



U3A HISTORY

GROUP, 2ND OCTOBER 2014

On Thursday 2nd October, the U3A History group heard a talk by Christine Gascoigne, former Head of Special Collections in the University Library St Andrews, on early books. She began by talking about how books were made before the codex – the form of book we are used to now – before moving on to talk about how you make vellum and paper. She then told her audience about the invention of moveable type and how books were printed in the 15th and 16th centuries. She ended her talk by showing some pictures of pictures – woodcuts and engravings – from early books, and concluded by talking about what you can learn from the sort of things people wrote in their books such as their name, including unexpected things like laundry lists, and some examples of 18th century student humour, as scribbled in the library books!