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### Message from the President

I am taking this opportunity to update members on some changes instigated by Liverpool University Press (LUP) for 2020. LUP has decided to take the collection of subscriptions 'in-house' and dispense with the services of its agent Turpin. Please be reassured that there will be no change at all for members who pay by Direct Debit/Standing Order. Members who renew yearly will receive an invoice directly from LUP with the revised payment methods later in the year. The changes should simplify matters both for new members and for renewals. HSLC has updated its promotional flyer with the revisions and we are sending it with the newsletter as an advance notification. Please ensure that you submit your email address to LUP in order to enjoy the benefit of online access to the last ten years of Transactions. **Dr Arline Wilson**

### *In this issue*

Mike Stammers Memorial Lecture report

June lecture report: 'Early Viking settlement in North West England'

April study day: Lancashire 500-1500

March (AGM) lecture report

Obituary: Dr Colin Phillips

Forthcoming events



### Mike Stammers Memorial Lecture

“Don't think of emigrating!” Liverpool and overseas migration during the First World War' by Rachel Mulhearn, Martin Luther King Building, Albert Dock, Liverpool, 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Despite a cold and blustery evening, an audience of over 50 enjoyed a fascinating talk by Rachel Mulhearn, a former director of the Merseyside Maritime Museum and currently interim head of culture at Preston City Council.

Given Mike Stammers' publication and curating activities around emigration, particularly from Liverpool, the subject was especially appropriate for this Memorial Lecture. Through focussing on the First World War, Rachel provided a bridge between the 'Great Migration' of the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries and the assisted passages of the Empire Settlement Movement in the interwar years. Not surprisingly, UK emigration overseas did decline markedly during the 1914-18 war but Rachel showed how this was nevertheless an important period in qualitative terms because of the proportional increase in women and children on liner passenger lists. A significant push factor, particularly in the North-West and through Liverpool, was declining employment opportunities in the textile industry, creating a pool of 'surplus women'.

*Continued on page 2 →*



But experiences of emigration were not always happy ones. Rachel began her talk by telling us about the local hostility which Irish emigrants in Liverpool were subject to because they appeared to be evading and escaping military service. Moreover, employment prospects in the 'White' Dominions – in Australia especially – for Lancashire women were often limited to low-paying and labour-intensive domestic service. These women also faced prejudice on arrival in the Dominions because it was feared that they would be 'stealing' local jobs.

Rich with illustrations and individual experiences from original correspondence, this proved a great opportunity to get a foretaste of Rachel's recently completed University of Liverpool PhD thesis.

**Professor Nick White**

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### June lecture report

'Early Viking settlement in North West England' by  
Dr Clare Downham, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2019

In a very interesting and lavishly illustrated talk Dr Downham discussed the work of her group project, first outlining the standard narrative of the Viking voyages that there were largely two groups – the Norwegians who travelled north and the Danes who travelled south. She argued, however, that the reality is a more complex picture which challenges the classic narrative depicted by the Chronicles of 8th and 9th centuries. She stressed the strategic importance of the North West as the Roman road system still functioned, allowing raids on Chester and North Wales. Throughout the 9th century raids into Ireland had established a Viking base in Dublin.

Dr Downham then discussed evidence of place names and surviving artefacts which point to an input of Scandinavian culture. There followed a fascinating discussion of the difficulties of using place names as evidence of conquest and of establishing the date of settlement and the habitual use of names many of which were not recorded until the 12th century or later.

The discussion continued with the evidence provided by archaeological finds. The Vikings traded in silver over large distances. The Cuerdale Hoard, one of the largest found, was discovered on the banks of the Ribble in the 1880s and dates from c905. It was possibly a war chest intended for the reconquest of Dublin after the expulsion of 902. Archaeological discoveries from the 1700s onwards have demonstrated the existence of wide trade networks created and utilised by the Vikings. Pertinent examples include the discovery of Islamic silver and other objects at Warton in 1997.

Finally, Dr Downham discussed burial markers, sculpture, the use of runes such as those found in Aspatria in the 1800s, and the Hogsback markers in Cumbria and Wirral. She concluded with a discussion of the adaptability of Viking culture and its lasting influence on local folklore.

Dr Downham has also issued an app through which details about a range of sites in North West England can be found. It can be downloaded at: <https://bit.ly/30vVRIx> and feedback would be appreciated.

**Catherine Nunn**

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### Lancashire 500-1500: re-envisioning our medieval history and heritage

Study Day in collaboration with the Regional History Centre, 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019

This event was held in the inspiring setting of the Great Hall at Whalley Abbey, a former Cistercian house, and featured seven speakers beginning with RHC Director Dr Fiona Edmonds looking at what is known about Lancashire in the early medieval period, examining the material culture and asking what remains to be discovered.

Dr Hugh Doherty from the University of East Anglia talked about Lancashire in the Central Middle Ages, describing how the Duchy of Lancaster had come into existence and passed *Continued on page 3* →

into the Plantagenet family. He particularly praised the Victoria County History of Lancashire as a monument to early 20th century scholarship. This was followed by Dr Sarah Rose from Lancaster University, currently working on the Victoria County History of Cumbria project. She concentrated on Lancashire in the later Middle Ages and the development of the County Palatine.

Several speakers discussed the surviving records available to researchers interested in medieval Lancashire. In particular, Dr Sean Cunningham from The National Archives talked about the records of the Duchy of Lancaster and the County Palatine and discussed how these records came to be held in London and how it is sometimes difficult to separate the two jurisdictions. Jacque Crosby from Lancashire Archives told us about some of the records still held locally in Preston.

Rachel Newman from Oxford Archaeology North described the Regional Archaeological Research Framework for the North West, explaining how the Framework had evolved over time as more was discovered about the area.

Finally David Brookhouse from the Lancashire Heritage Learning Team discussed the teaching of Medieval History within the framework of the National Curriculum.

Tickets had sold out well in advance of this popular and enjoyable event which the HSLC was very pleased to support.

**Dr Patricia Cox**

### March (AGM) lecture report

‘The Perils of Press Proprietorship in 18th Century Liverpool’ by Dr Nick Foggo, 13th March 2019

Dr Nick Foggo, Honorary Fellow of the University of Liverpool, who is leading the *Liverpool Newspaper Heritage* research project, presented a survey of the first hundred years of newspaper publishing in Liverpool, focusing on the many perils faced by early newspaper proprietors.

From the very first newspaper in 1712, the short-lived *Liverpoole Courant*, which had to contend with both the introduction of stamp duty and denunciation to the government by an informer, proprietors never quite knew what they would be up against. As a succession of printers and entrepreneurs sought to diversify their business interests by entering the burgeoning newspaper industry, they soon found that, aside from the usual danger of bankruptcy, they had to contend with febrile local politics and repressive government with its array of taxes and legal sanctions. Moreover, in Liverpool, a ruinous fire, such as almost closed the *Liverpool Herald* in its infancy, or a tragic shipwreck that ultimately led to the proprietor of *Williamson’s Liverpool Advertiser* decamping to India, was always round the

corner. The century-long success of *Gore’s General Advertiser* is thus all the more remarkable and may be attributed to consummate business practice and a policy of “playing it safe”.

Despite all these perils, Liverpool’s proprietors succeeded in laying the foundations for a golden age of press reporting in the 19th century.

#### Forthcoming events

*Poison is a Woman’s Weapon* – Angela Brabin, MA

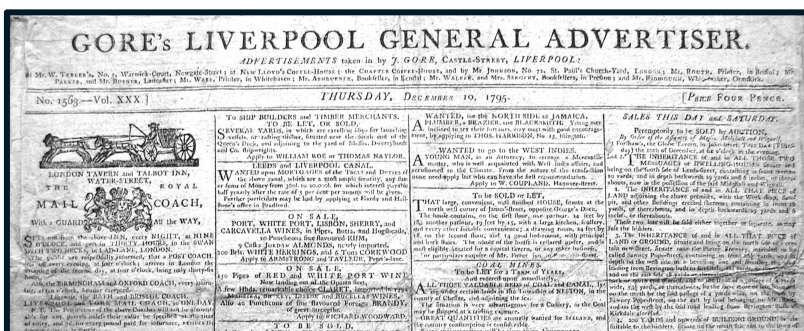
Top floor meeting room, Liverpool Central Library at 6:15 pm on Wednesday 18th September.

*‘Orator’ Hunt, radical mobilisation and the Peterloo Massacre* – Professor John Belchem

Top floor meeting room, Liverpool Central Library at 2:00 pm on Wednesday 16th October.

*Princes Park: Liverpool’s first park* – Roger Hull

Top floor meeting room, Liverpool Central Library at 2:00 pm on Saturday 16th November



## Dr Colin Phillips (1944-2019)

The Society is sad to announce the death of Dr Colin Phillips, the longest serving member of Council in the modern era, a stretch of almost forty years (1978 to 2017). Not one for the back benches he was drafted in as co-editor of *Transactions*, the annual volume of historical papers and reviews, from his first year in 1978 and remained an editor for twenty years until 1998. He was particularly pleased with volume 141 (for the year 1991) and its inclusion of a full colour portrait of the Cholmondeley sisters obtained from the Tate Gallery in London. This volume also proved to be one of the largest on record with 386 pages.

Colin was elected President of the Society in 1996 (to 1999) which incorporated the celebration of the 150th year of the Society's foundation in 1998. He opened the year with his presidential address on "Lord of the town", urban identity and culture in later Tudor and Stuart Stockport', published in volume 148. He led the way in drafting a new constitution for the Society published in volume 145 (1995) and not one to rest on his laurels, he remained on Council well after his Presidential years and hardly ever missed a Council meeting, even when it met on a Friday evening at seven, having driven all the way from and back to rural Cheshire. In 2011 he chaired a working party on the ways for the Society to increase and diversify its membership. The debate is still ongoing!

He was involved in the churchwardens in Cheshire project (1602 -1830) published in vol. 162 (2013) and was instrumental in encouraging our current Treasurer and Web Editor to join Council.

When the Society was bereft of a Programme Secretary after 2015, Colin stepped into the breach in 2016 for two years and finally retired in 2017. He had also been elected as President of the Record Society of Lancashire & Cheshire from 2013 (resigning in 2018).



His career was at the University of Manchester where he ultimately became Senior Lecturer in economic and social history. His interests were in the early modern period in the North West and for some years he was Programme Director of the M.A. course in Regional History of North West England. He was particularly interested in all aspects of the charcoal iron making industry and had been president of the Historical Metallurgy Society. He published a number of papers (including in *Transactions*) and also compiled *A new historical atlas of Cheshire* (with A.D.M. Phillips) in 2002 and a companion volume *The historical atlas of Staffordshire* in 2007.

Never one to hide his opinions, he enlivened Council meetings with his trenchant views and thoughts on the progress of the Society. Having helped to push it forward into the 21st century he will be long remembered as one of the 'giants' of the Society's long history. We offer our condolences to his family for the loss of a great historian.

**Roger Hull**

