

I can read you like a book

Palace Green Library, Durham | November 13th (1-3.15PM)

Check out the 'blurbs' for our human books below:

Fiona Butterfield

AC (Accredited Conservator-Restorer) MSc BSc

"I am a paper conservator working in the Conservation Studio, Archives and Special Collections, at Palace Green Library where I conserve archives and documents to make them accessible for consultation and research. Before joining the conservation team at Durham University I ran my own successful Paper Conservation studio in Scotland for many years. I developed my preventive conservation knowledge when working as a Preventive Conservator with the National Trust for Scotland. During this time I focussed on the preventive conservation that contributes to preservation of historic buildings and their contents.

I trained as a Fine Art Conservator specialising in conservation of works of art on paper (prints, drawings, watercolours, maps, documents and wallpaper): anything that has been written, printed or painted on paper falls within paper conservation. Science underpins all aspects of conservation and preservation and throughout my career I have continued to rely on my early science training."

Mary Lowe

Former Teacher, nurse, literature festival organiser, energy efficiency trainer, arts manager, community development worker, family support, health promotion officer. Now community reading worker and writer based in North Shields library. All about reading for wellbeing. Community activist, LGBTQi, environmentally conscious Buddhist.

Mary Robson

In 2018, Mary took up a new, pioneering role at Durham University, as Creative Facilitator to the Institute for Medical Humanities. It may seem a far call from her original training as a theatre designer, and from her earlier arts in health work but she still works with people to make things.

Current work includes convening and running research groups and working with researchers and participants to make short films, participatory theatre pieces, audio pieces and arts workshops that emphasise shared experience and challenge stigma.

Mary is a Board Member for Edinburgh International Book Festival with a focus on community, well-being and engagement.

Stephen Groves

"Hello, my name is Stephen. I'm a singer songwriter and voice hearer with lived experience of mental health problems. My journey has been a long one, but I survived. I believe encouraging people to be active and making people laugh are both good medicines and have always tried to practice what I preach.

I have just started to release my songs on SoundCloud and hope to continue to raise awareness of mental illness in my work and my music, as it is something that affects so many people's lives. There is no magic wand. Mental illness isn't just going to go away. People need support and

encouragement to help them through what can be a dark time, and the more knowledge there is out there, and the more understanding, the less people will feel isolated and alone.”

Tim Luckhurst

Tim is the founding Principal of South College and Associate Pro Vice chancellor (Engagement). Between 2007 and 2019 he was Professor of Journalism and founding Head of the Centre for Journalism at the University of Kent. An award-winning journalist for BBC News and Current Affairs and former editor of The Scotsman newspaper, Tim began his career on BBC Radio 4's Today programme and went on to work as a producer, reporter and editor in Washington DC, the Middle East and Europe. He covered the Romanian Revolution and the Gulf War for BBC News. He was also a member of the team that designed and launched BBC Radio 5 Live. Subsequently, he worked as Editor of News Programmes at BBC Scotland, taking responsibility for the BBC's Scottish news output on radio and television from newsrooms extending from Glasgow to Lerwick. He has written as a columnist for newspapers including The Guardian, Times and Independent, the Daily Mail, New Statesman, Spectator and Los Angeles Times. Prior to entering journalism, he was an adviser to the Right Honourable Donald Dewar MP when he was Shadow Secretary of State for Scotland, 1985-1988.

He is a noted newspaper historian and campaigner for press freedom. His research focuses on the depiction of dissent in British and American newspapers between 1936 and 1945. Tim was educated at Peebles High School, a comprehensive school in the Scottish Borders. He studied History at Robinson College, University of Cambridge. While a student, he played bass guitar in Tony Tiger and the Frosties, a student band that entertained thousands at May Balls and College events. He is married, with three daughters and a son.