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Archives & Records
Association
UK & Ireland

CONFERENCE 2018

Grand Central Hotel, Glasgow
29th – 31st August 2018

Welcome to ARC Magazine March 2018

Welcome to this year's Advocacy issue of ARC, which highlights once again the dedication of individuals and organisations in promoting particular initiatives or projects.

The Explore Your Archive campaign once again highlighted the unique potential of archives to bring people together and the continued ability of repositories to explore new ways to open up their collections.

I started in archives through my love of history and I am pleased to see the role of historical societies featuring prominently in this issue, as organisations encourage close collaboration throughout the cultural sector.

However, what I enjoyed the most was the fascinating article on the Kids in Museums Takeover Day. This is a fantastic example of how children are not only being introduced to a profession they may be unfamiliar with, but also how everyone within the profession can learn from how others interact with archive collections.

The articles are filled with opportunities to become involved in various initiatives or provide inspirations for new ones, and I encourage readers to use the contact details provided and continue to share their own ideas and experiences.



Thank you to Jon Elliott for co-ordinating the content and to everyone who submitted an article.

Finally thank you to everyone involved in advocating the importance of archives and records.

Enjoy the issue!

Ceri Brough
ARC Editor

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The Historical Association: the voice for history

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opening lines



And how it slips! In May at our AGM I'll be standing down as chair and will be leaving the Board after almost 8 years, having been first elected when ARA was formed in 2010. If that wasn't bad enough, I was on the National Council on Archives from 2004 to 2010, so fourteen years with no time off for good behaviour. Let that be a warning to anyone thinking of standing for the Board!

Actually, and in all seriousness, it's been a great privilege to be involved with both organisations and I know I have learnt much more than I've been able to give. While these roles do take up time and energy, they are a great chance to see and shape where we can take our profession and our sector, to make a difference. It is not for nothing that our vision as an organisation is for 'a society that treasures and safeguards archives and records and values the role of specialist record keepers'.

So, what for me have been some of the highlights?

First, I'm very glad that over the past eight years we have been able to celebrate even more strongly the really great work that happens in our sector. Prizes can occasionally seem a bit naff and a pale imitation of the Oscars ('Best Supporting Records Manager', 'Best Live Action Conservation' etc.) but they do recognise huge achievements. In 2017 alone just think of 'Talking Syria' – the Voice of the Voiceless Displaced, the Community Archive and Heritage Group award; *Speak Out London* – Diversity City, the LGBTQ+ contemporary history project and winner of the Volunteering Award for London Metropolitan Archives; and the Record-Keeping Service of the year, Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service.

*Well time slips away, and leaves
you with nothing, mister, but
boring stories of glory days*

Bruce Springsteen

And let's not forget the many gallant runners-up, a pointer to so much strength-in-depth in our community.

Secondly, I'm proud of the commitment ARA has made to talking with colleagues across and beyond the sector, from national archives to community organisations, from parliamentarians to individual members. Communication is often only noticed when it breaks down and it has been one of ARA's most important inheritances from the NCA that we are always looking to talk and work with others, and not work in isolation. When we get it wrong, we genuinely want to know.

And thirdly, the annual conference has now become one of the most important and successful things we provide for members and for the wider world. I have to admit that in my own days as a new professional I was more likely to avoid our conference because I saw it as not for me and, quite frankly, pretty boring. Now we have an event that more and more people are coming to, it talks about the things that matter, whether that's Hillsborough, Orgreave or GDPR, and is even occasionally fun. The ARA conference teams since 2010 have put in a huge shift to develop it to where it is now and I'm sure the next two conferences in Glasgow and Edinburgh will go even further.

So, there have been some glory days, we've crossed a few badlands, sometimes it's been one step up and two steps back, but there are definitely better days; the ARA was born to run (and run). And here I have exhausted your patience with Springsteen references!

Geoff Pick

ARA chair

Professional development news

Take control of your career with a professional development plan.

In February I visited the Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service set in The Hive, a striking building minutes away from the banks of the river Severn in Worcester. The service offers an impressive service to the public; it holds approximately 12 miles of records and, uniquely, the microfilm sources, PCs and local studies library are available on a self-service basis for almost 100 hours per week. The team are currently working to develop their services to remote customers. This includes the development of a new website (www.explorethepast.co.uk) and they have launched a resource pack aimed at helping overseas customers to understand and access the range of sources that they hold.

The purpose of my visit was to meet the team and discuss the ARA's new competency based approach to qualify as a Foundation, Registered or Fellow member. "Our staff team includes Registered Members, Mentors, an Assessor and two potential Foundation Members" explained Dr Lisa Snook RMARA, User Services Manager at Worcester. "So it was helpful for us to better understand the new Foundation Member and Registered Revalidation processes".

The ARA's competency framework formed the basis of the initial discussion. The framework is the tool that employers should use when considering staff training and development, and individual members should use when planning their own professional development. It is also a career development tool, helping all those working in the record keeping sector to think and plan how they can maximise professional development opportunities. The framework benefits from competencies that are transferable and sector specific, enabling professionals to build on existing experience to improve their employability and drive their career forward. In addition, it helps senior managers and the very experienced gain recognition for their career achievements.

We also discussed new CPD guidance, including how to develop your own professional development plan. Remember, any activity has the potential to offer CPD as long as there is a learning outcome that you can reflect on. What has been learned, and how can that knowledge and experience be used to improve what we do? Finally, the new revalidation process and Foundation Membership were explained. Members can read more on the ARA website. "We found Chris's visit helpful" said Lisa after the meeting. "I'd encourage other employers to invite the ARA to meet with their team and discuss how the ARA's new programme can help staff develop their professional status and confidence".

During the discussions it was good to be reminded of the challenges facing all public sector employees, many of whom have real concerns over pay, professional recognition and future opportunities. There is no end in sight to the financial pressures facing local authorities, or the consequential impacts on pay and opportunity. However, individuals must continue to respond positively to the issues impacting on the profession. Continuing your professional development remains as important as ever.

The service offers a wealth of experience and knowledge combined with a good understanding of the importance of CPD. The willingness to embrace opportunities must surely be one reason why Worcestershire was awarded the ARA's Record Keeping Service of the Year 2017. My thanks to the staff team for their time.

Any members interested in a presentation on the ARA competency framework, revalidation and Foundation, Registered and Fellow membership should contact me at the ARA.

Chris Sheridan

CPD Programme Manager

Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service set in The Hive.





**Archives & Records
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UK & Ireland



International Council on Archives
Conseil International des Archives

International Conference **2019**



Edinburgh International Conference Centre
21 - 23 October 2019

Collecting matters

New Archives Revealed scoping grants

The National Archives (UK) and the Pilgrim Trust have recently launched a new funding strand within the Archives Revealed programme.

The new scoping grants will provide up to £3000 to organisations who need some expert advice and support relating to the analysis and development of their archive collections.

Scoping grants will enable Archives Revealed to support more archives, especially those with collections at an early stage of development. A scoping grant will help organisations to better understand the needs and content of their collections and assist with planning the continued development of their archives.

Archive experts approved by the Archives Revealed programme will deliver a structured report that provides professional advice on a range of areas relating to collections management and the development of the archive collection.

Applications for scoping grants can be made at any time with decisions expected within 12 weeks of the application being made.

Scoping grants are suitable for public bodies, registered charities and other not-for-profit organisations, who hold an archive which is, or will be, available to others for research.

More information about the new scoping grant programme - including eligibility and how to apply - can be found on our website at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archives-sector/finding-funding/archives-revealed/

If you have any questions about scoping grants or our other funding programmes, please contact the Archives Revealed team on archivesrevealed@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

Beth Astridge

The National Archives (UK)



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**KODAK NO. 2A FOLDING RAINBOW
HAWK-EYE CAMERA, 1931-1932**

Nucleus opened last February. Courtesy of the NDA



Top accolade for nuclear record-keeping

A £21 million archive, built in the far north of Scotland to house historic nuclear material from across the UK, has received government endorsement for its record-keeping.

Place of Deposit status was granted by the National Archives (UK) and National Records of Scotland following a rigorous assessment of all operational aspects at Nucleus (The Nuclear and Caithness Archives), which opened in February 2017.

Located next to Wick John O’Groats Airport, the facility is close to Dounreay nuclear site, where experiments with fast breeder reactor technology took place for many decades. Still home to three long-closed test reactors, the site is owned by the government’s Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) and is in the process of being slowly dismantled.

“Our specialist contractor Restore Ltd has worked incredibly hard to achieve Place of Deposit status and we’re extremely proud of their commitment and the culture of openness they’ve created,” said the NDA’s Martin Robb.

The news comes just shortly after the facility’s sleek, angular lines impressed judges in the annual Architects’ Journal awards, collecting two of the top trophies:

Editor’s Choice and Public Building of the Year.

Edinburgh-based Reiach and Hall Architects feature the stunning design on the home page of their website.

The new archive has a dual role: as well as records from more than a dozen of the country’s earliest nuclear sites, Nucleus houses a collection of local Caithness records that have outgrown their existing home.

Since opening, an exercise has been underway to transfer thousands of nuclear plans, photographs, drawings and other records from diverse locations. The painstaking ‘sift and lift’ process, expected to last at least five years, requires millions of documents to be examined before being either destroyed or carefully indexed and packaged for the move north.

Sellafield Ltd. alone has more than 130,000 boxes of archived records in off-site storage, plus material on site and in various offices - estimated as stretching, if laid out, to more than 120km worth of paperwork. The 12 Magnox Ltd. sites have a similar-sized collection in storage. The number of electronic records across the estate is believed to number hundreds of millions.



The facility is next to Wick John O'Groats Airport. Courtesy of the NDA

“We’re extremely proud of their commitment and the culture of openness they’ve created”

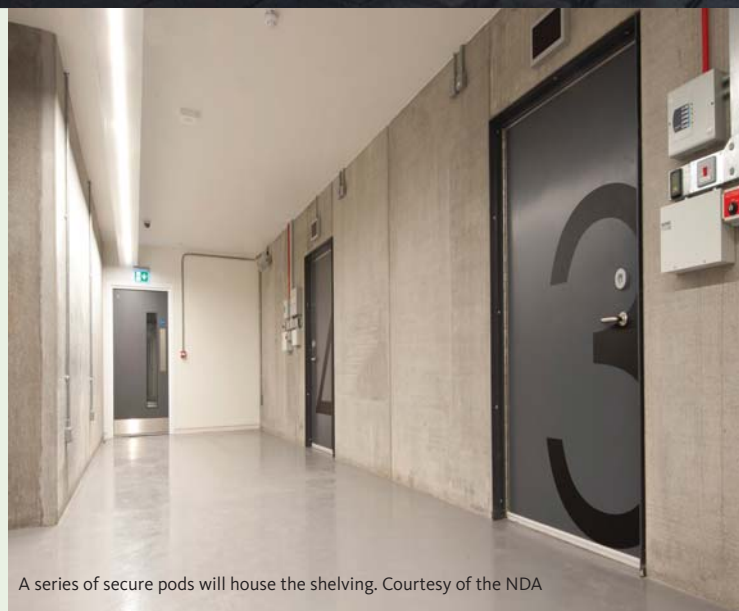
Eventually, decades of records, both in digital and hard copy, will be housed at Nucleus where they will be available for ongoing research.

Building the facility in Scotland enabled the NDA to honour its responsibility to help offset the economic impact of closing sites that were once major regional employers. At its peak, Dounreay employed more than 3,000 people and provided work for local businesses. It will close in the next decade or so.

The site’s records - including a third of a million photographs and 200 tonnes of documents – were the first nuclear collection to arrive, followed by epidemiological records from the nuclear industry.

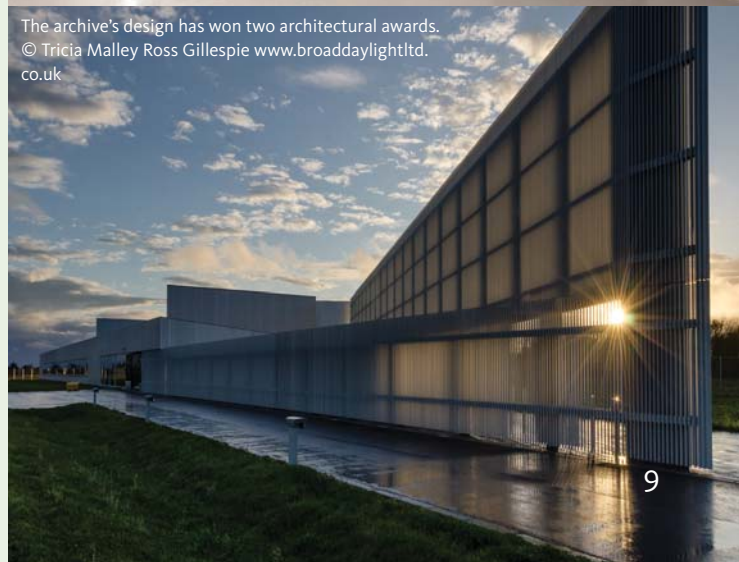
Secure pods containing up to 26 km of shelving will ensure the records are catalogued, indexed and

www.archives.org.uk



A series of secure pods will house the shelving. Courtesy of the NDA

The archive’s design has won two architectural awards.
© Tricia Malley Ross Gillespie www.broaddaylightltd.co.uk





Records will be stored on 26km of shelving. Courtesy of the NDA preserved. Old decaying documents will be transferred to archive-quality paper and digitised, while humidity and temperature will be carefully controlled to minimise the potential for deterioration.

Nucleus employs approximately 20 people including archivists, preservation experts and support staff.

The archive also fulfils an important role for a future geological disposal facility (GDF), acting as a central repository for detailed waste records that must be safeguarded for many generations.

Discussions are under way with the Ministry of Defence, new build developers and operators of the UK's current nuclear power stations to potentially consolidate their records at Nucleus.

Nucleus is a key part of a wider NDA programme aiming to ensure that all kinds of records, knowledge and professional expertise are retained, kept safe and managed effectively.

The NDA is responsible for all the information in its estate, including archived operational records and plant designs to graphics, photographs, publications, digital records, patents, research documents and so on.

Deborah Ward

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority



Recreation as treatment, the stage and dining hall, Ref. KHF/6/1/1. Image courtesy of Cambridgeshire Archives

Inside the Fulbourn Hospital archive

Kevin Roberts and Tiffany Kirby discuss the process and impact of cataloguing the records of Fulbourn Hospital

Of all the hospital collections held by Cambridgeshire Archives, the records of Fulbourn Hospital (formerly Fulbourn Asylum) have proven the most popular with researchers. The collection documents the ups and downs of the Asylum from its inception in 1858 to its early years under the National Health Service in the 1950s. The records are extensive and diverse, covering governance, finance, staff, property and most notably, patients. The collection has been the focus of a two-year internal cataloguing project involving the collections and public service teams to facilitate greater access to the archive.

This project has now come to fruition with the new catalogue publicly available remotely through the Cambridgeshire Archives website and onsite in a new paper format.

The most personal and compelling records are the extensive medical case notes, which frequently include photographs and are restricted from general access for 100 years.

Ellen Sophia Badcock, 32 year-old dressmaker, was admitted to Fulbourn Hospital on 21 October 1908. According to the records, she

www.archives.org.uk



20592

Fulbourn Hospital, near Cambridge.

Fulbourn and its grounds, KHF/6/1/5. Image courtesy of Cambridgeshire Archives

became dazed, confused and “strange in manner.” She had little idea of time, thought the devil had got her and that she was in hell. Her brother was in Fulbourn and her sister had been admitted twice, so it was concluded her condition was hereditary. Before she died it was observed she could not keep herself straight when standing or sitting, although her notes show the staff were uncertain, “...[W]hether some of this is put on.” She died one week later on 8 February 1910.

A reminder of how varied the conditions of patients were is the case of Mary Bailey, who had senile dementia. She was a 75 year-old widow confused about who she was, where she was and what she was doing. Unable to sleep at night, she sang songs. She said her husband was head of Trinity College and a great musician and she was a clever musician and used to sing at King’s College Chapel. The doctor noted she burst into song while he examined her heart. She died on 24th December 1916.

Other parts of the collection include a token used in the cafeteria and images of the hospital as a community, including the theatre, built in the nineteenth century, fêtes and sports days. Also extensively documented is the period after the Second World War when, under Dr Clark as Medical Superintendent, Fulbourn became a world renowned pioneer in social therapy, transforming the conditions and practices of the hospital.

Fulbourn did not close at the same time as most of the old county asylums, but continues to provide critical inpatient mental health services, and generate records, as part of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust.

www.archives.org.uk



A fire damaged lunatic reception order from 1892, Ref. KHF/3/1/8/7. Image courtesy of Cambridgeshire Archives

“*The hospital and its historical records continue to play a significant role in local, family and individual identity*”

Prior to cataloguing, the Fulbourn Hospital collection was accessible through a series of paper finding aids based on individual accessions and a box list on the CALM catalogue module. These lists did not always correlate, occasionally making it difficult to identify particular items, or match them to original accessions.

Many early patient records were destroyed or damaged by a fire at Fulbourn in 1945. Approximately ten thousand ‘lunatic reception orders’ dating back to 1883 survived the blaze. These were reviewed by conservation staff to determine if they could safely be made available to researchers. Fortunately, most of the damage proved to be superficial leaving the integrity of the records largely intact. Access restrictions were also required to clearly demarcate sensitive patient records from the general business of the hospital.

The new catalogue began as a box list of records before gradually assuming a hierarchical structure reminiscent of many large institutions. By reviewing each volume and file, the contextual links between different record sequences began to emerge. This was particularly crucial in relation to patient records and their corresponding indexes and index numbers. With the exception of some records lost in the fire, a near complete sequence of patient and administrative records was identified, documenting nearly a century of Fulbourn’s rich history.

To mark the completion of the catalogue the authors, in collaboration with the ‘Capturing Cambridge Project’, delivered a talk about the Fulbourn Collection at the Museum of Cambridge. This was particularly rewarding, as among the attendees were former members of staff at Fulbourn and the descendants of hospital patients. It was evident that the hospital and its historical records continue to play a significant role in local, family and individual identity.

Kevin Roberts and Tiffany Kirby
Cambridgeshire Archives

Records advocacy and the Parliamentary Archives

In recent weeks, as co-Chair of the (UK) All-Party Parliamentary Group on Archives and History, I took other parliamentarians to visit the Parliamentary Archives. Housed in Victoria Tower, completed in 1860 and named after the then reigning monarch, the surroundings would not be unfamiliar to her even today. Visitors can look up to see the staircase spiralling to the top over the Sovereign’s Entrance, designed to receive the Queen’s carriage. Our nation’s Statute Book is still there, formed of vellum parchment rolls laid floor-to-ceiling, with Acts of Parliament dating back to 1497.

Such a description may suggest a place very removed from the public, but that could not be more wrong. The role of the public is central to the importance of our parliamentary records. First, people come to the facility itself to conduct research. Alongside the more formal parliamentary records are papers of significant figures in our history, from politicians like David Lloyd George - still the only Welsh person to hold the office of Prime Minister - to newspaper-owners turned politicians such as Lord Beaverbrook.

Second, the laws of our land frame our present-day politics and inform its representatives. As we mark the hundredth anniversary of the start of Britain’s era of mass democracy with the extension of the franchise after the First World War, those Acts of Parliament stored in Victoria Tower demonstrate starkly the battle for equality in voting rights. The Representation of the People Act 1918 brought in universal male suffrage and gave some - but not all - women the vote. It was only the Equal Franchise Act 1928 that put women on an equal footing to men with votes at the same age, then 21. The Parliament (Qualification of Women) Act 1918 permitted women to stand as parliamentary candidates, but (less well known) it was not until the Life Peerages Act 1958 that women were allowed to become members of the House of Lords.

“The history of every family in this country is important and we should treasure our archives”

Parliamentarians can visit Victoria Tower and see these original statutes, but support for archives has to go beyond the boundaries of the Palace of Westminster. Local history - the origin of our families and communities - makes us what we are. My own constituency of Torfaen is part of the preserved county of Gwent - and the Gwent Archive in Ebbw Vale is a fine example of a local research facility that stores records of our society. When I was writing my biography of Aneurin Bevan, it was to there that I turned to study Bevan's local government career through the original local Council Minute Books for the Tredegar Urban District Council and Monmouthshire County Council.

Members of Parliament are ideally placed to make the case for the importance of local archives. As interest in family history increases and local history groups remain strong, our local document-holdings will remain popular. However, Members of Parliament can openly promote their local archives with a visit. In doing so, they are contributing to the resources available for people to understand where they have come from. If the fight for voting equality tells us anything, it is that everyone should be treated in the same way: the history of every family in this country is important and we should treasure our archives, whether they are in Victoria Tower or elsewhere.

Nick Thomas-Symonds, MP

All change at the History of Parliament Trust

The History of Parliament Trust – the *History* - might be more familiar to ARA members as researchers, beaver away into the lives of parliamentarians and their communities as far back as the 14th century. Yet that is just a small part of what we do. 2018 is an exciting year for the Trust, with new projects starting, some well-established projects coming to fruition, and a new Director for the next three years.

Dr Paul Seaward, Director of the *History* since 2001, is stepping aside for three years having been awarded a British Academy/Wolfson Research Professorship. Paul's project, *Reformation to Referendum*, will investigate the history of Parliament over five hundred years, looking at themes such as space, memory and culture within this permanent, but evolving, British political institution. Although sad to be stepping back from the Directorship, the research funding is an opportunity for Paul to take a fresh look into Parliament's development over a long historical period and Paul will still be very much part of the *History*.

Dr Stephen Roberts will replace Paul as Director. Stephen joined the *History* in 1997 as editor of our *House of Commons, 1640-60* project. He is a well-respected historian of the Civil



Linda Clark with documents –
Linda is Dr Linda Clark, editor of
the Commons 1422-61 section



Panel of Speakers at a recent event in Speaker's House to celebrate the anniversary of the partial decriminalisation of homosexuality: featured (l-r) Chris Smith, Baron Smith of Finsbury; Michael McManus (author); Gordon Marsden MP; Angela Eagle MP; Michael Cashman, Baron Cashman; John Bercow MP (Speaker of the Commons)

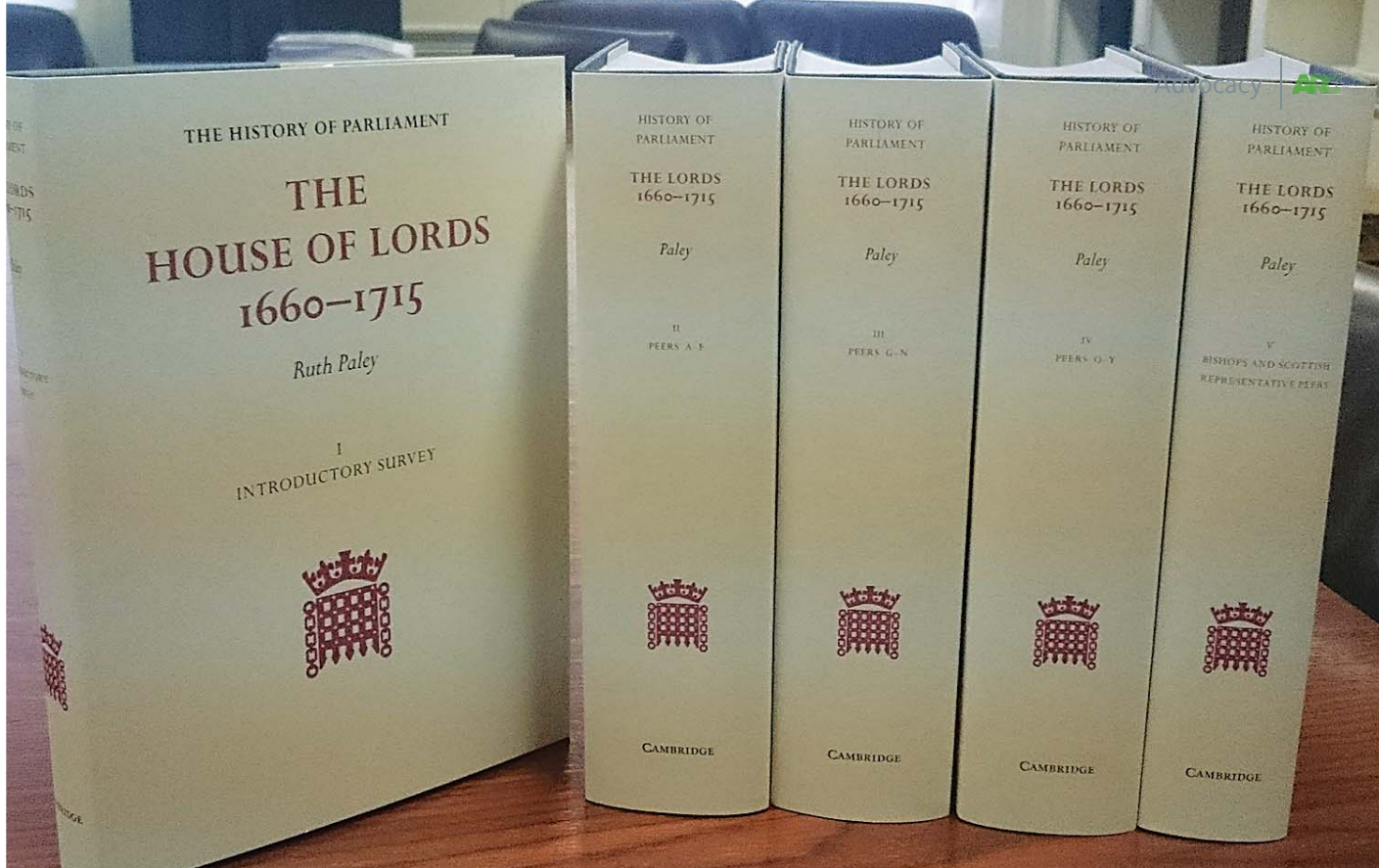
War, president of the Devon and Cornwall Record Society and vice-president of the Cromwell Association. His experience of researching parliament at one of its most turbulent times, ranging from wielding executive power as Parliament of the Commonwealth to purges (some by force) and periods of experimentation, such as the Nominated Assembly of 1653, gives an interesting vantage point to look at the long history of Parliament uncovered by our researchers.

This Directorship change also comes at an important time for the Trust as, during Stephen's tenure, we hope to publish two long-standing projects. The *House of Commons, 1422-61* is the first half of two sets of volumes covering the 15th century. These volumes will cover the reign of Henry VI, including 2844 biographies of all the known MPs in the 22 Parliaments summoned before Henry's deposition in 1461. Secondly, the *House of Lords, 1604-29*, will be our second set of volumes concentrating on the upper house. The 462 bishops

and peers of the early Stuart period will complement the recently published *House of Commons, 1604-29* volumes, giving a comprehensive understanding of the make-up of Parliament and politics before Charles I's personal rule and the Civil Wars.

Other research continues apace: the *House of Commons 1640-60* project will prepare for publication under a new Assistant Editor and the *House of Commons 1832-68* project takes our research on the Lower House well into the period of 19th century reforms. Our most recent project, the *House of Lords 1715-90*, follows on from our first set of volumes on the Upper House published in 2016, which covers the period 1660-1715. We have just appointed a new editor for this project, which will investigate Lords and Bishops during the turbulent political scene of the 18th century.

Separately, our research now ventures into the 20th century with our well-established oral history project,



Our most recently published volumes, the House of Lords 1660-1715 (2016)

as our volunteers interview as many former MPs about their lives and careers as we can reach! So far over 150 interviews have been deposited in the British Library, including some well-known recent parliamentarians such as Denis Healey, Geoffrey Howe, Helene Hayman and David Owen. Most of these interviews are open to researchers, and for the first time they are being made available to access online anywhere in the world via the British Library's Sound Archive.

Changes to the Directorship also mean that we will be able to spend more time taking our work out to archives, researchers and wider communities and develop a range of outreach projects in the coming years. We have been able to grow our public engagement team and hope to be in a position to partner on new ventures aimed at making our, now considerable, body of research more accessible to a wide range of audiences. We welcome approaches from archivists and collections across the UK and Ireland in the public, private and voluntary sectors.

Our material is unique and considerable - with strong local constituency elements - and may complement the research based on your collections. For example, the History's published research to date covers nearly 350 years of parliamentary history, as told through the lives of MPs and Lords who attended Parliament, the electoral politics of the communities who returned representatives, and surveys drawing out themes and discoveries of the period of research. Many of these materials are available, for free, on www.historyofparliamentonline.org: including

www.archives.org.uk

forty-one volumes of research covering ten periods of parliamentary history from the 14th to the 19th centuries: in all about 25.5 million words, 20,000 pages, 21,000 biographies and 2,800 constituency articles. We soon hope to add our most recently published volumes on the Lords to our website and we continue to add materials and extracts from our oral history project interviews.

Our research covers a lot more than just political history: we uncover the lives of now perhaps forgotten MPs, e.g. from minority communities, pioneers of social causes, etc. - and add rich detail on the communities they served; all excellent contextual information for those visiting archives with an interest in family, local and social history.

If all this wasn't enough, ARA members can keep up to date with our progress and highlights of our current work via our website and social media. We look forward to hearing from you!

Website: www.historyofparliamentonline.org

Twitter: @HistParl

Emma Peplow

History of Parliament Trust

Takeover Day 2017 -
Westminster Archives
- Conservation Studio 3.
Courtesy of Westminster
Archives



"Takeover Day is the most thrilling and fun day of the year. Seeing kids take on every museum job – from curators, to front of house, to security guards – makes old institutions come alive."

(Damian Dibben, bestselling children's author and Kids in Museums Ambassador)

Kids in Museums is an independent charity working nationally to make museums, galleries, castles, archives and historic buildings more welcoming to families, children and young people. We have a manifesto that offers practical, cost-effective ideas about making these bodies - in all their many shapes and sizes - more family friendly. We also run the annual Family Friendly Museum Award, which is the only award of its kind in Britain judged by families. We provide museums with trusted information and advice in our free online resources. While last, but not least, we run Takeover Day, our flagship project.

Takeover Day is an annual day (currently in England and Wales only) when children and young people are

given meaningful roles in heritage institutions that are usually reserved for adults and professional staff. The roles encompass the full range of jobs, from curators and conservators to pest controllers, security guards and press officers. Takeover Day is an extremely flexible project: children and young people aged 0-25 can take part, so we do not limit it to schools (though schools are key partners).

Alongside Takeover Day, we run its digital sister, Teen Twitter Takeover. This sees smaller groups of teenagers taking control of museum and archive Twitter feeds for the day, boosting their social media profiles and having conversations with peer groups and other bodies around the world.



Takeover Day 2017 - Westminster Archives - 'History Detectives'. Courtesy of Westminster Archives

Takeover Day has a powerful impact on many of the young people involved. Participation is proven to change their attitudes to heritage bodies, breaking down some of the barriers that might otherwise stop them visiting (or prevent them or their friends from even considering visiting). It also helps them build valuable skills, such as confidence and teamwork, creates awareness of the full range of careers in the heritage sector and is a fun, enjoyable experience.

Several archives services and record offices in England and Wales have been 'taken over' on the designated day in November for the past few years. In 2017, Westminster City Archives invited a local primary school to take them over for the day. Children took a wide range of roles, for example working with the Theatre Pamphlet Collection to learn about the history of paper, conservation and the safe handling of documents. They also had the chance to learn about the work of an archivist in a search room.

Georgia Vossou, Conservator at Westminster City Archives, explains the importance of the project in opening up the archives to new audiences: "Takeover Day is the annual joy and pride at Westminster



Takeover Day 2017 - Westminster Archives - Conservation Studio 2. Courtesy of Westminster Archives

City Archives. For the past few years we have run projects working with local primary schools or engaging with our Youth Panel. It has been a huge success, as we are immersing young people in an archive's working environment; giving them a fresh perspective on our roles and dispelling the notion that archives are dusty papers stored in a sterile conglomerate of depressing-looking

buildings. The event boosts children's confidence, giving them a sense of achievement, and brings staff together while raising the profile of the service to the community."

Kids in Museums is keen to explore ways that we can enable more archives and record offices of all shapes and sizes to be taken over. We'd love to hear from you if you're interested in getting involved or have ideas about how we could develop Kids in Museums with the archive sector more broadly. Here are some key 2018 dates for your diaries:

Teen Twitter Takeover – 3 August 2018

Takeover Day in Wales – 15 November 2018

Takeover Day in England – 23 November 2018

As you'll see, the timing is aligned to the 2018 launch week of the Explore Your Archive campaign (17-25 November), so why not do a Kids in Museums event as part of your activity?

For more information:

Website: www.kidsinmuseums.org.uk/takeoverday

Email: takeoverday@kidsinmuseums.org.uk

Twitter: @takeovermuseums and @kidsinmuseums

Alison Bowyer

Kids in Museums

Takeover Day and Teen Twitter Takeover 2017

- Nearly 5,000 young people took over about 200 museums across England and Wales
- Places taken over included Stonehenge, St Paul's Cathedral and Bletchley Park
- #takeovermuseums was trending on Teen Twitter Takeover Day
- 321,000 people saw Tweets by teenage Tweeters involved in Teen Twitter Takeover

What young people say after Takeover Day:

"I want to visit more museums."

"I don't think museums are boring and old anymore."

"The best bit was when we went and redesigned the museum because we could express all of our ideas. It was the best thing I have ever done."

"It was epic!"



Winners of the HA's 2017 Great Debate competition. Courtesy of the Historical Association.

The Historical Association: the voice for history

Emily Randall encourages anyone interested to get involved with the Historical Association

The Historical Association (HA) is a UK membership charity open to everyone who shares a passion for history. We were founded in 1906 by a group of teachers and academic historians to advance the study and teaching of history. From the beginning, this included those who were not professionally involved with history but who wanted to learn more. The HA continues to support the teaching, learning and enjoyment of history at all levels and to bring together people who share an interest in and love for the past.

ARA members may not know that working with colleagues in archives - both locally and nationally - is important for us and our members. Indeed, a



Primary pupils exploring the Maya.
Courtesy of the Historical Association.

number of HA members will also be members of the ARA and active in supporting history and the access to history. We are keen to extend and deepen those links.

You can get started by contacting our 50 branches around the UK - all run by volunteers. Collectively, the branches run a programme of about 350 events annually. Branch volunteers are always looking for speakers or ideas for visits. Why not contact your local branch and see what you might do together? Alternatively, perhaps you might consider volunteering to join a branch organising committee - we are always happy for some extra support. You may even find volunteers to support your own work as well.

If you are a keen historian as well as a record-keeper or conservator and there is not an HA branch in your area, how about setting up a new one? We stand ready to help and advise any ARA member wanting to do this - and would love to talk to you and discuss the options.

As part of our education work, the HA brings teachers, museums and archives together. Museums and archives have a pivotal role to play in both the development of children's wider historical understanding as well as in the delivery of history in schools. The reinforcement of local history at Key Stages 2 and 3 by Curriculum 2014 and the addition of a 'historic environment' element to GCSE also mean that local archives and those tied to specific sites are more vital than ever in school history.

www.archives.org.uk



Primary pupils get involved with World War Two day at school.
Courtesy of the Historical Association.

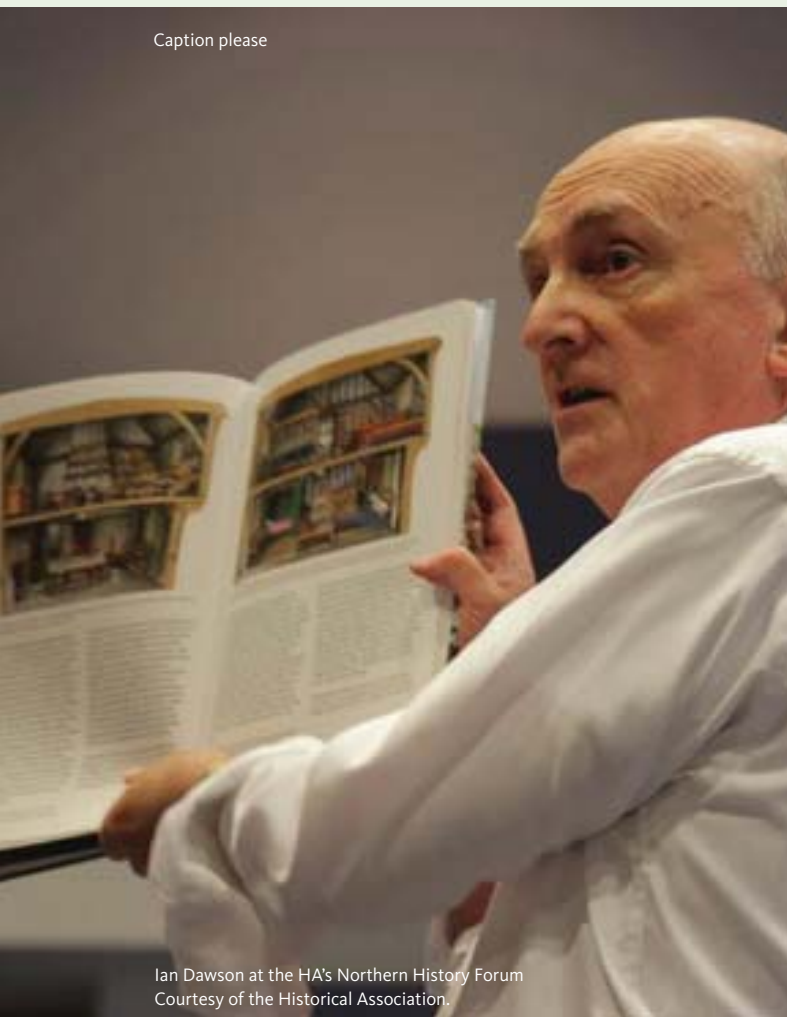
The HA's *Using Archives in the History Classroom* - an online professional development unit for teachers - was produced in collaboration with the National Archives (UK) to enable teachers to be better equipped to make the most of archives and what they can offer and is just one example of the HA's collaborative work with archives across the UK.

Our teacher members would also love to know what is happening in their local archives. If you are keen to work with schools in your area why not get in touch with our education team. Perhaps you are running an open archives week or an Explore Your Archive event?



Dr Tracy Borman. Courtesy of the Historical Association.

Caption please

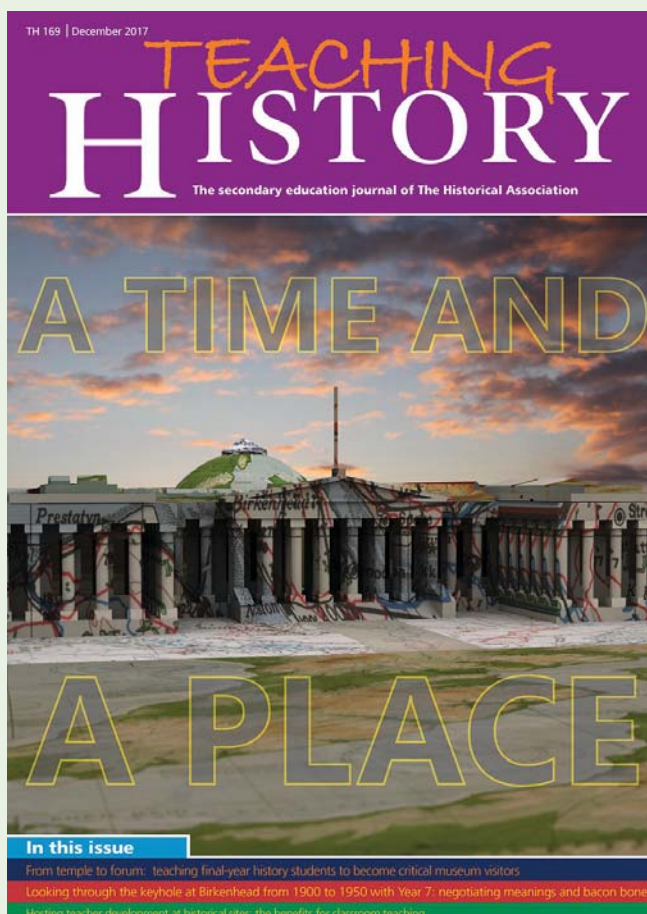
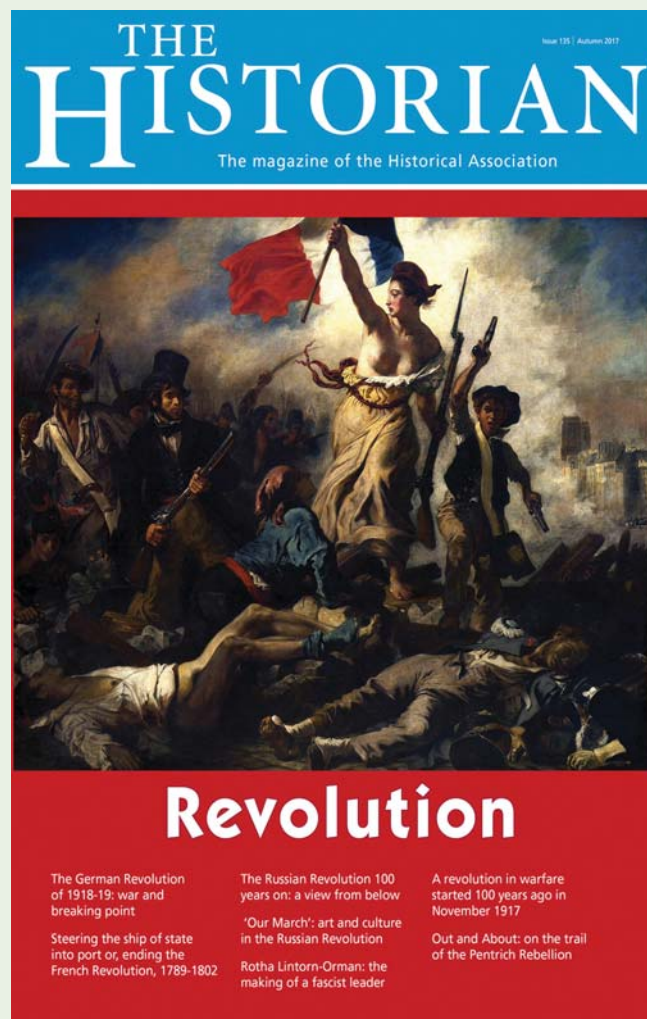


Ian Dawson at the HA's Northern History Forum
Courtesy of the Historical Association.

Can we help you to get teachers and pupils to engage?
Are you running any education days or events? We are
always happy to talk to you and to put you in touch with
great teachers in your locality.

The HA also has a strong background in supporting all
those with an interest in history education to develop
their provision for schools. Our professional journals
- *Primary History* and *Teaching History* - and the
HA website offer the most up-to-date curriculum and
planning guidance for all those looking to develop and
tailor services to the needs of schools and the teaching
profession. We also offer regular CPD-relevant events
and a flagship Annual Conference with primary and
secondary education sessions including using archival
and museum resources in the classroom.

Our popular history magazine, *The Historian*, provides
a great platform to let people know about your work
and locality. We carry a number of regular features from
Out and About, which focuses on local history, or *My
Favourite Place* which explores historic sites and venues
to *History in the News* which reports on what's going
on in history. Perhaps your research might lend itself to
a full feature article. If you'd like to place an article, or



Teaching History Journal Issue 169. Courtesy of the Historical Association.



Primary History Journal Issue 77. Courtesy of the Historical Association.

www.archives.org.uk

discuss options, we would be happy to hear from you! These journals and CPD events are a fantastic way of reaching teachers across the UK, who often welcome collaborations with museums and archives to publicise and disseminate the work they are doing. It is not limited to the public sector: for example, *Primary History* recently included articles from the Marks and Spencer Archive in Leeds. The regular features *My Favourite History Place* and *Using the Back Page* hook in to specific sites and archival objects and develop advice on how they might be used in the classroom. We have also hosted events with the British Library, Black Cultural Archives and National Archives (UK) to name a few and our 50 local branches also regularly feature talks and sessions from local archives.

Website: www.history.org.uk

Email: enquiries@history.org.uk

Emily Randall

The Historical Association

RecordDNA: a Parliamentary event to focus policy-makers on the challenges of managing the digital evidence base

As ARA members are only too aware, scholars and members of the public rely on records (e.g. birth/death certificates, census and court records) as the evidence base for research; so too do policy-makers and those conducting inquiries. They all require access to original, authentic, usable records.

However, a major issue facing society is the extent to which the digital evidence base is at risk because the concept of the digital record has been challenged. In the digital world the record comprises the granular objects that are scattered yet linked e.g. chains of emails or Tweets. Concepts commonly accepted as defining a paper record (originality, unchanging authenticity, contextualised evidence) are highly conflicted and under threat. They are being replaced by uncertainty, mutability and the notion of liquidity. The term ‘record’ is “archaically physical” and as noted by Keen: “the record, not the remix, is the anomaly today. The remix is the very nature of the digital”.

Other complex issues surround the interrogation of evidential digital records. Many copies may exist with unclear authorship or the definitive original may disappear into a seemingly infinite cyberspace. If there are no ‘original’ records in the digital space, what does this mean for the future evidence base?

RecordDNA has been exploring the nature of the DNA of a digital record and working towards new potential conceptualisations. The work has been led by Northumbria University and UCL, supported by The National Archives (UK) (TNA), and benefits from the input of practitioners and academics across the world. The intention is to work towards building an international network and to map a multi-disciplinary research agenda.

Through workshops and crowdsourcing, which we are grateful to so many for contributing to, we have

been identifying key challenges for ensuring the future usability of the digital records evidence base. The work has so far drawn on a wide range of international and multi-disciplinary perspectives, from creators to users - including archivists and records managers - but also computer scientists, digital forensics and e-discovery experts, historians, lawyers, philosophers, librarians and social scientists.

As a result of this work, on the first-ever International Digital Preservation Day on 30 November 2017, 50 people gathered in the Jubilee Room in the UK Houses of Parliament to hear about and comment on the network’s achievements to date. This event was sponsored by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Archives and History (the ARA acts as the Secretariat for the group). This enabled us to bring some of the work to the attention of MPs and Whitehall policy-makers in order to widen the discussion beyond research and include wider ethical and legislative challenges.

The event’s sponsor, Nick Thomas-Symonds MP, a historian himself, understood instinctively what we were doing. He had come directly from an emergency debate in the House of Commons on President Trump’s ‘Britain First’ twitter outburst (<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/nov/30/rudd-donald-trump-bigger-picture-uk-us-britain-first>) to offer his perspective on the importance of ensuring the future availability of the digital evidence base. He saw the link to those advocating that allegedly offensive Tweets, such as Trump’s, be deleted. Surely, he said, that would just distort the completeness of the evidence base for future historians?

Sir Alex Allan – author of two reports on government recordkeeping (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/records-review-by-sir-alex-allan> - and <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/>

“RecordDNA has been exploring the nature of the DNA of a digital record”

government-digital-records-and-archives-review-by-sir-alex-allan) opened the event with a fascinating range of perspectives on the challenges and the importance of the network and its work to date. Members of the network’s steering committee – Dr Valerie Johnson, Director of Research and Collections at The National Archives (UK) and Dr John Sheridan, Digital Director at The National Archives (UK); Jane Winters, Professor of Digital Humanities, University of London and Dr David Thomas, Visiting Professor, Northumbria University - followed.

We shared findings on the components of a record’s DNA and visions of the ‘ideal’ future digital evidence base from our second workshop, and it was immediately clear that there can be no one single vision. We moved on to discuss the range of research and practical development needed to realise these visions, from ‘blue sky’ to strategic and applied - all very positive. We also analysed a survey we had carried out into the highest priority issues, i.e. those relevant across disciplines and/or domains of practice. The conclusion: personal data management and privacy, together with questions relating to legislative domains. The choice of these three may have been influenced by current concerns about privacy and security, about changes in data protection legislation (eg the GDPR in Europe) and for those in Europe, Brexit.

We challenged the audience to consider how we might position future research in a wider context, to engage people in the challenge and/or help to advocate the importance of having a usable digital evidence base. This followed an example suggested in the survey asking how digital data could be leveraged in order to ensure the health of the planet.

We closed the event by gathering ideas about potential infographic outputs and their audience, together with ideas for making the case to funders to support research on the digital evidence base. You can follow our progress through the RecordDNA blog at <https://recorddna.wordpress.com/about/>. And we have been invited to consider giving a follow up event in Parliament as the work evolves.

We hope that members will continue to follow and contribute to this work. We would like to thank the

ARA and the All-Party Parliamentary Group for helping us extend our voice and reach to a wider audience in Parliament. Other ARA members may consider this route where there is a real need to engage with policy and the Parliamentary agenda. There is an evident appetite among our representatives to keep abreast of developments in ‘the record’. We know that, as we live in a society where ICT is transforming our world, it is critical to ensure ARA members are at the heart of key legislative and information policy debates. We hope to see more of you at future events.


Dr Elizabeth Lomas

University College, London

Dr Julie McLeod

Northumbria University

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Making the most of the Institute of Historical Research, its library and other resources

Since the 1920s, the Institute of Historical Research (IHR) has supported the academic study of history, providing training and research tools for generations of historians. It also continues to take a special interest in the relationship between manuscripts, archives and historical research, notably through its support for the annual Gerald Aylmer Seminar, which is organised in partnership with the Royal Historical Society (RHistS) and the National Archives (UK), as well as providing a meeting space for the British Records Association.

Historically, the IHR lobbied for government action to prevent the unrecorded migration of manuscripts and archival training, and initially sought to offer codicological and palaeographical training in the manner of the original French *École des Chartres*. It also gathered an extraordinary range of archival guides, catalogues, bibliographies and other reference

materials relating to British and European history, allowing students and academics in the pre-Internet age to investigate the holdings of archives and prepare for their research trips. Such printed guides, including a marked-up copy of the National Register of Archives and extensive holdings of Dutch and French local archive registers, still have their uses, including archival training.


The IHR library is also an important historical reference resource in its own right, holding some 200,000 volumes of printed primary materials, much of it available on open access. This is supported by an extensive range of local and national historical journals, electronic resources and guides to research of particular relevance to archivists and other researchers. The library offers free membership to postgraduates and academics and to undergraduates with a letter of recommendation

from their tutor. Day memberships and reasonable rates for non-affiliated researchers are also available. The library is also responsible for the IHR archive, which is currently in the process of being catalogued. Both represent not just the history of the IHR, but the profession more widely, through the records of its various committees, campaigns, seminar records and correspondence with numerous historians and other academics during the 20th century. The archive also contains details of the annual Anglo-American Conference of Historians, providing a window into the changing nature of the discipline and sociology of history over time.

The IHR famously offers an extensive series of evening seminars, many of which take place in book-lined rooms in the library. Free and open to all, the seminars range from traditional historical subjects, such as Medieval or Tudor History to Digital History and the History of Voluntary Action, and are central to many people's experience of the IHR, as well as their

engagement with history. These specialist seminars are complemented by a series of annual lectures, conferences and public events. 2018 will see the Wiley Lecture by Dr Tristram Hunt and the annual Winter Conference will explore 'Home: new histories of living', along with a series of lectures and discussions exploring the historical context and cultural legacy of the 1918 Representation of the People Act. In addition every autumn, History Day, organised in collaboration with Senate House Library, showcases over 50 libraries and archives, offering a venue to a range of institutions and the chance to meet prospective readers and researchers. If you live and work within striking distance of London, or visit, do be sure to see what we have on and come along.

A centre of digital innovation, the IHR also hosts a nascent collaborative centre for 3D heritage in partnership with the Institute of Classical Studies, while our Layers of London project is working with a range of London partners to provide a vast digital,



Participants look for clues in the 2016 Night at the Library escape game at the IHR as part of the Being Human Festival of the Humanities. Image (c) Lloyd Sturdy

historical map of London and its archives (layersoflondon.org). We are always interested to hear from archivists and others working in these and related areas.

The Institute, which is part of the School of Advanced Study at the University of London, is based in Senate House, Bloomsbury. But we have a national (UK) remit too, which we fulfil through a mixture of online resources, such as British History Online, and external public events, such as a recent workshop for Early Career Researchers hosted in Leeds in collaboration with the RHistS. Our resources, including the library catalogue, events and funding announcements, are at history.ac.uk; and ARA members will find our lively contribution to discussions around the historical discipline in our blog, blog.history.ac.uk. Our Reviews in History offers the most current, authoritative, and contentious selection of historical reviews, including reviews of digital resources and exhibitions; almost uniquely, the site also offers authors the right to reply (www.history.ac.uk/reviews).

Of particular interest to record-keepers, there is a wealth of historical data on the site, such as the directory of *British and Irish Furniture Makers Online* (bifmo.data.history.ac.uk) and the Victoria County History VCH Explore site (www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/explore/). IHR Publications, which publishes the well-regarded journal, *Historical Research*, has also embarked on an open access publishing project, with the Humanities Digital Library (<http://humanities-digital-library.org>).

Finally, the IHR offers an innovative range of training courses, as well as postgraduate courses, including an MRes in historical research and a unique MA in garden and landscape history, and doctoral supervision (with the option of remote and part-time provision), along with a range of training for postgraduates and other historical researchers (<http://www.history.ac.uk/research-training>). Come and see us soon!

Matthew Shaw

Institute of Historical Research

Community Exchange

Dr Helen Rogers introduces the Social History Society's new forum 'Community Exchange'

Public and community-based history is flourishing in the UK. Social media and the public-engagement agenda have helped to bring archivists, curators and historians into closer dialogue and co-operation as we work together to reach out and actively involve wider audiences. The Social History Society very much welcomes these developments and is keen to build closer connections with archivists, collections and their representatives.

Formed in 1976 and based in the UK, the Social History Society is concerned with social and cultural history internationally and in all its forms. Our journal, *Cultural and Social History*, comes out five times a year and we have an annual conference, as well as supporting events and activities throughout the year. We encourage contributions and membership from historians and interested individuals inside and outside the formal academic community. We are very keen to welcome archivists as members of the Society or to connect with us and follow/link to the Society on Twitter or Facebook.

In January 2018 we are launching a new forum on our website called - including museums and archives, societies and streets, and stage and screen - and to open up dialogue between the many different audiences for social history. We hope many ARA members and their colleagues will take part.

As the education, records and heritage sectors increasingly work together to find new ways of reaching and engaging members of the public and community groups, we hope Community Exchange will provide a place for us all to share ideas about good practice, what works - and what doesn't work - and how we can all gain by deeper collaboration and cooperation. For example, we welcome contributions from archivists and community groups working with collections, in the form of short blog posts (c.1000 words). These could be about plans for an upcoming event or series of activities, or showcasing them when they happen. Equally, we encourage reflective pieces, such as following an event, and think pieces about different approaches to public history, community engagement and co-production, as well as the benefits and challenges of collaboration.



Vice-Presidents of the Social History Society, Professor Catherine Hall and Professor Keith Wrightson (courtesy of the SHS)

SocialHistorySociety Promoting the study of social & cultural history

Learning & Teaching Exchange

Teaching with archives: history of medical charity
by George Gosling | 11 April 2016
University of Warwick

George reflects on setting up a special subject including an element of assessed archival research during his time at the University of Liverpool.

[See full article »](#)

Teaching with archives: history in education studies
by Mark Freeman | 11 April 2016
UCL Institute of Education

Mark reflects on teaching the 'Researching Education' module, which introduces second-year Education Studies students to archival research.

[See full article »](#)

Student peer review workshop
by Michael Pugh | 11 April 2016
University of the West of Scotland

Michael reflects on the introduction of a student peer review workshop, which provides peer guidance to students devising their own essay questions.

[See full article »](#)

Learning and Teaching in the Archives

We hope that ARA members will see Community Exchange as a space to share experiences of doing community-based history, for example by suggesting ways that academic historians might work more effectively with archival teams. It is a chance to be brutally honest - without naming names! What would you like to see from academic historians? How can we support research led by archives and your users? What is your experience of being a partner or stakeholder in an academic research project? Could we involve our students more actively and creatively in using and disseminating your collections?

We have a large and active social media presence, with over 9000 people following @socialhistsoc. So, if you have an event or news that you wish to publicise, please tag us into a tweet and we will share. Alongside Community Exchange, we are starting a 'Research Exchange' and a 'Teaching and Learning Exchange'. We hope these platforms will give you the full flavour of fascinating new research in cultural and social history, without having to subscribe to academic journals or attend conferences.

Some ARC readers may prefer an 'old-school' resource - with a new twist. We have a new book series coming soon called New Directions in Social and Cultural History. Published by Bloomsbury, the series launches with a collection bearing the same title, edited by Sasha Handley, Rohan McWilliam and Lucy Noakes. It includes a chapter on 'Public Histories' by Paul Ashton and Meg Foster.

If you would like to contribute to Community Exchange, please contact me at h.rogers@ljmu.ac.uk. I will be very happy to talk over a proposal.

Dr Helen Rogers

The Social History Society and Liverpool John Moores University



From the Mediaeval to the Modern exhibition: at Belfast Central Library. Courtesy of PRONI

Teaming up with libraries to reach new audiences: the Northern Ireland model

On 25 September 2017, The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Libraries NI. This formalised an existing relationship which the two organisations have enjoyed for many years. The partnership is a natural 'fit', as PRONI is the official archive for Northern Ireland and Libraries NI has statutory responsibility for the provision of public library services across Northern Ireland. However, whilst PRONI is based on one site (in Belfast), Libraries NI delivers its services through 96 public libraries, nine heritage collections and two specialist heritage libraries.

The purpose of archives partnering libraries is to ensure both organisations can benefit by sharing expertise and audiences, particularly helping:

- PRONI widen its reach and engage with new audiences, especially outside Belfast;
- increase local footfall and participation in libraries;
- libraries gain access to PRONI resources;
- support individuals and communities, including the economically inactive and unemployed, to access and benefit from library and archive services.

The MoU commits both organisations to undertake at least one joint project per year, enables Libraries NI to attend PRONI's user forum, provides for both organisations to host each

other's travelling exhibitions and facilitates familiarisation site visits and/or training for each other's staff. The MoU was signed by Helen Osborn on behalf of Libraries NI and Michael Willis on behalf of PRONI.

The 2017-18 collaborative project is a joint exhibition launched on 30 November 2017. Entitled 'From the Mediaeval to the Modern: Reformation, Transformation and Continuity', the exhibition covers the period 1356-1790. In structure, it comprises a set of 14 pop-up panel boards which feature some of the oldest archives and books from PRONI and Belfast Central Library's fine book collection. The theme and schedule were designed to coincide with the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

The exhibition centres on the documents and books themselves, which date from the mid-fourteenth century to the late-nineteenth century. Each offers its own distinct perspectives on the Reformation period and its legacy. All sources are presented chronologically, with layers of information that reflect the various interests and perspectives of the audience who may visit the exhibition.

This exhibition could not have been delivered without a full collaboration with another institution. PRONI, for example, was able to contribute 14th century Latin diocesan documents,



Public Record Office of Northern Ireland



Professor Chris Whitehead speaking at the HUK Plenary in November 2017 (image taken by Jamie Wood)

organisation is interested in working with us, please see the contact details section at the end of this article.

To give you a taster, we ran a number of events in 2017. The *HUK Plenary (November)* focused on ‘*Working Together: Collaborating in Teaching and Research*’. This event, featuring talks from Pamela Cox (University of Essex), Chris Whitehead (University of Newcastle), Angela McShane (Wellcome Trust), and Sara Wolfson (Canterbury Christ Church University), addressed the opportunities and challenges of partnership working between academic historians and the cultural heritage sector.

In September, we held an event called ‘*New to Teaching History*’. Held at the Institute of Historical Research, this annual workshop provides for those who are new to teaching history in higher education. It offers them the opportunity to gain pedagogical advice from established academics and to meet peers who are also new to teaching, enabling them to share experiences, hopes and fears about the path ahead.

Our ‘*Academic Job Boot Camp*’ (held in May) is our half-day event, sponsored by History UK, History Lab Plus and the Institute of Historical Research. It puts early-career historians through a mock job application process, during which they receive practical advice on structuring academic CVs, cover letters, job presentations and interviews, all of which are designed to improve their chances the next time they apply for an academic job.

We organised our ‘*Learning the lessons of working with the British Library’s Digital Content*’ event - in March 2017 - in collaboration with British Library Labs as part of their 2017 Roadshow. This series of presentations explored the British Library’s digital collections, how they have been used by historians in higher education and the lessons that have been learned by working together. The day included

presentations from researchers who are thinking creatively about what it means to be a digital historian in the 21st century.

We will run these events again in some shape or form in 2018. So, if you see an archives, records or conservation angle, do get in touch. In addition, we are currently planning events on student transition from school/college to university as it pertains to teaching history in higher education and on the role of the mid-career historian. This stage of the academic historian’s career presents particular challenges and opportunities. However, it has not been a particular focus of HUK or other historical organisations in the past.

We are also currently working with the National Archives (UK) to provide input into a revised version of their (originally published in 2015). This will take into account the introduction of the Teaching Excellence Framework and include a number of case studies of teaching-focused partnerships between academic historians and archival organisations. We hope ARA members will find this useful.

We welcome greater participation in - and awareness of - our work. You can subscribe to our blog, where you will find news of meetings and events, information about the executive and steering committees of HUK and blog posts from members and guest authors.

Website: <http://www.history-uk.ac.uk>

Twitter: @History_UK

@woodjamie99

Jamie Wood

University of Lincoln and History UK

'Lost in Translation' performing in front of Houses of Parliament, just yards from the site of the world's very first circus.



250 years ago this year, showman, entrepreneur and equestrian rider Philip Astley gathered together a series of astounding physical acts - jugglers, acrobats, clowns, strong men, bareback riders - and, on an abandoned patch of land in London's Waterloo, drew out a ring. This was the world's very first circus. Every circus, anywhere in the world, takes its origin from this moment in 1768.

The original pop-up circuses have been travelling for over two centuries, so one will certainly have pitched on your patch at some point. They were also pioneers in marketing techniques, producing fabulous posters, tickets, tokens and advertising materials. Families queued to have their photographs taken with the clown, to find a good spot in the parade, to ride on the elephant's back. There's rarely an archive that doesn't contain some reminder of the circus coming to town.

This 250th anniversary year of celebrations is an opportunity for archives to rediscover the circus inside them. Circus is the most accessible, inclusive and comfortable art form. No one comes out of a circus and worries, 'I don't think I understood that.' So it's an excellent way in which audiences, in particular young audiences, can be attracted in to an archive and the wonder of collections. Everyone loves to look at astounding acts, the people that made them and the community they entertained.



Sir Peter Blake-designed logo

Circus250 also gives archives the chance to bring life to their spaces and surroundings. This year, circuses to mark the anniversary will be popping up all over the UK and Ireland – over 200 of them. A Circus250 themed day, with performance or circus skills workshops attached, is something everyone, of every age, could enjoy.

Circus250 – a not for profit Community Interest Company (CIC) – can help. You can become partners and use our Sir Peter Blake-designed logo to brand your day. We can link you up with circuses in your region. We can introduce you to circus experts, circus artistes, historians and those who can give talks. Just get in touch. Looking forward to seeing you ringside!

Email: ringmaster@circus250.org
www.circus250.org

Dea Birkett
 Circus250

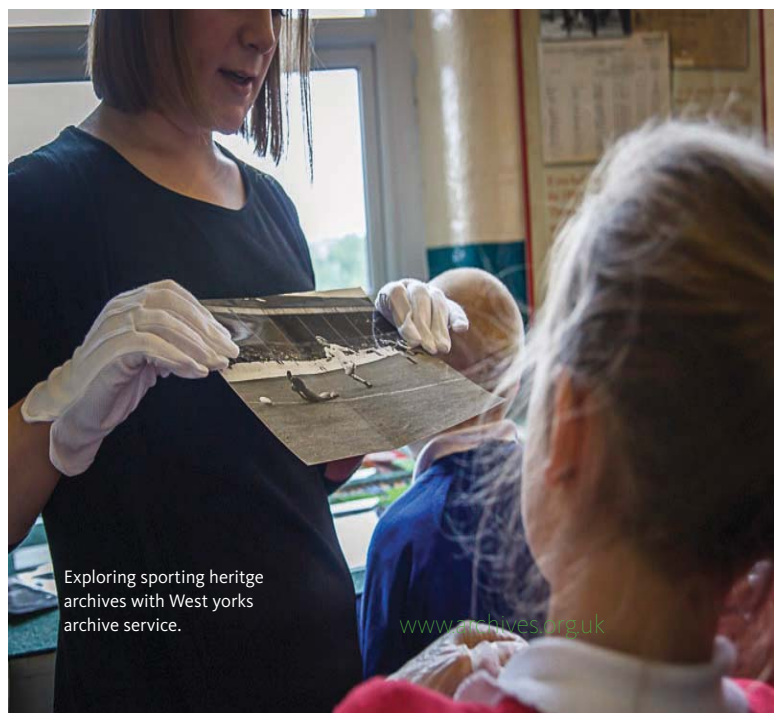
Wakefield Playmakers objects.
Credit Kelly Evans.

Sporting heritage for all

Sporting Heritage is the sector support organisation for all things related to the sporting past – records, objects, papers, photographs, stories, films, and associated ephemera. We work to ensure that sporting heritage is better preserved, managed, accessed, and researched with many different partners across the UK, including government departments, cultural sector arm's-length bodies such as The National Archives (UK) and Arts Council England, community groups, governing bodies of sports, museums, archives, universities, and businesses. We do this by delivering a range of support and networking activity, for example our national conferences held every year (our 2018 event is due to be announced soon!).

But why is sporting heritage important as a subject matter for archives? Firstly, it's possible to tell the story of social, cultural, political, and economic development through the development of sport. Learning about women's rights, immigration, tourism, fashion, the industrial revolution, can all be told through sport. Secondly, sport is central to our communities, provides a sense of pride and of place, and tells communal and individual stories.

Thirdly, sporting heritage responds to a number of wider agendas. For example, sporting heritage can encourage new and different audiences to access their heritage; it can re-engage people with learning through a relatable and interesting subject matter; and sporting heritage can support the health and wellbeing agenda by increasing opportunities for sports participation by making the link



Exploring sporting heritage archives with West Yorks archive service.

www.archives.org.uk

Sport and the Army
WW2 . Image source:
http://media.iwm.org.uk/ciim5/38/320/large_000000.jpg



between heritage and present day activity, and increasing opportunities for mental health provision. Finally, and by no means least important, sporting heritage is important for its intrinsic value!

It's clear to see why and how sporting heritage offers archives and other heritage venues a perfect opportunity to establish intrinsically more relevant provision and reach new and different audiences¹. But even since the 2012 Olympic Games, sporting heritage in the UK has come a long way. Considering the Cultural Olympiad made no reference to sport at all, and sporting heritage activity was only delivered during the 2012 Games because of a last-minute grant, it's brilliant to see the current upwards trend of sporting heritage activity across the country².

However, there is still a long way to go. The key for us as the support agency for the sector, is to provide opportunities for all those working in the field to share and support each other. To do this, we deliver a range of programming which shouts about the importance of Sporting Heritage at the same time as developing quality activity, research and knowledge about how sporting

heritage as a subject matter can impact different audiences in different ways. Our work at the moment includes:

National Sporting Heritage Day

Launched in 2014, is held on the 30th September every year and is going from strength to strength! National Sporting Heritage Day aims to advocate the importance of sporting heritage as a subject every year, not just during major sporting events. As a result, we hope to support increased investment to the sector to support longer-term activity on the ground. Organisations and individuals are encouraged to get involved and deliver activity, however big or small, which celebrates their sporting heritage.

Subject specialist advice, guidance, events and networking

Over the last three years, we have been funded by Arts Council England to deliver a range of specialist training. This is something we will continue into the future and includes national conferences, online advice and guidance, setting up regional networks and delivering localised networking support, blogs, and social media.



Mike OMahony at Conference. Credit to Kelly Evans.

Notts boxing image. Credit to Notts CC and www.picturethepast.co.uk

Sporting Heritage Database

To establish which collections are held where, and the opportunities for access, we're creating the national sporting heritage database on our website. If you haven't added your collection already, it's easy to do and free! Visit www.sportingheritage.org.uk/collections

Research

We deliver research on a number of levels. Firstly, through evaluation and understanding of the activity currently being delivered in the field. Secondly, we are growing a research body as the lead on the Sporting Heritage consortia for the Arts and Humanities Research Council's Collaborative Doctoral Partnerships on a seven-year programme of study³.

Sport and the Armed Forces

We work in partnership to deliver project activity too, and our upcoming two-year programme begins in May with the theme of Sport and the Armed Forces to reflect the commemorations of the end of World War One, working in partnership with another sector support organisation, AMOT⁴.

Join us!

We're a growing membership organisation and our advice, guidance, networks and support is open to anyone who

works, or wishes to work in the field of Sporting Heritage. If you haven't already, get in touch!

Email: Justine@sportingheritage.org.uk
www.sportingheritage.org.uk

Dr Justine Reilly Sporting Heritage

¹ Reilly, J. *Sport, Museums and Cultural Policy*. 2014.

² <https://web.archive.org/web/20110509074335/http://www.london2012.com:80/get-involved/cultural-olympiad/index.php>; The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council funded our forerunner, the Sports Heritage Network to deliver the exhibition programme, Our Sporting Life.

³ For more information, please visit <https://www.sportingheritage.org.uk/content/category/about/research>

⁴ AMOT, the Army Museums Network www.armymuseums.org.uk

Calling all colleagues!

ARC is always seeking articles reflecting the issues that matter to you most. We would love to publish pieces that reveal the sector's opinion and showcase successful best practice.

If you would like to send something for inclusion in the magazine, please send articles to arceditors@archives.org.uk, or write and let us know what you'd like to read about. Guidelines for articles for ARC can be found on the Association's website: www.archives.org.uk.

www.archives.org.uk



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