Welcome to the last issue of the IHR magazine before the move back into our refurbished premises over the summer. It is an exciting time for the Institute. Elsewhere in this issue you can read about the new library layouts, and we shall be keeping everyone informed of the schedule for the transfer back of the library during the summer months as well as arranging preview and orientation tours of the new library, study, teaching and events facilities before the start of the next academic year. There will be a formal reopening of the Institute during the autumn, and we have a series of showcase events lined up for the rest of the term. May I draw particular attention to two: at the end of September, Professor Robert Darnton (Harvard) will be giving the inaugural lecture in our new endowed series of annual public history lectures; and at the end of October, the IHR’s winter conference will be taking as its theme The ‘utopian’ universities: a 50 year retrospective (a foretaste of which is given in this issue by Dr Jill Pellew, one of the convenors of the conference). How appropriate to be considering higher education past, present and future as the IHR enjoys its return to its headquarters!

This is also my last letter as director. My six years in this exciting and challenging position are drawing to a close. As the magazine goes to press, we have the very good news that Dr Lawrence Goldman, currently fellow of St Peter’s College Oxford, and director of the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, will be succeeding me, starting post on 1 October. With his distinguished reputation as a scholar of modern British history, and his experience of leading one of the most important academic publishing projects in the world, I am sure that he will bring superb leadership to the IHR’s research, teaching, digital projects and publications, and events programme. And I know he will be well supported in his endeavours by the staff, students, readers and users of the IHR in the UK and overseas. Dr Goldman will be joined by some other new senior appointments in the IHR, including a new director/general editor for the Victoria County History, and a senior librarian. With some other recent and new appointments, the Institute is climbing back to a fuller complement of academic staff, which is a wonderful fillip after some lean years.

All told, with a new director, a modernised premises, an exciting range of academic research collaborations and events, and an expanded fellowship programme, the Institute is perfectly placed to move forward with confidence and continuity towards its centenary in 2021. We have weathered well hard times in the humanities, let us now plan for a healthy future.

Miles Taylor
April 2014
Past and Future

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Popular remembrance in wartime. Queen Mary places flowers at the Roll of Honour of an East End street shrine, Balcorne Street, Hackney, 10 August 1916, as reported in The Illustrated London News of 19 August © Illustrated London News (printed source out of copyright)
Exciting times are ahead as we plan for our move back to Senate House's north block later this year. The IHR's footprint will be slightly reduced as we make way for the SOAS expansion project next door, but we are maximising the space to include fully refurbished training facilities, library, seminar, conference and exhibition space, as well as the greatly missed common room.

The library has been planned carefully to create as much open-access shelving as possible. The two largest spaces on the first and second floors of the main wing have been reconfigured to create a more open-plan layout using a combination of fixed and rolling stack shelving. These areas also contain four seminar rooms, which will double up as library rooms.

To the west of the staircase on the first floor will be a room housing folio and map collections, and some larger desk space. The area to the west of the basement staircase, which used to be dark and dingy, has been redesigned with better lighting to create a surprisingly large amount of shelving and two reader desks. As before, we will also have a current periodicals room adjacent to the common room.

We will be getting new reprographics equipment – photocopiers, scanners and microform scanning facilities – and the payment system will be integrated with our membership cards. The reader desks are being custom-designed to incorporate power and data points, and lighting. We are considering the options for computer provision and may provide a combination of fixed PCs and laptops to make more flexible use of the desk space. Your comments on this would be welcome.

Approximately two-thirds of the collections can be kept on open access, around twice as much as at present. We have had to make some difficult decisions – unfortunately back copies of periodicals will have to remain in closed access. We have drafted some plans that will divide the collections into broad areas: British, Irish and European, Colonial and North American on the second floor. Selections will have to be made for the latter in particular and we will be consulting users and subject specialists when making these decisions. The plans are not yet finalised - feedback is invited over the coming months, and readers are welcome to contact the library about areas of interest. Please visit us in the IHR Library enquiry office, or contact us on ihr.library@sas.ac.uk or 020 7862 8760.

For further details and updates on the plans please keep in touch via: blog.history.ac.uk/category/ihr-relocation-blog.

The war also had an impact on the capital's economy, governance, standards of living, culture, leisure, physical environment and social life. The conference will explore these and other themes as well as the war's 'legacy'. Proposals for panels or individual papers are now invited on any topic connected with the impact of the First World War on London, and the city's role, broadly conceived, in the conflict. Proposal abstracts of c.250 words together with a brief biography should be emailed, by 30 May 2014, to olwen.myhill@sas.ac.uk. Further information at: www.history.ac.uk/london-ww1.

The call for papers: ‘London and the First World War’

Complementing this year's Anglo-American conference, and as part of the centenary commemoration of the First World War, the Centre for Metropolitan History (CMH) is organising a major conference, in partnership with Imperial War Museums, to explore the ways in which London and its inhabitants were affected by, and involved with, the 1914–18 conflict. London was, for the first time, effectively on the front line during that war, subjected to aerial bombing and surveillance, while its streets, buildings and spaces were shaped by the needs of mass mobilisation, supply and defence.

The CMH conference, ‘London and the First World War’, will explore the ways in which London and its inhabitants were affected by, and involved with, the 1914–18 conflict. Left: Evening Quarters: The Lookout at Cannon Street Anti-Aircraft Station, 1917 by Ronald Gray © IWM (Art.IWM ART 321). Right: Medical Storeman – British Red Cross Society and Order of St John Medical Stores, Tottenham Court Road, London, 1918 by Haydn Reynolds Mackey © Helen Power / IWM (Art.IWM ART 3729).

Call for papers: ‘London and the First World War’

Records of London’s Livery Companies Online (ROLLCO) update

ROLLCO is the CMH’s collaboration with London’s Livery Companies to provide free access to historic membership records. In the latest update, the apprenticeship and freedom records for the Girdlers’, Salters’ and Bowyers’ Companies have been added to those of the Clothworkers’, Drapers’, Goldsmiths’ and Mercers’. This brings the total number of apprenticeship records now available in the online database to 75,000 and Freedoms to 48,000, and includes some 320,000 people.
Among the new records are several Lord Mayors of London and other important figures including: Thomas John Hussey, made free of the Bowyers’ Company in 1839, who has been credited with predicting the existence of the planet Neptune; renowned naval officer Admiral Sir William Sidney Smith, made free of the Salters’ Company in 1801; Robert Steward, Viscount Castlereagh, also a member of the Salters’ Company; and Fletcher Norton, Speaker of the House of Commons, made free of the Girdlers’ Company in 1777. To access the records, visit www.londonroll.org.

The next ROLLCO update, due in a few weeks, will feature the records of a further three Companies: the Tallow Chandlers, Founders and Musicians.

CMH podcasts

CMH has held a number of conferences over the past year and is delighted that most of the papers presented are now available on the IHR website at www.history.ac.uk/podcasts. They include: Caroline Barron on ‘London merchants and reading’ from the ‘Medieval merchants and money’ conference (7–8 November 2013); ‘Housing during the Great War’ by Jerry White (‘Mobilising London’s housing histories: the provision of homes since 1850’, 27–28 June); Sara Pennell on ‘Dispossession and material insecurity in the early modern city’ (‘Materialities of urban life in early modern Europe’, 17–19 April); and Richard Dennis, ‘Letting off steam: the perils and possibilities of underground travel in Victorian and Edwardian London’ from ‘Going underground: travel beneath the metropolis 1863–2013’ (17–18 January 2013). Also available as podcasts are a selection of papers from the metropolitan history seminar.

Library news

As well as working on planning for the Library’s impending move, routine work continues as usual. Further news about the library collections is available on the new IHR blog, which covers a diverse range of subjects pertaining to the history of slavery, gardens, the Spanish Civil War, the Mau Mau uprising and London, as well as personal narratives from the United States collection. Lisa Smoltino, a library and information science student from Kent State University who took up an internship with the IHR library in January 2014, researched and wrote some of these pieces.

In March 2014 we held a history libraries and research open day, organised jointly with colleagues in Senate House Library and in conjunction with the Committee of London Research Libraries in History. This allowed researchers to find out about a range of libraries and attend study skill workshops, and was popular both with the researchers and the libraries keen to showcase their collections. We hope to run similar events in the future.

We are grateful to the American Friends for a donation which allowed us to purchase some collective editions of primary sources. So far, we have received some Pickering and Chatto items on order: Food History: Critical and Primary Sources and Chawton House Library: Women’s Travel Writings in Revolutionary France.

Other recent acquisitions have included:

- Correspondance générale de La Beaumelle (1726–1773) | EF.556/Bea
- Documenti latini e greci del conte Ruggiero I di Calabria e di Sicilia | EI.931/Bec
- The Quaker clockmakers of North Oxfordshire | BC.7618/Mar
- Narrative of my captivity in Japan during the years 1811, 1812 and 1813 | CLC.4B21/Gol (although not a new acquisition, this was added to the catalogue during the reclassification work).

Historical Research

The May issue of Historical Research (vol. 87, no. 236) includes articles on kinship in 16th century Scotland (Amy Blakeway), the navy in the British civil wars (R. J. Blakemore), the Durham miners (Lewis Mates) and British immigration policy in the 1970s (E. Smith and M. Marmo). It also publishes a previously overlooked letter shedding light on Cromwell and iconoclasm in Ely Cathedral (Graham Hart).

Look out for our spring virtual issue on Charity and Philanthropy featuring articles from the archives, as well as more recent articles and IHR podcasts. The autumn virtual issue will contribute to the commemoration of the Great War.

In conjunction with our publisher Wiley/Blackwell, Historical Research now offers an online guide for early career researchers: http://tinyurl.com/wiley-ecr. This provides useful information for first-time authors on several important topics, including open access publication and search engine optimisation.

The closing date for this year’s Pollard prize for the best postgraduate IHR seminar paper given during this academic year is 30 May 2014.

For further information, visit the journal webpages: www.history.ac.uk/publications/historical-research.

History libraries and research open day at the IHR, Senate House, 18 March 2014.
VCH news

It has been a busy start to 2014 for the Victoria County History and we are thrilled that the dedication and hard work of our contributors will result in two volume launches in the spring. Although A History of the County of Derby, volume III: Bolsover and Adjoining Parishes was published in November 2013 by Boydell & Brewer, we waited until the weather had improved and the nights had lightened before planning a launch (and accompanying Fitch lecture) for this volume at the Heritage High School in Clowne. The volume expands much of the initial research undertaken for the England's Past for Everyone project in Derbyshire and is a clear example of the HLF project’s legacy.

The second launch, to be held in late spring, will be for A History of Shropshire, volume VI, part 1: Shrewsbury General History and Topography in central Shrewsbury. Again, the launch will be accompanied by a Fitch lecture. This volume is the culmination of many contributors’ commitment to the county, the majority of whom volunteered their expertise to ensure the publication came to fruition. This Shropshire volume is the first of two to be published, with the second volume making a closer inspection into culture, buildings and institutions. All three volumes mentioned are available to purchase directly from our publisher Boydell & Brewer, www.boydellandbrewer.com.

IHR events

BBC2: origins; influence; audiences - a 50th anniversary conference
Co-hosted with the Science Museum
25 April (Science Museum)
www.bbctwo50th.wordpress.com/

On 20 April 1964 the BBC launched its second television channel: BBC2. Although the launch was a flop (due to a major power cut), the station soon became a fixture of UK broadcasting. This conference engages with the example of BBC2 in a contribution to the history of how, as well as what, we access through television.

History after Hobsbawm

Co-hosted with Birkbeck College
29 April–1 May (Birkbeck College)
www.bbk.ac.uk/history/about-us/events/history-after-hobsbawm

A major international conference, with plenary speakers and large parallel sessions, exploring where the study of history is currently heading.

Church growth and decline in a global city: London, 1980 to the present
Organised by the Centre for Church Growth Research, Durham
2 May. Room 349 (Senate House)
www.community.dur.ac.uk/churchgrowth/research/conferences/church-growth-and-decline-in-contemporary-london

Oral history spring school
Co-hosted with the Oral History Society
8–10 May, Room 243 (Senate House)
www.history.ac.uk/research-training/courses/oral-spring-school

As in previous years, there will be a wide-ranging programme covering the theory and practice of oral history in depth.

Sarajevo 1914 spark and impact: an international conference on the anniversary of the First World War
26–28 June 2014, University of Southampton
www.southampton.ac.uk/humanities/news/events/2014/06/26_sarajevo_conference.page

83rd Anglo-American conference: The Great War at home
Co-hosted with the British Association for Local History and the Victoria County History
3–4 July (Senate House)
www.anglo-american-history.ac.uk/

Fought across the world, the First World War struck deepest at home. Few neighbourhoods, villages, towns or regions emerged untouched by the global conflict in 1914–18. This year’s Anglo-American conference takes as its theme the impact of the First World War on the locality and local institutions, on family and social life, and on the memorialisation of war in the built environment and in private life.

Summer school in local history 2014: Local history and heritage
Co-hosted with the Victoria County History
24–26 July (Senate House)
www.history.ac.uk/research-training/courses/local-summer-school

The IHR is delighted to announce its three-day non-residential summer school in local history, back in 2014 for a third time after its extremely successful first two years. The school will introduce you to the most up-to-date methods, sources and successful approaches to the subject through an exciting programme of lectures and workshops.

Look out for updates on the Anglo-American conference: ‘The Great War at home’
www.history.ac.uk/events
As the centenaries of 1914–18 finally come upon us, the challenges facing historians to research and interpret the impact of the First World War multiply. One is the need to investigate and understand the war more widely, recognising the importance of perspectives not previously considered significant, and turning attention to the Home Front; the wartime experiences of women and children; the economic, social, cultural and political consequences of the war; the Empire and dominion experience; and to military events beyond the Western Front.

Another challenge is to revisit and scrutinise deep-rooted, existing assumptions about the war. David Reynolds, in a recent, cogent dissection (The Long Shadow: The Great War and the Twentieth Century, 2013), characterises the British view of the First World War as particular. Centred on the trenches, on military events and heavily influenced by literature and poetry, it perpetuates a verdict that was influential at the time of the 50th anniversary. This sees the war in hindsight as a futile sacrifice, a bitter and costly conflict, which failed to end all wars and led to another, more clearly justifiable, World War only 21 years later.

A third challenge is that posed by the growing demand for a popular and public history of 1914–18, a history to be shared between generations and places, disseminated by broadcasters, heritage professionals and teachers, in classrooms and on field trips. Amidst the growing hype, threatening at times to tip into unreflective cliche or even centenary ‘celebration’, local history offers a way to respond. Returning to the local experience and using and integrating the rich, direct contemporary evidence enables realities of wartime throughout British society to be rediscovered. We may unearth, preserve and record new evidence; generate fresh findings; pursue shared questions; encourage comparative thinking; and join up accounts of separate aspects of wartime and post-war experience within and between communities to move us on, as David Reynolds urges, to combine remembrance with greater historical understanding.

This is an ambitious agenda. Projects and publications are beginning to show how it can be fulfilled, and examples are reported here. More are promised, including events at Senate House and initiatives by the British Association for Local History (BALH), which aims to encourage and support the study of local history as an academic discipline and as a rewarding pursuit for grass roots historians, individuals and groups. The two organisations combined on 28 February for a joint Institute of Commonwealth Studies/ BALH day on ‘Experiences of World War One: strangers, differences and locality’. Keynote speaker Dr Catriona Pennell emphasised that, although a national narrative of the war’s history had dominated earlier study, fuller understanding depends on adding local and international perspectives and being aware of the constant interconnectedness of all three elements – local, national and international.

This theme was played out during discussion of the interaction of local
people in Britain with black and Indian troops from the Empire and Dominions. A mixture of newspapers, diaries, letters, recollections, photos and official records provided the evidence. Wartime connections came through local camps and hospitals. Racial stereotyping, mixed marriages and outbreaks of violence all figured, but meetings of cultures were not just made by war, with some networks of family links operating before 1914 and after 1918. Nor were all ex-servicemen white UK residents, as demonstrated by several case studies of West Indian veterans returning to their homes in the Caribbean. There, November rituals of remembrance were kept at local war memorials, while island economies struggled, not least because of continuing debt burdens linked to their support for the mother country’s war effort. The local, national and international did indeed interact to form these experiences of the war.

Elsewhere, increasing publication of Home Front studies is bringing the non-military experience in the UK to the fore. From 1914, every kind of neighbourhood, village, town and region was touched, not only by the deaths and injuries of those going away to fight but also by the immediate economic consequences of war. The whole economy was mobilised, while massive volunteer effort was forthcoming. Local histories of this experience are showing the illuminating balance to be struck between detail and generalisation, and the potential for both comparison and understanding the particular. The latest Victoria County History Essex volume (XI, on Clacton, Walton and Frinton: North-East Essex Seaside Resorts, 2012) brings home, in its chapter on the war, the threat of invasion, air raids and the black-out, and the loss of holiday business that made for a very specific East Coast, seaside experience of 1914–18.

Another recent publication (Local Aspects of the Great War: Coventry and Warwickshire 1914–1919, 2012) reflects a more general range of Home Front research topics in 10 related studies. The canvas chosen is one county (for these purposes Coventry and Warwickshire, but not Birmingham). As the editor, local historian Chris Holland, argues, this scale of study allows a balance between detail and generalisation and the possibility of challenging commonly held views. It is an aim impressively achieved through examinations of an area including large and small towns, major industries, artisan and labouring families and rural, agricultural communities. The topics covered represent an agenda that will be useful to others looking to undertake local studies spanning the war years. The themes are the outbreak of war, Belgian refugees, recruitment, billeting, caring for the wounded, wartime industrial production, food, local tribunals for exemptions from military service, the ‘Spanish ‘flu’ epidemic of 1918–19 and responses to the Armistice.

These are discussed with a telling and humane attention to the stories of individuals and families, while reminding the reader of how these experiences were a direct part of wider determinants and trends, from DORA (the Defence of the Realm Acts), to the formation of the Women’s Land Army, to the rise in the cost of living by nearly 50 per cent between 1914–16, to the addition of three million acres of land under cultivation. Alongside this are some equally striking local facts and figures. Kenilworth found land for, and established, 104 new allotments in one month. In Coventry, White and Poppe, a light engineering company employing 350 people in 1914, rapidly became one of the largest munitions factories in the country, having employed 30,000 by the end of the conflict. Its workers, including many women, filled 30 million fuses and 31 million detonators, while the firm also produced War Office vehicle engines. The whole operation included housing and hostels, canteens, allotments, a swimming pool, library and cinema. By 1917, VADs (Voluntary Aid Detachments) were running 17 hospitals in Warwickshire, that in rural Kenilworth growing to provide 82 beds.

The work of the eight contributors highlights many realities, including the degree of pre-war preparation carried out by military and civil organisations, and the enormous practical complexity of coping with war conditions, from transport, to telegrams and post, to civilian medical services with large numbers of doctors and nurses on war service, to labour in shops, factories and fields. The role of women, revealing some resistance to their growing employment, is observed along with the degree of class tensions, from a strike at White and Poppe to apparently seamless assumptions of local leadership by traditional elites. A legion of committees and activities was organised, with an outpouring of voluntary effort aimed at ‘doing our bit’. How this was turned to effective action, and how far co-ordinated locally or subsumed in centrally directed government initiatives is another recurrent theme.

Local studies also allow us to look afresh at the familiar. The main war memorial at Colchester, unveiled in 1923, is one of tens of thousands of local memorials in the British Isles. They are telling subjects for local research into the relationship between remembrance and community, as each place made its

"For England, Home, and Beauty": contemplating the parish war memorial at Clipston, Northamptonshire in the 1940s © Northamptonshire Record Office.
own decisions on how to commemorate its dead. Most war memorials took the form of permanent monuments, sometimes collective, sometimes to groups or individuals. Some favoured practical projects and buildings looking to the better future secured by the sacrifice of the dead. Although the creation of fitting tributes was a near universal response, the memorials themselves are far from uniform. Many record the names of individual combatants (presented in a significant variety of ways), but they also reflect the circumstances, attitudes, funds, tastes and sometimes disagreements of families and comrades; of influential local individuals and institutions, and of others in the wider circles of connection and remembrance which influenced the making of each structure.

The main First World War memorial in Colchester is just one of some 40 in the town, a vivid reflection of the many community activities – school, work, church, sport, voluntary organisation – the dead of 1914–18 might have been part of. The collective and apparently democratic nature of the process of making Colchester’s main memorial is reflected in the 40 different groups, from the Scouts, to ‘Married Women’, to religious denominations, political parties, Freemasons, friendly societies, secondary schools, local employers and utility companies represented on the War Memorial Selection Committee. Formed as early as January 1919, it energetically debated six alternative memorials, each featuring Victory, Peace and St George, the composition of the wording (referring to both combatants (presented in a significant variety of ways), but they also reflect the circumstances, attitudes, funds, tastes and sometimes disagreements of families and comrades; of influential local individuals and institutions, and of others in the wider circles of connection and remembrance which influenced the making of each structure.

The memorial became the focus of regular remembrance, those public rituals intended to ensure that the dead and what they died for remain in local consciousness. This too is rich ground for research. In November 1938 the mayor of Colchester, speaking at the war memorial, ‘invited his listeners to ask themselves whether or not the concept of remembrance had become meaningless and sentimental, and whether the sacrifices of the Fallen

had been in vain’. Plaques have now been added to the monument to commemorate the dead of the (in a curiously understated phrase) ‘furthest war’ of 1939–45, and – in this army town – to soldiers killed since 1945 while on service or through terrorist acts.

Through its publications, BALH hopes to develop ideas and methods for local studies of wartime experience. These include a guide to researching local memorials and their significance (Remembrance and Community: War Memorials and Local History by Kate Tiller, 2013). Its quarterly newsletter Local History News is carrying a series of short articles on different themes, which can be read on www.balh.co.uk. Other publications are:

- **Memorials of War** (Gill Draper) LHN 103, spring 2012
- **Community Responses to the Outbreak of War, August 1914** (Catriona Pennell), LHN 104, summer 2012
- **The Agricultural Community at War, 1914–1918** (Bonnie White), LHN 105, autumn 2012
- **Soldiers’ Letters and the First World War** (Rachel Duffett), LHN 106, winter 2013
- **Women and Work in the First World War** (Deborah Thom), LHN 107, spring 2013
- **Schools in the First World War** (Tim Lomas), LHN 108, summer 2013

A flagship event will be this year’s Anglo-American Conference of Historians, ‘The Great War at home’, to be held at the IHR on 3–4 July. It will be jointly presented by the IHR, BALH, the American Association of State and Local History (AASLH) and the VCH. The theme is the impact of the war on the locality and local institutions, the family and social life, and the memorialisation of war in the built environment and in private life. It aims to gather together local and community historians, academics and graduate students to present and exchange their findings and ideas on all aspects of the impact of the war, in the UK and worldwide.

The conference will reflect the momentum and direction of work already underway. It will also point ahead, as a joint session, bringing together local historians from BALH, the Family and Community Historical Research Society and the AASLH, to explore shared interests and possibilities for an online network of local groups to research themes in Home Front studies. This will be another step towards realising the potential of local studies to respond to the challenges faced by historians of the First World War and its impact.

See www.anglo-american.history.ac.uk/
Between 1961 and 1965 seven universities funded and designed in a wholly new way – Sussex, East Anglia, York, Lancaster, Kent, Essex and Warwick – proudly opened their doors to an initial cohort of students. The result of post-war planning by the generation that emerged from a catastrophic world war, they were determined to open the way to a better society.

During post-war reconstruction, many western European countries adopted radical solutions to social welfare. The UK introduced a welfare state through legislation (such as the Butler Education Act, 1944) in an initiative that signalled unprecedented government involvement in areas of huge social importance. By the mid-1950s Churchill’s ‘sunlit uplands’ seemed on the horizon, as the country began its recovery from wartime constriction. At this time leading academics were respected as part of the Establishment and expected to play a major role in working out solutions to post-war social problems – in particular building educational opportunities for a new generation of bright school children. They responded to the challenge with intellectual excitement and practical vigour. These new universities were born of an unprecedented idealism about Asa Briggs’s ‘new map of learning’. Yet, within 25 years this romantic vision had evaporated in the politics of different thinking about higher education, filling the once self-confident university sector with self-doubt. Now, 50 years on, it is time to evaluate the long-term significance of what emerged from that post-war vision.

A demographic issue arose from the so-called ‘bulge’ of children that resulted from post-war family stability. Furthermore, by the mid-1950s local authorities were worried about the ‘trend’ of increasing numbers of able children entering grammar school sixth forms with ambitions for higher education. Concern was also widespread about the need for increased scientific knowledge and technological skills. With university places grossly insufficient and courses inadequate, how could these issues be addressed in a fully democratic society needing well-educated young people equipped to tackle an increasingly socially complex society? As John Fulton (subsequently Sussex’s first vice-chancellor) put it, graduates were needed:

... to teach in the schools; to fill posts in public administration and in industry; to man the social services; to supply scientific and technical manpower ... [T]he universities have nowadays the duty of educating a great number of others – especially those who need a very high education in science – who would be unable without a university education to learn the skills through which they are going to serve society.

In the late 1950s, the British university landscape comprised the ancient universities of Oxford and Cambridge; four in Scotland; Durham; the collegiate University of London; the federal University of Wales; Queen’s in Belfast; and 12 civic universities which, partly because they were the most recent models, were particularly relevant in the post-war debate. Would expansion occur in existing institutions or in new, tailor-made ones? And, if the latter, should they be university colleges tied to the University of London degree, or be autonomous? At the core was the University Grants Committee, then under the Treasury’s purview. Established in 1919, its increasing role in funding and overseeing universities now became pivotal. The new chairman, the highly respected Oxford academic Keith (later Sir Keith) Murray, appointed in 1952, concluded by the late 1950s that the (varying) target of student places over the next decade – some 170,000 – could not be met by expansion and began working creatively to establish new institutions.

Murray’s criteria for approving proposals included ‘the degree of local enthusiasm”
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and... financial support likely to be forthcoming locally. For despite political acceptance of state responsibility, local authorities and individuals would have to provide capital support, not least in providing new sites and funding student residences. These residential communities constituted a new approach: attracting students nationwide and from overseas to their own campuses, probably on the outskirts of cities where space was accessible. Cities with a well-documented historic interest in creating their own university pressed their cases; in February 1957 the Treasury gave approval in principle for a 'university college of Sussex' and, by April 1960, to York and Norwich. The four other locations were announced in 1961.

A 'promotion committee' would embed the new institution locally. Membership included leading education officers, city dignitaries, local businessmen, prominent professionals, landed gentry and distinguished academics from quasi-sponsoring universities. The main advantage of such sponsorship was financial. At Sussex the Corporation offered a 200-acre site (former home of the earls of Chichester). At York the J. Rowntree Memorial Trust, Rowntree and Co. Board and Morrell Trust each promised £100,000 over ten years. At East Anglia (as 'Norwich' became in 1959) the city council pledged a 165-acre site and the county and borough councils £54,000 per year. At Warwick, partly chosen for its proximity to the Midlands business community, the committee chairman was Lord Rootes, a 'super-salesman'.

New intellectual approaches were hammered out by what one new vice-chancellor described as 'a kind of enlightened academic cartel'. Each institution's individual design was largely due to its creative academic planning board, which included a new breed of hands-on vice-chancellor. York's board, for example, was chaired by Lionel (Lord) Robbins, distinguished economist and author of the 1963 government report on the future of higher education. These powerful individuals ensured their new universities would be 'unfettered in... decisions about degree structures and courses'.

Utopian visions are often inspired by reaction. In this case, some of the decision-makers reacted against aspects of life at the ancient universities, often still seen as preparation for future academics and professionals. Many wanted to avoid the urban universities' characteristic of single honours courses, the 'drilling down' within narrow subject areas taught in strictly delineated, hierarchal academic departments. The C. P. Snow 'Two Cultures' debate that rocked Cambridge in the late 1950s underscored a perceived need to widen undergraduate horizons by introducing them to a broader intellectual dynamic that would cross cultures – even science and the humanities. As many would come from families unfamiliar with university education, they needed to be excited about learning and equipped for new kinds of careers: perhaps social work, business management, or the new profession of government science.

American influences inspired the crossing of intellectual boundaries in the sciences and humanities via linking subjects in novel ways to stimulate undergraduates. Sussex designed Schools of European Studies and Social Studies; East Anglia a School of Biological Sciences, all headed by deans. Teaching methods were debated – moving from the civics' propensity for lectures and the expensive Oxbridge tutorial system, many embraced the American seminar system's encouragement of student/teacher interaction. Renowned architects designed campuses that would enhance the new intellectual concepts.

Academic autonomy's critical importance in the context of state funding was highlighted by Essex's first vice-chancellor, Albert Sloman, in the 1963 Reith Lectures. Criticism soon emerged from those viewing graduates as a privileged elite (doing themselves no favours during the post-1968 student turbulence). Harold Wilson's Labour government, promoting the 'white heat of modern technology', while preoccupied about privilege, designed the 'binary system': polytechnics, funded by local authorities, functioning parallel to universities. The 1970s oil crisis led to catastrophic financial cuts when demand was huge for student places to increase. Then the Thatcher government challenged the 'public good' concept in academia by encouraging universities to be run as businesses in a market economy. By the early 1990s eminent academics such as A. H. Halsey were lamenting dons' loss of status and control, a cause of low academic morale. Yet today these seven 'utopian' universities are, by and large, doing well. The students who strode confidently on to those new campuses between 1961 and 1965 were relatively recently at the peak of their careers, some having been in influential, responsible positions. Many have made their mark on society. It is time to acknowledge the vision of those whose idealism led to the creation of their universities.

The IHR's winter conference on utopian universities will take place on 23-24 October 2014 at Senate House.

Check the conference website for updates: winterconference.history.ac.uk.
The launch of my book, *The Normans and Empire*, held at the IHR on 8 January 2014, was a deeply moving celebration of my association with the institute as reader, Friend and director dating back to 1967. Following a meeting of the early medieval seminar, it was an exceedingly convivial and enjoyable occasion.

I have had a somewhat itinerant professional career and owe debts to several institutions which have chosen to employ me, but the IHR was ultimately, on both personal and professional grounds, the only place where I would have wanted the launch to be held. Published by Oxford University Press in December 2013, *The Normans and Empire*, as its preface explains, is in considerable measure an IHR book, with the summer of 1968 being a significant landmark which I will explain later. Its dedication to the late Phyllis Jacobs, who died on 17 July 2011, and about whom I have written in *Past and Future* (Autumn/Winter 2011), is a statement of thanks for long-standing support and friendship. Holding the launch at the IHR was a tribute to its continuing and indispensably important national and international role, and writing this article sets out to articulate autobiographically its part in my life-story. It also explains why I continue to support an annual bursary for a postgraduate student at the IHR, a point to which I will return.

The arrival in the director's office of a letter dated 5 December 2006 inviting me to give the Ford Lectures in the Hilary Term of 2010 came as a shock. Beyond any doubt one of the most prestigious invitations any historian can receive, the consequential necessity to produce a statement on a major historical topic, as I explain in the book's preface, soon led to the decision to give six lectures on a theme that has occupied my thoughts throughout most of my professional career. What it explains less fully is how much the requirement for a specialist medieval historian to give the lectures in such a way that they transcend narrow specialised interests is indebted to the IHR director's public role, with the associated necessity to be responsible for all types of history, and also to the stimuli supplied by people whom I met and listened to during my years as director.

The idea that the history and histories of the 11th- and 12th-century Normans could be treated within the framework of the universal phenomenon of empire
came to me quickly. The 2005 Anglo-American Conference on the theme ‘States and empires’, interrupted as it was by the terrible terrorist attacks on London of 7 July, and remarkable for the delegates’ and the IHR staff’s dedicated and courageous commitment to the completion of the conference, played a part here. But wider involvement in international collaborations and business of many kinds were also of crucial importance to the decision. Although some among them may be surprised to find themselves linked to a history of the Normans, I am going to express special thanks to David Cannadine, Linda Colley, John Elliot, Peter Marshall and Susan Reynolds. When I broached the idea of a book launch for The Normans and Empire

‘The Normans and Empire is a book about multiculturalism and diversity. It is about individuals, communities and peoples coming to terms not only with the violence of hard power, but with the need to adjust to, and sometimes resist, a bewildering chemistry of change.’

to specialists in earlier and more recent historical periods.

The book’s cover – much commented on before and at the launch – is intended to display ambiguity and ambivalence. These are not the confident Normans of the Bayeux Tapestry crossing the Channel to military triumph. They are worried people, watching a child drown, only for him to be miraculously saved by St Nicholas, allowing the voyagers to complete the journey. One way to foreground ambivalence of the kind that the cover image draws attention to is to advance, as I do, the proposition for scholarly examination that William the Conqueror is more positively portrayed by historians

at that point crystal clear to me that a concentrated spell in the libraries in London was essential if the thesis were to reach the required standard. What was not obvious until afterwards was just how much the contact with the wider historical world that the Institute embodied would transform my attitudes and my work – and indeed my life. The meeting with Phyllis was central to this, but in this context the names of Graham Duncombe (an Exeter postgraduate and VCH staff member tragically killed shortly afterwards in a car accident on the M2), Christopher Brooke and Diana Greenway must be mentioned.

These events subsequently nurtured the unshakeable belief that for PhD students based primarily in the provinces, such as myself, being part of the IHR was likely to be an inspiring experience. It was for this reason that I established and continue to fund the annual bursary that I have already mentioned and why I will conclude with a deeply felt appeal to all readers to contribute generously to the funds on which the IHR’s future is increasingly dependent. Thank you to the IHR and the early medieval seminar for hosting the launch of The Normans and Empire, an event that will always have a special place in my memory.
An introduction to garden history

Janet Waymark, senior research fellow, IHR

Garden history is about designed landscapes, some formal or geometric, others informal or natural, and extends into archaeology, architecture, art, geography, meteorology and sociology. Its place in mankind’s cultural history has until recently gone unrecognised, as educational institutions believed it encompassed gardening only. This article shows how perceptions have altered since the 18th century.

The designs of Scottish landscape gardener John Claudius Loudon (1783–1843) included Birmingham Botanical Gardens (1831) and Derby Arboretum (1839–40). To his American contemporary Andrew Jackson Downing (1815–52) he was ‘the most distinguished gardening author of the age’, as their correspondence reveals. Loudon’s often-reprinted Encyclopaedia of Gardening (1822) includes theory, practice and sections on garden history in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

In May 1904, Marie Luise Gothein (1863–1931) addressed Cologne’s New Philological Society on the origins of English landscape gardening. She later wrote Geschichte der Gartenkunst (1913), published in English as A History of Garden Art (1928). Walter P. Wright, its editor, praised the two volumes, containing examples from ancient Egypt to modern America, the East to Europe, as ‘in soul and structure a record of gardens and not a manual on gardening … Mighty imperial, political, clerical, literary and artistic figures pass through its pages.’

The ‘landscape architect’ profession began in 1828. The American Frederick Law Olmsted (1822–1903) and the Englishman Calvert Vaux (1824–95) adopted the term when constructing New York’s Central Park in 1858. Despite the founding of the American Society of Landscape Architects in 1899, Britain only followed suit in 1929 with the British Association of Garden Architects (Institute of Landscape Architects from 1930). The first president was Thomas Mawson (1861–1933), who lectured in Liverpool University’s civic design department. 1909–24, completed commissions in seven countries, and wrote five editions of The Art and Craft of Garden Making (1900 onwards).

Two of Britain’s most influential gardeners were William Robinson (1838–1935) and Gertrude jekyll (1843–1932). Robinson’s The Wild Garden (1870), and The Garden magazine, which he began in 1870, opposed plans preoccupied with geometry, ribbons and pyramids of glaringly-bright flowers, highly patterned parterres, and glasshouse-grown bedding plants discarded at summer’s end. He focused his explosive wrath, still evident in Garden Design and Architects’s Gardens (1892), on architects such as Reginald Blomfield (1856–1942) and Francis Inigo Thomas (1866–1950), collaborators on The Formal Garden in England (1892). In his own garden the hardy perennials, in their informal settings of meadow, woodland and waterside, were painted by Alfred Parsons (1847–1920). The upper middle-class jekyll (1843–1932) enjoyed discussing plants with Robinson and working with the architect Edwin Lutyens (1869–1944). She wrote Country Life articles and nine books, including Gardens for Small Country Houses, co-written with Country Life’s architectural editor Sir Lawrence Weaver (1876–1930). Jekyll had studied painting at South Kensington School of Art but later transferred to gardening when her eyesight deteriorated. Like Robinson, she favoured woodland, grassland, shade and sun settings in her garden (Munstead Wood, Surrey), her planting having been enriched by her colour theory studies.

Vita Sackville-West (1892–1962), unusually an upper-class garden maker, was among jekyll’s many visitors. Although imaginatively landscaped, her gardens in Kent (Long Barn, then Sissinghurst) remained fixed in the Edwardian country house past. She had a weekly Observer column and published her articles in four volumes between 1951 and 1958.

The Second World War led to an increase of women in the profession. Among them, Brenda Colvin (1897–1981) and Dame Sylvia Crowe (1901–97) were both Landscape Institute presidents in the 1950s and worked on post-war reconstruction and the planning of new towns, including landscaping power stations, reservoirs and industrial sites. As Trish Gibson’s Brenda Colvin: A Career in Landscape (2011) shows, they supported landscape architecture degree courses, but it would be 1967 before the first were offered by Durham and Sheffield universities. The Society of Garden Designers was begun in 1981 and after another long delay Writtle College and Bath introduced practically-based courses. Postgraduate courses are now offered by Buckingham (2012) and the IHR (2014). They increasingly focus on conservation – the preservation and rescue of historic or neglected gardens.

Among the many naturalistic garden designers working today is the world-renowned Piet Oudolf (b. 1944), formerly a nurseryman at Hummelo, in Holland. The central feature of his 1998 garden for Scampston Hall, Yorkshire, is the Perennial Meadow, its seed heads waving against the grasses in autumn. In 2001 Oudolf contributed to the expansion of natural gardening at RHS Wisley. His associate there, Tom Stuart-Smith, studied zoology at Cambridge, but now designs gardens combining the modern and the romantic. Particularly inspired by Italian Renaissance gardens, his Chelsea Flower Show creations have won eight gold medals and three Best in Show. Finally, there is Dan Pearson: impressed by Beth Chatto’s work at the 1976 Chelsea Flower Show, he abandoned art college plans, took an apprenticeship at Wisley, worked at Edinburgh’s Botanic Garden, and in Italy and Japan, and now writes for the Sundays. He is to create the ‘floating garden’ for London’s new bridge (if built).
In the first year of King Edward VI’s reign, a remarkable event was witnessed in the House of Commons. The passage of a key statute in the Reformation, perhaps? Or one of the turning-points in Tudor history highlighted by the eminent historians Geoffrey Elton or Stanford Lehmberg? It was neither, yet – although every bit as portentous as the Act of Supremacy – this particular development has received surprisingly little comment from historians of Parliament.

For two hundred years, the Commons had been assembling in the chapter house or refectory of Westminster Abbey when it wasn’t attending the King on progress. In 1547, however, the knights and burgesses of the Commons settled down in their own home. A chapel within the Palace of Westminster, dedicated to St Stephen and recently vacated by its College of dean and canons, had been hastily converted to a new role as the Commons chamber. This remarkable site is now the focus of a major AHRC-funded research collaboration between the University of York and the IHR.

The full title of our project, ‘St Stephen’s Chapel, Westminster: Visual and Political Culture, 1292–1941’, captures the giddying scale of what we have taken on. The research team is bringing together art historians and specialists in buildings archaeology with political and ecclesiastical historians across a span of seven centuries. Each investigator (Tim Ayers at York, Miles Taylor and me) is taking responsibility for a different phase in the history of this extraordinary space: medieval royal chapel, early modern House of Commons and finally St Stephen’s Hall in the post-1834 fire Gothic palace. Research assistants and PhD students divide their time between project rooms at the IHR and York and their work onsite. (As a new Parliamentary pass-holder, I was required to watch a training film forbidding me from wearing shorts or drilling into walls.)

A digital reconstruction of St Stephen’s in its various roles is being modelled by the Centre for Christianity and Culture at York. The academic research and computer modelling are proceeding in tandem, thus pioneering a new way of working. The result will become a permanent part of the visitor experience to Westminster Hall when the AHRC project concludes in 2016.

Whether St Stephen’s was planned to become a permanent home for the Lower House is difficult to say. Maybe it was a temporary expedient, one of those haphazard responses to the growing demands of government that characterised the 16th century. Whatever the intention, the outcome was a close association between the institution of Parliament and the building in which one half of it was now meeting. Earlier Commons debates had been conducted in the round; now MPs faced each other from opposing benches. What impact did this have on the gathering critique of royal power in the early 17th century, or the emergence of political parties in the 18th? James Jago, one of the project’s postdoctoral researchers, is exploring how depictions of St Stephen’s in pamphlets and medals came to function as representative of parliamentary power itself.

Meanwhile, a related Leverhulme project run by Tim Ayers is concentrating on the exceptionally detailed building accounts for the medieval chapel. The research team is keen to recover individual lives, as well as the architecture of royal and parliamentary power. My own particular interest is in John Chamber, the very last dean of St Stephen’s and thus well placed to benefit from its dissolution; a fact which may not be unconnected to his role as personal physician to Henry VIII. Chamber built the cloister which abuts the chapel, still largely intact but rarely seen, and therefore another focus for our digital reconstruction team.

Public engagement is at the core of this project. One of our more unusual objectives is to communicate the site’s deep history to the current generation of people who work there, hence our recent presentations to the parliamentary Works of Art committees. Future plans include a colloquium and conference, an exhibition and a television documentary; maybe even a concert of sacred music of the sort that would have been heard in St Stephen’s. As one of our AHRC assessors generously observed, this is exactly the kind of project which gives the idea of ‘impact’ some real meaning.
Academic ‘partisanship’ – whether it was legitimate for historians both to hold political allegiances and to pursue them via their research – was a major preoccupation of Eric Hobsbawm, who reflected on the question in an essay originally written in 1979, and later published in his 1997 collection On History.

He pursued a subtle case, distinguishing between blinkered bias and self-reflective engagement, noting that scholarly historians must accept that some of their discoveries about the past may challenge their own views (or indeed be used by opposers of those opinions). Nonetheless, Hobsbawm argued strongly that in conclusion, partisanship is not an academic sin, is not in truth avoidable to at least some degree, and can in fact be desirable. It is through partisanship – a sense of commitment to something larger than the microfield of study – that historians avoid scholastic insularity. It can, he said, ‘serve to counteract the increasing tendency to look inwards’; productively pull other questions and methodologies into history studies, and ensure that the discipline has a job in the world; that history matters.

Hobsbawm’s own commitment to Marxism was of course important here. Throughout the collection he sought to explicate how a political allegiance to a programme of pre-given interpretation could be squared with ongoing, open-ended academic enquiry. His complex discussion emphasised that apparently ‘objective’ approaches to history are not value-free or apolitical, while it argued vehemently against the ‘postmodern’ scepticism that treats all histories as equally valid or invalid, equally implicated and biased. I’m not sure that the line he attempts to take is entirely successful, but the issues raised remain profoundly insightful and important. What should the historian’s role be in the world and in regard to political struggle? What kind of ‘truth’ should we claim for the knowledge our discipline produces? How powerful can history be, as a corrective to distorted pasts, and as a hesitant guide to the future? And if we do not claim allegiances why do we bother to do what we do?

Eric Hobsbawm’s generation of historians shared a strong sense of political commitment and wider social engagement. As with the Annales historians in France earlier in the 20th century, they engaged broadly with Marxist thought, with a clear desire to move beyond description and narration, to a profounder analysis of the mechanisms of historical change, and a strong commitment to social justice issues. British historians in particular were eager to bring the challenge of the past from the rarefied confines of academia into current public, political debates. Eric was of course unparalleled in achieving this, his books being read voraciously worldwide and his influence being strong within the British left, but also in many politically diverse countries including across South America.

How social and cultural historians should answer the ‘partisanship’ question, while working to make the past speak urgently to the present, is further complicated by the 21st century’s fragmented political landscape. To address issues left by Hobsbawm’s capacious legacy, and engender a collective discussion around our current work, Birkbeck’s department of history, classics and archaeology (where he worked for most of his career, and acted as college president until his death in 2012) and the journal Past & Present (which he co-founded) have co-organised with the IHR a major conference for well-established and early career researchers worldwide. ‘History after Hobsbawm’ aims to encourage ‘outward’ thinking; not necessarily as clearly defined political partisans, but at least reflecting the fact that history practice is always implicated in current political debate – equally true for students of 20th-century Europe or much longer periods and wider vistas.

Those wider vistas were crucially important to Eric’s work: positioning Britain clearly within Europe, and Europe within the world, stretching back to the pre-modern period, always embracing wider lessons from the more distant past and from different cultures. This ‘endless engagement ensured Hobsbawm’s ‘partisanship’ was never totally rigid or pre-set because he was able to balance his own bold interpretations of the past with the possibility of new insights and perspectives. He undoubtedly had blind spots – most famously questions of gender, but also a problematic relationship to the ‘popular culture’ of any age (his own love of jazz notwithstanding). But ultimately he listened to the past, seeing it as broader and richer than those fields clumsily labelled ‘British history’, ‘European history’ and ‘social history’. His partisanship ultimately showed how the past is in the present, and how the present needs to understand its past better in order to shape its future. ‘We dream forward’, as he put it in On History. We look back, but we dream forward.

History after Hobsbawm runs 29 April–1 May 2014; see www.bbk.ac.uk/history/about-us/events/history-after-hobsbawm.
Fellows’ corner: Music and post-Reformation English Catholics: place, sociability and space, 1570–1640

Emilie Murphy, RHS Centenary Fellow, IHR

In recent years ‘early modern Catholic history has begun to come in from the cold’, to borrow Peter Marshall and Abbot Geoffrey Scott’s apt remark. Rather than focusing on studies limited to ‘recusants’ or even ‘church papists’, we now know how English Catholics might adopt a variety of devotional and political stances through their lifetimes while still identifying as Catholic. Yet how English Catholics forged their individual and communal identities during this period remains underexplored, the presence of a community often assumed, without thinking of how individuals defined themselves and understood their membership of a minority faith.

My project, generously supported in its final year by the IHR and the Royal Historical Society, set out to enhance scholarly understanding of English Catholicism from Elizabeth I’s excommunication in 1570 to the eve of the civil wars in 1640. It began with the unusual, unanswered and, as I have discovered, vital question: what did it sound like to be a Catholic? For historians have largely ignored all that music can tell us about early modern England. By utilising music in the broadest sense possible to include its material culture, vocal and instrumental sounds, performance and composition, my project sheds new light on what it meant to be Catholic in post-Reformation England.

The lives of English Catholics are unimaginable without music. When investigating Catholic exiles, predominantly focusing on the convents and seminaries established in the Spanish Netherlands, I used an eclectic range of primary material such as rule books and constitutions, ceremonials, benefactors’ records and literary sources such as poetry. I argue that the ‘soundscapes’ of these institutions were a crucial part of how exiles defined for themselves a sense of ‘place’, despite their detachment from England, alongside differentiating themselves within the European political landscape. In exploring their musical links with England, I also challenge the prevailing view that English Catholic exiles were somehow different from the Catholics living in England.

Using evidence drawn from Star Chamber state papers and records, alongside commonplace books containing songs (particularly ballads) recorded and composed by Catholic groups that either attended or refused to attend the established church, I have unearthed the sounds of Catholic communities at home. Such communities were undoubtedly variegated and yet, by using music, Catholics were united in forms of expression. Through composing and singing they exhorted their pious, social and political response to living as a member of an underground religion.

In its final section, my project draws the focus in to explore Catholic response to direct forms of persecution, and reveals the ways Catholics creatively used music in their devotions to transform and appropriate space. This was vividly manifested in an upper-class household in Northamptonshire, where the family preserved the last words of an executed Catholic priest and set them to music. The piece was arranged in an unusual ‘table-book’ format, requiring the singers to stand facing each other in order to sing their parts clearly. This purposeful arrangement endeavoured to emulate a church chancel – a space now denied to English Catholics. Through the performance of this music the domestic space became sacred, transformed both aurally, with the devotional music and text to honour the priest, and physically, with the positioning of the singers.

Taken together, my project’s musical moments allow us to listen to Catholic men and women, and to hear in new and exciting ways what they had to say about their negotiation of estrangement from their Protestant home country. By focusing on the interaction between groups and individuals, the interchange between religious and communal identity, and above all the adaptation of Catholic piety and the construction of devotional identities, my project reveals a more nuanced picture of what it meant to be an English Catholic in late Elizabethan and early Stuart England.

Refurbishing the IHR – nearly there!

Now that the end is in sight, it doesn’t feel so long ago that we had to vacate our home in the north block of Senate House to make way for the builders. Work is progressing rapidly, and we have begun to host tours of the construction site for donors to the project. Thanks to the enormous generosity of all our supporters, we have raised almost all the funding needed to complete the project, although we still face a gap of £160,000.

As mentioned in the last edition of Past and Future, we are offering naming opportunities in recognition of gifts starting at £150. Many of you will already have received letters asking you to give at this level, and we have been thrilled to see so many new names among the responses. It has been reassuring to learn that the IHR is recognised as an important resource by the wider history community. So often when we approach external funding bodies, they ask why we do not charge more for our services. We could, of course, but this would not be supportive of the profession and community as a whole – and first and foremost the IHR exists to support historians, particularly in the early stages of their careers. If you haven’t given already, I would like to ask you to think about what the IHR is worth to you and, if you are able, to make a gift reflecting that. This really is the last opportunity to invest in its physical fabric.

Chairs for chairs – invest in the IHR

To spearhead our final appeal for the refurbishment, IHR Trust chair and former IHR director, Professor David Cannadine, made the first gift and then wrote to past and present senior IHR management, holders of university history chairs and IHR Friends who are professors, asking them to join him in supporting the Institute. This phase of our appeal was fabulously successful and raised nearly £10,000.

Leading the second phase of the appeal, Professor Caroline Barron, chair of the Friends and an IHR trustee, has written more widely to the British Friends, and we are also approaching a variety of societies with links to the Institute. The funds raised between now and the completion of the redevelopment will enable us to furnish the Institute – from chairs and desks to portable IT equipment and specialist conservation materials - these are what your donation could help to support.

Friends’ events

The Friends of the IHR continue to host their successful series of events, which are open to all.

On 17 February, Penelope Corfield, Professor Emeritus, Royal Holloway, University of London, presented the film The Duchess (2008), based on the biography Georgina Cavendish, Duchess of Devonshire, by Amanda Foreman. Professor Corfield, who is an expert on economic, social, cultural and urban history from the 18th to the early 20th centuries, presented the historical context for the film, touching upon its costumes and the fashion of the day.

Information on future film evenings, as well as the Friends annual summer outing, will be sent to our mailing list soon. And you can also keep up to date with IHR news by following its blog, http://blog.history.ac.uk/.

Annual General Meeting
Speaker: Professor Sir David Cannadine
Monday 27 October 2014

Architectural images of conference suite (left) and library (right) © BDP
Professor Dame Jinty Nelson’s perspective on IHR seminars

Michelle Waterman, IHR development officer

I recently had the pleasure of speaking to Professor Dame Jinty Nelson about the seminars with which she has been involved for more than 30 years.

After attending Keswick School in Cumbria, Professor Nelson, or Jinty as she likes to be known, earned her BA in 1964 and PhD in 1967 at Newnham College, Cambridge. Her first job was at King’s College London, where she remained until her retirement in 2007. Jinty is an enormously influential figure within early medieval European studies because of her ground-breaking research, but her wisdom, understanding and generosity extend across the whole profession.

Soon after starting at King’s she began attending the IHR’s earlier middle ages seminar, eventually becoming one of its convenors. At that time there was a shift in early medieval studies from a British, constitutional and legal history focus to a more European or international and cultural orientation. This, coupled with its increased frequency (from fortnightly to weekly), established a large core of regular attenders including postgraduates. The seminar almost immediately outgrew its room: ‘The Ecclesiastical History Room was always too small. It was sometimes like the Black Hole of Calcutta, but I certainly never wanted to move,’ she says.

In the mid-1980s Jinty co-founded the women’s history seminar at what proved to be a pivotal time. Not by chance, the first meeting and the appearance of Joan Scott’s article on gender in the American Historical Review nearly coincided.1 Jinty believes that people ‘needed to be jolted into recognising that the world had changed ... I think one of the triumphs of the seminar over the years is that it took on a kind of global agenda, which it is almost uniquely qualified to do – comparing the legal position of women in 19th-century England with Bengal, for instance, which immediately gets into the heart of things, to actual lives and the way that gender relations work in cultures’.

Of crucial importance to her is the fact ‘that the seminars promote really good historical research: I have to put that first’. Research students are, she says, a priority for convenors: ‘The majority of papers given are by research students or very recent postdocs. The seminars allow them to try out their ideas before an audience that includes a critical mass of specialists, thanks to the scale of historical studies in and near London. The audience is full of people that know a heck of a lot about the subject and are critical, but are not going to undermine you. It is quite the opposite, they are going to respond and encourage.’

Jinty emphasises how much can be gained from such expertise: ‘I am struck the older I become by the value of research students having informal conversations with scholars who are senior in both senses.’ And this is not just from looking at them as role models, but rather the opportunity ‘to talk to people you might not even have met before, but [who] are sympathetic and with whom you share something very important – the study of history’. That interaction ‘can be immensely helpful and reassuring, and the inter-generational benefits work both ways’.

As Jinty points out, many of the research students may be giving a paper for the first time: ‘It is a kind of initiation rite. If you look at the medieval journals that have more space for the earlier medieval period it is amazing how many [articles] began as papers presented at the earlier medieval seminar, and/or are acknowledged as such by their authors.’ The seminars enhance the discipline as a whole, Jinty believes, because they ‘create and strengthen networks of scholars. The discussions that follow, not just the formal part of it, but the socialising part, getting into conversations with visiting scholars or postgraduates over a drink, or dinner – that’s where the genesis of big ideas can happen’. This is where we come to the value of sponsoring a seminar. ‘You do not have to have vast amounts of money. This sort of sponsorship could very well be done by a small group. I have been thinking a lot about this. I haven’t the means on my own to do it, but it is possible in a group. We could fund a seminar on a year by year basis. For the price [of sponsoring a seminar], what you are getting is immensely important. You are allowing it to flourish by bringing in people from outside London and enabling research students to create their own networks, which more often than not are enduring. Collaborations start in academic socialising: work-talk’.2


You can read more about seminar sponsorship on page 20.

If you are interested in sponsoring a seminar, please contact Michelle Waterman in the development office (IHR.Development@sas.ac.uk / 0207 862 8764 / 8791).
Seminars at the IHR

The IHR’s world-renowned programme of seminars continues to go from strength to strength. Seminars meet weekly during term time and all are welcome. Please note not all seminars meet each term. An up-to-date programme for each seminar can be found on the IHR’s website at www.history.ac.uk/ihrseminars/ and is also displayed within the IHR.

American history
Thursday, 5.30pm

Archives and society
Tuesday, 5.45pm

British history in the 17th century
Thursday, 5.15pm

British history in the long 18th century
Wednesday, 5.15pm

British maritime history
Tuesday, 5.15pm

Christian missions in global history
Wednesday, 5.30pm

Collecting & display (100 BC to AD 1700)
Monday, 6.00pm

Comparative histories of Asia
Thursday, 5.30pm

Conversations and disquisitions
Friday, 4.30pm

Crusades and the Latin East
Monday, 5.15pm

Digital history
Tuesday, 5.15pm

Disability history
Monday, 5.15pm

Earlier middle ages
Wednesday, 5.30pm

Early modern material cultures
Wednesday, 5.15pm

Economic and social history of the pre-modern world, 1500–1800
Friday, 5.15pm

Education in the long 18th century
Saturday, 2.00pm

European history 1150–1550
Thursday, 5.30pm

European history 1500–1800
Monday, 5.15pm

Film history
Thursday, 5.30pm

Gender and history in the Americas
Monday, 5.30pm

Global history
Thursday, 5.30pm

History Lab seminar
Thursday, 5.30pm

History of education
Thursday, 5.30pm

History of gardens and landscapes
Thursday, 5.30pm

History of libraries
Tuesday, 5.30pm

History of political ideas
Wednesday, 5.15pm

Imperial and world history
Monday, 5.15pm

International history
Tuesday, 6.00pm

Jewish history
Tuesday, 5.15pm

Late medieval and early modern Italy
Thursday, 5.15pm

Late medieval seminar
Friday, 5.30pm

Latin American history
Tuesday, 5.30pm

Life-cycles
Tuesday, 5.15pm

Locality & region
Tuesday, 5.15pm

London group of historical geographers
Tuesday, 5.15pm

London Society for Medieval Studies
Tuesday, 7.00pm

Low Countries history
Friday, 5.15pm

Marxism in culture
Friday, 5.30pm

Media and communications history
Thursday, 5.30pm

Medieval and Tudor London
Thursday, 5.15pm

Metropolitan history
Wednesday, 5.30pm

Military history
Tuesday, 5.15pm

Modern British history
Thursday, 5.15pm

Modern French history
Monday, 5.30pm

Modern German history
Thursday, 5.30pm

Modern Italian history
Wednesday, 5.30pm

Modern religious history
Wednesday, 5.15pm

Oral history
Thursday, 6.00pm

Parliaments, politics and people
Tuesday, 5.15pm

Philosophy of history
Thursday, 5.30pm

Psychoanalysis and history
Wednesday, 5.30pm

Public history
Wednesday, 5.30pm

Reconfiguring the British: nation, empire, world 1600–1900
Thursday, 5.30pm

Religious history of Britain 1500–1800
Tuesday, 5.15pm

Rethinking modern Europe
Wednesday, 5.30pm

Socialist history
Monday, 5.30pm

Society, culture and belief 1500–1800
Thursday, 5.30pm

Sport and leisure history
Monday, 5.15pm

Studies of home
Wednesday, 5.30pm

Tudor & Stuart history
Monday, 5.15pm

Voluntary action history
Monday, 5.15pm

War, society and culture
Wednesday, 5.15pm

Women’s history
Friday, 5.15pm

One-year seminar sponsorship costs £1,000 which can be covered by one individual, one institution or by a group of supporters:

• Three people paying £28 per month for a year
• Eight people paying £11 per month for a year

Similar arrangements can be made for a five-year sponsorship. For more information, please contact Michelle Waterman in the development office (IHR.Development@sas.ac.uk / 0207 862 8764/8791).
Seminar in focus:
History of sexuality
Dr Justin Bengry, honorary research fellow, Birkbeck College

In response to the incredible growth of interest in histories of sex and sexuality in recent years, a new seminar on this topic has been founded at the IHR. While the seminar programme has long welcomed papers engaged with the subject, no single seminar could provide for a sustained dialogue on its range of interests and themes across regions and periods. Refusing straightforward categorisation, the history of sexuality nonetheless focuses broadly on men and women as sexual beings in the past. It also explores the categories of heterosexuality and homosexuality but, moving beyond this binary, engages with other historical expressions of gender identity and sexual experience.

Initiated by members of the Raphael Samuel History Centre, the seminar soon grew to include convenors from a further nine institutions across the UK and internationally. It seeks to foster a network of scholars and non-academics interested in the history of sexuality and meanings of sexual behaviours over time. The seminar also reflects convenors’ commitment to engaging with the subject both domestically and globally, with the first year’s programme welcoming both local speakers and guests from abroad.

In January, our opening roundtable asked a panel of speakers to consider the question ‘What is the history of sexuality?’ It was an overwhelming success. With attendance in excess of 80, the Senate House Court Room was overflowing with eager audience members whose questions and comments continued long after the event. Across time period, region and theme, speakers Howard Chiang (Warwick), Faramerz Dabhoiwala (Oxford), Kate Fisher (Exeter), Dan Healey (Oxford) and Garthine Walker (Cardiff) identified problems, explored methodologies and signalled opportunities for scholars of the history of sexuality. They reminded us of the historical specificity of language and terminology, and encouraged us to think beyond the particular, but at the same time not to lose the specificity of experience in our research. Finally, given current issues in Russia, we all reflected on the continued urgency and significance of the history of sexuality today. ‘The history of sexuality is a radical, provocative exercise’, concluded Dan Healey.

The remainder of our first term has been equally exciting. Our second session opened LGBT [Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender] History Month with two papers on queer desire. Helen Smith’s (Sheffield) paper on mid-20th-century working-class men in the industrial north of England demonstrated the importance of social context over the language of sexuality for framing men’s understandings of themselves and their sexual experiences. Emma Vickers (Liverpool John Moores) explored the significance of queer recruits brought into national service, now an internal issue rather than an external threat. The term concluded with a paper from Dan Wilson (Royal Holloway) on ‘friendly’ censorship of Goethe’s erotic poetry, which importantly brought literary studies into the seminar.

We look forward to an exciting range of international papers in our second term. Our first session will once again include two papers, by Sarah Duff and Catherine Burns (both at Witwatersrand University), on histories of sex and sexuality in South Africa (6 May). Our second session (27 May) will welcome Marianna Muravyeva (Oxford Brookes), whose paper will examine attitudes to sexual deviancy in 18th-century Russia. And the final paper (17 June) will continue the international

focus when Ofer Nur (Tel Aviv) speaks on homosexuality and Zionism in the 1920s.

The strong support for the seminar is matched by interest in an associated blog launched the same day: ‘Notches: (re)marks on the history of sexuality’ (notchesblog.com), collaboratively edited by Justin Bengry (Birkbeck/McGill), Julia Laite (Birkbeck) and Amy Tooth Murphy (University of East London), includes contributions from an international group of established scholars, postgraduates, activists and other writers. All are engaged, like the seminar, with histories of sex and sexuality across period and region. In its first six weeks, the blog recorded more than 10,000 views, which combined with the seminar’s success further confirms the vitality, dynamism and enthusiasm for continued engagement with histories of sex and sexuality.

The seminar meets at the Court Room, Senate House, London every third Tuesday at 6pm during term time. Podcasts of past seminars are available on the IHR website. For more information, visit: www.history.ac.uk/events/seminars/385. For regular updates ‘like’ us at: www.facebook.com/IHRSeminar or follow us on Twitter: @IHR_Sexuality.
Postgraduate research training courses at the IHR

Each year the IHR runs a wide-ranging and extensive training programme in skills for historical researchers from UK universities. Using a range of teaching approaches (workshops, seminars, lectures, hands-on practicals and visits), important and specialised skills are explained and explored by expert practitioners. Courses are short (from one day to one term), cover the whole range of necessary skills – from archival use and languages to databases and the internet – and are priced to be within the means of students.

Archival research skills
Methods and sources for historical research
14–18 July 2014
Introduction to finding and gaining access to primary sources for historical research in archives, museums and online through an intensive programme of lectures and archival visits. The many repositories visited will include the British Library, National Archives, Parliamentary Archives and Wellcome Library. Fee £225.

General historical skills
An introduction to oral history
Mondays, 28 April–7 July 2014
This 11-week course on Monday afternoons, introducing all the practical and technical skills necessary to conduct interviews for historical research, is for beginners and those wishing to develop interviewing skills. It shows how to get the most out of participants and gives a complete grounding in theoretical and ethical questions. Fee £225.

Oral history spring school
8–10 May 2014
Held in association with the Oral History Society, this course is for established researchers in the field. The six major areas covered are: memory; experience; representativeness and generalisability; the researcher’s habits; re-use of recordings; outputs and impacts. The final day includes best practice in teaching oral history. Fee £225.

Historic gardens: research in action
Tuesdays, 13 May–1 July 2014
An introduction to how archival research findings on historic gardens can contribute to garden restoration, conservation and management. The course adopts a case-study approach to explore these relationships through a combination of lectures, seminar-based discussions and site visits. Fee £250.

Latin
Further medieval and Renaissance Latin
Wednesdays, 30 April–2 July 2014
This 10-week course carries on from the first two IHR medieval and Renaissance Latin courses to round out students’ grasp of the language, allowing them to tackle more advanced texts. They will gain a strong grounding in the mechanics of Latin, and an understanding of the changes it underwent and the new ways in which it was used in Europe in that period. Fee £250.

Information technology courses
Databases for historians II: practical database tools
23–25 July 2014
This course aims to develop the practical skills necessary for constructing and fully exploiting a database for use in historical research. Assuming a basic understanding of the conceptual issues in digitally managing information from historical sources, it will introduce the specific tools and techniques required for improving the utility of the database, ranging from data entry to generation and presentation of analysis. Fee £200.

Internet sources for historical research
2 June 2014
An intensive introduction to using the internet as a tool for serious historical research. It includes sessions on academic mailing lists, usage of gateways, search engines and other finding aids, and on effective searching using Boolean operators and compound search terms, alongside advice on winnowing the useful matter from the vast mass of unsorted data available, and on applying proper caution in the use of online information. Fee £100.

Textual analysis with computers (NVivo)
(TBC) May 2014
Researchers in social sciences and humanities increasingly use computers to manage, organise and analyse non-numerical data from textual sources. This workshop introduces historians to this rapidly growing field, furnishing them with a good working grasp of NVivo software and its uses for all historical research projects. Fee £100.

Historical mapping and Geographic Information Systems
(6 May 2014)
Practical workshop on Geographic Information Systems software (GIS), which does much more than create maps as illustrations. GIS can make sense of historical data with a spatial component, both at the level of buildings and streets or at the level of nations, and performs sophisticated geospatial and topographical analyses. Fee: £75.

For full details and application forms, see www.history.ac.uk/research-training or contact Dr Simon Trafford, Institute of Historical Research, University of London, Senate House, Malet Street, London, WC1E 7HU (ihr.training@sas.ac.uk).

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Plenary lecturers include Jay Winter, Bill Nanson, John Horne and Christine Hallett.

The conference will include a publishers’ book fair, policy forum, film screenings and 27 panel sessions. For programme and registration details, please visit www.anglo-american.history.ac.uk or contact the IHR Events Office at IHR.Events@sas.ac.uk.

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