

Glasgow
Women's
Library



February – June 2025

LARGE PRINT PROGRAMME

A Warm Welcome

“Finding community, and building and strengthening relationships, with people you trust and agree with about these moral and political issues is important; it will strengthen you and give you people to act with when it is time to act”. Rebecca Solnit, November 2024

Spring is the season of light, hope and renewal, and for many, a time to make new connections and to act.

In times of adversity and uncertainty, women and other groups who have faced discrimination have built networks of solidarity and connection, organised and challenged abuses of power, whether in the home or in the world. In this programme, we bear witness to such activism and celebrate the power of dissenting voices.

Women have driven peace movements across the world and through time; a necessity when war is ever present. While we look back at aspects of this important history, we cannot ignore ongoing global

conflicts and the ways this deeply impacts on women and children, from genocide in Palestine to the ongoing war in Ukraine.

Civil wars and political unrest, conflicts caused by climate crisis, colonial land-grabbing, authoritarian regimes and political instability linked to globalisation can be mapped across the world today: in Sudan, Syria, Yemen, Myanmar, Burkino Faso, Iran and Afghanistan, where threats to women's lives and rights are either hidden from our consciousness (and daily news feeds) or can seem increasingly close to the surface in a volatile world. Our raised awareness is often

as a result of the bravery of those who have found ways to communicate. Glasgow

Women's Library is a place where we can learn about the war on women, how women have resisted in the past and are trying to forge new ways to lead in the world, peacefully and in harmony with the planet.

Every day at Glasgow Women's Library, women's human and gender rights are at the forefront of our consciousness.

Although, like many, we sometimes feel helpless in the face of patriarchal power, and are continually learning, we hope that what we do, day in, day out, makes a

difference to those who visit us in person or digitally, and with whom we communicate and collaborate.

Our exhibition, *For Peace!* touches on themes relevant to an increasingly militarised world, the building of international solidarity networks and associated liberation struggles. We also showcase and discuss how such activism and protest materials have been collected, documented and preserved. A series of workshops, *Listening In: Feminist Voices from the Middle East and North Africa*, focus

on key issues, voices and perspectives from within Arab feminism, to expand understanding, challenge stereotypes and address prejudice.

For over twenty years, GWL's Adult Literacy and Numeracy team has been working with women from all backgrounds and from across Glasgow, supporting them with their reading, writing and numbers. Our exhibition, Keys to my Mind shares our learners' stories of hope and inspiration, showcasing the variety of ways that we make learning fun, creative and informal.

In addition to the stirring exhibitions and one-off events in this programme, we also have our regular favourites: Story Café, Open Book, the Conversation Café and Women Making It are all tailor made to foster new connections between people; a chance to meet others, listen, share ideas, and be supported to find creative ways to express yourself.

As the days lengthen, and in the year that our great city of Glasgow celebrates its 850th anniversary, we invite you to come

outside with us to join one of our Women's Heritage Walks and learn more about the women that made this city, including those that have found the courage to act.

Please do come to our events, enjoy our space, find strength in community and be part of GWL.

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

Keys To My Mind

**Friday 28th March to Saturday 28th June,
GWL, Free**

For over twenty years, the Adult Literacy and Numeracy (ALN) team has been working with women from all backgrounds and from across Glasgow, supporting them with their reading, writing and numbers. This showcase is brought to you by our learners, volunteers and staff and shows the variety of ways we make learning fun, creative and informal, as well as highlighting some of the amazing work our learners have done. This exhibition shares stories of hope and inspiration about learning.

Travelling Gallery presents Between Women: Franki Raffles and Feminist Documentary

Tuesday 8th February, 10am to 4pm, Free

Presented in the Travelling Gallery, Between Women takes works by the photographer Franki Raffles as a starting point to trace the connections between documentary and feminism. Raffles documented women at work, exploring how gender is reproduced through labour, education, housing, and health care, while examining the power structures that operate between women in the workplace and beyond. This exhibition brings together Raffles' practice with that of other photographers to consider solidarity and differences between women.

While We Wait: Rayna Carruthers

Tuesday 7th January to Saturday 29th March, GWL, Free

While We Wait: Closing Event

**Thursday 20th March, 5:30pm to 6:30pm,
GWL, Free**

An opportunity to see this beautiful exhibition a week before it closes and to hear Rayna Carruthers speak about her photography, the process and some of the ways she considers ethics within her practice.

This portrait series focuses on the lives of women who have been forcibly displaced in Jordan and are 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 women 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 forced displacement worldwide.

For Peace!

**Thursday 17th April to Saturday 5th July,
GWL, Free**

Drawing on archives from GWL and MayDay Rooms, this exhibition revisits the peace movement's material history, bringing it in conversation with our increasingly militarised world. It traces underrepresented narratives in the movement, including the changing role of gender, race, class, and sexuality, the building of international solidarity networks, the intersection of liberation struggles with demilitarisation campaigns, and the diversity of its tactics. The

exhibition combines printed materials, banners, audio interviews and video footage.

In the Folds

**Tuesday 1st April to Saturday 31st May, GWL,
Free**

In the Folds is an installation created by Alexandra Compton, a writer and artist from Bridgeton, Glasgow. Combining papercrafting, writing, and activism, the project examines Alexandra's life as a queer, working-class, chronically ill woman. With newspaper headlines alongside her own writings, handwritten onto origami paper and then folded into paper cranes, In the Folds interrogates who gets to be 'in the fold' or excluded within society, art, and literature. What can you see on the cranes?

Touch Tales

Saturday 5th April, 2pm to 4pm, GWL, Free, Women Only*

Thursday 10th April, 5:30pm to 7:30pm, GWL, Free, Women Only*

Touch Tales celebrates and addresses our need for more wide-spread and unashamed acts of platonic connection and care. Through storytelling, writing, conversation and gentle sensation-led movement, we invite you to share your histories and memories of meaningful touch, and to create new ones. This workshop is inspired by practices and rituals we find in friendships, and the practical yet profound touch/care of mothering.

Although this workshop uses movement, this is introduced in a way that is accessible for any range of mobility and can be adapted for any body.

Shona Macnaughton: The Participatory Clinic

Saturday 17th May, 12pm to 4pm, GWL, Free

The Participatory Clinic is a performance and a diagnosis of a culture. Inspired by the political culture of LGBTQ+ and women's health activism from the 1980s recorded in GWL's archives, the artist will lead a cast of performers and speakers, in a contemporary reimagining of that material. Faced with the rapid privatisation of health and culture this performance experiments with queer-feminist modes of public address, past and present, to counter this. The audience is free to participate in the performance... or not.

There will be three 40 minute performances.

Get Involved

Women Making It

Fridays every fortnight: Friday 14th February, Friday 28th February, Friday 14th March, Friday 28th March, Friday 11th April, Friday 9th May, Friday 23rd May, Friday 6th June, Friday 20th June, 10:30am to 12:30pm, GWL, Free, Women Only*

Join us this Spring for a range of GWL's bitesize feminist crafting sessions, including clay work, basket weaving, quilling, 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.

Women Making It Special: Writing, Origami, and Activism

**Friday 25th April, 10:30am to 12:30pm,
GWL, Free, Women Only***

For this Women Making It Special, we will be joined by writer and artist Alexandra Compton for a special event combining writing, origami, and activism.

Inspired by her installation, *In the Folds* (Tuesday 1st April to Saturday 31st May), Alexandra will be guiding a series of writing exercises prompted by newspaper headlines, before showing how to fold your own origami paper cranes. After writing your work onto the cranes and folding them, what will still be visible and what will have been lost in the folds?

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.

Open Archive: Green Matters

Saturday 19th April, 1pm to 3pm, GWL, Free

In recognition of Earth Week 2025 we're highlighting green activism and ecofeminist responses to the global climate crisis at our Spring Open Archive.

From activist art and advice about allotments to eco cook books, party politics and peace campaigning, we hold a plethora of historic and contemporary material focused on sustainable living, climate justice and other environmental issues.

Chat to us about GWL's journey towards operational net zero as you explore our museum and archive collections!

Conversation Café

Wednesdays every fortnight: Wednesday 12th February, Wednesday 26th February, Wednesday 12th March, Wednesday 26th March, Wednesday 23rd April, Wednesday 7th May, Wednesday 21st May, 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.

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

World Book Night: Giveaway Party

**Wednesday 23rd April, 2:30pm to 3:30pm,
GWL, Free**

We love a party... a party with free books? Even better! Pick up your mystery book, try your luck at our fiendishly fun book quiz, and listen to our volunteers sharing some of their favourite reads. With lashings of tea and cake, and plenty of friendly chat, it's the perfect way to relax on a Spring afternoon.

Open Book

**Tuesday 1st April, Tuesday 6th May, Tuesday
3rd June, 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 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.

Reading Group for Muslim Women

**Monday 24th February, Monday 28th April,
Monday 19th May, Monday 23rd June,
10:30am to 12:30pm, GWL, Free, Women
Only***

This reading group brings together women interested in reading and discussing books written by Muslim women or with a focus on themes of interest to the women involved.

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.

Story Café

Thursday 13th February, Thursday 27th February, Thursday 13th March, Thursday 24th April, 1pm to 2:30pm, GWL, Free, Women Only*

Rediscover the joy of being read to, as we dip into stories and poems by some of the best women writers around. From awe-inspiring adventures to tales of love and longing, wonder and wanderlust, our Story Café is the perfect way to relax over lunchtime.

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: Donna Moore – Book Launch

Thursday 1st May, 1pm to 2:30pm, GWL, Free

On the launch date of Donna Moore's new historical crime fiction novel,

The Devil's Draper, a follow up to The Unpicking, we're celebrating with the author who will share her historical research and read from the book.

A determined policewoman, a cunning thief and a savvy businesswoman inch closer to exposing a scandal at a Sauchiehall Street department store, realising along the way that their very lives may be at stake. Set against the backdrop of 1920s Glasgow, where women's voices are often silenced and rarely believed, this thrilling tale weaves together crime, justice, and the fight for equality.

Story Café Special: Grey Hen Press

**Thursday 29th May, 1pm to 2:30pm, GWL,
Free, Women Only***

A warm welcome back to Grey Hen Press, whose beautiful anthologies showcase the wit and wisdom of older women poets. At this thoughtful

and thought provoking Story Café, poets will be throwing fresh light on the intriguing and complex ways our minds and memories work to make us who we are, with readings from the latest anthology, Two Ravens.

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

The Women Who Uncovered the Spycops Scandal

**Thursday 20th February, 5pm to 7:30pm,
GWL, Free**

Learn about the 'spycops' scandal.

The truth about these abusive, intrusive police units began to come to light 15 years ago. From 1968 onwards, they reported on over 1000 different campaigns and groups. Officers were deployed deep undercover, to live among those they were spying upon. They created fake cover identities and deceived women into intimate, sexual relationships.

This event will feature the Scottish premiere of a new film: 'The Spies Who Ruined Our Lives'.

Content warning: Police violence, State-sanctioned human rights abuse.

Merchant City Women's Heritage Walk

Saturday 5th April, 2pm to 4pm, £7 / £11 / £15*

Starting near the site of the former Royal Maternity Hospital on Rottenrow, our volunteer tour guides will lead you through the historic streets of this cosmopolitan hub. You can expect stories of scandal, vice, radicalism, regeneration and revival as we highlight the part women have played in this area, from its dear green beginnings, through its darker days, to its recent resurgence.

Mini East End Women's Heritage Walk,

**Saturday 10th May, 2pm to 3pm, £4 / £6 /
£7***

This one-hour guided walk offers a shorter version of our ever-popular East End Heritage Walk, highlighting some of the achievements and struggles of the industrious and resourceful women of Bridgeton and Calton, and the radical nature of the area which gave birth to them. You'll learn about the women of the Templeton factory, the suffragettes, the brazen women of Glasgow Green, and many more!

Necropolis Women's Heritage Walk

**Saturday 17th May, 2pm to 4pm, £7 / £11 /
£15***

This hilly walk, based in one of Glasgow's most fascinating Victorian garden cemeteries, looks at

the stories of both the notorious and the forgotten women who are buried in these atmospheric and ethereal surroundings, with fantastic views over the city.

* We have three tickets to choose from. Please pick the ticket price which you can afford. All proceeds from ticket sales go to resourcing our work to celebrate women's lives and achievements, and provide accessible and inclusive learning opportunities.

Listening In: Feminist Voices from the Middle East and North Africa

Feminism and Liberation Struggles

**Thursday 17th April, 5:30pm to 7pm, GWL,
Free, Women Only***

Feminism and the Veil

**Saturday 17th March, 1:30pm to 3pm, GWL,
Free, Women Only***

Join us for these interactive workshops to listen in and think with Middle Eastern feminists: we touch on key issues particularly within Arab feminism, such as liberation struggles, religion and sexuality, veiling and unveiling, and others. The workshops will facilitate listening to the voices of Arab feminists and challenging all too common stereotypes and prejudice. Participation entails reading pre-assigned texts and approaching the workshops with an open and engaged spirit! Participants are welcome to attend either one or both sessions.

Events at a Glance

Ongoing:

Tuesday 7th January to Saturday 29th March:

Rayna Carruthers: While We Wait

Friday 28th March to Saturday 28th June:

Keys to My Mind

Tuesday 1st April to Saturday 31st May: In the Folds

Thursday 17th April to Saturday 5th July: For Peace!

February:

Wednesday 12th: Conversation Café

Thursday 13th: Story Café

Friday 14th: Women Making It

Tuesday 18th: Travelling Gallery presents
Between Women: Franki Raffles and Feminist
Documentary

Thursday 20th: The Women Who Uncovered the
Spycops Scandal

Monday 24th: Reading Group for Muslim Women

Wednesday 26th: Conversation Café

Thursday 27th: Story Café

Friday 28th: Women Making It

March

Wednesday 12th: Conversation Café

Thursday 13th: Story Café

Friday 14th: Women Making It

Thursday 20th: Rayna Carruthers: While We Wait: Closing Event

Wednesday 26th: Conversation Café

Thursday 27th: Story Café

Friday 28th: Women Making It

April

Tuesday 1st: Open Book

Saturday 5th: Touch Tales

Saturday 5th: Merchant City Women's Heritage Walk

Thursday 10th: Touch Tales

Friday 11th: Women Making It

Thursday 17th: Feminism and Liberation
Struggles

Saturday 19th: Open Archive: Green Matters

Wednesday 23rd: Conversation Café

Wednesday 23rd: World Book Night Giveaway
Party

Thursday 24th: Story Café

Friday 25th: Women Making It Special: Writing,
Origami, and Activism

Monday 28th: Reading Group for Muslim Women

May

Thursday 1st: Story Café Special: Donna Moore
– Book Launch

Tuesday 6th: Open Book

Wednesday 7th: Conversation Café

Friday 9th: Women Making It

Saturday 10th: Mini East End Women's Heritage
Walk

Saturday 17th: Shona Macnaughton: The
Participatory Clinic

Saturday 17th: Feminism and the Veil

Saturday 17th: Necropolis Women's Heritage
Walk

Monday 19th: Reading Group for Muslim Women

Wednesday 21st: Conversation Café

Friday 23rd: Women Making It

Thursday 29th: Story Café Special: Grey Hen Press

June

Tuesday 3rd: Open Book

Friday 6th: Women Making It

Friday 20th: Women Making It

Monday 23rd: Reading Group for Muslim Women

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 £2 per 20 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

Women-only events are labelled throughout the programme. All women-only events are inclusive of Trans, Intersex women, non-binary and gender fluid people.

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.

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.