

OUTREACH

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND EVENT ❶

Earlier in the year, we were contacted by Beverley Casebow, Learning & Outreach Officer at the National Library of Scotland. Beverley's responsible for putting together a monthly event for people affected by dementia in Edinburgh. This is part of a wider programme organised in partnership with the National Galleries, National Museum, and the Botanic Gardens.

Some of the people who go to the events had expressed an interest in engineering. As the library already has the Stevenson archive in their collection, Beverley felt this was an ideal opportunity to present the collection and to also have our input on maintaining lighthouses today.

We were delighted to take part and on 10 November, Mike Bullock, Craig Pake and Fiona Holmes bundled into a taxi with an assortment of props and a very large banner of the Bell Rock lighthouse (thanks to Museum of Scottish Lighthouses).

Double act

Mike and Craig captivated the audience with their ability to bring our work on the lighthouses and ships to life. And it was a truly humbling experience when one of the audience said it was the best talk he'd been to and another, whose husband suffers from dementia, said she hadn't seen her husband so animated for months.

We hope to do more work with the National Library next year.



PRIMARY SCHOOL TALK ❷

We've been getting more requests to do talks at schools and where capacity allows, we've been more than help to help. In November, Craig Pake and Fiona Holmes went to Kirkliston Primary School in West Lothian to meet 200 pupils who are studying 'The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch'. It was a fantastic day and we were struck by the pupils' enthusiasm and their genuine interest and love of lighthouses. And we'll forgive them for thinking their NLB visitors were the actual Mr and Mrs Grinling!



MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND THE ISLANDS VISITS BUTT OF LEWIS ❸

Humza Yousaf MSP, visited the Butt of Lewis Lighthouse in July. Thanks to Colin Dingwall, Mechanical Technician and Robert Norton, Electrical Technician for showing him around. The Minister commented:



"I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to visit the Butt of Lewis Lighthouse and arranging for Colin and Robert to guide me up. They gave me a really informative talk about the history of the lighthouse and how it works which I found interesting. Please pass on my sincere thanks to them both for taking time out to show me around, especially the opportunity to go right up to the top, which made for a great photo opportunity."

US LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY ❹

We were delighted to welcome members of the US Lighthouse Society to 84 George Street in July, before they headed off on a tour of Scotland's lighthouses, including St Abbs Head.