

## Whitefriars Club Archive

### MS 2864

The archive contains Club publications including Whitefriars Journal, (1900-1923); The Whitefriars' Chronicles; The Whitefriar newsletter, (2004-2019); scrapbooks; photographs; minute books; financial papers and account books; records of membership and events; member and visitor signature books and records of speeches.

The Collection covers the year's 1879-2019.

The physical extent of the collection is 14 boxes and 1 oversize item.

The Whitefriars Club proceedings are extremely private, throughout the latter half of its existence the Club has observed the custom that speeches, and the discussions that follow, shall not be reported (Chatham House rule applies). However, in 2017 the Club Committee agreed that all pre-1975 papers could be accessed by researchers, although the Club's permission to publish any previously unpublished material would be required. No permission is required to publish extracts from The Whitefriars' Chronicles, The Whitefriars Journal, and booklets published for various 'pilgrimages', subject to due acknowledgement. Access to any closed material requires the permission of the Club.

#### Introduction

Towards the end of 1867, a dozen or so journalists who had been meeting regularly at Spiers and Pond's Ludgate Hill Station restaurant, decided that they were in essence, an exclusive dining club. The realisation brought with it a desire to form a Club, where food, drink and conversation could be enjoyed in privacy. This led to the inaugural dinner being held at Radley's Hotel in New Bridge Street, on 21st February 1868.

The name of the Club comes from the ancient ecclesiastical precinct of the Whitefriars, contained within an area bounded by Fleet Street, New Bridge Street, and the Temple and, on the southern side, the Thames. It was once occupied by the Carmelite monks. This soon led to the members calling each other 'Friar', which is still today the correct manner of address.

The Whitefriars Club has evolved from a group of journalists, to include authors, lawyers, politicians, and publishers, as well as people in the theatre, films, and the armed services. The first female member was Mary Baum who became a 'Friar' in February 1997 and in 2004 became the first female Chairman.

- MS 2864/1/1** Journal of the Whitefriars Club: 'Whitefriars Journal' No. 1 Vol. V (Jan. 1917) - No. 3 Vol. VI (May 1923)  
January 1917 - May 1923  
Earlier editions of the Whitefriars Journal can be found referenced MS 2864/2/5
- 1 folder (11 items)
- MS 2864/1/2** Whitefriars Club scrapbook  
late nineteenth/early twentieth century  
Contains various items of late nineteenth/early twentieth century interest including photographs of members, reviews of works, and dining menus
- 1 volume
- MS 2864/1/3** Original artwork for the event of the Whitefriars Club Annual Dinner at Café Monico, Jan. 24 1902  
c.1902  
Possibly initialled 'W.B.'
- 1 item
- MS 2864/1/4** Photograph of E. Page Gaston  
undated
- sepia, mounted
- 1 photograph
- MS 2864/1/5** Photograph of Alexander MacIntosh  
undated
- sepia, mounted
- 1 photograph
- MS 2864/1/6** Photograph of Walter C. Jerrold  
undated
- sepia, mounted
- 1 photograph
- MS 2864/1/7** Photograph of J. Shaylor  
undated  
sepia; mounted  
1 photograph

- MS 2864/1/8** Photograph of the Rev. F.A. Russell  
undated  
  
sepia; mounted  
  
1 photograph
- MS 2864/1/9** Photograph of Sir William Treloar  
undated  
  
sepia; mounted  
  
1 photograph
- MS 2864/1/10** Photograph of Charles Braid  
undated  
  
sepia; mounted  
  
1 photograph
- MS 2864/1/11** Photograph of Coulson Kernahan  
undated  
  
sepia; mounted; some substance has dripped on the photograph  
and slightly obscured the face  
  
1 photograph
- MS 2864/1/12** Photograph of the Hon. Gilbert Coleridge  
undated  
  
sepia; mounted  
  
1 photograph
- MS 2864/1/13** Artwork with the initials of 'W.B.' showing drawings entitled 'The  
Worship of Beauty' and 'The Worship of Intellect'  
undated  
  
1 item
- MS 2864/1/14** Photograph of an outing to Epping Forest  
1882  
shows 2 carts full of men drawn by teams of horses  
sepia  
  
1 photograph

**MS**  
**2864/1/15** Photograph showing memorial display for deceased member  
c.1896  
The photograph shows a portrait photograph of a man, the  
photograph is surrounded by a wreath of flowers and the whole  
thing is resting on a book. The photograph of the memorial is  
annotated around the side in pen, 'Died Aug 22 1896. Buried at  
Highgate Cemetery, Aug 27, Hampstead. Service beautifully  
read by [?]' initials W[?]  
Photographer: Arthur Weston, 84 Newgate St, London, E.C.  
sepia mounted on card

1 photograph

**MS**  
**2864/1/16** Photograph of Sir. R. Hudson  
undated

sepia attached to brown card

1 photograph

**MS**  
**2864/1/17** Photograph of Sir F. Carruthers-Gould  
undated

sepia attached to brown card

1 photograph

**MS**  
**2864/1/18** Unnamed photograph  
undated

sepia attached to brown card

1 photograph

**MS**  
**2864/1/19** Photograph of D. Coke  
undated

sepia attached to brown card

1 photograph

**MS**  
**2864/1/20** Photograph of Edward Clodd  
undated

sepia attached to brown card

1 photograph

- MS 2864/1/21** Photograph of S. Bullock  
undated  
  
sepia attached to brown card  
  
1 photograph
- MS 2864/1/22** Photograph of Lord Wier  
undated  
  
sepia attached to brown card  
  
1 photograph
- MS 2864/1/23** Photograph of J. Catling  
undated  
  
sepia attached to brown card  
  
1 photograph
- MS 2864/1/24** Photograph of R. Whiting  
undated  
  
sepia attached to brown card  
  
1 photograph
- MS 2864/2/1** Whitefriars Club Minute Book: Committee meetings  
18 December 1879-2 December 1887  
written in varying hands  
This volume has been conserved at some point  
  
1 volume
- MS 2864/2/2** Whitefriars Club Minute Book: Committee meetings  
11 June 1900-15 September 1919  
written in varying hands  
This volume has been conserved at some point  
  
1 volume
- MS 2864/2/3** Whitefriars Club Minute Book: Committee meetings  
16 January 1920-4 July 1949  
written in varying hands  
  
1 volume

- MS 2864/2/4** Whitefriars Club account book with The London Joint Stock Bank Limited, in the name of Edward Clodd, Hon. Treasurer  
3 January 1908-15 February 1912
- encased in a brown leather binding
- 1 volume
- MS 2864/2/5** Bound volume of editions of the Whitefriars Journal: No. 1 Vol. III (Feb. 1906) - No. 18 Vol. III (Jan. 1913)  
February 1906-January 1913  
Later editions of the Whitefriars Journal are referenced MS 2864/1/1
- 1 volume
- MS 2864/2/6** Notebook entitled 'Summary of invitations issued, commenced January 1925  
January 1925-c.1929  
Alphabetical list of names, date invitation issued and result of invite  
This volume has been conserved at some point
- 1 volume
- MS 2864/2/7** Notebook recording members names and addresses  
undated  
arranged alphabetically by surname, some entries have had a line drawn through them
- 1 volume
- MS 2864/2/8** Two copies of a volume entitled 'The Whitefriars' Chronicles: Told by themselves', annotated and edited by Friar T. Heath Joyce, printed for private circulation (London, 1900):  
1900  
Illustrated with portraits from photographs taken by Friar Valentine Blanchard; sketches by Felix Regamey, Phil May and Friars John Proctor, Irving Montagu, J. Louis Knight, W. H. Boucher and F. Taunton
- 2 volumes
- MS 2864/3/1** Member and Visitor Signature Book  
1902-1907
- This volume has been conserved at some point
- 1 volume

- MS 2864/3/2** Member and Visitor Signature Book  
1907-1922
- This volume has been conserved at some point
- 1 volume
- MS 2864/4/1** Bound volume of editions of the 'Whitefriars Journal': No. 1 Vol. III (Feb. 1906) - No. 18 Vol. III (Jan. 1913)  
February 1906-January 1913  
This is a copy of the volume referenced MS2864/2/5. This volume is marked as having belonged 'to the Whitefriars Club'
- 1 volume
- MS 2864/4/2** Bound volume of editions of 'Whitefriars Journal': No. 1 Vol. IV (Jun. 1913) - No. 6 Vol. IV (Jan. 1916)  
June 1913-January 1916  
For further editions of the Whitefriars Journal see volumes referenced at MS 2864/2/5 and MS 2864/1/1
- 1 volume
- MS 2864/4/3** Record of money taken for various events  
1909-1914  
Also records the Honorary Secretary's expenses from 1909-1911
- 1 volume
- MS 2864/4/4** Volume entitled 'Members' Addresses'  
undated  
Members recorded alphabetically by surname; some entries have a line drawn through.
- 1 volume
- MS 2864/4/5** Volume entitled 'Whitefriars Club: Accounts'  
1893-1907  
This volume has been conserved at some point
- 1 volume

- MS 2864/4/6** Volume entitled 'Whitefriars Club Accounts'  
1896-1909
- This volume has been conserved at some point
- 1 volume
- MS 2864/5/1** Folder of financial papers (some undated)  
1880-1905/6  
File of correspondence and paperwork concerning financial records, and may include cheques, annual report and balance sheets, member subscriptions and receipts of payments from restaurants, printers, and publishers.
- 1 folder
- MS 2864/5/2** Folders of financial papers and correspondence  
1907-1909  
Files of correspondence and paperwork concerning financial records, and may include cheques, annual report and balance sheets, member subscriptions and receipts of payments from restaurants, printers, and publishers.
- 2 folders
- MS 2864/5/3** Files of financial papers and correspondence  
1910-1912  
Files of correspondence and paperwork concerning financial records, and may include cheques, annual report and balance sheets, member subscriptions and receipts of payments from restaurants, printers, and publishers.
- 2 folders
- MS 2864/5/4** Folder of financial papers and correspondence  
1913-1915  
File of correspondence and paperwork concerning financial records, and may include cheques, annual report and balance sheets, member subscriptions and receipts of payments from restaurants, printers, and publishers.
- 1 folder
- MS 2864/6/1** Possibly a Member and Visitor Signature Book  
**This item is in extremely poor condition and cannot currently be produced**  
1896-1897
- 1 volume



- MS 2864/7/1** Collection of index cards detailing speeches, given at Club events  
undated [1900-1920s]  
  
2 bundles
- MS 2864/7/2** Copies of a Club programme, entitled 'A Pilgrimage to Hatfield and St. Albans on Saturday, July 1st 1911'  
1 July 1911  
Produced for a visit of the Club members to Hatfield House and St Albans  
  
6 copies
- MS 2864/7/3** Copies of a Club programme entitled, 'A Pilgrimage to Cymbeline's Town and Constable's Country on Saturday, June 20th 1903'  
20/06/1903  
Produced for a visit of the Club members  
  
5 booklets
- MS 2864/7/4** Copies of a Club programme entitled, 'A Pilgrimage to Tennyson's Country on Saturday, July 7th 1906'  
07/07/1906  
Produced for a visit of the Club members  
  
5 booklets
- MS 2864/7/5** Folder contains misc. memorabilia and dinner programmes including artwork, menus, seating arrangements, and lists of attending members  
c.1881-1936  
Includes Membership booklets detailing the Officers and Committee for 1933 and 1936, information on the history of the club and former guests; club rules; list of members  
  
2 folders
- MS 2864/8/1** Whitefriars Club Minute Book: Committee meetings  
8 January 1869-27 November 1879  
  
1 volume

- MS 2864/8/2** Scrapbook of personal notices of interest to members of Whitefriars Club  
c.1879-c.1903  
The cover displays the following message: 'This Book is provided in order that Personal Notices of interest to Members of the Whitefriars Club may be preserved. Any Paragraphs that may be thought worthy of insertion should be enclosed in an envelope and addressed to the Secretary who will submit them to the Committee before they are placed in the Book'  
Contents include newspaper cuttings, photographs, artwork and other dated items  
**Handle with care - cover has been lost**
- 1 volume and 1 folder
- MS 2864/9/1** Papers relating to a motion on whether to allow women to become members of the Whitefriars Club  
1990  
Includes voting slips of members, an agenda, and correspondence regarding the issue
- Material post- 1 November 1975 is closed to non-members of the Whitefriars Club. Access to closed material requires permission of the Club.**
- 1 file
- MS 2864/9/2** Cash Book containing Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheets, some loose  
1908-1927
- 1 volume
- MS 2864/9/3** Cash Book  
1928-1949  
Contains Balance sheets some loose
- 1 volume
- MS 2864/9/4** Guest Signature Book  
16 November 1925- 30 October 1975
- 1 volume
- MS 2864/10/1** Folder containing papers relating to a proposed Club history  
c.1987-1988  
Folder contains:

1 testimonial dinner programme in honour of Friar Sir Robert Mayer,  
2 items of correspondence relating to the production of a Club History book, and a copy of 'Echoes from Alsatia; or, Fragments from the Long History of the Whitefriars Club' ed. Gerald O'Brien, researched by Rodney Bennett-England

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1 folder

**MS  
2864/10/2**

Folder comprising Member lists, various years  
1968-1989

Includes printed member lists, attendance lists, and material related to members including obituaries; Whitefriars Club Christmas card

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1 folder

**MS  
2864/10/3**

Folder containing papers relating to the compilation of a Membership list for 1987  
1987

Folder also appears to contain some miscellaneous correspondence relating to membership and information on members

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1 folder

**MS  
2864/10/4**

Folder containing papers relating to the publication of a Membership list for 1991  
1990-1991

Also includes correspondence and paperwork relating to membership and drafts of the published membership booklet

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1 folder

**MS**  
**2864/10/5** Folder of correspondence and paperwork relating to Committee business  
1969-1992

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1 folder

**MS**  
**2864/11/1** Folder of correspondence to and from Whitefriars Club and membership, largely relating to Club Events  
1997-2000

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1 folder

**MS**  
**2864/11/2** Folder of correspondence  
c.2000-2003

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1 folder

**MS**  
**2864/11/3** Folder of material relating to Club dinner menus and notices  
c.1968-1992

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1 folder

**MS**  
**2864/11/4** Folder of correspondence  
c.1983-1997  
Includes papers relating to membership, minutes, circulars, and events

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**MS**  
**2864/11/5**  
1 folder  
Folder containing member lists and general correspondence  
1971, 1975, c.1988-1994  
Lists of Members dated 1971 and 1975

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**MS**  
**2864/12/1**  
1 folder  
Folder of correspondence and other papers relating to an AGM  
called in May 2001 and the establishment of a new committee  
with a remit 'to save, revitalise and take forward' the Club  
2001

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**MS**  
**2864/12/2**  
1 folder  
Folder of minutes from committee meetings and AGM's and  
general correspondence  
c.2001-2007

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**MS**  
**2864/12/3**  
1 folder  
Folder of papers originally entitled 'General correspondence'  
1994-2000  
Correspondence and papers relate to dinners, financial matters,  
committee minutes and meetings

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1 folder

**MS**  
**2864/12/4** Folder of papers originally entitled 'General correspondence'  
1994-2000  
Correspondence and papers relate to dinners, financial matters,  
members, committee minutes and meetings

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1 folder

**MS**  
**2864/13/1** Envelope of papers including correspondence  
1978, 1979, 2000, 2007  
Letter from Mary Baum to Alan Williams 6 April 2007; letter from  
Frederick Forsyth to Mary Baum (copy) 16 April 2007; note  
about the club; article from the Daily Telegraph, Peterborough  
column, about the club celebrating its 110th anniversary, 1978  
(2 photocopies); menu for anniversary dinner in 1979, (2  
photocopies, one in colour) includes photographs; 3 copies of  
Whitefriars Club leaflet containing list of speakers in 2000

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of the Whitefriars Club. Access to closed material requires  
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1 envelope

**MS**  
**2864/13/2** Bound volume of editions of the 'Whitefriars Journal', Vol 1 (May  
1900-Jan 1903)  
May 1900- Jan 1903

1 volume

**MS**  
**2864/13/3** Editions of the Newsletter 'The Whitefriar'  
2001-2019; 2021  
Vol1. No.1 October 2001 (2 copies); Vol. 1 No. 2 December  
2001  
Vol.1, No.3 February 2002  
Vol. 2 No. 2 March 2003  
Vol. 2, No. 1 March 2004 (2 copies); Vol. 3 No.2 August 2004  
Vol.4 No.1 January 2005 (2 copies)  
Vol 5, No. 1 September 2006 (2 copies); Vol. 5, No. 2 December  
2006  
Vol 6, No.2 December 2007 (2 copies)  
Vol 7, No1 May 2008; Vol 7, No 2, December 2008  
Vol. 8, No 1 April 2009 (2 copies); Vol. 8, No. 2 December 2009  
Vol 9 No 2, December 2010;  
Vol 10, No 1 May 2011, Vol 10, No. 2 November 2011 (2 copies)

Vol 11 No 1, April 2012; Vol. 11 No. 2 November 2012  
Vol 12 No 1, May 2013 (2 copies); Vol 12 No 2, December 2013  
Vol 13 No 1, May 2014 (2 copies), Vol 13 No 2, December 2014  
Vol 14 No. 1 June 2015;  
Vol 14 [?], No. 1 April 2016  
Vol 18 No. 1 May 2019; Vol 18 No.2 December 2019

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1 folder

**MS**  
**2864/14/1**

Two versions of Club cards  
undated  
The cards detail the Club history

2 items

**MS**  
**2864/14/2**

Letters and notes concerning the history of the club  
1951-1991  
Notes concerning the history of the club including original club circulars and various versions of corrected short histories; original letter to Josephine Hart requesting she perform the toast to 'Mere Men' (1987); original letter and annotated historical note to Arthur Coleridge, (Hon. Secretary) regarding a foreword for a new Whitefriars Booklet, (1951); Copy of a proposed new set of rules for discussion at the 1950 AGM; Circular entitled 'The Friary' relating information and historical notes about Dr Johnson's House, where the Club met for many years.

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1 folder

**MS**  
**2864/15/1**

Minutes of Whitefriars Club committee meetings  
3 February 1997- 18 March 2008  
Copies of minutes, a copy of The Alsacian, Vol.1, No. 1, August 2001

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1 folder

**MS**  
**2864/15/2** Correspondence between Mary Baum (Honorary Secretary) and prospective speakers  
2000-2003

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1 folder

**MS**  
**2864/15/3** Correspondence between Mary Baum (Chairwoman) and prospective speakers  
2004-2008

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1 folder

**MS**  
**2864/16/1** Folder of papers from the Honorary Treasurer relating to membership and subscriptions, speakers and events and other financial matters  
1993-2008

Includes a membership booklet from 1993; newscutting from the 'Peterborough' column about the club entitled, 'No Publicity', (undated); list of Whitefriar speakers from 2000 onwards; some minutes (from 2001, 2004 and 2006); some 'recollections of Whitefriars of Old' from His Honour John A Baker; copy of the speech given by Friar Winston Churchill in May 1905

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1 folder

**MS**  
**2864/16/2** Folder of papers from the Honorary Treasurer relating to membership and subscriptions, speakers and events and other financial matters  
2001-2004

Includes correspondence with various Club Honorary Secretaries; Minutes and agendas (2001-2004); correspondence about an Evening of Magic, (2003); correspondence with members and circulars from the Honorary Secretary.



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2 folders

**MS  
2864/17/1**

Honorary Secretary's file  
2005-2010

Includes Minutes, papers and agendas for Committee Meetings; correspondence relating to potential speakers and with members including circulars, completed questionnaires for the 'Novitiate Programme'; papers relating to a redesign of the Club's stationery set and handbook

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2 folders  
Acc.MS5635

**MS  
2864/17/2**

Large photograph of members of the Whitefriars Club, at the Annual Christmas Dinner  
18 December 1903

Prior is detailed as Friar Anthony Hope and the Hon. Secretary was Arthur Spurgeon. The dinner took place at the Trocadero Restaurant.

Sepia mounted photograph taken by J. Jack & Co., Photographers, 22 and 24 Glasshouse Street, London.  
Some damage to photograph

1 photograph  
Acc.MS5635