

HISTORY & SOCIAL ACTION NEWS

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EDITORIAL: THE FUNDING CRISIS FACING UNIVERSITIES

The news item referring to the London Metropolitan University and the item on the Centre for Research into Freemasonry are just two examples of the growing funding crisis facing Universities. I am also told that there are problems facing the Institute for Historical Research and the Royal Historical Society (over its web bibliography database).

Several Universities are 'down-sizing' i.e. cutting staff numbers, including my old University Sheffield where the Centre is based. The history work carried out in Universities could be seen as a soft option for cuts. Cuts can have an adverse effect on morale of the surviving staff with increased workloads while student numbers grow. Recently a student who graduated at Sheffield this year told me he was still resentful of the fact that a lot of teaching he had received was by postgraduate students not by staff. With fees and other student costs continuing to be a problem will students and parents consider this to be 'best value for money'. As I discussed in my 'Sharing Knowledge' paper (on website), conscientious academics are finding juggling the growing diverse demands on their time more and more difficult to handle. Several have recently said to me that this is a powerful reason for taking early retirement if the deal is satisfactory. So the danger is that Universities will lose their more experienced staff leading to lower quality of teaching and research, a loss of people experienced in taking part in University administration, and loss of institutional memory.

Universities need to build allies in the towns and cities where they are based, find ways of obtaining support from their alumni (graduates) other than simply by donating money, and building more links with the history movements out in the community. Yes heritage is a growing industry creating jobs and will need trained historians. It also creates all kinds of other jobs including in publishing, television, radio, and tourism. And history training in analysis and writing is essential for a whole range of other jobs not connected with heritage. But the Government would be very short-sighted if it only saw history narrowly in relation to job creation. It needs to remember that an important element of its social cohesion, well-being, and anti-discrimination agendas is developing a sense of the richness and diversity of Britain's history. This is not adequately reflected in heritage funding with its emphasis on prestige projects like country houses and estates previously owned by the exploitative elite of Britain. The recessionary crisis's adverse effect on the availability of funds does allow for a re-direction, as discussed below in the piece on the Heritage Lottery Fund.

DESTROYING THE PROBATION SERVICE

Some of my readers in Wandsworth know Judy McKnight, who was General Secretary of Napo, the trade union and professional association for family court and probation staff, from 1993 to last year. Judy has written a damning critique of the way the Government has undermined the effectiveness of the Probation Service.

The article identifies that although the New Labour Government purports to base policy on “what works” rather than dogma, its treatment of the Probation Service demonstrates that dogma and penal populism now rule the day. The effective dismantling of the Probation Service as a national service in order to provide for contestability and the threatened introduction of competition and privatisation demonstrate this. It charts the succession of costly and ill-judged managerial structural reforms made to the Probation Service as it was taken into NOMS, the National Offender Management Service, and as it was diminished into a mere adjunct of the Prison Service.

The Probation Service is currently suffering from inadequate resources and excessive workloads and is facing cuts which, if implemented, will effectively lead to a meltdown in Probation Service work in local communities. All of this highlights the lack of a national champion to make the case for the work of the Service, both in public and within the Government. The Probation Service, which has a proud century-long record of achievement, should remain a properly resourced public service, with a champion at a senior organisational level, speaking up for Probation.

[The article can be seen on: www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/122485361/abstract](http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/122485361/abstract)

Napo, based in Battersea with its Headquarters in Chivalry Rd, represents 10,000 members in the Probation Service and the Children and Family Court Advisory Service (Cafcass).

NEWS

Black & Asian Studies Association. BASA, of which I am Secretary, has improved its website with information about the contents of the Newsletters it has published since 1991, details of its past activities and policies; and the first of some resources in the form of JPEG copies of original documents (League of Coloured Peoples 1945 AGM paper with 1944 Minutes; and India League wartime speakers notes. The 1919 Race Riots Symposium has had to be delayed to January (date to be finalised) because of problems with the 5 November date for key speakers. A lecture on slavery in India is being planned. The next Marika Sherwood lecture will be held on: **24 November with Steve Martin talking about Early Islam in Britain.** Further details to be announced. A website based discussion forum has been started to complement the BASAJISC discussion group. Do have a look at the site. www.blackandasianstudies.org.

Garden Museum Autumn Programme. The Garden Museum's autumn programme of events has a wide range of talks and special plant promotions. Speakers include Anna Pavord on bulbs, BBC gardener Alys Fowler, Bob Sherman of Garden Organic and vegetable expert Joy Larkcom, Dan Pearson on his book *Spirit: Garden Inspiration*, Patrick and Sylvie Quibel on their garden in Normandy, Giles & William Waterfield about Le Clos du Peyronnet garden in Menton, which inspired the novel *The Long Afternoon*, Tom Stuart-Smith, John Rodwell, Kim Wilkie and Diana Lazenby, Mary Keen and Adam Nicolson. There are special plant promotions and advice days involving Jacques Amand Bulbs, Pennard Plants. Events on 4 October and 2 November are included in the events section below. Garden Museum, Lambeth Palace Rd/Lambeth Rd. Full details on www.museumgardenhistory.org.

Trotsky and Diego Riviera. Frida Kahlo Viva La Vida! Oval House Theatre. 20 October-7 November. Tues-Sat 8pm. On-stage portrait of the Latin American painter, Frida Kahlo. It is ‘The Day of the Dead’ in Mexico: Frida comes back to her house to make fun of death and celebrate life. She reminisces about her turbulent relationship with painter and companion Diego Rivera, her disagreements with Andre Breton and the Surrealists, her affair with Trotsky, and other episodes from an extraordinary life, full of art, passion and obsession. Based on fragments of her biography, letters, extracts from her diary and interviews with Frida and her closest friends, *Frida Kahlo Viva La Vida!* recreates the intimate life of a passionate woman, who despite her disability and destructive marriage, managed to transfer her colourful vibrant culture and her deepest dramas onto canvas, creating some of the most unforgettable images of 20th century

modern art. Oval House Theatre, 52 - 54 Kennington Oval, London, SE11. For booking details of this and the rest of the current programme see www.ovalhouse.com.

Women's Library in Difficulties? A financial crisis at the London Metropolitan University that has been rumbling all year could have an adverse effect on special facilities like the Women's Library. However it offers an interesting autumn programme starting on 8 October including exhibitions and events on Women's Liberation in the 1970s, Striking Women: Voices of South Asian workers from Grunwick and Gate Gourmet. The latter includes a day Conference on 28 November. On 28 January there will be an event to celebrate the life and work of Zora Neal Hurston. For further details see: www.londonmet.ac.uk/thewomenslibrary. For the financial crisis see: www.guardian.co.uk/education/2009/feb/03/brian-roper; www.ucu.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=3680; <https://intranet.londonmet.ac.uk/messagetostudents.cfm>.

Historical Directory of Trade Unions. The final volume (No. 6) of this invaluable directory was published in June by Ashgate. It covers unions in building, construction, agriculture, fishing, chemicals, wood and woodworking, transport, engineering and metal working, Government, Civil and Public Service, shipbuilding, energy and extraction. Edited by John Smethurst and Peter Carter, it costs £80 Hardback. It is also available as an eBook. See www.ashgate.com.

Popular Music. The history of popular, inc. world music, is mushrooming. The following are worth keeping an eye on:

Popular Music and Society Journal - Taylor & Francis:

www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/03007766.asp

Ethnomusicology Forum Journal. Taylor & Francis:

www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/17411912.asp

European Blues Association, which incorporates the archive of African-American Music:

www.euroblues.org/

Routledge Books: www.routledgemusic.com/books/browse/Popular-Music---Music-AR204500/

Popular Music History Journal - Equinox: www.equinoxjournals.com/ojs/index.php/PMH/index

Homeground Bites The Dust. Hyde South Bank Homes has decided to end its funding of *Homeground*, the excellent magazine edited for the last six years by my friend Elaine Kramer. Produced to the highest professional standards, readable and accessible, it did not just inform the Association's tenants in the area of Stockwell, Oval and Kennington, but was also available to others, including in PDF email format. It is a great loss to the area. Elaine was told by email!

The Outcasts. Currently on Display at the Working Class Movement Library in Salford is a banner telling the story of The Outcasts, to mark the centenary of an unusual football story.

In 1909 Manchester United won the FA Cup. During the summer that followed, United's players became involved in the battle for players' rights. The story of how they refused to give up their union membership, putting their careers in jeopardy, is told in a pop-up banner which has been produced by the Library in conjunction with local community football club FC United of Manchester. The banner can be loaned to community groups on request. Alongside this, on loan from the Professional Footballers' Association, is an exhibition about their first 100 years as a union. It includes ten striking images, one for each decade, specially commissioned by the PFA to mark their centenary.

New Covent Garden Plans. See local residents group Viva Vauxhall website:

www.vivavauxhall.org/?p=825; and article in the Evening Standard:

www.thisislondon.co.uk/standard/article-23745196-

[details/Fresh+look+for+fruit+and+veg+market+to+rival+Borough/article.do](http://www.thisislondon.co.uk/standard/article-23745196-details/Fresh+look+for+fruit+and+veg+market+to+rival+Borough/article.do)

A Barings Connection with Slavery. See

<http://web.me.com/jotraynor/Headingsouth/Welcome.html>

Labour MEPs. Former Labour MEP Anita Pollack has written *Wreckers or Builders? A History of*

Labour MEPs 1979 - 99. Anita was the MEP for the constituency that included Wandsworth. I have known Anita since my days in the early 1970s working at North East London Polytechnic. Beginning with a Labour delegation of 17, led by Barbara Castle (for whom Pollack was assistant), it traces Labour policy on Europe and the MEPs' activities as the group grew to 62 and saw the arrival of a Labour government. There are four main parts, a Where are they now? section, photographs, bibliography and comprehensive index. Neil Kinnock's Foreword says: "... well-researched warts-and-all... fascinating stories emerge of a Labour group which mixed members who were hell-bent on fundamentalist anti-Europeanism with mainstream social democrats...and of a growing Labour contribution to the joint efforts of the Socialist Group to promote progressive policies." John Harper Publishing. Place advance orders with Turpin Distribution services (+44(0) 1767 604951 for free delivery to anywhere in Europe £20. [ISBN 976-0-9556202-9-4. www.johnharperpublishing.co.uk/pp019.sshhtml](https://www.johnharperpublishing.co.uk/pp019.sshhtml)

Zong Massacre plaque unveiled.

www.jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20071231/news/news3.hhtml

Samuel Pepys Diary. See www.pepysdiary.com. It is searchable by key words e.g. Black, slave, Indies.

Social Capital Conference May 2010. Good heavens an international foundation exists to promote Social Capital. It is holding an International Conference "Social Capital in Practice", in Malta, 7-10 May 2010. It is inviting submissions by 15 February 2010, 6pm. CET; registrations for places ends on 28 February at 6pm. CET. For detailed information including guidelines, topics, submission and registration, go to: www.socialcapital-foundation.org/conferences/2010/TSCF%20International%20Conference%202010.htm

West Indian postcards and Indians on Postcards. October's *Picture Postcard Monthly* contains a listing of West Indian postcard publishers compiled by David Watson, and 'The Indian Road to Independence' an article by Liz McKendrick. The latter is illustrated by postcards which include Queen Victoria with her Indian servants (1885), a white baby and an Indian child dressed as a servant, the Indian representatives at a Salvation Army Congress in Scotland, Dadabhai Naorojhi, Dr Rash Behari Ghose, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, G.H. Gokhale, and Gandhi in London. The issue also contains an article by Norman Ellis on Lancashire Coal postcards. To order copies contact reflections@postcardcollecting.co.uk.

T. Dan Smith, Tyneside Youth Politics and Reinventing The City. Remember him. The City boss of Newcastle - Poulson - Battersea's Sid Sporle. Well there has been a project to catalogue his papers. And now Lit & Phil Library is running two events about him on 22 and 29 October. The late 50s and early 60s when Sporle was a rising star were also the years of the development of left wing youth politics on Tyneside - the 59 Society. Last weekend many of those who took part gathered for a 50th reunion and to have advance copies of John Charlton's book *Do You Here the H Bomb's Thunder?* (Merlin Press). On 12 November John will be talking about the book. Smith was a key driver of the redevelopment of Newcastle. An exhibition and related events 'Reinventing the City'. 200 years of Urban Imagination on Tyneside' is on until 11 October. See Events section for Lit & Phil events - these are just part of a full season of activities there. See www.reinventingthecity.org.uk.

EVENTS

(see also HSAN 13, and Black History Month Evenets below)

to 25 October. Dinu Lee. Family Village. Exhibition. Presentation of part one and two of an on-going video trilogy investigating contemporary cultural values in China. The artist researched the literal meaning of the word 'country' in Chinese and discovered three distinct but interrelated meanings: Ancestral Nation, Family Village and Nation Family. *Ancestral Nation* depicts two Chinese 'rituals': a state run festival and the daily commute at a provincial train station. *Family Village* examines recent trends in Chinese urban planning where villages and towns have been transformed by desires to reflect British vernacular architecture. Danielle Arnaud gallery, 123

Kennington Road, London SE11. 020 7735 8292. www.daniellearnaud.com. Gallery open Friday, Saturday and Sunday 2-6 pm.

26 September. 12-6pm. Stockwell Festival and Stockwell EXPO. Larkhall Park, Courland Grove, London, SW8. Stockwell Partnership is running its annual festival again this year. It will include an EXPO event which forms part of Lambeth Council's community engagement activities. Brilliant Let's hope the weather holds this year.

3 October. Conference, *Writes and Wrongs: Documenting Liberty*. University of Hull. This complements the celebrations of the **75th anniversary of Liberty**. An exhibition of selected documents from the Liberty Archive will be on display. Papers on Lewis Grassic Gibbon, Randall Swingler 'Freedom of Information as a Human Right?' and Professor Gary Craig on 'Modern Slavery in the UK'. Further information from k.m.cockin@hull.ac.uk.

3 October - 13 December. British Ceramics Biennial. While the V&A has received a lot of publicity for its new ceramics exhibition, less publicised is this celebration of British ceramics. Further details on www.stokeceramicsfestival.co.uk/stories/959-welcome.

3 October. Artists Open House. In Wandsworth over 200 artists will be taking part.

4 October. 10.30am-5pm. Garden Museum Autumn Plant Fair. Further details on www.museumgardenhistory.org.

6 October. 6.30-8.30pm. Friends in the City and the Suburbs. Library of the Religious Society of Friends event at Quaker Centre, Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London. Simon Dixon (Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Queen Mary College, University of London) on "Friends in the City: the Quakers in 17th and 18th century London"; and Peter Daniels on the Quakers of Stoke Newington. Free. The cafe will be open before hand.

9/10 October. Ceramic City Conference and Tour and Lunch. Stoke-on-Trent. Part of the British Ceramics Biennial. Further details on www.stokeceramicsfestival.co.uk/stories/959-welcome

10 October. 2-4pm. Bankers & Slavery: Rothschild & Freshfields. Museum in Docklands, West India Quay, London, E14. Free. Presentation by Dr Nick Draper (UCL). Stashed in the National Archives hundreds of boxes of documents marked T71. Each of the sepia-coloured sheets inside them holds handwritten details of estates and slaves, including how much each "negro" was worth, creating the most extensive known paper trail of slave owners in the UK's former colonies. For 170 years, the papers remained unexamined, allowing companies, families and institutions that knowingly profited from slavery to conceal their links to the trade and keeping those who were unaware of them in ignorance. That changed when Nick Draper quit his banking job at JPMorgan and began a doctorate at University College London. Among the boxes he sifted through was T71/1222, which contained a claim for £3,000 in compensation made by Nathan Mayer Rothschild and his brother Baron James de Rothschild, scions of the banking dynasty.

12 October. Stephen Bourne. 6.15 (for 6.30)-8pm. BFI National Library, 21 Stephen Street, London, W1. Stephen will talk about his experience of research into black actors in film and television. To book ring Nina Bishop on 020 7957 4752.

22 October. 6pm. T. Dan Smith: A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Utopia. Film produced by Amber Films. Newcastle Lit & Phil, 23 Westgate Rd, Newcastle. Booking is advisable: 0191 232 019; library@litandphil.org.uk; www.litandphil.org.uk.

27 October. 6-7.30pm. *English Journey*. Lecture. Discovery Museum, Newcastle upon Tyne. Professor John Tomaney (Newcastle University) will discuss how the North East chapters of J. P. Priestley's book relate to Tyneside today. J.P.'s son Tom will also speak. The book was published

75 years ago and has been republished with contributions by Jarrow-born playwright Alan Plater and novelist Dame Beryl Bainbridge. Free but to book call Janette Murphy on 0191 277 2307 or email janette.murphy@twmuseums.org.uk. See also: www.greatnorthernbooks.co.uk.

29 October. 6pm. T. Dan Smith. The Myths and the Man. Lecture. John Griffiths. Newcastle Lit & Phil, 23 Westgate Rd, Newcastle. Booking is advisable: 0191 232 019; library@litandphil.org.uk; www.litandphil.org.uk.

2 November. 10.30am-4.30pm Symposium: Sources of Evidence for Garden History. £50/£40 Museum Friends & Birkbeck Students. Includes lunch. Joint event with Birbeck College. For booking details see www.museumgardenhistory.org.

6 November. 'I Have Done the State Some Service': Othello, Robeson and the FBI . V&A drinks reception to celebrate Paul Robeson, actor (film & stage), professional athlete, writer, multi-lingual orator, lawyer and concert singer. Tickets are only £10 before 16 October 2009. The evening includes The Robeson Project Display, specially written pieces by Professor Tony Howard to be staged for the first time featuring actor Geff Francis (Ashes to Ashes, BBC1 and Desmonds, Channel 4). Howard will explore Robeson's work using film footage, clips, stills & slides. Part of the Victoria & Albert's V&A's Beneath the Surface Black Heritage Season 2009: see www.vam.ac.uk/activ_events/events/Black_Heritage_Season/index.html

12 November. 6pm. Do You Hear the H Bomb's Thunder? The Start of the Sixties. Lecture. John Charlton. Newcastle Lit & Phil, 23 Westgate Rd, Newcastle. Booking is advisable: 0191 232 019; library@litandphil.org.uk; www.litandphil.org.uk.

IS THERE A CONTINUING ROLE FOR TRADE UNIONS?

Trade unions have experienced enormous difficulties since the Winter of Discontent in 1978/9, the attacks by the Thatcher Government and the difficult relationship with New Labour. Many wonder whether unions have any relevance today. Trade unions exist to protect their members, to defend and hopefully improve their working conditions and pay. Unions like RMT get a bad press because they are seen to robustly do this, even though it can be at much inconvenience to the travelling public. But then the privatisation mess is no way to run a railway, so it is not surprise that both workers and passengers get very angry. Of course British trade unionists do not have to face the difficulties confronting those in many other countries whose lives are under threat. RMT has started an online campaign in support of the under-paid, poorly-treated workers who clean the Eurostar trains. For details see www.labourstart.org/cgi-bin/solidarityforever/show_campaign.cgi?c=575

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Month is celebrated every year in October. Its coverage is much broader than the history of those of African heritage. There are many events relating to those of Asian heritage. The Month is also used to showcase cultural activities and contemporary health and social issues. In some areas like Merton there is very little on history. Many events were listed in HSAN News 13, and some in the Events diary above.

North East. For full details of events in the North East see <http://blackhistorymonth.interculturalarts.co.uk/#home>. This online Directory has been created by Intercultural Arts based in Newcastle. It includes the details of the 14 and 15 October events I have organised for the North East Slavery & Abolition Group.

Merton.

1 October. 12.30-3.30pm. BME Forum. Vestry Hall. Merton Unity Network.

2 October. 1.4pm. Health Day, Includes film showing of : "The Family Legacy" - One family's

experience of living with Sicklelell disease. Vestry Hall. Merton Unity Network.
 2 October. 7-11pm. Family Music Event - Lovers of Rock, music and entertainment. Includes food. Care Connect
 3 October. 3-4pm. Book reading by Wilfred L B Fraser of his first book "The Brotherhood of the Unicorn". Mitcham Library . Merton Unity Network.
 3 October. 7-11pm. Gala. Merton Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Group. Mitcham Methodist Church. 020 8646 8778 or at info@msctg.org.uk. Adults. £10, children £5
 6 October. 5.30-6.30pm. Book reading by Tony Esenwa. "Jaja King of Opobo". Mitcham Library. Merton Unity Network. Free.
 10 October.3-4pm. Book reading by Tony Esenwa. "Jaja King of Opobo". Mitcham Library. Merton Unity Network. Free.
 10 October. 7-11pm. Tribute to Michael Jackson. Care Connect. £5 includes food.
 11 October. 10-11am & 11.30-12.30pm. Caribbean exercise class. Care Connect. Free.
 12 October. 10am-8pm. Trip to Brighton and visit to Momma Cherri's Soul Food restaurant. Care Connect. £10 for children; £25 with food. £15 for adults; £30 with food
 15 October. 5.30-6.30pm. Book reading by Wilfred L B Fraser of his first book "The Brotherhood of the Unicorn". Mitcham Library. Merton Unity Network. Free
 16 October. 7-9pm Tribute to Dr. Ivan Van Sertima who wrote "They came before Columbus". Care Connect. Free.
 17 October. 10am-3pm. Careers Fair - an opportunity to meet Black professionals from sectors including law, engineering, and business. Vestry Hall. Merton Unity Network.
 17 October. 7-11pm. Gospel Evening. Care Connect. £5 includes food.
 20 October. 10am-4pm. Engaging in Policy - through DRIP Training. Vestry Hall. Merton Unity Network. Free.
 23 October 6-10pm. Black Hair & Beauty Makeover Evening. Care Connect. Free.
 24 & 25 October. 1-5pm. Festival of Unity - Food & Music Fest featuring "The Big Show" steel bands, children entertainers and a variety of multi-cultural stalls. Merton Abbey Mills, Watermill Way, Merton Abbey, SW19. Merton Unity Network. Free
 27 October. 1-3pm. Accede "Make it Happen" young people's workshop for children aged 8+. Polka Theatre, 240 The Broadway, Wimbledon, SW19 1SB. 020 8543 4888. Free.
 31 October . 4pm onwards. Black History Month Grand Finale - including the Caribbean folk dance, "Quadrille". Vestry Hall. Merton Unity Network. Free.

Vestry Hall: 336-338 London Road, Mitcham, CR4 3UD.

Merton Unity Network 020 8648 9551

Care Connect events take place at Taylor Road Day Centre, Taylor Road, Mitcham, CR4 3JR. 020 8545 4712.

Mitcham Library, 157 London Road, Mitcham, CR4 2YR.

Wandsworth. Several members of Black & Asian Studies Association Committee are giving talks:

2 October. 7-8pm. Dan Lyndon. Mainstreaming Black History into the National Curriculum.

6 October. 7-8.30pm. Cliff Pereira. Africans in India.

7 October. 7.8.30pm. Kathy Chater. Untold Histories.

20 October. 7-8.30pm. Caz Bressey. White Women, Black History.

And former BASA Chair:

14 October. 7-8.30pm. Hakim Adi. West African Students Union - a photographic history.

All the events take place at the African Caribbean Library, Battersea District Library, Lavender Hill. Free but booking essential: 8871 7466.

For full programme see:

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/downloads/file/1871/black_history_month_2009.

Lambeth. The programme is mainly cultural and films with lots of family activities. The brochure can be seen on www.lambeth.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/E22BB6EC-5FA0-4662-9A8A-69821088F733/0/BHMprogramme2009.pdf

HOW SHOULD HLF RESPOND TO THE RECESSION?

The Heritage Lottery Fund has been consulting on how it should be reacting through its funding programmes to the challenges facing heritage in the recession. In my capacity as Secretary of the Black & Asian Studies Association attended the London event on 11 September. Because of my wide range of history/heritage involvements, I also made more general points and followed it up with a letter to Jenny Abramsky, the HLF Chair, who took part in the same discussion group I was in.

Who should benefit from funding? Because low income groups are a high % of Lottery players, applicants should not be funded if they cannot prove that they reached a high percentage of participation by the three DCMS target groups (low income; BME; people with longstanding health and learning difficulties), they. It follows that projects which charge entrance fees and have high priced cafe facilities are outside the visiting reach of low income groups, in which both the other two target groups are disproportionately represented, should not be funded by HLF.

Local and Community. A large percentage of people's engagement with history and heritage appears to come from their locality or family. Threats to and neglect of the historic built environment are often the trigger to community action and the development of new community groups and heritage and open space projects. If the Fund is seeking to build a popular support base then it should put more resources into local and community projects rather than big prestige projects.

Merging Open and Targeted programmes. I supported an idea suggested in discussion that programmes should be open but have key targets embedded into the application process. These should include the social deprivation one the HLF already has, the three DCMS target audiences, the diversity of participation and audience, cultural/ethnic/faith diversity, learning, and the reflection of hidden histories including Black and Asian and other BME groups, working class, women and children. The inclusion of these targets would force lead applicants to develop more inclusive partnerships and address issues they might not want to, and force them to consult with relevant experts.

Advocacy and Development. Without needing to be seen as 'politically driven' HLF has an advocacy and developmental role to encourage work that investigates the increasing complexity of Britain's diverse population. In particular it could encourage some organisations to pilot work on Britain's long connection with Eastern Europe, e.g. through its Baltic trade, the involvement in continental wars, the religious and Stuart connections with Bohemia, the role of English and Scots in working for East European rulers, the intervention in the Russian Civil War, the role of Poles in the Second World War and the use of East European labour after that War.

Monitoring. The impression was given at the meeting that there could be improvements in monitoring. These could be on several levels. Firstly, ethnic and target group monitoring in terms of participation, consultation and audiences. Secondly, re-examination of the on-going effect of project funding, perhaps after 2 and 5 years, including where buildings have been funded the intensity of the activities offered throughout the year. The Fund should encourage people with concerns about projects to write to it.

Joining Projects Up. Jenny Abramsky had suggested that HLF projects in the same area should be joined up. It seems to me that projects can be very insular forgetting that their particular focus is just one window into the broader historic picture. Therefore making it a condition that they develop co-operative programmes with other HLF funded projects in the area could be a criteria for funding. HLF itself could perhaps do the occasional roadshow in which many projects work is showcased round the country.

A Crisis Role. The recession's reduction in funding from all sources is going to lead to the closure of many heritage projects, and the closure of the buildings they use. There is a danger that local authorities will try to reduce their investment in local museums and archives. Although pre-

recession, Wandsworth's closure of its Museum, on the spurious grounds that 30,000 visitors a year was too small to justify the money spent, is an example of what might happen. Similarly the threat in Waltham Forest to the William Morris Museum, and in Tower Hamlets to the Bancroft Library. It has only been through the efforts of local campaigns that compromises have been reached to ensure that an independent Wandsworth Museum is being created, the William Morris saved, and a new enhanced future for the Bancroft. The danger is that if HLF has a public crisis rescue policy it might lead local authorities to deliberately reducing funding. There are many other ways in which important heritage initiatives, especially those that traditionally do not look to the Fund, will be in danger of closing. I drew attention to the crisis facing the Centre for Research into Freemasonry and Fraternalism at Sheffield University.

Sustainability. Having worked in the community and voluntary sector for most of my working life I am well aware of the nonsense involved in the insistence that projects need to prove themselves to be sustainable. It may be that the Fund should consider doing a survey among all the projects it has funded in the past to see how sustainable they have been and what threats they are facing. If the result is to show that the continuing effect of HLF investment is under threat, then this would be a powerful piece of information in the Fund's evidence base for its advocacy of the need to maintain the health of the the heritage sector in the recession even if it cannot be improved.

Emerging Crises. There are other types of crises as well, as evidenced in the demolition threat to the Grade II listed Derby Hippodrome Theatre building (www.derbyhippodrome.co.uk). The story is a complex one involving a developer who wants to demolish and build a multi-storey car park, with some housing and shops, and who was stopped from bulldozing the building.

Private Sector Support. This is a most troublesome issue. The private sector usually wants to have something that benefits it out of its funding support, particularly advertising, and this often creates a heritage distortion. However, the whole range of public, community and voluntary organisations across a wide range of service fields will be looking to tap into the reducing resources the private sector has, or will feel willing to give, because of the recession. The competition will become even fiercer than now. Therefore for heritage an entirely different approach will be needed. I have suggested that the angle to be taken by HLF is to explore with leading people in the private sector how to link the sector's own heritage in. It is largely responsible for much of the built environment, it has provided the changing patterns and types of most employment, and it created and ran industrial and commercial activities. Many companies are the consequence of mergers of firms previously taken over, some of which may go back 50, 100, 150, 200 years. If it is not already doing so, there may be scope for HLF to discuss how to develop such a heritage focused approach with the Business Archives Council, taking into account the National Strategy developed with National Archives. If it has not already arranged to do so, HLF could discuss with the Council having a workshop at the BCA National Conference on 24 November.

THE HISTORIC VALUE OF POSTCARDS

I had a letter published In the September issue of *Picture Postcard Monthly* supporting the proposal for a Picture Postcard Society, stressing the importance of postcards as a visual record.

'There are two seemingly unconnected items in the August issue. Firstly the item on postcard magazines of the early 20thC, and secondly Michael Goldsmiths' proposal for a Postcard Society to be launched on 25 September at Woking.

Postcards are increasingly being appreciated by academic and non-academic historians as important images to illustrate their works. The wide range of books of views of local areas by various publishers shows the extent to which postcard views are vital to illustrating early 20th Century history. They also provide visual images of the changes in the built environment and the buildings that have been lost, as made use of e.g. in Jim Davidson's *Northumberland's lost houses: a picture postcard history* (Wagtail Press, 2008).

The history of the development of and range of purposes for postcards is the linking theme for *PPM*, and that history has had specialist books devoted to it. But not everyone understands the importance of postcards as historical records and the need to preserve and archive them. Just think of the many postcards of people that are on sale of individuals who are nameless. Even if the people cannot be identified the cards themselves are useful for showing fashions in clothes, hairstyles and in portrait photography.

In her book *The spectacle of women: imagery of the suffrage campaign 1907-1914* Liza Tickner cites *The Postcard Connoisseur* and *The Picture Postcard Annual and Directory* (Rotherham, 1906, 1907). In his article on *The Voyage Out*, a story by Virginia Woolf, *Woolf, Postcards, and the Elision of Race: Colonizing Women in The Voyage Out* in the journal *Modernism/modernity* (Vol. 8, No. 1, January 2001) Mark Wollaeger. discusses the pre-First World War fashion for sending cards, and cites both *The Picture Postcard & Collector's Chronicle* (1900-1907) and the *Connoisseur*.

Many archives have both postcard collections and postcards scattered through the deposited papers of individuals. John Rylands Library in Manchester has a small volume of postcards of the Ulster Unionist Party leader Baron Edward Henry Carson (1854-1935). Among its handful of cards the Library & Archive of the Freemasons has one inserted into a Bristol masonic programme of 1920.

If you put 'postcard' into the search box for the British Library integrated catalogue 463 listings come up, including individual postcards, collections containing one or more postcards, song sheets, books, etc. While most items are post 2nd World War there are several items of particular interest from the earlier period, including *The Nursery postcard painting book* and *The child and the cinematograph show, and the picture post-card evil ... With a note on the cinematograph* by the headmaster of Eton (Edward Lyttleton), reprinted from the *Hibbert Journal* (1913).

In addition to having the 1906 and 1907 editions of the Rotherham published magazine, and the 3 issues of the *Connoisseur*, the British Library has *The Collectors' and Dealers' Directory* (1913), *The Picture Postcard. A magazine of travel, philately, art.* (Vol. 1-8: Nos 1-85, July 1900-Sept. 1907), *Picture Postcard Budget and Collectors Magazine* (1904). There are even four issues of *The Postcard. The smallest monthly journal, etc* (1893).

There are many history societies that promote highly specialist collectables from tokens to tools. Michael is quite right to suggest that the postcard world needs its own society. Museums, archives and libraries are under continual pressure to make their collections more accessible to a wider range of audiences. Postcards are one way of doing this. The Museums Association is inviting history and community groups with an interest in helping them to diversify to take part in their Annual Conference this year. Once the proposed Society is launched Michael might want to consider getting articles placed in the Association's *Museums Journal* and *Social History in Museums* (journal of the Social History Curators Group), as well as news items in popular magazines such as *History Today* and *BBC History*.

Searching 'postcard' and 'post card' will not show up all relevant items. For example the British Library has Marshall's *Wish you were here: the art of Donald Gill* (1966) so more targeted searching is also necessary. Incidentally as it has three copies of the book it can be borrowed through the Inter-Library Loan system. The Library makes a point to buy in locally-produced books of vintage postcards, for the images.'

Jim Davidson of Stocksfield in Northumberland has written in the October issue that he was delighted to see my mention of his book. He says 'Until fairly recent times bodies such as libraries and museums failed to recognise the value of the humble picture postcard. Indeed without ordinary collectors many postcards would not have survived and a valuable resource would have been lost to historians.' He intends to leave his collection of postcards of country houses around the country to the National Monuments Record Office at Swindon, which has 'the

specialist facilities needed to look after such collections and the necessary funding to staff and maintain them.'

CRISIS FACES CENTRE FOR RESEARCH INTO FREEMASONRY

The Centre for Research into Freemasonry and Fraternalism which is based at my former University Sheffield is in financial crisis.

I have been involved with it since before it opened. As a member of the University Court of Governors I expressed concerns about whether the Grand Lodge which was providing the initial funding would be able to dictate the terms of research. As a result of my representations a detailed statement was read out at the Court on the terms of the funding agreement which made it clear that the Grand Lodge would have no such role. As another way of expressing concern and suggesting what the research focus should be I applied for the job as the first Director, but as I expected I was not interviewed. It turned out that Andrew Prescott, the first Director, and I had mutual friends and historical interests. We worked together on the history of freemasonry and friendly societies in Battersea and Wandsworth. We did joint talks to the evening seminar series and I presented a paper at the highly successful Band of Brothers Conference he organised in Sheffield in 2004. He also arranged for me to be invited as the only non-academic to take part in a White Rose Universities study day about the historic contested nature of public spaces (see my website). We jointly wrote an introduction to Black Freemasonry which was posted on the Centre's website, which has stimulated others to undertake research.. We provided letters of support for a successful funding application by the Library and Museum of Freemasonry to look at its records on freemasonry in the West Indies. Since then I have been in continual touch with the Library staff over joint research interests. At my request Andrew gave a talk on freemasonry and the Parliamentary Labour Party at a Conference organised by Labour Heritage when I was its Secretary.

Andrew opened up the history of freemasonry to the wider historic community shedding new light on a wide range of aspects of British history, including political radicalism. He has helped build a strong reputation for the University across the Continents. Although inevitably there has been a change in research focus, Andrew's successor Andreas Onofors has continued to build that reputation and extended the Centre's remit to over wider Fraternalism as well.

Given this background it was very disappointing to hear about the funding crisis now facing the Centre following the ending of the agreed funding from the Grand Lodge, and the difficulties attracting new funding. It would be a retrogressive step if the Centre was closed.

When I went to the Annual Meeting of Convocation on 12 September the news had not gone public. As I had agreed to write to the Vice-Chancellor about Arts & Humanities Research Council Knowledge Transfer (AHRCKT) funding and other matters, I took the opportunity to express my concern.

I have recommended that AHRCKT funding be explored. This of course will require the selection of a research project which can involve outside partners. I have suggested that this be an intensive study of freemasonry and fraternal organisations in the wider society of the Sheffield District or Yorkshire. If Sheffield District then partners could include the local masonic and friendly society organisations, and the City Library which has a rich collection of archive material.

Support could come from the Society for the Study of Labour History and the Friendly Societies Research Group. But the bid would have to have a strong emphasis on friendly societies, which included many trade unions, in order to strengthen the Centre's work on the Fraternalism aspect of its remit, and strengthen the application by focussing on working class history. Given the project will have to have a public profile about its work and findings, the results could give the City an increased understanding of its social, political and economic past, and boost the morale of the current and former white working classes who seem increasingly to feel that their history

is neglected. I have suggested to the Vice-Chancellor that this in turn could win the University additional allies.

Many graduates of the University will be freemasons, as may some staff. I have also suggested that the Alumni Office put out an email appeal to all graduates who are freemasons to express their regret to Grand Lodge at the ending of funding, and to appeal for donations to keep the Centre viable.