

June - September 2023 Summer Programme



A selection of placards from our Museum collection, used in protests and demonstrations, from 1995 to 2023.

A Warm Welcome

From our grassroots beginnings to our varied and vast collections, activism and the work of activists have always been the foundation of Glasgow Women's Library. Our work over the last 32 years has been dedicated to highlighting, uncovering, and preserving the work of incredible women activists, campaigning in everything from suffrage to transgender rights to climate justice. Without activism our library would not exist – and it is this desire to achieve our vision of a changed world for us all that keeps the passion at the heart of our library alive.

This Summer programme we are honouring not only our own activist history but that of those whose social and political interventions live in our collections, and taking time to ask the questions *'What forms can activism take?, who is an activist?, and how can we learn from the activists before us?'*

Our literary festival **Open the Door 2023** kicks off with a bang as we celebrate three historical writers who are activists/ activists who are writers – **Iona McGregor**, **Miriam Tlali**, and **Rose Mbowa**. Watch this space as Open the Door is spread throughout the year – look out for our 'OTD' logo in this programme and the seasonal programmes to come. If you're interested in activism but don't know where to start, our ***How to Protest*** event will equip you with everything you need to know – and if you're a little less protest inclined, our ***History of the Present*** or our ***Horties at Forty: Herstories of Campaigning for Peace*** will allow you to sit back and be inspired by women raising their voices against conflict and to counter violence in all its forms.

“I KNEW IT WAS SPEAKING AGAINST THE SYSTEM. AGAINST WHAT I SAW HAPPENING ... IT WOULDN'T BE ACCEPTED. BUT I DIDN'T REALLY MIND THAT. AT LEAST I HAD VENTED OUT ALL THAT WAS HURTING ME INSIDE.”

Miriam Tlali, South African author and activist

We are also showcasing our own activism at GWL – come along to our ***Towards a Green Library*** to hear our plans to become carbon neutral, ***Growing Roots: Collecting with a Sense of Place*** to hear how our organisation and others are preserving heritage whilst being mindful of land, belonging, and community, and our ***Origin Stories: Graphic Design at GWL*** exhibition that highlights the ethics and thoughtful decisions that have informed our choice of promotional materials over the years.

As ever, our Summer programme contains something for everyone – even those who for whatever reason are in need of an antidote to campaigning! We can't wait to welcome back the wonderful Dungeons and Dragons makeover, ***Monsters and Misogyny***, a beautiful batch of Story Cafes, Women's Heritage Walks, our Reading Group for Muslim Women, as well as brand new events from crime fiction to women's histories in Renfrewshire, and a chance to meet our very own archivists of activism.

We know that activism has the power to change hearts, minds, and laws that are unjust. It is a continuum and it sometimes feels like the road is long – but at least we can be on it together, so come and find some inspiration, sisterhood, and fun at GWL.

“I AM NO LONGER ACCEPTING THE THINGS I CANNOT CHANGE. I AM CHANGING THE THINGS I CANNOT ACCEPT.”

Angela Y. Davis, American political activist and academic

A Warm Welcome

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://www.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.

Conversation Café

Wednesdays every fortnight from Wednesday 7th June to Wednesday 27th September, 12.30pm to 1.30pm, Free, Women only, Drop in

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 a conversation, tea, and games while we practise English and Scottish words and phrases and learn about each other's lives and cultures.

This event takes place at GWL but if you would like to join online from elsewhere please let us know by emailing info@womenslibrary.org.uk.



Women Making It

Fridays fortnightly from Friday 16th June to Friday 25th August, 10.30am to 12.30pm, GWL, Free, Women only

Join us this Summer for a range of GWL's bitesize feminist crafting including Henna design art with acrylic paints, felt making, 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 & creative learning.

Meet the Archivist

14th October, 1pm to 3pm, GWL, Free

Have you ever wondered what is in the archive at the Glasgow Women's Library? How to research and navigate our catalogues? Come along to this open archive, aimed at researchers but open to all, giving you a chance to speak with our collections team about your area of research or be inspired by materials on your first step towards your project or dissertation.

Misogyny and Other Monsters: GWL DnD Games

**Saturday 17th June, Saturday 15th July, Saturday 19th August,
1pm to 4pm, GWL, Free, Women only**

Our popular Dungeons & Dragons games return. There's witchcraft afoot for novice players. And now, more experienced players can also hunt monsters in the Gorbals.

These games combine collaborative storytelling and improvisation with the randomness of dice rolls to tell stories around women's history in Glasgow.

Characters and resources are provided for the beginner-friendly game, and each plays the same adventure, so pick the best date for you. Bring your own character for the advanced game.



GWL DnD Character Markers. Credit: Becky Male

Exhibitions

A variety of exciting displays at GWL and further afield

GWL Origins: Graphic Design at GWL Exhibition Saturday 29th July to Saturday 30th September

From our inception GWL have designed our own promotional materials to communicate a message of welcome. As part of our 30th anniversary programme this exhibition explores our feminist design ethics and documents the evolution of our graphic design aesthetics including signage, posters, programmes, leaflets, merchandise, and publications.



Our beautiful programme covers designed by Kirsty McBride

GWL Origins: Graphic Design Ethics at GWL Saturday 9th September, 1pm to 2pm, Free

How do feminist ethics inform GWL's approach to commissioning graphic design? We welcome two of GWL's former Graphic Designers in Residence, Rachel Dunn and Kirsty McBride to talk about the importance of intersectional practice and the need for organisations and designers to be inclusive in their ethos.

Exhibitions

Telling It Like It Is: Women Crime Writers Photographic Exhibition, Saturday 29th July to Saturday 30th September

This is an exhibition of black and white photographic portraits of twelve UK and international female crime writers, photographed primarily in library settings by Donna-Lisa Healy. Its centrepiece is a portrait of Glasgow writer Denise Mina.

The exhibition depicts women's work, interest and ambition in the genre, looking at the cultural contribution made raising societal problems affecting women. It shows women's voices heard, bringing issues that concern them out into the public domain.



Denise Mina



Nadine Mathers

Credit: Donna-Lisa Healy

Making Her Mark Exhibition: Westerhailes Library
Friday 7th July to Tuesday 1st August, Westerhailes Library,
1 Westside Plaza, Edinburgh EH14 2ST

Making Her Mark Exhibition: Leith Library
Thursday 10th August to Friday 1st September, Leith Library,
28–30 Ferry Rd, Edinburgh EH6 4AE

From residents of nineteenth century poorhouses to women who were writers and artists, this vibrant interactive exhibition reveals some of the stories uncovered by women from Renfrewshire's Making Her Mark project. You'll find not just women from the past, but also the story of how the project kept growing through Covid and lockdown. Come along, see the exhibition and tell us what Edinburgh women need to be celebrated.

Created in partnership with RAMH and Kairos Women+.



The Making Her Mark Exhibition. Credit: GWL, Melissa Mitchell photography

Arts and Activism

Events that explore and generate pioneering activism through creativity

How To Protest

Thursday 10th August, 2.30pm to 7pm, GWL, £10/Free

Protest can be personal or political, private or public. Artist Vinca Paterson will host a day of collaborative talking, listening and making, exploring the question *How do we protest?*

This will be a two hour conversation, with opportunities to move around and speak in smaller groups, followed by a two hour creative workshop. Expect a relaxed event in a space designed to encourage creativity, guided by a group of people with different experiences of protest.

Horties at Forty: Herstories of Campaigning for Peace

Saturday 5th August, 12pm to 4pm, GWL, Free

This event celebrates 40 years of the Gareloch Horts, a women's non-violent direct action peace group who have been campaigning and acting for the abolition of nuclear weapons in the UK. We will be sharing herstories, displaying our creative methods and offering a short Non Violent Direct-Action training workshop and an opportunity to plan an NVDA action. This event also marks a weekend of remembrance of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Growing Roots: Collecting With a Sense of Place

Thursday 13th July, 5:30pm to 6:30pm, GWL, Free

How does a sense of place shape museums and collections? This event considers what it means to be a local or national museum and library. What ethics of land, place, belonging, and community shape the collection of objects and curation of exhibits? Join Dr Roxani Krystalli and curators from around Scotland to discuss these fascinating questions. This event is made possible with support from the Scotland's Future Series at the University of St Andrews.



Production still from History of the Present, 2023. Credit: Courtesy of the artists, Maria Fusco & Margaret Salmon

A History of the Present: Art Night Dundee Saturday 24th June, Dundee Rep

History of the Present is a new experimental opera-film made collaboratively by Maria Fusco and Margaret Salmon, featuring new compositions by Annea Lockwood, libretto by Maria Fusco and vocal work by Héloïse Werner. Composed on the streets of Belfast as well as in the Ulster Museum and Royal Opera house the film forefronts working-class women's voices to ask: who has the right to speak and in what way? Written and co-directed by Fusco, who grew up beside a peaceline in Belfast during The Troubles, the work premieres on the 25th anniversary of The Good Friday Agreement.

Art Night will host the Scottish premier of the film in Dundee as part of a national and international tour of the work. The film running time is 45 minutes and it will be shown at regular times over the course of Art Night.

Towards a Green Library

Thursday 29th June, 6pm to 7:30pm, GWL, Free

We're delighted to be launching our Handbook to Net Zero, a practical plan setting out the changes we will make to our building to reach "operational net zero" by 2030. Find out what this means, how the Handbook came to be, hear about our plans, and how you can support this work. We welcome those thinking about their building's carbon footprint, people with experience in this area, and anyone interested in taking practical steps to tackling the climate crisis.

Postcard Propaganda and Women's Suffrage

Tuesday 29th August, 5pm to 7pm, GWL, Free

Buenos Aires based artist, Gachi Rosati and Glasgow Women's Library's Co Director, Sue John have teamed up to present this 'Open Archive', showcasing GWL's vast collection of original Suffrage-related postcards from the early 20th Century.

Gachi will present her extraordinary body of art works created from her reinterpretation of some of these postcard images, while Sue will share aspects of her PhD research in this area.

Content note – this event will include suffrage related postcard images and artworks that depict graphic violence against women

The Lost Voices of Partition

Thursday 17th August, 5pm to 7pm, GWL, Free, Women only

Join us to mark South Asian Heritage Month 2023 where we'll be showcasing the stories of older South Asian women (who were young children or were born shortly after the Partition of India and the newly formed state of Pakistan) touching on the themes of mass migration, displacement, trauma, silence, loss, love and hope.

Working with groups across Glasgow, we'll share creative writings by women through poetry, spoken word, songs and an animated short film created by animator Stacy Bias from Your Moving Story.

Women's Words

A world of women's words, written, spoken, sung and heard

Open the Door

Ongoing throughout Summer Programme

First Launched in 2017, Open the Door has supported fresh perspectives, outstanding talent and new forms of participation ever since. This summer see's the festival take on an extended, year-long format in order to celebrate a subject close to our heart:

Writers/Activists. We will be collaborating with illustrators from Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design to recognise and celebrate 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. Expect an invigorated library space when you visit in June and July with images of these amazing writer activists in unexpected places.



Miriam Tlali by Eve Dowler

Open Book

Tuesdays 6th June, 4th July, 1st August, 5th September, 3rd October, 10.30am to 12.30am, GWL, Free, Women only

These vibrant and thoughtful monthly Open Book creative writing 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.

Story Café

Thursday 27th July, Thursday 21st September, 1pm to 2.30pm, GWL, 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. Book your spot, pull up a chair and join in the conversation.

Story Café Special: Anne Pia

Thursday 24th August, 1pm to 2.30pm, GWL, Free, Women only

Anne Pia shares her latest book of poetry, *Dragons wear Lipstick*, brimful of love, life and lustre. This bold collection celebrates the women in her life who have broken down barriers with their fiery breath and trailblazing ways.

Born into the Italian-Scots community of post-war Edinburgh, Anne was raised surrounded by the food, traditions and dialect of southern Italy. Her intimate poetry touches on themes of identity and belonging with honesty and tenderness.

Fighters Without Guns: Women's Activism in Poetry, Story and Biography

**Thursday 8th June, 1pm to 3pm, Edinburgh Central Library,
Free, Women only**

From campaigning for decent housing to taking on governments, this Story Café celebrates the women who have led lives of activism for the sake of their communities and for their own rights. GWL staff and volunteers will be reading from stories, poems and biography from Scotland and beyond. Grab a cup of tea and a bit of cake, then sit back and enjoy!



The reading group for Muslim Women discuss the 'Daughters of Partition' by British Author Fozia Raja. Credit: GWL

Reading Group for Muslim Women

**Mondays 29th May, 26th June, 31st July, 28th August,
10.30am to 12.30pm, GWL, Free, Women only**

The Reading group for Muslim Women brings together women interested in books written by Muslim women or with a focus on women's lives. 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!

To find out more please contact syma.ahmed@womenslibrary.org.uk

Readers of Colour

Readers of Colour is a thriving community of Women and Non-binary Readers of Colour who come together to read writing by Women and Non-binary Writers of Colour! We share our laughter and ideas over discussions about things like that month's reading and community care.

We meet once a month in Edinburgh, Glasgow and online:

- We meet online on the last Thursday of the month, 6pm – 7.15pm.
- We meet in Glasgow on the last Saturday of the month, 2pm – 3.15pm, at Glasgow Women's Library.
- We meet in Edinburgh on the last Sunday of the month, 5.15pm – 6pm, at Lighthouse Books.
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Rather than reading whole books together, to keep commitment and cost down, we tend to read/watch/listen to a small focused piece or selection of pieces each month.

While what we are reading might be at the heart of the conversation, often we use it as a jumping off point to discuss our wider thoughts and ideas about the theme. For example, for one session, our 'jumping off' point was folklore by Zora Neale Hurston, and where we jumped to was sharing our favourite fairy tales from our lives. Or, for another session, we read a chapter from Jasleen Kaur's *Be Like Teflon* about recipes and food, and our conversation shared our favourite food and recipes in our lives.

If you're interested in joining the group but you're not sure what to expect – just come along to a session and listen in, there's no need to talk or take part in the discussion unless you'd like to!

Attendance is free, and the group is a warm space to share ideas, passion for literature, and laughter! To find out more or book, email Lil at lil.green@womenslibrary.org.uk.

Women Make History

A rich array of ways to discover the hidden histories of women

Women's Heritage Walks

Our sell out women's heritage walks, led by our volunteer tour guides, show Glasgow's neighbourhoods in a new light, making visible the often hidden and overlooked contributions women have made to the city.

Pick up a Stamp as you Stomp loyalty card when you attend a walk, do all 6 of our walks and get a very special Women Make history treat! Large print versions of the tour guides' scripts are available on the day.

To book on to any of our Women's Heritage Walks or Bike Rides please visit our website at 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.

West End Women's Heritage Walk

Saturday 15th July, 2pm to 4pm, £6/£10

A unique and inspiring insight into the hitherto unsung women who made the West End. Walk in the footsteps of protesting activists, rent strikers and the first female students of the University of Glasgow.

Garnethill Women's Heritage Walk

Saturday 5th August, 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.

Merchant City Women's Heritage Walk

Saturday 9th September, 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.

East End Women's Heritage Walk

Saturday 7th October, 2pm to 4pm, £6/£10

This guided walk focuses on achievements and struggles of the resourceful women of the East End, and the radical nature of the area. You'll learn about the women of the Templeton factory, suffragettes, brazen women of Glasgow Green, Battling Betty, the woman who set up the Barras and more!

East End Women's Heritage Bike Ride

Thursday 22nd June, 6pm to 8pm, Free

Glasgow's East End has plenty of bicycle related history: from the factory which produced the early bicycle, to the velodrome which hosted the Commonwealth Games.

Our volunteer guides will lead us at a gentle pace along cycle paths with frequent stops to learn about some of the pioneers of women's cycling: athletes, Victorian trailblazers and peace campaigners alike.

Women's Heritage Bike Ride New Route!

Saturday 5th August, 1pm to 3pm, Free, Over 55

Starting from GWL, this guided bike ride on cycle paths through Glasgow Green and the Gorbals will introduce some of the remarkable women uncovered by our Women's History Detectives. You'll hear about activists, hawkers, weavers, and educators from different backgrounds who have inhabited and enriched these areas. This event is aimed at women over 55 who are confident cycling on cycle paths and don't mind going at a slower pace.

To book on to any of our Women's Heritage Walks or Bike Rides please visit our website at 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.

Discover Women's History in Dennistoun

Friday 9th June for 10 weeks to 11th August, 9.30am to 11.30am, Culloden Street Hall, 1 Culloden Street, Dennistoun, Free, Women only

Who are the women in Dennistoun's past? Maybe you have a story of a local woman who deserve to be remembered or would like to learn new skills in how to research and discover your local history? In this exciting new project, we'll discover the hidden stories of local women and then help to develop a new women's heritage trail and booklet. We'll also be taking field trips and sharing our own stories of Dennistoun.

Women's History in Dennistoun: Film and Information event

Wednesday 31st May, 11am to 1pm, Culloden Street Hall, 1 Culloden Street, Dennistoun, Free, Women only, Drop-in

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? Come along to find out more about a new women's heritage project in Dennistoun and see some amazing archive films of Dennistoun's past. Come along, grab a tea or coffee and a slice of cake and share your story!

Drop-in anytime between 11-1.

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 – it's how we roll.

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 the Library.
- We have exhibitions on throughout the building – you can come and see these.
- 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, for example we don't have a café – 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, depending on what's on).
- We don't have public computers, but you can bring your own portable devices to charge them and use our public Wi-Fi for free.
- We look forward to seeing you!

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.

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.

How do I book an event?

You can book through our website, in person at GWL, or call or email us. Since March 2020 we have moved online to host many of our events on zoom and, since re-opening, we continue to offer online events as well as in person gatherings at GWL. 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. We offer our Friends Free tickets or the lower ticket price.

How has the library changed to be Covid safe?

When you visit, our team will be on hand to answer any questions and provide any help you need to feel reassured and welcome at GWL. There will be plenty of hand sanitiser around the building and we have enhanced cleaning measures in place. We ask that if you feel unwell with any Covid-19 symptoms that you do not visit the Library.

Open:

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

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

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.

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.

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

Glasgow Women's Library, 23 Landressy Street, Bridgeton, Glasgow, G40 1BP
Tel: 0141 550 2267
Email: info@womenslibrary.org.uk
Website: womenslibrary.org.uk

Find us on Facebook and follow @womenslibrary on Twitter and Instagram

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We have a large print and audio version of this programme, please get in touch or visit womenslibrary.org.uk to use these formats.