

Oral History Society e-Newsletter

No. 3, Spring 2011

Welcome..

You have received this Newsletter because you are a member of the Oral History Society and have provided us with your email address. We hope that you will find it interesting and useful — but if you do not wish to receive it in future, please email Michelle Winslow, m.winslow@sheffield.ac.uk, asking for your name to be removed from the mailing list.

Useful software for oral historians

With the help of members of the OHS Committee, Graham Smith, OHS Chair, and Anthony Greenwood, webmaster, have compiled a list of software useful to oral historians. This can now be accessed on the Members pages of the OHS website at: <http://www.ohs.org.uk/resources/software.php>

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AN INTRODUCTION TO ORAL HISTORY FOR FAMILY HISTORIANS

New training course to be launched in April 2011

The Oral History Society will be adding to its suite of training courses in April 2011 with a new course for family historians. *An Introduction to Oral History for Family Historians* will enable participants to:

- understand what oral history is and how it can be applied to family research
- identify and access existing oral history material in local and national archives, and consider how to use it in their research
- be aware of the ethical issues that may arise when conducting oral history interviews with family members
- consider how they could leave a record of their own life for future generations of their family
- be aware of basic requirements for conducting their own interviews

It is open to anyone with an interest in using oral history as a tool for family history and research. It is not necessary to complete the

BL/OHS Introduction to Oral History training day before attending, but it may be useful to do so later to develop interview technique and knowledge of recording



equipment, copyright and other topics relevant to conducting interviews. The first course will be held at the East Midlands Oral History Archive at the Centre for Urban History, University of Leicester, on 15 April 2011. Further details are at <http://www.oralhistory.org.uk/training/family-historians.php>. Places are limited to twelve per course, and demand is likely to exceed places, so anyone interested in doing the course should apply early. Each course will be led by a BL/OHS Accredited Trainer with experience in conducting family research.

It's not just typing—reflections of a transcriptionist

When I applied for the post of Secretary/Admin/Transcriptionist on the HLF Project at the Planned Environment Therapy Trust (PETT) in Gloucestershire, I only had a vague idea of what a 'transcriptionist' was. I knew it would be typing from a recording, and that was about it. I'd typed letters and reports from a dictation machine in the past and I thought it would be much the same. Audio typing – that's all it is, isn't it? Easy. No different to copy typing, surely?

I soon found out that it was a completely different kettle of fish to normal copy typing. To begin with, I discovered I wasn't just typing out boring letters and meaningless reports – I was typing someone's life story. I became engrossed in what I was hearing – transcripts can be like a good book, and on many occasions I find myself looking forward to loading up the next transcript, much the same as I look forward to opening a new book to read.

It is my job to type the transcript completely verbatim, and that includes all the 'ums and ers', all the 'you knows' and 'mmms', who laughs, who cries, the coughs and sneezes, the repetitions and even the obvious mistakes. My job is to reproduce on paper a totally accurate account of the interview - there is no purpose in tidying up the speech and leaving out what you might think of as irrelevant, such as the little side remarks or noises - because they probably will mean something to someone else. In addition, you might even give a wrong interpretation when trying to make sense of something that you can't understand, but that someone who subsequently reads the transcript will understand perfectly.

A very important thing to dutifully transcribe is - silence. The pauses in an oral interview can mean many things and it is important to note when they occur. It would be a very strange transcript indeed that contained no pauses, no moments of contemplation. In short, the oral interview must be faithfully documented and treated with respect during the transcription process. Transcribing is also a very useful learning

aid for our Oral Historian, who has the task of making the interviewee comfortable, relaxed, at ease with their surroundings, and of course, at ease with the Oral Historian! There is little point in creating that ambiance if you then rush the questions, interrupt, or even just plain talk over what they are saying because you are rushing to the next question on your agenda.

In my opinion there is no better way for an oral historian to improve their interview manner and style than to transcribe some oral interviews. When I am transcribing, I can tell immediately if the interviewer is making the interviewee feel uncomfortable, or if the wrong questions are asked, or even not asked. I can tell when the interviewee is getting tired, irritated, or even when they are trying to encourage the interviewer to ask questions from a different angle. When I did my first oral history a couple of months ago, I tried to remember all these things.

Another thing for a transcriptionist to look out for is punctuation. It is amazing how the meaning of a sentence can be so drastically altered for the lack or inclusion of a simple comma or ellipses. And exclamation marks are useful in many instances, but especially to show the sense of humour or maybe irony of someone's remarks – I think that without the exclamation mark, some interviews would come across as very harsh or humourless.

But by far the most rewarding thing about my role as a transcriptionist is being able to feed my thoughts and feelings about an interview to the rest of the team, and in doing so to share my insight and the information I've picked up. And just occasionally, I'm happy to say, I even pick up little things that the interviewer hasn't noticed, which leads to thoughtful discussion and greater understanding. Yes, I'm really glad that being a 'transcriptionist' is part of my job description – in fact, it's a real privilege! And the final exclamation mark was one of joy, not irony!

Chris Long

Historical Justice & Memory Research Network

This new network was launched in December 2010 by researchers working on issues of historical justice in Australia, Indonesia and Germany. As Klaus Neumann, one of its founders, notes: 'Much of the scholarship in our field is centred on case studies. We are convinced that many of these would benefit from insights gained in research on other cases, including those that may seem far removed. We are confident that a website that connects researchers working on similar issues but in different parts of the world will encourage the kind of cross-fertilisation that has often been lacking.' Researchers joining the Network will also be encouraged to contribute to a blog 'to prompt lively discussions' about theoretical and methodological issues and new developments in the field. The contact email for the project is historicaljustice@swin.edu.au.

Enham Alamein Community Heritage (EACH) Project

Enham, a registered disability charity, was established in 1918 as a rehabilitation centre for disabled ex-servicemen returning from World War I. Following the Battle of Alamein during World War II, the people of Egypt wanted to show their gratitude to Britain and the Allied Forces for ending the threat of occupation. A large sum was donated to Enham in 1945, for housing and improved medical facilities. In honour of this gift, the village became 'Enham Alamein'. Today, Enham supports over 3,000 disabled people each year.



The Enham Alamein Community Heritage (EACH) Project, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, began in summer 2009. Staff and disabled clients from Enham have worked on the project together with volunteers, University of Winchester BA History work placement students, Year 5 and 6 Smannell and Enham Church of England Primary School pupils, and local residents. The project has aimed to unite the community in celebration of and pride in Enham Alamein's history and diversity, and increase disabili-

ty awareness among the wider community. Potential interviewees were found via local radio and press, flyers, and word of mouth.

In the Spring Term 2010, Smannell and Enham Primary School pupils began researching their local history. Assisted by a Winchester student placement, they prepared questions to ask former pupils of their school, from the 1930s to the 1990s. Having invited suitable candidates to visit the school, they recorded twelve interviews. Eight further interviews with local residents, past and present, were carried out by volunteers. The school pupils also worked with disabled clients from Enham to film a documentary about the history of the village, including an additional seven interviews. DVD copies are available from Enham for a small donation.



Between June and November 2010, a programme of touring exhibitions and workshops was organised for the wider community. This included displays at five Test Valley primary schools, the Museum of Army Flying, the Royal Green Jackets (Rifles) Museum and Andover Museum. There is display at Hampshire Record Office, 3 March-16 April 2011. For more information about all aspects of the project, please visit:

www.enhamalamein.wordpress.com.

ity awareness among the wider community. The main objective has been to encourage people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to participate in telling the story of the village.

Oral history training was organised for Smannell teachers, Enham learning staff, and volunteers, by Padmini Broomfield of the Oral History Society. Professional recording equipment

Kelly Mitchell
Project Manager

Images: above, disabled ex-servicemen taking a break from work at Enham Industries c1935; left: Enham clients & pupils from Smannell & Enham primary schools, filming in Enham Alamein in 2010.

TEN YEARS OF THE EAST MIDLANDS ORAL HISTORY ARCHIVE (EMOHA)

The first five years—Cynthia Brown, former EMOHA Project Manager

In 2000 the Centre for Urban History at the University secured funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for a three year project to establish an oral history archive. This was initially for the counties of Leicestershire and Rutland, but as the name suggested there were hopes of extending it in due course to cover the whole of the East Midlands region. The initial impetus came from the large number of recorded interviews that already existed but which were not easily accessible to potential users—either because they were not yet catalogued, or had never been deposited in the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland (ROLLR). They included several large collections from the 1980s and '90s, but we also tracked down a number of smaller collections recorded by individuals, local community groups and other organisations, all of which were eventually digitised, catalogued and deposited in the ROLLR.



Humberstone Gate, Leicester, with the now-demolished Lewis's department store

The Record Office was a crucial partner in the whole enterprise, particularly after we were offered a large collection of archive recordings from BBC Radio Leicester. Generous staffing through the HLF—three full-time and four full-time posts—also enabled us to produce educational resources, and newsletters, offer free advice and training in oral history, and provide a range of resources on our website, including Information Sheets, 'virtual' exhibitions and links to other oral history projects in the region. These remain accessible at www.le.ac.uk/emoha. We achieved a

lot in a relatively short time—but unfortunately our attempts to secure more funding from the HLF or other sources were not successful, and by the end of the three years most of us had already moved on to other jobs. Only one of our number remained to continue the work...

lot in a relatively short time—but unfortunately our attempts to secure more funding from the HLF or other sources were not successful, and by the end of the three years most of us had already moved on to other jobs. Only one of our number remained to continue the work...

The last five years... by Colin Hyde

Thanks to financial support from the University of Leicester, I was able to stay in a part-time post which required external funding. Having been involved with oral history locally since 1989, and having had at least a passing involvement with all but a few of the major projects in the area, I could not bear to see the interest and goodwill EMOHA had generated evaporate and then have to recreate it all again the next time oral history became flavour of the month.

The last few years have seen a wide variety of projects come and go. That EMOHA is still up and running is down to hard work and the continuing support of the Centre for Urban History. At the Centre we run courses which include oral history at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. Funding for digitisation has enabled recordings from our collections to be made more easily available for both students and the public. The HLF in the East Midlands directs all local projects with an oral history element to EMOHA for advice and support. Cynthia graciously leaves training in the region to EMOHA, but continues to be involved as one of the OHS rep's and through the annual East Midlands Oral History event. Through all these positive developments the one thing that has suffered has been the business of collecting, cataloguing, and archiving old and new recordings. It also seems unlikely that in the foreseeable future there will be a catalogue or archive of oral history recordings covering the East Midlands. On the plus side, EMOHA is in a more stable situation than it has been since the HLF funding stopped, the work remains fascinating and worthwhile, the future is full of potential and... I'm still here! Contact me at emoha@le.ac.uk, 0116 252 5065.

Oral History Association Annual Meeting 2011

The annual meeting of the Oral History Association (OHA) will take place on 12–16 October 2011 at the Renaissance Hotel in Denver Colorado on the theme of ‘Memories of conflict & disaster: oral history and the politics of truth, trauma, and reconciliation’.

The deadline for submission of proposals has now passed, but further information about the meeting itself is available at www.oralhistory.org/annual-meeting/2011-oha-annual-meeting-call-for-papers/.

Oral History in Higher Education

The History Centre at the Higher Education Academy recently commissioned Graham Smith of Royal Holloway, University of London, Chair of the Oral History Society, to produce a booklet on oral history for teachers and students in higher education.

This is now available online at www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/cross_fac/healthistory/elibrary/internal/rg_smith_oralhistory_20111015/.

Oral Historian’s Digital Toolbox

A new resource for oral historians has been developed as a result of work on oral history and new media on behalf of the Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada and the Centre for Oral History & Digital Storytelling at Concordia University. The *Oral Historian’s Digital Toolbox* contains a listing of existing and emergent digital tools, and will be updated at regular intervals to reflect the changing nature of the digital world. It is available at <http://storytelling.concordia.ca/oralhistorianstoolbox>.

Heritage Lottery Fund—Consultation on Strategic Framework 2013–2019

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) is inviting views on its Strategic Framework for 2013–2019 in the light of an increase in the money available to invest in the UK’s heritage. As the HLF website notes:

‘We have set out our proposals on a range of issues, based on analysis of the emerging funding environment for heritage in the next few years, research and evaluation of the impact of our funding, and discussions with other organisations, partners and funders across the heritage sector.’

This is an opportunity to tell the HLF how you think it should respond to the challenges and opportunities you expect to face in the future:

- what it should continue doing
- what it may need to do differently
- what new initiatives could have the greatest impact

The consultation period runs until 26 April 2011. You can register your views at: <http://tinyurl.com/662mncy>

Story Bridges: a guide for conducting intergenerational oral history projects

The above book by Angela Zusman has recently been published by Left Coast Press. It provides step by step guides to planning and implementing intergenerational oral history projects, using young people to interview elders., including how to locate and train interviewers, conduct the interviews, and archive them for future access. Sample documents and case studies are also included. See www.lcoastpress.com.

European Social Science History Conference, 11–14 April 2012, Glasgow - Ambivalent Pasts: nostalgia & life stories research

This conference is organised by the Oral History & Life Stories Network. More details are now available at <http://147.156.155.104/?q=node/171>.

Your comments, suggestions and news, please...

Do you have any comments about this Newsletter, suggestions for future editions, or short items that you would like to submit for inclusion? Please send them to Cynthia Brown, cib2@le.ac.uk. She also welcomes items of up to 1000 words for the ‘Current British Work’ section of *Oral History*, the journal of the Oral History Society.

Oral History Society e-Newsletter

No. 4, Summer 2011

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The Oral History Society welcomes your news...

There is no need to wait for the next e-newsletter to pass on news of your projects or events. The Oral History Society also has a 'News' section on its website at www.oralhistory.org.uk/news.php, and updates this at regular intervals. Contact Rob Perks, rob.perks@bl.uk if you have items for inclusion. You can also advertise or search for job vacancies at <http://www.oralhistory.org.uk/vacancies/advertise.php>.

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Events, new projects and funding opportunities

Royal Ulster Constabulary George Cross Foundation project—an update

Lady Sylvia Hermon MP recently paid a visit to the Royal Ulster Constabulary George Cross Foundation to see how work is progressing on the compilation of the oral history of the organisation once headed by her late husband, Sir John Hermon, Chief Constable of the RUC from 1980 to 1989. She has contributed to the project herself by recording some of her own personal memories.

Murray Cameron, the Oral History Project Manager, writes that: 'She was met by Jim McDonald, Chairman of the Foundation's Board of Trustees, and spent some time listening to recordings made by former serving officers and their families. Lady Hermon said: "I am fascinated by the wide



Lady Sylvia Hermon (2nd left) during her visit to the Royal Ulster Constabulary George Cross Foundation

range of personal stories now held as part of this project. In the time available I was only able to dip into this important collection but could not help but be deeply touched by some of the interviews where people have shared their heartbreaking moments." Other interviews give a unique insight into the social conditions prevailing in Northern Ireland post-World War Two, and some illustrate the humour which helped individuals through the more difficult times.'

The project is part-funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, and to date around 235 interviews have been completed with former serving officers and their families. The interviews are stored on a digital archive which gives access by subject, geographical location and other headings. Work is currently concentrating on the period from 1970, and the project is particularly keen to see the memories of more female officers in the archive. For further details, Email: rucgcfoundation@nics.gov.uk Website: www.rucgcfoundation.org.

**Oral history and gender—call for articles for a special issue of the
Journal for Gender Studies (Tijdschrift voor Genderstudies) on oral history**

In recent years interest in oral history as a research method has increased dramatically. Historians, anthropologists and other researchers have used this method of research for a number of reasons. Sometimes oral history is employed to retrieve the 'hidden voices' of groups that have long been invisible in history and society. In other cases, oral history complements existing research as it uncovers a new dimension of the topic.

Beside the disciplinary differences between the use of oral history in the Humanities and the Social Sciences, there is an important methodological difference between collecting oral history material for one's own research or for the purpose of establishing a (heritage) collection for (scientific) re-use by other institutions, such as libraries.

Tijdschrift voor Genderstudies wants to dedicate a special issue to the use of oral history in gender studies, with Saskia Wieringa (director of Aletta, Institute for Women's History) and Sara de Jong (research manager Aletta) serving as external members of the editorial board. This special issue was conceived during a conference held on the occasion of Aletta's 75th anniversary. Aletta (formerly called IAV and IIAV) has established an extensive collection of documents and diaries and strives to make oral history sources more accessible. Over the last years the Institute itself has produced collections of oral history material.

In this special issue we want to trace the specific gender aspects that play a role in oral history. Researchers and others who have been involved in oral history projects are called upon

to contribute. Some questions that could be addressed concern the character and the history of the method itself in relation to gender: where does the interest of feminist researchers in oral history come from; what is the unique character of oral history as a method? Which methodological and theoretical aspects play a role in the collecting of stories of women and men for one's research? How has oral history developed as a research method in relation to gender research? What is the role of new technologies in gender-based oral history? How can oral history be applied to interrogate gender inequality?

Another cluster of questions relates to the results of the method of oral history for gender research. How does oral history contribute to the history of gender relations? Which aspects play a role in setting up national and international oral history projects about women, sexuality and gender relations? What 'hidden' voices of women have been collected? How can we explain that gender studies considers oral history especially suitable for the study of women? Do stories of men get more attention nowadays and if yes, the stories of which men and why? Is oral history about/with men of a different nature than oral history about/with women; or would it need to be different?

Contributions can be submitted in English. For queries and submissions, contact:

Jantine Oldersma: gj.oldersma@planet.nl

Deadline paper proposal: 1 Oct 2011

Deadline first draft: 1 January 2012

Deadline final version: 1 April 2012

New book on the history of Bishop's Park, Fulham

Bishops Park in Fulham, London, was created piecemeal over a twenty year period from 1883 from land given by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners adjacent to the River Thames in Fulham. In the middle of the park is Fulham Palace, the home of the Bishop of London until the 1970s. Like many urban parks it had slowly declined as funding was cut to Local Authorities and priorities lay elsewhere. Thanks to the Big Lottery and Heritage Lottery Funds, an award of £3.65 million was made to the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham to undertake a comprehensive £6.7 million restoration of the park.

To coincide with the completion of works the Friends of Bishops Park are publishing a book of the history of the park. One of the chapters contains reminiscences by local residents. Interviews undertaken record continuity and change in use of the park and are important to show the value of urban open space. One key role was as a playground for latch key kids in summer holidays and a number of interviews record changing attitudes to child safety. The importance of the park in attracting people to live nearby was another point picked up in the interviews. The book, price £14.95 plus £3.50 p&p, can be ordered from the Friends of Bishops Park, 54 Langthorne Street, London SW6 6JY.

Captive Memories—Far Eastern Prisoners of War oral history project

News of this project from a recent press release: A three year oral history project, commissioned by the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM) to capture the long-term perspective on captivity of sixty two British Far Eastern POWs (FEPOW), culminated in June 2011 in the publication of their stories on a website sponsored by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

Over the several decades since the end of the war, LSTM has been involved with the FEPOW, first with treating the tropical diseases they had contracted during captivity, and more recently in helping manage some long term after-effects of their experiences.

The project website at www.captivememories.org.uk aims to achieve three things:

- to give the men a voice (many for the first time, after more than sixty years' silence following liberation and repatriation in 1946)
- to help future generations learn, from the men themselves, their experience of a long and frequently brutal captivity
- to record the effects these experiences had throughout the rest of their lives

It contains:

- audio excerpts from all sixty two men's interviews, which were conducted over three years as the men were entering their nineties
- a database of the men who took part in the project, searchable by their names, countries, camps, and the infamous 'hellships' used to transport them from their points of capture
- information on an education project based on the men's firsthand accounts

The education project, also funded by HLF, was devised and piloted during 2009-2010 by Pensby High School for Girls in Wirral.

During this period two elderly FEPOW, Fergus Anckorn and Tom Boardman, met the girls to talk about their experiences. Their accounts were then used as the basis for the pilot cross-curricular study in Music, Design Technology, Art, English, Media Studies, Drama and Science. The resulting learning resources - and the testimonies from the sixty



two men, many now no longer alive – are available to individuals and schools, through downloads from the site. The interviews themselves were conducted by Meg Parkes, Research Assitant in the Clinical Division of LSTM, whose own father Capt. A.A. Duncan was a Far Eastern Prisoner of War.

Maurice Naylor, ninety, who served in the 135th Field Artillery and was captured in Singapore, said of the project: *'The war in the Far East tends to be overlooked, especially the thousands upon thousands of young men who as POWs suffered and died from overwork, starvation and disease. When I was released I didn't want to know; I pushed it to the back of my mind. I couldn't talk about it... Then when I retired and visited Thailand, I saw the men's graves. Rows upon rows of them. I decided to do what I could to ensure that their sacrifice would not be forgotten At first it was difficult to talk. It set me back, dredging up old memories. But it is important ... We all lost our youth there.'*

Capt. Duncan is in the centre of the above propaganda photograph, taken by a Japanese photographer outside Motoyama POW camp on the island of Honshu, Japan, in March 1943 (Duncan Collection)

'Making Educational Histories in the 21st century— special issue of the *Oral History Forum*

The *Oral History Forum d'histoire orale*, the online journal of the Canadian Oral History Association, is seeking submissions to a special issue addressing oral history and education, entitled 'Making Educational Oral Histories in the 21st Century'. Through this open-access collection, it is hoped to generate discussion on this important theme and provide a valuable resource for people interested in the study of oral history and education, whether in the classroom or in their own research.

Submissions to 'Making Educational Oral Histories in the 21st Century' might concern, but are not limited to, the following topics: case studies where oral history strategies are used with students at various levels of the educational enterprise; challenges of oral history for scholars and educators; advantages of using oral history for students of History at all levels; recommended software for generating oral history within educational contexts; combining conventional educational history with oral history sources; and institutional responsibilities/ethical dilemmas in utilising oral history with students. University researchers, community organizers, educators, oral historians, public historians, and others who are working in this field are invited to submit theoretical and methodological papers, as well as empirically-based essays, reviews (books, new media, exhibitions, films, theatrical productions), and discussions for 'Making Educational Oral Histories in the 21st Century'.

Contributors are strongly encouraged to think outside the traditional box of the printed academic journal and thus their submissions may also include photographs, artwork, annotated transcripts, audio and/or video clips, field notes and any other additional research materials that may enrich our understanding of Oral History and Education. The deadline for submission is **15 August 2011**—see www.oralhistoryforum.ca for details.

Lessons from the Past—a school oral history project



News from Lindsey Johnstone, Head of History at Lostock Hall High School in Preston, of an innovative project, 'Lessons from the Past', involving students from the school and funded through the Heritage Lottery Fund Young Roots scheme: 'The project is designed to enhance pupils' enquiry skills and get them exploring and making sense of their local history by conducting oral history interviews and creating an archive of evidence to interrogate. It aims to provide a model in terms of oral history training, support and equipment that can be adopted by other schools. One of its core aims is to enable young people to tackle the issues that they may face, including low self-esteem, racism, underachievement by boys, and anti-social behaviour, by researching their local history and heritage. It will create a central public archive of evidence, generated by young people and designed to be accessible to them across all the Key Stages and in subjects such as English, ICT and Geography as well as History. For further information: contact Lindsey Johnstone, email info@lessonsfromthepast.co.uk, website www.lessonsfromthepast.co.uk/.

International Conference on Welsh Studies, 26—28 July 2012 Bangor University, Bangor, Gwynedd, Wales—Call for Papers

The North American Association for the Study of Welsh Culture & History (NAASWCH) Program Committee seeks diverse perspectives on Wales and Welsh culture - as well as proposals focused on the Welsh in North America—from many disciplines including: history, literature, languages, art, social sciences, political science, philosophy, music, and religion. NAASWCH invites participation from academics, postgraduate/graduate students and independent scholars from North America, the United Kingdom and elsewhere. Abstracts for papers (twenty minutes in length) are welcomed, along with proposals for thematic sessions, panel presentations, or other formats; deadline 2 January 2012. Send proposals to Prof. Tony Brown, School of English, els015@bangor.ac.uk, or Dr Andrew Edwards, School of History and Welsh History, a.c.edwards@bangor.ac.uk, both at Bangor University. For additional information, see the NAASWCH website at www.naaswch.org.

**Winston Churchill Memorial Trust -
Churchill Fellowship Applications for 2012**

Would experience overseas enhance your effectiveness in your career or field of interest? Are you in a position to disseminate the new knowledge and examples of best practice that you will observe, for the wider benefit of your community and the UK? Check your eligibility, see examples of previous projects and find the application form at www.wcmt.org.uk. The closing date is 4 October 2011.

**Advertise your
oral history events**

The Institute for Historical Research website now has an 'Oral History' category for events. If you have seminars or other events that you would like to advertise there, visit www.history.ac.uk/events/categories.

Oral History Association — Annual Meeting 2011

The annual meeting of the Oral History Association (OHA) will take place on 12–16 October 2011 at the Renaissance Hotel in Denver Colorado on the theme of 'Memories of conflict & disaster: oral history and the politics of truth, trauma, and reconciliation'. The deadline for submission of papers has passed, but details of the meeting itself are still available at www.oralhistory.org/annual-meeting/2011-oha-annual-meeting-call-for-papers/.

**Oral History of the UK
Electricity Supply
Industry—an appeal**

The British Library National Life Stories project is conducting a scoping study for a proposed new oral history programme documenting the British electricity supply industry since the Second World War.

Rob Perks, Director, National Life Stories and Lead Curator Oral History, is keen to hear from anyone who knows about any interviews that have already been collected in this sector, or which relate to it, both in the UK and elsewhere, that might inform its planning and research. Contact him at the British Library, 96 Euston Road, London, NW1 2DB, tel 020 7412 7405/7404, rob.perks@bl.uk.

**Understanding & Preserving Audio
Collections—a three day course at the
British Library, 7–9 November 2011**

Custodians of audio collections are faced with the challenge of maintaining access to our priceless audio heritage, but with so many formats, from wax cylinders to the latest audio file formats, there is a risk that recordings on obsolete and fragile formats may be lost. *Understanding and Preserving Audio Collections* will guide you through collection management and preservation strategies, with an emphasis on digitisation for preservation and access.

The main areas covered by the course are analogue audio carriers and technology; digital audio theory; collection level overviews; working with audio files; archival principles for audio material. Whilst no hands-on experience is necessary, it is useful to have identified a collection to which the theory and practical elements of this course will be applied in order to get the most from it. For details: the Preservation Library Service, British Library, tel 020 7412 7612, website <http://www.bl.uk/blpac/audio.html>.

Your comments, suggestions and news, please...

Do you have any comments about this Newsletter, suggestions for future editions, or short items that you would like to submit for inclusion? Please send them to Cynthia Brown, cib2@le.ac.uk. She also welcomes items of up to 1000 words for the 'Current British Work' section of *Oral History*, the journal of the Oral History Society.



OHS joins Twitter

While we still don't have quite the number of followers as Stephen Fry our presence on Twitter is slowly building. And by following @OralHistorySoc you'll be up to date with the latest news from the society, developments in oral history both national and internationally and you will be able to broaden your network.

New OHS committee members

The OHS has appointed three new committee members. They are: Wendy Ugolini, lecturer in British history at Edinburgh University who is the new Scottish oral history group representative; Hilary Young, who works with the oral history team at the Museum of London; and Anne Gulland, who is a freelance writer and editor and is the new publicity officer for the society. If you have any items that you would like to include on the OHS newsletter please email Anne: annegulland@yahoo.co.uk We are keen to hear from everyone – from academics to community oral historians to those working in museums and galleries.

"We'll meet again" - Guernsey evacuee event, 30 October

This family event is part of the Guernsey Child Evacuees oral history project, at the Stockport War Memorial and Art Gallery. Visitors will be able to meet the Guernsey evacuees who left their island in June 1940 and found safety in the north of England. They will be telling their stories, showing wartime documents and photographs, and offering a look inside a Guernsey evacuee's suitcase. Other activities will include film screenings, a Guernsey Evacuation Ship activity for children, and a George Formby lookalike. See the project website at <http://guernseyevacuees.wordpress.com/community-project>, or contact Gillian Mawson, email gillianmawson@btinternet.com.

Gender & History Special Issue on Gender & Religion – call for papers, deadline 31 October

The editors of this special issue are particularly interested in producing a multi-faith, multi-disciplinary volume which includes scholarship on a wide range of periods, places, and cultures, and in which anthropological, literary, political, theological or artistic approaches are brought to bear on historical treatments of gender and religion. For more information go to <http://www.history.ac.uk/events/event/313>

Museums case studies wanted, deadline 4 November

Museum Practice, part of Museums Journal, is looking for museums and galleries to submit their oral history case studies to be included in the November edition of the online publication.

Case studies should be no more than 250 words and could cover: using new technology to gather, record and present oral history projects; tackling difficult and controversial subject matters; outreach projects using oral history; and general experiences of integrating oral history into displays.

Submitted case studies will form part of the November edition of Museum Practice, which explores the use of oral history by museums and galleries.

Please email your case studies and relevant photographs to rebecca.atkinson@museumsassociation.org by Friday 4 November

Alessandro Portelli lecture, 8 November

Italian oral historian Alessandro Portelli is giving this year's Raphael Samuel memorial lecture. The lecture is called 'Theatres of Memory, Memory as Theatre' and takes place at the Bishopsgate Institute in London. For more information go to www.rafael-samuel.org.uk/events/ForthcomingEvents.php

Fresh Perspectives on Britain in World War II, 9 November

This free one-day conference at Imperial College, London, is aimed at postgraduate students and early career historians working on any aspect of the war. Post-war narratives stressed social cohesion and the Blitz spirit, while the generation that followed wrote iconoclastic histories. However, we cannot summarise present work on the war so easily. The purpose of this conference is to assess where we are today, and where we can go next. In addition to presentations by delegates, there will be talks by senior scholars such as Professor David Edgerton from Imperial College and Dr Dan Todman from Queen Mary, University of London. For more details: email michael.weatherburn08@imperial.ac.uk, or visit the conference website at www3.imperial.ac.uk/historyofscience/events/ww2%20conference

Gender, Subjectivity and Oral History conference, Thursday 24 November

Professor Penny Summerfield from the University of Manchester will be the keynote speaker at this conference organised by the Warwick Oral History Network. Panel discussions include topics such as family, generation, social movements and migration. The conference will be held on Thursday 24 November, 9.30am-5.30pm at the Institute of Advanced Study at the University of Warwick, Coventry. For more information go to: www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/cross_fac/ias/networks/oralhistory/novemberconference/

Oral History Society and Institute of Historical Research Joint Seminar Series

This seminar series was launched on October 13th with a paper from Joanna Bornat from the Open University on the challenges and opportunities of re-using archived oral history. The inaugural seminar was well attended and generated a good discussion.

The next seminar takes place on the 19th January at the Institute of Historical Research in Central London. For more information go to <http://www.history.ac.uk/events/seminars/325>

Advertise your oral history events

The Institute for Historical Research website has an 'Oral History' category for events. If you have seminars or other events that you would like to advertise there, visit www.history.ac.uk/events/categories.

Call for papers—Adapting Historical Narratives, deadline 2 December

Papers are invited for this one day conference at De Montfort University in Leicester across a wide range of interpretations of the topic, media, genres of 'historical narrative' (fictional, fact-based, hybrid), represented periods, and histories (from royal to political to popular-cultural). Focuses might include:

- Heritage cinema
- Historical documentaries and docudramas
- Biopics
- Retro nostalgia
- Contemporary history on screen
- New-media developments and convergences in the representation and remediation of history
- Constructions of national histories and historical nationalisms

Proposals of no more than 200 words, accompanied by contact details, institutional affiliation and a brief biographical note should be sent to: Professor Deborah Cartmell, Director, Centre for Adaptations: djc@dmu.ac.uk; Dr Claire Monk, Reader in Film & Film Cultures: cmonk@dmu.ac.uk. Deadline for proposals/abstracts: Friday 2 December 2011.

Oral History: Dialogue with Society conference call for papers, deadline 20 December

This international conference taking place in Riga, Latvia next March is looking at the methodologies of biographical, life narrative, and oral history research, with particular attention to public involvement in the research.

The conference organisers are keen for papers on dialogue and social interaction within emigrant communities as well as on their interaction with the host country and the country of origin.

For more information email ieva.garda@gmail.com