

# Spring Programme February–May 2023



Volunteers working in the Garnethill space.  
Credit: GWL Archive.

## Introduction

**“Having a voice for the struggle – that’s what feeds my spirit” Cathy McCormack, *The Wee Yellow Butterfly***

*Voices for the struggle*, for protest and resistance are at the heart of Glasgow Women’s Library. They take many forms, filling our archives with history, our library books with stories and are enacted through our values and animated in our library space.

This Spring Programme we are celebrating the creative ways these voices have been projected using a multitude of art forms

and activities throughout history. We'll celebrate Cathy McCormack at our Open Archive, with materials she gifted to our collections, charting her housing struggles and activism starting at her Easterhouse home and extending as far as Nicaragua. Another amazing Glasgow woman, Trishna Singh OBE, will be the focus of a Story Café Special, and workshops close by in Dennistoun will provide tools to research and learn about histories of local women.

Our Heritage Walks are back after the winter, with opportunities to hear about Glasgow women in the Gorbals, Merchant City and Garnethill, where GWL had its first home.

A taste of that 90s Garnethill space will enrich our Bridgeton abode with an immersive exhibition, GWL Origins: Pre-internet Community Building, demonstrating the way voices and ideas were connected and shared in the pre-internet era, enabling community building and resistance to thrive.

We'll be casting our sights even further back to three hundred years ago with a Story Cafe focussing on Scotland's Witches and we'll also be looking beyond Scotland, bringing voices of women from Iran to the forefront with Reviving Folk Songs of Azerbaijan.

A Warm Welcome awaits at Glasgow Women's Library. Now, more than ever, we want to extend that warmth to those that are interested in who we are and what we do. This is your space and you are welcome here.

All women-only events are inclusive of Trans and Intersex women, as well as non-binary and gender fluid people who are comfortable in a space that centres the experiences of women.

GWL is wheelchair accessible and hearing induction loops are available.

Please visit [womenslibrary.org.uk/about-us/accessibility](https://womenslibrary.org.uk/about-us/accessibility) or get in touch if you have any questions about access.

All events are free, open to all ages, and are located at Glasgow Women's Library unless otherwise stated.

## **A Warm Welcome**

### **World Book Night Giveaway Party!**

**Friday 21st April, 2.30pm to 3.30pm, Free**

We love a party... a party with free books? Even better! Let us entice you with lashings of tea and cake, as we kick back, relax and get lost in the wonderful world of stories. Try your luck at our fiendishly fun book quiz, or just soak up the book-lovin' vibe. Our Book Champions will be sharing what reading means to them and spotlighting some of their favourite stories and poems.

### **Women Making It**

**Fridays every fortnight from Friday 10th February to Friday 19th May, 10.30am to 12.30pm, Drop-In, Free, Women only**

Join us this Spring for a range of GWL's bitesize feminist crafting, including visual journaling, canvas art, candle design and printing, zine making and much more! The drop-in sessions are open to all women. We are especially keen for local women to use the GWL space for socialising, meeting like-minded women and take part in fun and creative learning.

### **Conversation Café**

**Wednesdays every fortnight from Wednesday 15th February to Wednesday 21st June, 12.30pm to 1.30pm, Drop-In, Free, Women Only**

If you are new to speaking English, or living in Scotland, this event is perfect for you! As part of the Adult Literacy and Numeracy team at GWL, we are focused on building a welcoming and supportive community for all women new to Scotland. Join us for conversation, tea, and games while we practice English and Scottish words and phrases and learn about each other's lives and cultures.

## **Reviving Folk Songs of Azarbaijan**

**Thursday 20th April, 5pm to 7pm, Free**

Iranian singer-songwriter, Farzane Zamen is inviting you to join her Album Launch. Introducing her album through storytelling and music performance. In this album, she sings in her mother tongue (Azarbaijani Turkish) for the first time, reviving the songs she remembers from her mother and grandmother singing them. Azarbaijani is the second largest language spoken in Iran by 15 million Azari people, residing in the northwestern part of the country. Bring a song or two that represents your oral tradition and sing it in the Open Mic part of the event, it can be in any language.



Farzane, two years old with her mother

## **Women Make History: A rich array of ways to discover the hidden histories of women**

### **Discover Women's Heritage in Dennistoun**

**Fridays 24th February, 3rd March, 10<sup>th</sup> March, 17th March, 10am to 12pm, Culloden Street Hall (Milnbank Housing Association), 1 Culloden Street, Dennistoun, Free, Women only. Friday 31st March 10am to 12pm, GWL.**

Who are the women in Dennistoun's history and how are they remembered? Do you know of any local women from the past or present whose story deserves to be told? These five fun sessions with Morag Smith will include introductory training in how to research and find out more about the history of local women, a visit to GWL to discover the lives of Dennistoun women in our archive and a chance to share your own stories of local women. We'll be doing arts and crafts and chatting about how to celebrate these women.

### **Garnethill Women's Heritage Walk**

**Saturday 22nd April, 2pm to 4pm, £6/£10**

From the bustle of Sauchiehall Street to quiet and leafy back streets, this bohemian enclave is full of surprises and has been home to many remarkable women who have made Garnethill one of the most exciting cultural and multicultural hotspots in Glasgow.

### **Women of the Merchant City Heritage Walk**

**Saturday 3rd June, 2pm to 4pm, £6/£10**

Follow our volunteer tour guides from the former Royal Maternity Hospital on Rottenrow to the medieval-looking Mercat Cross and the Tron clock through the streets of the Merchant City. You can expect stories of scandal, vice, radicalism, regeneration and revival on this tour of one of Glasgow's cosmopolitan hubs.

## **Gorbals Women's Heritage Walk**

**Saturday 13th May, 2pm to 4pm, £6/£10**

Our guided walk will take you on a time travelling journey, from the Napoleonic Wars to modern day New Gorbals, highlighting the Suffragettes, Jewish and Asian immigrants, hawkers, and weavers who have inhabited the area over the centuries.

To book on to any of our Women's Heritage Walks please visit our website at [womenslibrary.org.uk](http://womenslibrary.org.uk), come in to see us, or call us on 0141 550 2267 for more information. Booking is essential as payments cannot be taken on the day. Further details of where to meet will be confirmed.



Main Street Gorbals 1911.

## **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events**

### **Looking back to move forward**

This season Three Decades of Changing Minds charts the history of our International Women's Day celebrations, our preinternet community building, and our partnerships with other community-based women's organisations. These exhibitions and events reveal how our relationships with volunteers, participants, learners, donors, and partners remain the lifeblood of the organisation.

### **30 Years of #IWD at GWL**

**Wednesday 8th March to Saturday 15th April**

**Launch: Wednesday 8th March, 2pm to 3pm**

For the past 30 years we've hosted some of our most memorable events on International Women's Day including showcasing Artemisia Gentileschi's Self Portrait as Saint Catherine of Alexandria, Linder Sterling's Bower of Bliss, and a film screening about Meridian – Glasgow's first Women's Centre. This year we look back across these events and many more in our 30th anniversary exhibition, remembering our favourite #IWD moments.

### **Celebrating 10 years of Glendale Women's Café**

**Tuesday 14th March, 11am to 2pm, Free**

Join us to mark International Women's Day celebrating 10 years of the Glendale Women's Café based in Pollokshields – a multicultural area of Glasgow. The Glendale Women's Café (GWC) offers a safe and welcoming space for women to come together for learning, creativity and empowerment. Having been involved since its inception, we at GWL are pleased to highlight the wonderful work of GWC through a showcase of artwork, testimonies and a timeline of activities.



## **GWL Origins: Pre-internet Community Building**

**Saturday 20th May to Saturday 22nd July**

Enter a reimagining of our early library space, an immersive exhibition exploring DIY grassroots feminist organising. GWL Origins: Pre-internet Community Building explores our organisations information sharing and community building in the pre-internet era. Newspaper cuttings, posters, flyers, and the filing and classification systems reveal how information was gathered, shared and travelled between the communities of women that visited GWL, locally, nationally and internationally.

## **GWL Origins: Pre-internet Community Building Talk**

**Saturday 27th May, 1pm to 3pm, Free**

We welcome feminist publishing academic D-M Withers, researcher Lucy Brownson and GWL Archivist Mae Moss as they explore the wider context of the GWL Origins: Pre-internet Community Building exhibition. D-M Withers will discuss the transmission of feminist knowledge and networking in feminist archives and publishing. Lucy Brownson will present her research on collectives and communities at Camden Lesbian Centre and Black Lesbian Group. And Mae Moss, will share how feminist queer networking, signposting and community building were fostered at GWL in the preinternet landscape.



Garnethill Interior

## **Donor Stories Display**

**Saturday 4th March to Saturday 29th April**

**Launch: Saturday 4th March, 2pm to 3pm**

Our amazing donors have supported and grown our museum, archive, and book collections for the last 30 years. These donations make us a space that centres and represents a diverse range of women's lives.

This season we showcase a selection of donations made in our 30th year including artworks, LGBTQI+, anti-racist, and environmental donations, and political, STEM, and textile book collections. And our biggest donation to date from a mysterious anonymous donor!

We launch this display with a talk and Q&A session with GWL's archivists, museum curator and librarian on recent and past donations and the importance of growing truly representational collections.



**GWL Archive and Museum Donations**

## **Women's Words: A world of women's words, written, spoken, sung and heard**

### **Story Café**

**Thursday 23rd February, Thursday 16th March, Thursday 22nd June, 1pm to 2.30pm, Free, Women only**

Travel the world, one tale at a time, as we dip into stories and poems by some of the best women writers around.

From fantastical flights of the imagination, to gentle journeys amongst nature, our Story Café is sure to spark your curiosity and reinvigorate your lunchtime this Spring. Book your spot, pull up a chair and join in the conversation!

### **Story Café and Open Archive: Cathy McCormack's War Without Bullets Thursday 1st June, 5pm to 7pm, Free**

Celebrate the life of housing activist Cathy McCormack. Cathy was a well-known figure in her Easterhouse community, first drawn to activism when she campaigned against the damp



housing conditions in the scheme where she raised her three children. That monumental fight led to her becoming a special advisor for the World Health Organisation, travelling to Nicaragua and South Africa to share Glasgow's Stories. Alongside a display of material from her archive, we'll hear readings from her autobiography revealing her history, activism and motivation.

Cathy McCormack. Credit: with permission from Cathy McCormack's family.

**Story Café Special: Peak Beyond Peak, The Unpublished Scottish Journeys of Isobel Wylie Hutchison**

**Thursday 11th May, 1pm to 2.30pm, £2/Free**

Discover the adventurous life of Scottish traveller, film-maker and botanist Isobel

Wylie Hutchison (1889-1982). Whilst better known for her solo journeys across the Arctic, Peak Beyond Peak takes us on Isobel's travels across Scotland, from Skye to John O'Groats and many places in between. With a keen interest in science, myth and folklore, these wonderful essays are written with her characteristic wit. Writer Hazel Buchan Cameron has carefully transcribed these previously unpublished papers, and will be sharing their magic with us.

**Story Café Special: Trishna Singh OBE**

**Thursday 30th March, 1pm to 2.30pm, £2/Free, Women only**

We're thrilled to welcome Trishna Singh OBE to read from and talk about her new memoir, A Silent Voice Speaks. Born in Glasgow in the 1950s, a first generation Scottish Bhat Sikh, Trishna grew up questioning the cultural expectations she faced as a young girl and woman. In 1989 she founded Leith Sikh Community Group, now Sikh Sanjog, supporting women in the Sikh community in Edinburgh. Trishna will be sharing her remarkable life story with us.





**Scotland's Witches, Thursday 20th April, 1pm to 2.30pm,  
£2/Free, Women only**

In the 16th to 18th centuries in Scotland, nearly 4,000 people, mostly women, were accused and tried as witches and many of them were executed. Now centuries later, the campaign group Witches of Scotland has called for an apology, a legal pardon and a national monument. We'll be delving into contemporary Scottish writing inspired by Scotland's witchhunts, finding out more about some of the 'witches' we honour in our Women's Heritage Walks, and exploring what it means to be a witch today.

**Emerging Stronger Story Café at Dundee International Women's Centre, Thursday 9th March, 12.30pm to 2.30pm,  
Free, Women only**

From the unique challenges of lockdown and covid, to everyday struggles, this Story Café celebrates the strength of women. We'll be reading from poetry, prose and fiction about how ordinary and extraordinary women have faced misogyny, covid, menopause and more. Grab a cup of tea and a bit of cake, then sit back and enjoy!

**Comfort**

**Thursday 9th March, 10am-12pm and 2pm-4pm, Free,  
Women only**



Every woman has a story about their breasts. From prepubescent hopes and dreams to the joys and frustrations of breastfeeding. From the realities of old age to sexualisation, to operations for health and transgender women's feminisation. These are women's stories of pleasure, embarrassment, pain, joy, and *comfort*. This project aims to share experiences to celebrate our bodies, building self-esteem, confidence and knowledge. During the workshop we will make embroidered artworks on the theme of breasts. No sewing experience is necessary. Your artwork will be included in a large embroidered quilt that will be toured in exhibitions across the UK, including at Glasgow Women's Library.

### **Open Book**

**Tuesday 7th March, Tuesday 4th April, Tuesday 2nd May, Tuesday 6th June, 10.30am to 12.30pm, Free, Women only**

These vibrant and thoughtful Open Book sessions focus on a different theme each month, such as Home, Grow and Transform, or Garden, and use poetry and short stories as prompts for your own creative writing. Perfect for seasoned writers and beginners alike, get your creative juices flowing and join our warm and supportive writing community. Led by Kathrine Sowerby, a poet and writer based in Glasgow.

### **Reading Group for Muslim Women**

**Monday 27th February, Monday 24th April, Monday 29th May, 10.30am to 12.30pm, Free, Women only**

The Reading Group for Muslim Women brings together women interested in books written by Muslim women or with a focus on themes of interest to women. If you are passionate about books and love to share them with others, or you simply want to get into the habit of reading but find it challenging, then this group is for you!

## **Second Guessing**

**Saturday 1st April, 1.30pm to 3.30pm, Free, Women only**

Just four years since the coercive control legislation came into force in Scotland, we'll be screening two films exploring the coercive control from its victims perspective. *Second Guessing*, is an exciting Hip-Hop Theatre work, choreographed and performed by Emma Ready. *Shifting Sands* follows a woman trapped in a tangle of power control. Produced in partnership with GWL and the Daisy Project it charts a journey of survival and hope.



For more information or to book onto any of these events contact the Library on 0141 550 2267, email us at [info@womenslibrary.org.uk](mailto:info@womenslibrary.org.uk) or visit [womenslibrary.org.uk](http://womenslibrary.org.uk)

Unless otherwise stated, all events are wheelchair accessible. Please visit [womenslibrary.org.uk/about-us/accessibility/](http://womenslibrary.org.uk/about-us/accessibility/) to find out more.

## **Watch This Space: Upcoming events at GWL**

### **The Lost Voices of Partition: Intergenerational Remembering, From Feb to May 2023, Dates TBC**

Join us for a series of intergenerational remembering and creative writing workshops bringing women of all ages together to collectively share stories of the Partition of India and Pakistan. Memories will be shared either as first-hand experiences by older women, who were children or young women at the time of the partition, or stories passed down from friends, family or communities.

Working with creatives, the stories will be shared using a variety of art forms including animations, short stories, spoken word and poetry.

For more information or to take part, please email:  
[syma.ahmed@womenslibrary.org.uk](mailto:syma.ahmed@womenslibrary.org.uk)

### **Open the Door 2023**

In 2017, we launched our very first literary festival, Open the Door, a bold, ambitious celebration of women's writing, reading and creativity. Since then, Open the Door has been brimful of convivial conversations, fresh perspectives and outstanding talent.

Our theme for 2023 is Writers/Activists, and we're delighted to be partnering with Woman Zone in Cape Town, and the African Writers Trust in Kampala.

We'll be celebrating three ground breaking, historic writers: Iona MacGregor, Scottish LGBTQI+ activist and author of lesbian novel *Death Wore a Diadem*; South African author



Miriam Tlali, one of the first people to write about Soweto, whose work was banned under the apartheid regime; and Rose Mbowa, playwright, director and actor, who passionately believed in theatre's role in freedom of speech in Uganda.

Our much-loved Calm Slam competition will be back, bringing you joy and inspiration, and we have some wonderful events in the planning, including workshops, conversations, Story Cafes and celebrations, an exhibition of work by illustration students from Dundee's Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design, and lots of exciting ways to get involved. Open the Door will be stretching out across the whole of our 2023 programmes – so watch this space!

# We Welcome You

People who visit GWL regularly describe us as warm, welcoming and friendly. Everyone who visits is greeted by one of our staff team when they first come into GWL.

Now, more than ever, we want to extend that warm welcome to those that are interested in who we are and what we do. This is your space and you are welcome here. You don't need to have a reason to come to GWL to spend time and keep warm – just come in, make yourself comfortable and let staff know if you need any help (staff and volunteers can be identified by the name badges we all wear). We may not be able to meet all your needs but here's what we can offer:

- We have hundreds of books to browse and to borrow, and you can join for free.
- We have comfortable chairs so you can sit and enjoy.
- We have exhibitions on throughout the building.
- We have programmes of events – you can sign up and join in.
- You are welcome to help yourself to free tea and coffee – we'll show you where this is.
- We have information on more resourced 'warm banks' nearby, details of other supportive organisations in Glasgow, and a community noticeboard for information about what's on elsewhere.
- We have free period products, and accessible, gender neutral bathrooms.
- We are not able to provide food – but you can bring your own and eat it here (we'll tell you which spaces are available for this as these might change each day).
- We don't have public computers, you can bring your own portable devices, charge them and use our public Wi-Fi free.

# **Glasgow Women's Library is No Ordinary Library**

Unique in Scotland and a national treasure! Glasgow Women's Library (GWL) celebrates the lives and achievements of women and champions their contributions to Scotland's culture. Our welcoming and wonderful information hub is open to all. An Accredited Museum and home to a lending library and archive, GWL also offers exciting events, activities and courses through its various learning programmes linked to its collections.

## **Joining and Booking**

### **How do I join the library?**

Joining the library is really easy to do and is completely FREE! Complete a form at GWL or join online.

### **How do I book an event?**

You can book through our website, in person at GWL, or call or email us. Some of our events now take place online. If you have never accessed a zoom event, don't worry; we provide email guidance ahead of the event and support once you're in the room.

### **Do I need to pay?**

For most GWL events, there are two ticket options: a £2 ticket and a Free ticket. If a ticket price of £2 is in any way a barrier to you attending this event please choose a Free ticket. If we don't offer Free tickets for an event, this is because the event raises funds for the Library or a partner organisation, or because the costs associated with this event mean that our prices are slightly higher than our usual events. In these instances, please choose the ticket which you feel most able to pay.

## **Why is it important to book first?**

It is helpful for us to know how many people to expect at events as this affects the spaces we use. If you book, we can also get in touch if there are any last minute changes. Please cancel a booked place if you can no longer attend, as we do often have waiting lists.

## **Green Ways to Get to Bridgeton**

Our Environmental Policy sets out how we aim to reduce our carbon emissions, including supporting our visitors to travel by foot, bike or public transport.

**By bike:** We are on one of the city's best cycle routes which follows the Clyde, and we have a bike shelter. You can hop on a Next Bike for £1 per 30 minutes and return it to the docking station round the corner.

**On foot:** We're a 30 minute walk from the city centre.

**By public transport:** Take advantage of the great public transport links to Bridgeton: low level trains from Glasgow Central station take 10 minutes. Bellgrove Rail Station is a 10 minute walk away connecting visitors from Edinburgh and Queen Street Low Level. Buses 18, 46, 64 and 263 stop at the end of our street.

## **Opening Times:**

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 10am to 4:30pm

Thursday: 10am to 7pm Saturday: 12noon to 4pm

GWL, 23 Landressy Street, Bridgeton, Glasgow, G40 1BP

Tel: 0141 550 2267

Email: [info@womenslibrary.org.uk](mailto:info@womenslibrary.org.uk)

Website: [womenslibrary.org.uk](http://womenslibrary.org.uk)

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