

Glasgow
Women's
Library



September 2024 –
January 2025

LARGE PRINT PROGRAMME

A Warm Welcome

As ever this programme of workshops, talks, gatherings and exhibitions has been thoughtfully designed to offer a range of ways to learn, connect with others and our collections, and be moved by women's stories, experiences, and contributions.

We highlight the lives of women resisting both locally with *Women of Easterhouse: A Celebration of Struggle and Solidarity* in October, and globally with *While We Wait*, a portrait series by Rayna Carruthers focusing on the stories of women who are refugees in Jordan awaiting resettlement to North America or Europe.

Given our history of celebrating women creatives, we are over the moon to be exhibiting Kate Downie's recreated and completed version of Joan Eardley's last, incomplete iconic painting

Two Children (1962) alongside other new works. Conversations with Kate can be viewed until 25th January 2025 and you can hear Kate discuss her intriguing exhibition of drawings, prints and paintings at the Publication Launch and Talk in October.

For those of you who enjoy getting stuck in, this programme brings a variety of workshops where you can write, make, or be introduced to Radical Feminist Self- Defence.

You can also spend time with some of the materials held in our museum and archive: The Participatory Clinic will highlight women's and LGBTQ health literature, while Liberating Histories: Feminist Periodicals and the Power of Print will allow you to delve into our extensive collection of activist periodicals of the 1970-90s.

And finally, our ever popular Story Café reading sessions, Conversation Café, Muslim Women Reading Group, and Women Making It workshops continue to welcome regulars and new members for fortnightly or monthly sessions.

This period will also see our beloved building undergoing some insulation works as part of our plans to reach operational net zero by 2030. This will cause some disruption to some of our spaces at times, but the library will remain open throughout the works. For up to date information visit our website or give us a call.

As the end of this calendar year approaches, we want to remind you that GWL will be closed for two weeks over the festive period from Saturday 21st December until we reopen our doors to you in the New Year on Tuesday 7th January.

Artists and Exhibitions: A variety of exciting displays at GWL and further afield

Kate Downie: Conversations with Joan

Thursday 12th September until Saturday 25th January, GWL, Free

Drawn to the possibilities left open by Joan Eardley's (1921 - 63) last, incomplete painting Two Children (1962), artist Kate Downie (b.1958) is debuting her recreated and completed version of Eardley's iconic painting alongside other new works that explore childhood, sibling relationships, care and creativity. This exhibition documents Kate's process of drawing, looking, thinking and painting to better understand Eardley's last work, made in the heart of Glasgow's East End.

Conversations with Joan: Publication Launch and Talk

**Thursday 24th October, 5:30pm to 7pm,
GWL, Free**

This event celebrates the coming together of a publication about artist Kate Downie's exhibition and project 'Conversations with Joan'. Kate will discuss her intriguing exhibition of drawings, prints and paintings shown together publicly for the first time and there will be a chance to look into a new publication honouring the work. Refreshments served.

This Woman 这个女人

**Thursday 10th October, 5:30pm to 8pm,
GWL, Free**

This Woman 这个女人 is a documentary film being screened as part of Women Hold Up Half the Sky

薄荷紫云行巡展计划, a touring programme of Chinese cinema coming to Scotland this Autumn.

This Woman 这个女人 Alan Zhang | 2022

Beibei is an ordinary, married, and motherly woman, who lives a standard, methodical life. She decides to return to her southern hometown in search of opportunities, initiating the process of settling her family and reorganising her various relationships.

The film is spoken in Mandarin and English subtitles.

Join us for a screening of an award-winning documentary, This Woman, followed by a talk. The programme is presented by MINT Chinese

Film Festival (MINT CFF) x Aya Films and is a mix of contemporary, classic and short Chinese films made by and about women.

Rayna Carruthers: While We Wait

Tuesday 7th January until Saturday 29th

March, GWL, Free

An exhibition of a portrait series focusing on the stories of women who are refugees in Jordan awaiting resettlement to North America or Europe. Rayna Carruthers, a photographer from Glasgow, lived in Jordan from 2022-2023. Over that year, she took women's portraits, heard their stories and learned about the conflicts which had forced them to flee. This exhibition speaks not only to the lives of these refugees in Jordan but also seeks to raise awareness around the inhumane and discriminatory asylum laws here in the UK and the role that Western countries and the climate crisis are playing in

exacerbating the issues refugees are facing in the Middle East.

Please Leave a Message: Creative Space with Writing

Thursday 16th January until Saturday 22nd March, GWL, Free

Spend some time in this installation presented by the Free Writing Society from Glasgow School of Art. Immerse yourself in writing and recordings played through old telephones, where different voices touch on topics from politics to gender, loneliness to love. This installation invites you to write your own words to be shared with future visitors and will end with a publication of the collected works.

Shona Macnaughton: The Participatory Clinic

**Wednesday 23rd October, 2pm to 4pm, GWL,
Free**

Artist Shona Macnaughton will be hosting a drop-in session to look at materials from women's and LGBTQ health literature in the collection. The session will focus on different ways that informational newsletters address readers and how humour is used in illustrations and cartoons as a form of care, to communicate and overcome difference and on how the political is interwoven with feminist health education. The aim of the session is to hear what kinds of care Glasgow Women's Library provides as a space and community on a day to day basis. Shona will use the format of 'participatory clinic' to allow discussion on how we feel our voice is heard, what the building provides and how collectivity is experienced in GWL.

Research gathered in the session will contribute to a new performance by the artist which will borrow from Women's Health materials in the archive.

Get Involved

Women Making It

Fridays every fortnight: Friday 13th September, Friday 27th September, Friday 11th October, Friday 25th October, Friday 8th November, Friday 22nd November, Friday 6th December, Friday 20th December, Friday 17th January, Friday 31st January, 10:30am to 12:30pm, GWL, Free, Women Only*

Join us this Summer for a range of GWL's bitesize feminist crafting including block printing, collage art, basket weaving, and much more.

These 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 taking part in fun & creative learning.

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 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: Wednesday 25th September, Wednesday 9th October, Wednesday 23rd October, Wednesday 6th November, Wednesday 20th November, Wednesday 4th December, Wednesday 18th

**December, Wednesday 15th January,
Wednesday 29th January, 12:30pm to
1:30pm, GWL and Online, Free, Women
Only*, Drop In**

If you are new to speaking English or fancy a cuppa and a chat, this event is perfect for you! As part of the adult literacy and numeracy programme at GWL, we are focused on building a welcoming and supportive community for all women. 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.

The Book That Shaped Me

**Thursday 17th October, 5pm to 6:30pm,
GWL, Free, Women Only***

A creative workshop exploring your personal connections with books.

As part of the National Library's centenary celebrations in 2025, we're inviting you to bring along a book, graphic novel or magazine that means something special to you. It can be fiction or non-fiction. There will be fun and creative exercises to get you writing and talking about the book and the connections and memories it has for you.

The session will be led by writer [Beth Cochrane](#).

Radical Practical Feminist Self Defence: An Introduction

**Saturday 9th November, 10am to 12pm,
GWL, Free, Women Only***

Join GWL volunteer Carolyn to learn a variety of practical self defence tactics and skills – both verbal and physical – that you can use in your everyday life. During the workshop, we'll explain more about how "radical practical feminist self defence" differs from more mainstream approaches, often taught by men. The session is suitable for all ages, bodies, abilities and rooted in the belief that everybody has the right to defend themselves. We'll adapt what we do to suit you.

Along with two other women, Carolyn set up the 'Radical Practical Feminist Self Defence' project in 1999. She has been teaching self defence classes for women, queers of all genders and children ever since.

This workshop accompanies our zine display of 'Self Defence Zines' in the GWL space.

Women's Words

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

Through the Female Gaze

**Thursday 7th November, 4pm to 7pm, GWL,
Free**

Karen Cecilia, an internationally recognised playwright, will run a workshop offering a comprehensive, step-by-step journey into creating intricate and compelling characters with a particular emphasis on a woman-centric viewpoint.

Designed to enhance your skills across various forms of creative writing, the workshop provides theoretical knowledge, practical experience, and a deeper understanding of how to write complex characters.

Reading Group for Muslim Women

**Monday 23rd September, Monday 28th
October, Monday 25th November, Monday
27th January, 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 issues.

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.

Open Book

Tuesday 1st October, Tuesday 5th

November, Tuesday 3rd December, Tuesday

4th February, 10.30am to 12.30pm, GWL,

Free, Women Only*

These vibrant and thoughtful monthly Open Book creative writing sessions are led by Kathrine

Sowerby, a poet and writer based in Glasgow.

Each session focuses on a different theme – such as Home, Grow and Transform, or Garden – and we 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.

Story Café

**Thursday 3rd October, Thursday 24th
October, Thursday 28th November,
Thursday 12th December, Thursday 30th
January, 1pm to 2:30pm, GWL, Women
Only*, Free**

Rediscover the joy of being read to, as we dip into stories and poems by some of the best women writers around. From rollicking adventures to tales of wonder, whimsy and wanderlust, our Story Café will spark your curiosity and freshen your perspective.

Whether you're a lifelong reader or completely new to reading, we'd love to welcome you around the table.

Pull up a chair and become part of the story!

Story Café Special: Urdu Poetry

**Thursday 5th December, 1pm to 2:30pm,
GWL, Women Only*, Free**

Pull up a chair and join us as we celebrate the wonderful world of Urdu poetry! With joyous and uplifting poems from local and international women writers, it's the perfect way to relax over lunchtime.

Readings will be in Urdu and English.

Women Make History

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

Open Archive: Pamphlet Power

Saturday 21st September, 1pm to 3pm, GWL, Free

Don't be fooled by their size, pamphlets can pack an informative punch! Drop in to explore an unparalleled and unique resource of women's history, movements and lives. Pamphlets were by design a radical format made to be affordable and shared quickly.

Often a call to action for readers and communities, pamphlets offered an alternative print platform in the face of the status quo. They held knowledge and opinions, guidelines and listings about women's liberation movements,

politics, health, history, work, philosophy and so much more. Our collection is as broad as the issues faced by women everywhere.

Black Women in Our Collections

Tuesday 1st October to Saturday 2nd November, GWL, Free

Staff and volunteers at GWL have chosen their favourite works in our collection by Black writers, activists and artists.

Visit us, find books on the shelves highlighted with a beautiful design by GWL designer Hannah Moitt and take time to be with the words and wisdom of Black women and the contributions they've made to our lives and history.

Liberating Histories: Feminist Periodicals and the Power of Print

**Saturday 7th December, 1pm to 3pm, GWL,
Free**

Liberating Histories is a research project that tells the stories of the Women's Liberation Movement through UK feminist magazines and connects these stories to women's activism today.

From Spare Rib to Harpies and Quines, activist periodicals of the 1970-90s powered, connected and sustained the UK Women's Liberation Movement. This event is an opportunity to find out more about the Liberating Histories Project, to examine Glasgow Women's Library's extensive holdings of feminist magazines and to contribute your own thoughts and ideas to our understanding of how the power of print mobilised a movement.

Women of Easterhouse: A Celebration of Struggle and Solidarity

Tuesday 29th October, 1:30pm to 5pm, GWL, Free

A participatory event to celebrate the remarkable lives and achievements of women who have lived and lone-mothered in Easterhouse since the 1980s.

Dr Mhairi-Jean Ross will deliver a short presentation on her PhD research into lone motherhood in Easterhouse. The presentation will be followed by a celebratory workshop exploring how older women's lives in Easterhouse have changed in the years following the Covid-19 lockdown. The event will culminate in the handing over of the thesis and interview transcripts to the GWL archive as a record of Glasgow Women's Hidden History.

This event is only open to people with experience of lone motherhood in Easterhouse, or people with a connection to that community. If you'd like to attend please contact mattie.roberts@womenslibrary.org.uk.

Events At A Glance

Ongoing:

Thursday 12th September to Saturday 25th

January: Kate Downie: Conversations with Joan

Tuesday 1st October to Saturday 2nd November:

Black Women in Our Collections

Tuesday 7th January to Saturday 29th March:

Rayna Carruthers: While We Wait

Thursday 16th January to Saturday 22nd March:

Please Leave a Message: Creative Space with

Writing

September

Friday 13th: Women Making It

Sat 21st: Open Archive: Pamphlet Power

Mon 23rd: Reading Group for Muslim Women

Wed 25th: Conversation Café

Fri 27th: Women Making It

October

Tue 1st: Open Book

Thu 3rd: Story Café

Wed 9th: Conversation Café

Thu 10th: This Woman 这个女人

Fri 11th: Women Making It

Thu 17th: The Book That Shaped Me

Wed 23rd: Shona Macnaughton: The
Participatory Clinic

Wed 23rd: Conversation Café

Thu 24th: Conversations with Joan: Publication
Launch and Talk

Thu 24th: Story Café

Fri 25th: Women Making It

Mon 28th: Reading Group for Muslim Women

Tue 29th: Women of Easterhouse: A Celebration of Struggle and Solidarity

November

Tue 5th: Open Book

Wed 6th: Conversation Café

Thu 7th: Through the Female Gaze

Fri 8th: Women Making It

Sat 9th: Radical Practical Feminist Self Defence

Wed 20th: Conversation Café

Fri 22nd: Women Making It

Mon 25th: Reading Group for Muslim Women

Thu 28th: Story Café

December

Tue 3rd: Open Book

Wed 4th: Conversation Café

Thu 5th: Story Café: Urdu Poetry

Fri 6th: Women Making It

Sat 7th: Liberating Histories: Feminist Periodicals
and the Power of Print

Thu 12th: Story Café

Wed 18th: Conversation Café

Fri 20th: Women Making It

January

Fri 7th: Women Making It

Wed 15th: Conversation Café

Mon 27th: Reading Group for Muslim Women

Wed 29th: Conversation Café

Thu 30th: Story Café

Fri 31st: Women Making It

February

Tue 4th: Open Book

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.

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!

We recognise that Covid-19 is still with us.

We therefore want to ensure that immunocompromised people feel that they can

visit Glasgow Women's Library at least during selected days and hours.

In response to feedback, we now ask visitors to Glasgow Women's Library to wear masks and to observe social distancing on Friday afternoons between 1pm and 4.30pm.

During this time, you can expect that staff and volunteers will also wear masks when moving around the building, unless they are exempt. If you do not have a mask on arrival we will offer you one. If you have any unused, boxed masks that you would like to donate to us, please get in touch.

Thanks to a generous donation from Smart Air UK, we now have a large HEPA air purification system which removes 99.97% of pollutants (bacteria, dust, viruses, allergens and more)

from the air. Huge thank you to Smart Air UK for this incredibly kind donation, helping to make our air cleaner and our space safer for everyone.

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.

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 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?

Most GWL events are free and in instances where there are paid tickets we do our best to offer a free option. 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.

Please choose the ticket which you feel most able to pay. If our pricing is a barrier to you attending our events please do let us know.

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 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.

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 50p 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. Bridgeton and Bellgrove railway stations have no step-free access. Buses 18, 46, 64 and 263 stop at the end of our street.

Open:

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

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

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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Be Our Friend

Glasgow Women's Library is no ordinary library. It is a national treasure and the only place of its kind in Scotland. A place for borrowing, browsing and being inspired, it is welcoming, free and open to all.

At Glasgow Women's Library we have been supporting women from all walks of life across Scotland through our life-changing work since 1991. With many learning programmes, and

projects focussing on Adult Literacy and Volunteer Development, we have helped women to stretch themselves, try new things and achieve far more than they ever imagined.

Knowing that you can change someone's life for the better is a powerful thing. Our Friends help us to do this. From as little as £2 per month you can help make our collections even more accessible, support our learning and events programme and make sure our work is sustainable for future generations.

Visit **friends.womenslibrary.org.uk** to become a Friend.