**Larkin: New Eyes Each Year**

Launch event Tuesday 4th July - Welcome Speeches

Michelle Anderson: (7 mins)

**Intro self** – relationship to Philip Larkin as the ???th Librarian

**Welcome to the Brynmor Jones Library** – bit of history - named after the vice-chancellor who was persuaded by Philip Larkin that given the choice of building a new library or halls of residence, the university should do both.

Not called the Philip Larkin library, but **he had a greater hand in its formation during his three decades as Librarian than any other.** He personally supervised the design and the build of both the primary building in the 1950s and the subsequent development in the 1970s, and throughout, took a personal interest in its stock, particularly developing special collections.

**Visible details:** He was involved in every element from commissioning [Willi Soukop](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Willi_Soukop), to create the bas reliefs under his office over the entrance, a human figure representing the light of knowledge, to choosing the colours of the shelf ends, (he was keen on pink) to the patterned wallpaper in the librarian’s office.

Like Larkin, I began my career in public libraries. I have always believed that libraries are a place of academic, intellectual and creative freedom. The exhibition partners Hull 2017, Philip Larkin Society and University of Hull Archives have given the exhibition team the freedom to interpret Philip Larkin with new eyes, for a new audience…

Hand over to Dr Anna Farthing to hear more about the exhibition.