

Read All About It..

THE OFFICIAL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF GEH AND SWFT LIBRARIES



Photo by Stephen Wright

What's New

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

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HEALTH LIBRARIES GROUP
CONFERENCE

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SNOWDON SUNRISE
CHALLENGE

.....

HISTORIC MEDICAL BOOKS
AND ARTEFACTS

.....

PRIDE EVENT

Editorial..

by Bev Wright

Hello everyone and welcome to the Summer edition of the joint newsletter of GEH and SWFT libraries.

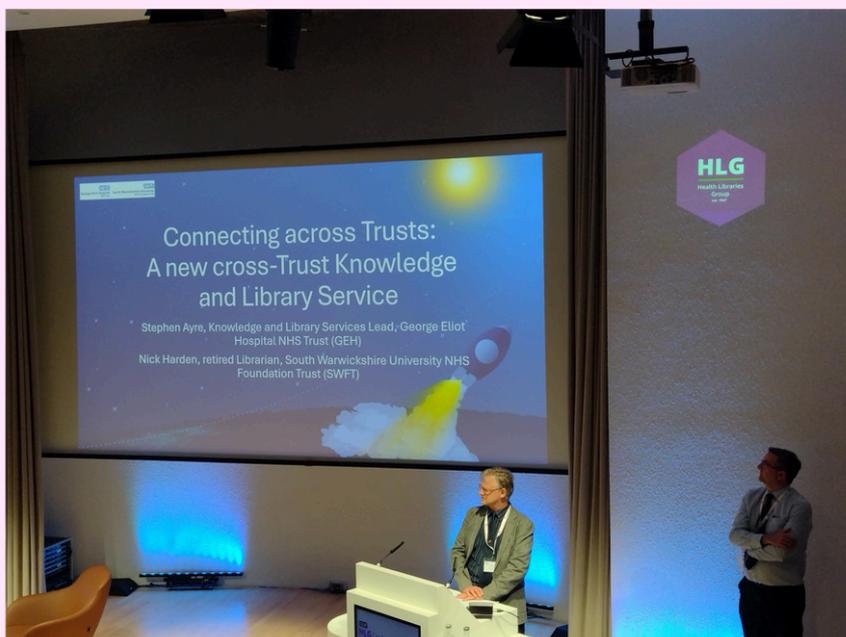
Well, the summer was a bit late coming this year with endless rain at the start. I think the gardens loved it as the plants flourished! Finally we have some sun to top up the tan.

This edition brings you the latest news from our two libraries and other interesting events too. Progress on the refurb of the Library is ongoing. The latest news is we have the new floor and there are now computers on the new long desks.

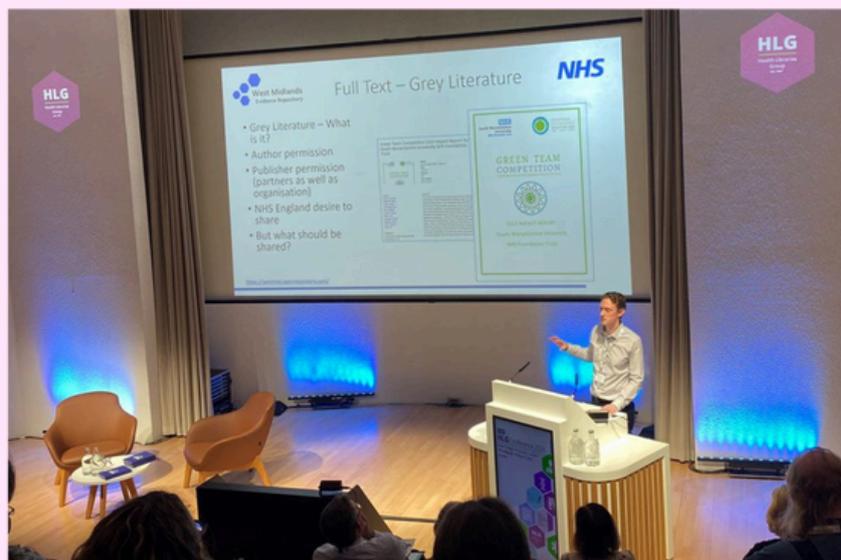
KLS visit to the Health Libraries Group Conference.

by Stephen Ayre

Some of the KLS Team attended the HLG Conference at the Royal College of Physicians in London. It was a fantastic opportunity to learn best practice and pick up new ideas. Gavin, our KLS Manager (pictured), spoke on the creation of the West Midlands Evidence Repository. Stephen, our KLS Lead, along with Nick Harden, our recently retired Librarian, told the story of the joining together of the two library services at GEH and SWFT to form a single Knowledge and Library Service. Both talks were well received.



"Both talks were well received"



Snowdon Sunrise Challenge

by Rayanne Byatt

Clinical librarian Rayanne and Senior Library Assistant Zoe donned their walking boots again to take part in the GEH Snowdon Sunrise Challenge to raise money for the George Eliot Hospital Charity. At 7pm on Friday 5th July we joined 16 other colleagues and supporters of the charity on a coach bound for Llanberis. We arrived in Llanberis shortly before 11pm and then made our way quietly through the village to reach the bottom of the Llanberis path where we switched on our head torches and started heading up the track to the top of Snowdon (Yr Wyddfa) (3560ft). The initial part of the track is very steep so we were all soon puffing and removing layers in the calm and humid conditions. We soon got into the rhythm of walking uphill in the darkness with only the eerie eyes of the occasional sheep for company. The layers had to go back on however nearer the summit as the drizzle which started around 1:30am turned to rain showers. We reached the summit around 3am to find just a couple of other walkers starting their descent so our group were able to climb up to the impressive Trig Point and grab some photographs before the rain became heavier.

We waited for our other colleagues and in deteriorating conditions rapidly took shelter in the emergency shelters provided by Chris and Chris our mountain guides in hope of seeing the sunrise just before 5am. Huddled together listening to the wind, rain and hail reminded us of how quickly conditions can change in the mountains, even in the height of summer.



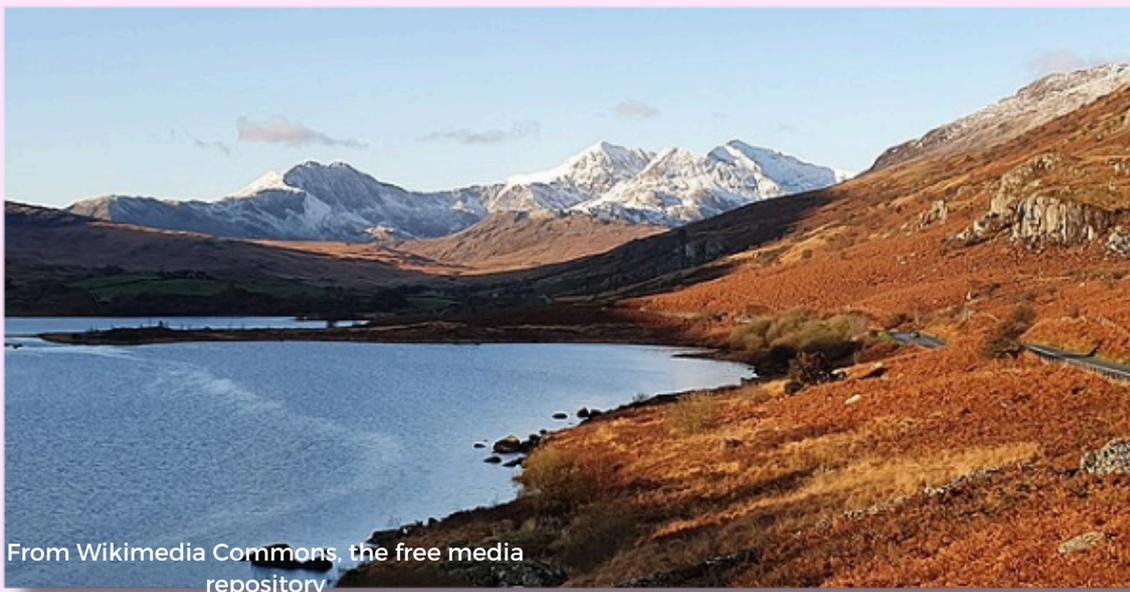
As it became light around 4.15am we realised that a glorious sunrise was not to be and decided to regain some warmth by making our way back down. Emerging from our shelters we were amazed at the number of other walkers on the summit- many other charity groups and families had also braved the conditions.

We steadily made our way down the mountain in a mixture of rain and hail, stopping to take advantage of the railway bridges en route and appreciating glimpses of the beautiful scenery.

Everyone arrived safely at the base of the Llanberis path between 7 and 7.30am. Well done to everyone involved especially those who had awful conditions for their first experience of the mountains and for raising over £3000 for the GEH Charity. Whilst the conditions were not what any of us had envisaged when signing up it was still a grand if soggy night/day in the mountains and company of colleagues - an experience we'll never forget. Special thanks to Chris Blundred, Clinical Director and International Mountain Guide and his Mountain Guide colleague Chris for looking after us so well during and after the walk.

Thank you for everyone who kindly sponsored us. If anyone would like to donate to the George Eliot Charity please visit their fundraising page at [JustGiving](#).

Rayanne and Zoe



From Wikimedia Commons, the free media repository

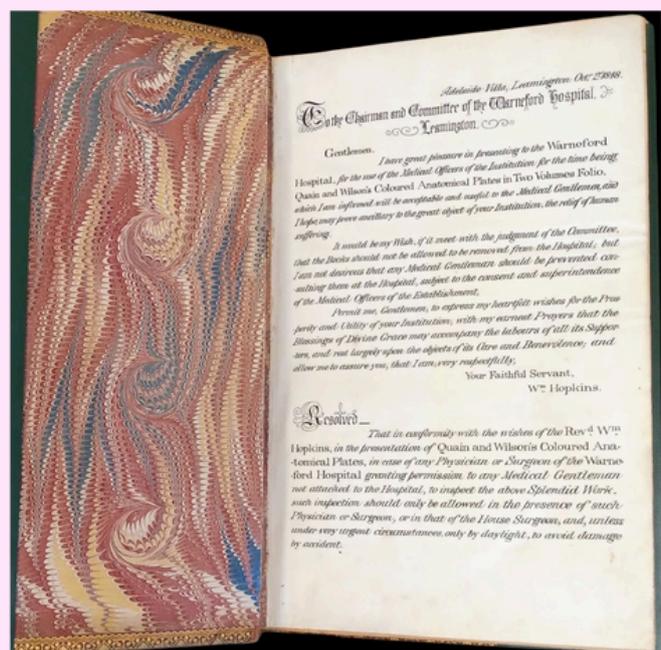
Historic medical books and artefacts unveiled at SWFT

text and photos by Nathan Field

“Gentlemen, I have great pleasure in presenting to the Warneford Hospital, for the use of the Medical Officers of the Institution for the time being, Quain and Wilson’s Coloured Anatomical Plates in Two Volumes Folio...”

Our SWFT team have finally been able to unveil a display of remarkable, historic anatomy textbooks and hospital artefacts, shedding light on the history of healthcare and medical education in Warwickshire as far back as the mid-19th century.

The centrepiece is a hefty two-volume set of ‘Quain and Wilson’s Coloured Anatomical Plates’, donated to the Warneford Hospital, Leamington in 1848. These unique volumes, hidden away for two decades, have been carefully preserved and are finally back on display for the first time since the SWFT library’s relocation from the John Turner Building in 2006. The books feature a large number of intricate coloured plate illustrations of human anatomy, showcasing the artistry and detail that went with 19th-century medical research and education. Fascinatingly, there are specific instructions for the books to be consulted only during daylight hours – a necessary precaution from an era when candlelight and oil lamps posed ever-present fire risks. Displayed alongside the books are a snuffbox and an ornate key, both of which come with their own intriguing stories. The snuffbox appears to have a connection to two eminent physicians: Henry Jephson, in whose honour Jephson Gardens in Leamington are named; and Thomas William Thursfield, who had a long association with the Warneford Hospital and, for a period, served as Mayor of Leamington.





Snuffbox



Key, presented to Lady Kenilworth



The key was “presented to Lady Kenilworth on the opening of the new Maternity Clinic” in June 1939. This would have been the Warneford Hospital’s Cay Block, named after Annie Cay, an influential local philanthropist. Many residents of Leamington and the local area would be born here through the Second World War and right up to its eventual closure in 1992.

We would love to find out more about these unique treasures and aim to add more information and photographs to the display shortly. If colleagues and friends have any insights of their own to share, we would love to hear from you. We’re particularly interested to hear experiences of those who might have been born in the Cay Block at the Warneford, or who might be able to shed any light on the mysterious Reverend William Hopkins, who donated the textbooks.

Of course we have many more up-to-date books, including ebooks, for healthcare professionals and students, as well as non-clinical colleagues!

The display can be viewed by anyone with SWFT swipe card access. Visit the library on the first floor of the Medical Education Centre opposite the main Warwick Hospital building.

Pride in GEH event

text and photos by Caroline Stephen



In June, the library stall was a welcome sight at the Pride in GEH event. Despite the hot weather (and the melting chocolates) we set up stand in the foyer at GETEC and promoted our services.



We were in good company with stands from Unison, Unite, and the Wellbeing Team – although we had rather less exotic freebies. I think our sweets, bookmarks and origami stars may not have been able to compete with the coffee beakers, flags, pens, and badges from the others!



Although the event was quite quiet, we managed to have quite a few conversations with staff to let them know what the library offered - KnowledgeShare, the Reading Groups, fiction collection, and wellbeing resources. Many of the people we spoke to already used the library to access computers or to borrow clinical books, or had previously spoken to Lisa and Rayanne about literature searches. I was particularly interested to hear about the search Lisa had done for the Medical Education team involving the use of VR to train medical students in delivery of normal births. It seemed a fascinating approach, and being able to support this makes the job interesting and rewarding.



We attended some of the hybrid talks, including a particularly interesting one on allyship which made me resolve to buy some books on the topic for staff to access. It's all very well calling yourself an ally, but you need to act as one as well. Colleagues from across the region spoke of their experiences of working within healthcare as a member of the LGBT+ community, and it was empowering to hear real life stories. It was also sobering to be reminded of the barriers and ignorance that still faces the Pride community.

All in all a very happy, rainbow coloured day for all!



