

# ORAL HISTORY SOCIETY

## ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

### Chairman's Report

My report this year must begin with a note about Coronavirus which is confining many of us to our homes and which has had a significant impact on the Society. Our annual conference, planned for July, has been postponed until the following year. Meetings of the Society, the Spring School, training and seminars have also been cancelled or postponed. We are doing our best to carry out some things remotely and we are looking into the possibility of conducting others, for example training and interviewing, using virtual platforms. I would like to thank those volunteers who have been seeking solutions to these problems and [disseminating advice](#) via our website for the benefit of members of the oral history community in extremely difficult circumstances for all our members.

Despite this setback, much has been accomplished in the year. The annual conference held in Swansea in 2019, Oral History@ Work, is a case in point. The OHS's showcase annual event included some inspiring plenary talks and a very rich and varied set of presentations. Feedback from the 177 delegates attending was overwhelmingly positive, re-affirming the warm and collegial ethos of our conferences as well as quality of the talks and conference organisation. A number of those attending requested more opportunities for networking and practical workshops, something we will certainly consider for future conferences. In financial terms, the conference made a small surplus, another reason to offer sincere thanks to the organising team.

In November we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Oral History Journal at the British Library. The focus of the evening was a question and answer session chaired by Alan Dein with Paul Thompson and three early-career oral historians. The presence of both founding members of the Journal and representatives of a new generation of oral historians provided an ideal opportunity to look back over the last half century but we were also heartened by the continuing interest in and enthusiasm for oral history amongst younger people. The occasion also allowed us to film a series of Q&A interviews with a handful of long-standing members of the society, which, together with edited highlights from the event will appear on our newly launched OHS YouTube channel. We also took the opportunity to publicise the [special 50th anniversary online edition of the journal](#) capturing some of the best-known articles over the decades. In addition to this free issue the journal has published two excellent issues including a special issue on LGBTQ+ Lives: History, Identity and Belonging.

The 50th anniversary event coincided with the regional networkers' annual event on the theme of 'The Creative Uses of Oral Histories' and included some highly imaginative installations using design, film, drama, photographs and artefacts which, in different ways, provided an excellent backdrop for the sound recordings. Such was the success of the event that it prompted the idea of establishing a Special Interest Group around creative practice, a proposal that was supported by the OHS Committee.

Elsewhere, [Special Interest Groups \(SIGs\)](#) have enjoyed mixed fortunes this year. The LGBTQ+ group continues to attract wide interest and support and we were particularly grateful this year to this SIG for drawing our attention to the situation facing members of the LGBTQ+ community in Singapore, the proposed venue for the International Oral History Association conference in 2021. Our views were discussed and debated with colleagues inside the OHS and in the international community of oral historians.

Elsewhere, the Migration SIG held an event to celebrate some current projects on a diverse group of migrant communities. Our commitment to inclusivity and diversity has been behind the decision to explore a future annual conference on 'home' with a number of themes including home and belonging. In an effort to mirror some of the significant achievements of the LGBTQ+ SIG we have recently agreed to create the position of SIG Co-ordinator. One of the key purposes of SIGs is to reach out beyond the current membership of the organisation, both to highlight the benefits of oral history and to ensure that we are responsive to current developments and issues in society.

The decision to review SIGs was one of a number of related outcomes of our strategy weekend in 2019 and which prompted the creation of a Governance Working Group which has been extremely busy and productive over the past year. Unfortunately, we were forced to postpone our discussion of the Group's report as it came immediately prior to the decision to postpone our March committee, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who participated in this group from across the Oral History Society and community for all their time and effort and an excellent report. It is a most thoughtful and timely document with a number of recommendations regarding the SIGS, the OHS Committee, the organizational structure of the Society with the intention of making the OHS a more accessible and accountable organisation, to broaden the scope for participation to the wider membership and to enhance as well as make visible the benefits to members. We therefore see a clear relationship between governance, communications, the benefits of membership of the society and financial sustainability. I am optimistic that the Governance Report will provide us with the means to take the organisation forward on all these fronts.

We have also decided to constitute a Special Interest Group for Higher Education, the details of which await the discussion of the Governance Report. Meanwhile the HE group has continued to run its seminar series at London Metropolitan University as a result of the ongoing dispute between the local campus unions and

UCL Senate House over outsourcing. In March, the group held a zoom meeting with a group of interested students and staff in the higher education sector as a starting point for engaging a wider group from HE in the activities of the organisation and build online resources for the use of research students in HE. As part of this initiative the HE group are intending to undertake a review of current oral history teaching in higher education. Finally, the Group has participated in the activities of the Arts and Humanities Alliance and submitted responses to a number of consultations.

We continue to make progress around our approach to communications, another important issue to come out of strategic weekend. Apart from the new YouTube channel, there has been an increase in traffic on our website and twitter (currently over 6.000 followers). The re-vamped newsletter which continues to be well-received has increased its circulation. The website, which is currently being reviewed, has benefitted from some extremely important advice documents on consultancy fees, and revamped legal, ethics and GDPR pages with some new Q&A's.

In conjunction with National Life Stories at the British Library we had our busiest year yet and in 2019 ran 122 courses for 1200 participants. Demand has remained high so the appointment of four new trainers was very timely. The training team have also piloted a new course on oral history project management and a half-day workshop on GDPR.

The financial position of the organisation remains healthy. In 2019 we added £6,000 to our reserves, of which half was due to the highly successful annual conference in Swansea. However, there are always requests to do more and spend more in order to bring further benefits to members. With this in mind, the organisation continues to look into income generating initiatives. The organisation has financially benefitted from the highly successful NLS/OHS training programme and we are looking to promote a higher take up of gift aid amongst members. We have also increased the membership fee by £1 to keep up with journal printing costs.

This year we welcomed two new members to the Committee: Sarah Ellis who is reviewing and developing policies/practices/procedures to ensure that the Society is meeting its GDPR and Data Protection obligations, whilst thinking about how information can be organised and archived in ways that benefit the end user, and Erin Farley, who is the new representative from the Scottish Oral History Association. Sarah-Joy Maddeaux also joined our team of regional networkers representing the Essex in our East of England region.

Finally, as always, I must pay thanks to all those who make an enormous contribution to the organisation on a voluntary basis: officers, committee members, regional networkers, SIGs and subgroups. Without your efforts the organisation would cease to function. This is not to deny the invaluable role played by our part-time staff members and of course, our members more widely, whose loyalty to the

OHS and commitment to oral history is what sustains us as a community of oral history practice.

**John Gabriel**  
**Chair, Oral History Society**

## **Regional Network Report**

The [OHS Regional Network](#) currently consists of 45 networkers, covering 12 geographical regions across the UK, who volunteer to act as a point of contact to provide advice on oral history. All networkers are experienced practitioners working in diverse sectors – museums, libraries, archives, academic institutions, community organisations, and as freelancers. This broad range of expertise creates a collective knowledge bank of the different aspects of oral history that is generously shared in response to inquiries.

[A map of the regions](#), details of current networkers and annual reports can be found on the OHS website. Networkers are recruited through an open call for applications whenever there is a vacancy. In the past year, Sarah-Joy Maddeaux, Sound Archivist at Essex Sound and Video Archive (Essex Record Office), was appointed as East of England networker. Sadly, due to her imminent move to an exciting new job, she is resigning from the network. Long-serving networkers Helen Lloyd (West Midlands) and Verusca Calabria (East Midlands) have also recently resigned. We would like to thank Helen, Verusca and Sarah-Joy for their dedicated and proactive participation in the network. We will miss them and wish them well for the future. We will be advertising for these posts soon.

The [Annual Report 2019](#), packed with items sent in by networkers, indicates the increasing number and diversity of oral history activity across the country – from projects led by museums, archives and community organisations to those being gathered by academic researchers, creative practitioners and schools. The annual reports from [past years](#) are a great way to find out what is happening around the country and share news of your projects through the regional networkers.

Every autumn, networkers get together for the annual business meeting, Continuing Professional Development workshop and a public seminar. The 2019 event, on the theme of *Creative uses of oral history*, was held at the British Library on 22-23 November. The discussions and connections made during the day led to the formation of the new Creative Oral History Special Interest Group. As the date coincided with the OHJ@50 celebrations networkers were delighted to join in the evening events and meet trustees and OHS members.

At the business meeting networkers drew on their own experience to consider how we can respond to issues emerging in the OHS strategy review, such as improving

communication and engaging with the wider membership, and in particular initiatives to attract young people. The Q&A session with Melissa Strauss, Policy Adviser at the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF), was an opportunity to raise various issues and concerns we encounter when advising on or delivering projects funded by the NLHF and the implications of their new strategic framework on oral history projects. This was followed by four presentations, from curators and creative practitioners, on how oral history recordings had inspired artistic responses as varied as an interactive sonic quilt, a 360° Virtual Reality film, soundscapes, immersive experiences and site-specific performances. Details of speakers and projects can be found on page 41 of the [Regional Network Report 2019](#).

We would like to thank all Regional Networkers who volunteer and give their time so generously to respond to inquiries and share their knowledge, expertise and passion for oral history.

**Juliana Vandegrift/Padmini Broomfield**

## ***Oral History Journal Report***

The high point for the journal during 2019 was the celebration of fifty years of publishing *Oral History*. The online issue, designed by Smith+Bell and led by Fiona Cosson, came together very successfully with contributions selected from the five decades accompanied by commentaries from editors and, in some cases, from the original contributors. This was launched at the annual conference in Swansea with a PowerPoint featuring supporters and contributors. The celebrations concluded with an event, chaired by Alan Dein at the British Library, in November with speakers including Paul Thompson and three younger oral historians.

Meanwhile, the business of editing the journal went on as normal. We were delighted to publish another special issue, this time with articles on LGBTQ+ lives. Other special issues are in the pipeline and the supply of submissions continues, boosted by articles drawing from annual conference papers. There have been some changes, even so. The new printer we had commissioned at the end of 2018 went out of business during 2019 after only two issues. Fortunately we were able to find another printer who has now worked on one issue. Kate Melvin joined the editorial group as Learning Editor, while Fiona Cosson resigned from her position as public history editor. We thanked her for her work and commitment and have put in place the process of finding someone to take on that responsibility. Our copy editor Rachel Norridge has made an excellent start with the two 2019 issues and we continue to have dedicated and meticulous support from our editorial assistant, Liz Ison.

The editorial group continues to grapple with the issue of open access. Though we're committed to working with authors to ensure that their articles are available without restrictions, open access presents particular difficulties to small independent

journals such as our own. Our current position is given in the journal section of the OHS website. We are grateful to Sean O’Connell for the work he has put into this.

Our relationship with J-STOR evolves, now with a new contract and much eased by being able to directly submit pdfs of articles. We look forward to the coming twelve months, unusual and difficult as they are likely to be, with a continuing presence for *Oral History* and would like to take this opportunity to thank all our contributors, members and trustees who have supported the journal over the last five decades.

### **Joanna Bornat**

Editorial Team: Zibiah Alfred Loakthar, Joanna Bornat, Lindsey Dodd, Jenny Harding, Heather Norris Nicholson, Sean O’Connell, Rob Perks, Anindya Raychaudhuri, Christine Wall  
Editorial Assistant: Liz Ison

## **Website Report**

The Website Editorial Group (WEG), which currently includes Cai Parry-Jones (Overseer), Michelle Winslow, Eleanor Lowe, Beth Thomas and Craig Fees, has carried out several updates and improvements to the OHS website during the 2019 and 2020 period. The WEG has been working closely with Evoluted, a web and graphic design company based in Sheffield, to ensure that the website functions better on smartphones and tablets. These changes will be implemented in early Summer 2020.

### **New Content on the OHS Website:**

**Advice on remote oral history interviewing during the Covid-19 pandemic:** in response to increased interest in conducting remote interviews during the Covid-19 pandemic, the British Library’s oral history team, with the support of the Society, created and uploaded a document that summarises the key issues that individuals and projects will need to consider before embarking on such interviews: <https://www.ohs.org.uk/advice/covid-19/>

**A webpage for the Society’s recently created *Creative Oral History Special Interest Group (SIG)*:** <https://www.ohs.org.uk/interest-groups/creative-oral-history/>

**Oral History Journal @ 50 Special Online Edition:** *Oral History* celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2019, making it the oldest oral history journal in the world. To celebrate, a special online issue was published by the Society via its website (it can be downloaded as a PDF copy). The issue contains highlighted articles from the past 50 years and is free to all: <https://www.ohs.org.uk/journal/ohj-50/>

**Data Protection & GDPR:** An updated version of the Society's Data Protection & GDPR guide for oral history practitioners was published in August 2019:  
<https://www.ohs.org.uk/advice/data-protection/>

### **Usage stats:**

The most popular pages for the 2019-2020 period have been (in ranked order): Oral History Vacancies, OHS Training (Intro to Oral History Training especially), Advice Pages (Ethical and Legal, Getting Started, GDPR, and Remote Interviewing during Covid-19) and the OHS 2020 conference (postponed due to Covid-19 pandemic).

Stats on users tell us that 74% access the website via desktop (a drop of 6% from 2018-2019 period), 21% via mobile phone (a rise of 8% from 2018-2019 period) and 5% via tablet (a drop of 2% from 2018-2019 period). Our website visits for 2019 were up by 25.7% (45K) from 2018 (approx. 33.5K).

Our website users are primarily British and Irish (60%). Roughly 15% are from the USA and a smaller percentage from Australia, Greece and India.

OHS members are encouraged to contribute news and event information to the website, as well as thoughts and ideas about content. Please contact Michelle Winslow: [m.winslow@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:m.winslow@sheffield.ac.uk).

**Cai Parry-Jones with Michelle Winslow, Eleanor Lowe, Beth Thomas and Craig Fees**

## **Training Report**

The Oral History Society/National Life Stories at the British Library training team has had a record year, teaching 122 courses to 1200 attendees in 2019. Trainers delivered nearly twice as many tailored training programmes to projects across the UK compared to the previous year. To meet the demand the group recruited four new trainers: two in London (Sarah Gudgin and Rosa Schling), one in Sheffield (Sam Smith) and one in the Scottish borders (Alison Chand).

Training days delivered in 2019 comprised 17 'Introduction to Oral History' courses, 90 tailored training courses, 3 'Archival management of Oral History Collections' courses, 2 'Digital Editing' courses, 2 'Transcript to Script' courses, 2 'Oral History in Palliative Care' courses, 1 'Developing your Oral History Skills' course, 1 'Lives in Focus: Video' course, and 3 workshops on data protection for oral historians. A new project management course, 'Designing and planning your oral history project', was launched in November 2019 with fantastic feedback from attendees. 'Introduction' courses took place in London, Manchester and Sheffield, with a new location confirmed for courses in 2020: the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley.

Scores on the feedback forms for introductory and tailored courses remained high, with a combined average approval rating of 4.8 out of 5. Attendees came from across the UK – with a majority in London, the South East, Yorkshire, and East of England. We saw a rise in bookings from the Midlands and the South East and a slight reduction in demand in London and Wales. Continuing the pattern from previous years, there was little attendance from areas which had other strong training providers – such as Scotland, the North East and East Midlands.

Doctoral research students, heritage organisations and community history projects were key constituent groups for the courses, the latter generally requesting tailored training. An increase in course participants pursuing family research and oral history projects relating to healthcare was also noted. We continued to provide training for the National Trust, funded by the Laurie Magnus Training Bursary scheme.

The training team and the course participants would like to thank Camille Johnston (NLS Assistant Archivist and Administrator), who administers the training programme efficiently and with good cheer, and provides excellent analysis of the year's activity at the annual meeting of the Training Liaison Group.

In 2020 the group has met to discuss how to best deliver training during the Covid-19 crisis. As this report covers courses and events in 2019, we shall report on this activity in detail next year.

### **Camille Johnston and Mary Stewart**

#### ***On behalf of the Oral History Society/National Life Stories at the British Library Training Liaison Group:***

Cynthia Brown, Anna Bryson, Alison Chand, Rib Davis, Craig Fees, Sarah Gudgin, Roger Kitchen, Julia Letts, Ros Livshin, Sarah Lowry, Rob Perks, Kate Richardson, Rosa Schling, Graham Smith, Sam Smith, Mary Stewart, Beth Thomas, Michelle Winslow.

NLS at the British Library: Camille Johnston, Charlie Morgan, Rob Perks and Mary Stewart

### **Publicity Report**

In line with the OHS's 2019-2021 Strategy, the Society continues to communicate with OHS members via its three main digital channels: Twitter (@OralHistorySoc), the Oral History Society Facebook page, and a monthly e-newsletter to subscribers of the OHS mainlining list:

<https://ohs.us3.listmanage.com/subscribe?u=b52cda3e06a4aff682b59c010&id=fec750d16e>

Since February 2020, the Society's e-newsletter has been split into two to provide subscribers with 1) digestible information regarding upcoming Society training and 2) concise up-to-date information on Society and membership activities, and oral history events more generally. The Society is soon due to launch an OHS YouTube channel, which will allow members to share certain project outputs and content on an official online and centralised OHS platform. Further details to follow.

**Twitter Stats:** the Society's Twitter following continues to grow. The OHS currently has 6,731 followers on Twitter (as of 1st May 2020). This time last year, the Society had 5,985 followers. The Society has gained an average of 62 followers a month for the 2019-2020 period (this is a slight increase from last year's figures of 58 new followers per month and it falls within our strategic target of 50-100 new followers per month). The most popular subject matters on Social Media, like the website, continue to be: Oral History vacancies, Oral History journal, OHS training and the Annual OHS Conference.

**Facebook Stats:** Facebook activity remains stable and the OHS currently has 3,319 followers on its Facebook page (up by 239 from 2019-2018 period). This increase is half of that achieved in the 2017-2018 period (+ 482 people). The reasons for this are likely down to the OHS adopting Twitter as its main Social Media platform (as stated in the OHS 2019-2020 Communications Strategy). For the 2020-2021 period, the Society's publicity officer will continue to use Twitter as the Society's main 'Social Media Voice', but will look to increase content on the Society's Facebook page to increase traffic and online engagement.

**Newsletter Stats:** The Society continues to use MailChimp as its e-newsletter provider. The newsletter is currently sent to 1,562 subscribers. This is an increase of 126 subscribers from the 2018-2019 period (1,436) and a 57.5% gain compared with last year's increase of 80 subscribers. For the 2020-2021 period, the OHS will continue to look at ways of increasing the reach of its monthly e-newsletter.

**Stats on our followers and subscribers:** Our newsletter subscribers are mostly British (73%). We are unable to acquire the same information from Twitter, following the site's decision to deactivate this feature from its analytics page (since Jan 2020). Stats on newsletter subscribers tells us that roughly 64% access the newsletter via desktop (60% - 2018-2019) and 36% via mobile (40% - 2018-2019). These stats are largely in keeping with last year's figures (slight rise in desktop usage and slight decline in mobile usage). The average open rate of our newsletters for the 2019-2020 period was 38%. This is a 3% rise from last year and our open rate is 16% higher than the industry average.

OHS members are encouraged to contribute news and event information to the Publicity Officer, as well as thoughts and ideas about content for the e-newsletter. Please contact Cai Parry-Jones: [caiparryjones@ohs.org.uk](mailto:caiparryjones@ohs.org.uk).

**Cai Parry-Jones**

## **Membership Report**

Membership in the Oral History Society (OHS) in the period 2019-2020 has remained steady in comparison to the previous year. Interest in the OHS, its activities, and oral history in general has remained popular and the OHS has held a number of enriching and successful events and training throughout the year. We also have many loyal subscribers who remain and the benefits the OHS currently offers still attract new members. As of February 2020, membership to the OHS stood at a total of 730. In particular, the OHS has seen an increase in individual membership which has been encouraging and reflective of oral history's continued popularity.

Over the past year, a dedicated membership strategy has been produced which seeks to explore current membership and produce a strategy to increase participation, engagement, and membership within the OHS. The aims of this strategy are fourfold: to understand the purpose and importance of membership to the OHS, increase membership, understand the nature of present membership, and understand the wider present and future context. The strategy compliments the OHS Governance working group and the excellent work which it has produced as well as the 2019-2020 Communications Strategy. Current implementations within the strategy include further analysis of current OHS numbers provided at Trustee meetings, interaction with OHS members and partners through the Governance working group, market research and analysis in institutional membership, and a review of current benefits to OHS members.

Although the COVID-19 outbreak has certainly proven a challenge and may change OHS membership strategy and prompt new discussions in the field of oral history in the coming months – it is hoped that the implementation of the Membership Strategy will continue to develop OHS membership and member benefits.

**Emily Gibbs**

## **Higher Education Group Report**

The Higher Education group has been reviewing its priorities, activities and scope. Our main objectives are to cultivate an expanded network of oral historians working in Higher Education, develop and share resources, support PhD students and ECRs, and increase capacity. To this end we are setting up a Special Interest Group (SIG) for oral historians in Higher Education. We anticipate that some activities will continue to be conducted by members of the OHS HE sub-committee.

We held an initial HE SIG meeting on 3 February 2020 via Zoom with 12 attendees. We discussed activities we might like to develop including: a network of those using oral history in research and teaching in HE; sharing resources for teaching oral history at undergraduate and postgraduate level; creating a forum (somewhere

between a blog and a journal) for PhD students and ECRs to present their work and engage in peer review; using the OHS website as a hub for HE activities across the UK--signposting existing links plus developing its own direction/s. The latter could include the seminar series podcasted and/or write ups, the forum/journal, for example. We discussed how to facilitate connections and conversations, support students and share resources via physical and/or virtual meetings, email and social media.

Following this and learning from the experiences of more established SIGs, we are holding a meeting in May to discuss priorities and identify individual who will take on specific roles (e.g. as Chair, or co-Chair, Secretary, leading on a postgraduate blog, sharing resources, and working on social media, developing web pages etc).

Members of the OHS HE sub-committee continue to work on developing a survey of oral history teaching in HE (Verusca and Jenny) and educational provision for PhD students (Jenny, John and Verusca) as well as representing the OHS at meetings of learned societies with the British Academy and Arts and Humanities Alliance (Shelley and John).

Unfortunately, the IHR/OHS Spring School was cancelled this year due to the on-going boycott of Senate House and lack of affordable alternative venues. The IHR/OHS seminar series has been postponed due to COVID 19. Although we advertised for a volunteer to assist in co-convening the seminars, we had no response from anyone based in London.

### **Jenny Harding and Shelley Trower on behalf of the HE Group:**

Verusca Calabria (Nottingham Trent University)

Fiona Cosson (Bournemouth University)

John Gabriel (London Metropolitan University)

Jenny Harding (London Metropolitan University)

Graham Smith (Newcastle University)

Amy Tooth-Murphy (Royal Holloway, University of London)

Shelley Trower (University of Roehampton)

Michelle Winslow (University of Sheffield)

### **Schools Group**

During the last year, there has been a sustained effort both to attract and to sustain interest in promoting oral history in schools. The Oral History journal is running a series of articles exploring different perspectives and, so far, has included a discussion on a number of themes. This has included a discussion following the previous year's seminar at the British Library, two very different case studies of the use of oral history in schools and a view from the Deputy President of the Historical Association exploring the opportunities for its promotion in teaching. The set of

resources for schools has been successfully and widely used and has recently been translated into Welsh. It is hoped that over the next year, in conjunction with the Historical Association, a series of teaching webinars will be developed to provide support to educators.

<https://www.ohs.org.uk/information-for/schools/>

**Kate Melvin**

## **SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS:**

### **LGBTQ SIG**

The Oral History Society's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Special Interest Group was formed in October 2016 to bring together members of the Oral History Society who are working with LGBTQ participants, or communities, and who are interested in the various issues and practice involved in this work.

Throughout the year, the group has continued to meet regularly at the London Metropolitan Archives, with meetings taking place in June 2019, October 2019 and March 2020. The October meeting served as the group's first Annual General Meeting where a more formal constitution was adopted and members voted into specific committee roles for the next twelve months.

The group's membership continues to grow and email communications have now moved to a JISC List to allow for both easy traffic of messages and also the privacy of members. Fourteen members are signed up to a committee list, to be involved in the running of SIG, with a wider membership now receiving more general updates and information. In addition to this, our Twitter account currently has over 800 followers.

The SIG had a very noticeable presence on 5-6 July 2019 at the Oral History Society Annual Conference, Swansea with three members of the group giving papers and a special SIG event where members of the group provided a "public" oral history interview in front of an audience. This provided a unique opportunity to share what we do, our methodologies and to also highlight to observers in the room why the oral history approach is so important in terms of LGBTQ heritage. Oral historians rarely have the opportunity to share aspects of their approach, in this manner, so the event provided some food for thought.

The theme of sharing then continued at the SIG Project Sharing Event (again at LMA) which took place on Tues 29th October and provided another opportunity for those involved in LGBTQ oral history projects to meet and exchange ideas in an informal and friendly setting. This included a series of short presentations from

people engaged in various kinds of LGBTQ oral history projects. The event provided spaces where members could discuss LGBTQ oral history projects as a large group to exchange ideas and relay experience, as well as smaller settings such as project-specific ‘speed dating’ sessions to discuss projects in smaller, more specific groups and built on the success of the SIG’s previous skills sharing sessions.

This year also saw one of the SIG’s long term aims realised with the publication of Spring 2020 edition of the *Oral History Journal* called “LGBTQ+ Lives: History, Identity and Belonging”. This special edition included articles from a number of members of the SIG and provided a significant contribution to the ongoing project. We still hope to create a special event around the publication of the journal but are currently restrained by the Coronavirus situation. Throughout the time of the pandemic, the SIG has continued to informally meet, via online platforms, and we have been participating in similar meetings with other SIGs with a view to sharing best practice and ideas.

Anyone interested in the work of the SIG can contact the chair, Clare Summerskill, ([claresummerskill@gmail.com](mailto:claresummerskill@gmail.com)), vice chair Alan Butler ([alan.butler@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:alan.butler@plymouth.ac.uk)) or the secretary George Severs ([gjs53@cam.ac.uk](mailto:gjs53@cam.ac.uk))

**Alan Butler**

## **Creative Oral History SIG**

This new SIG was established at the end of 2019 and seeks to bring together Oral History Society members who are working with oral history in creative or innovative ways or who are interested in the issues and practice involved, and to gather and share good practice in this field. This includes all forms of artistic practice, including, but not restricted to, art, film, creative writing and performance. A full report is expected next year. Meanwhile more details at <https://www.ohs.org.uk/interest-groups/creative-oral-history/>.

## **Migration SIG**

No report received.

**Paul Dudman**

## **Environment and Climate Change SIG**

No report received.

## **Psycho-Social Therapies and Care Environments SIG**

Activities suspended.

**Craig Fees**

***13 May 2020***