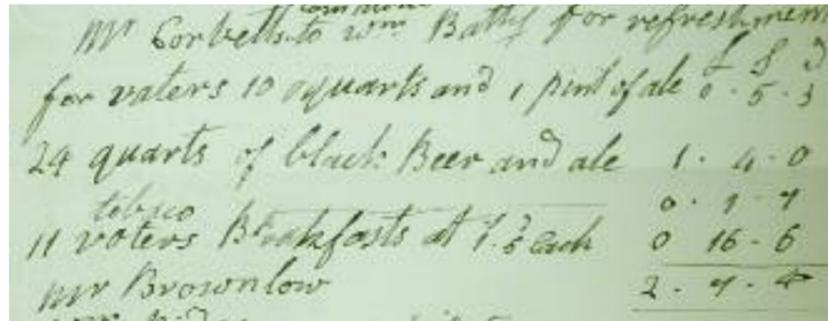
## Usage of the Library

The Library has had its busiest year. Totals for users of the Reading Room, drop-in visitors, people having tours, telephone enquiries, email enquiries and attendees at events were all higher in 2014 than the previous year. Numbers for the first three winter months of 2015 are a little down on the previous record year.

## Heritage Lottery Fund Grants

Voting for Change – 150 years of radical movements, 1819 to 1969

In October the HLF awarded five-year funding of £95,000 towards new acquisitions (and accompanying audience engagement work) to the Library in partnership with the People's History Museum/Labour History Archive. This aims to build on the complementary strengths of both collections to acquire material related to movements and campaigns for the franchise, from the build-up to the Peterloo protest in 1819 to the lowering of the voting age in 1969. This is from the 'Collecting Cultures' funding stream, and we are the first Library (as opposed to museums and archives) to receive such a grant. The Library's first substantial purchase is an archive of 1835 election material for a Lincolnshire Tory candidate, detailing his expenses including amounts spent on alcohol, tobacco and wagers to get his voters to the hustings.



## Invisible Histories from World War One.

The HLF awarded the Library just under £10,000 for a project to commence in March which focuses on stories from World War One which have been hidden until now.

## Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund

'Unlocking Ideas Worth Fighting For' Project

The project finished in July, having achieved excellent work unearthing 'hidden gems' in the Library, the People's History Museum and the Labour History Archive, undertaking projects with students, giving presentations, writing blogs and running open reading days.

The project ended with a 24-hour 'Hackathon' when campaigners, artists and techies worked non-stop at Islington Mill developing protest tools for the next generation of activists, and an exhibition at the Library recording the project.



Hacktivism:  
a 24-hour hackathon

## Events highlights



The fifth Frow Lecture was given in May by John Hilary of War on Want on the theme 'Taking the fight to global capitalism'. Later in the month we held our second Film Festival which had a mining theme to mark the 30th anniversary of the miners' strike. This was followed by our third Museums at Night event which featured Jennifer Reid singing industrial ballads and Tayo Aluko celebrating the life of Paul Robeson with readings and songs.



The Library took part in the Heritage Open Days weekend in September, when we also provided space for Façade Theatre's *The Quiet Bath*, an immersive sound and visual installation, as part of the first Flow Salford Arts Festival. In October, Rob Turnbull launched his book on the independent working class education movement in the North East, *Left for the Rising Sun*, right for *Swan Hunter: the Plebs League in the North East of England 1908-1926*.

## Knowledge, Work & Workers

Science and the Working Class



16<sup>th</sup> July - 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2013

1-5pm Wednesday - Friday

at the Working Class Movement Library  
Libby House, 5, The Crescent, Salford M6 4WJ



## Exhibitions

Our display space in the NALGO Room was full all year with a range of exhibitions which helped draw in our record number of drop-in visitors.

In April and May visitors had another chance to see 'Knowledge, work and workers', a fascinating exhibition on working people and science, highlighting hidden aspects of our collections.

In June and July, 'Unlocking ideas worth fighting for' featured the work of the Library's joint project in unlocking both the Library's and the People's History Museum's hidden collections.

In August, the first in our series of World War One exhibitions, 'The Great War: myths and realities' which probed behind the myths of war and its "glories", opened.

In January, the Irwell Valley Mining Project put on a comprehensive exhibition, 'Salford's last pit: Agecroft Colliery and the great miners' strike, thirty years on'.

In November our fundraising event 'Radical Readings and Salford Stories', hosted by the University of Salford, sold out in a matter of days. Very many people encountered the Library for the first time as a result of their eagerness to see our actor-supporters Sheila Hancock, Mike Joyce and Maxine Peake, to whom we extend our grateful thanks.

In February we celebrated LGBT History Month with a talk, 'Unity is strength: Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners, and their lasting links of comradeship with mining communities' with Mike Jackson of LGSM and Dai Donovan of South Wales NUM. In March we marked both International Women's Day and the Wonder Women series of events across Greater Manchester with a talk by Tansy Hoskins on her book *Stitched up: the anti-capitalist book of fashion* and Jennifer Reid singing from the Library's extensive collection of radical songs.

Throughout the year our popular 'Invisible Histories' talks covered topics as varied as Shelagh Delaney, British trade unions in the First World War, political theatre, and CLR James in Nelson in the 1930s.

THE FIRST NATIONAL FESTIVAL of LGBT HISTORY

