

# ORAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Ohsagmagenda2017.doc

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TO BE HELD AT LEEDS TRINITY UNIVERSITY, HORSFORTH, LEEDS LS18 5HD  
SATURDAY 15 JULY 2017 AT 12.15PM

### AGENDA:

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the last AGM (as published in **Oral History** vol.45 no.1 p.30)
3. Matters arising
4. Chair's report, 2016-2017 (from outgoing Chairman Graham Smith): online at [www.ohs.org.uk/about/documents/](http://www.ohs.org.uk/about/documents/)
5. Treasurer's report: presentation of Annual Accounts (Nick Chalmers): online at [www.ohs.org.uk/about/documents/](http://www.ohs.org.uk/about/documents/)
6. Regional Network report (Juliana Vandegrift)
7. Journal report (Joanna Bornat)
8. Publicity report (Anne Gulland)
9. Higher Education report (Jenny Harding)
10. Website report (Michelle Winslow)
11. Training report (Rob Perks)
12. Diversity and inclusion report (Sarah Lowry)
13. Special Interest Group reports (SIG chairs)
14. Amendment to OHS constitution: online at [www.ohs.org.uk/about/documents/](http://www.ohs.org.uk/about/documents/)
15. Election of officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer
16. Election of committee members
17. Any other business

### Record of attendance at committee meetings, 2016-2017 (four committee meetings):

	<b>16 Sept</b>	<b>9 Dec</b>	<b>17 March</b>	<b>16 June</b>	<b>Total out of poss 4</b>
Graham Smith (Chair)	X	X	X	X	4
Beth Thomas (Vice-chair)		X	X	X	3
Rob Perks (Secretary)	X	X	X	X	4
Nick Chalmers (Treasurer)	X	X	X	X	4
Angela Bartie		X			1
Joanna Bornat	X	X	X	X	4
Padmini Broomfield	X	X	X		3
Cynthia Brown	X	X	X	X	4
Verusca Calabria		X	X	X	3
Fiona Cosson				X	1
Alan Dein		X		X	2
Craig Fees		X		X	2

	<b>16 Sept</b>	<b>9 Dec</b>	<b>17 March</b>	<b>16 June</b>	<b>Total out of poss 4</b>
Anne Gulland		X			1
Jenny Harding	X	X	X	X	4
Sarah Lowry		X	X	X	3
Kate Melvin	X	X	X	X	4
Amy Murphy	X		X	X	3
Julian Simpson	X	X	X	X	4
Mary Stewart			X	X	2
Shelley Trower		X	X		2
Juliana Vandegrift	X	X	X		3
Rob Wilkinson	X	X	X	X	4
Michelle Winslow	X		X		2
Hilary Young					0

**Committee resignations during the year:** None.

**Under standing rules the following members leave the committee due to non-attendance at any committee meetings during the year:** Hilary Young.

**Under the OHS constitution a Nominations Sub-Committee now reviews incoming committee nominations and reports to the trustees at their June committee meeting. The committee now recommends the following for election to the committee:**

For the position of Chair of the Oral History Society:

**John Gabriel**

### **Personal Statement**

My interest in oral history grew out of a frustration with (my) sociological teaching and research. My transfer to the Department of Cultural Studies at the University of Birmingham and a sabbatical spent in Nicaragua as a researcher/volunteer sparked an interest in subjectivity and testimonial writing. My teaching experience at Guildhall University and my collaboration with Jenny Harding consolidated my interest in the theory and practice of oral history. Jenny and I subsequently worked on a number of projects and participated in the planning of two of the OHS's annual conferences on community oral histories, hosted at London Guildhall and London Met Universities. I taught the theory and practice of oral history methods with Jenny and have been involved in a training/education capacity in a number of HLF funded oral history projects. I have a longstanding interest in student centred learning, the relationship between education and training, critical pedagogy and community engagement, all of which continue to underpin my teaching. I have been on the editorial board of the journal, *Teaching in Higher Education*, for over twenty years, and work on a number of international EU funded projects promoting the above interests. I am a Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

Over a period of 18 years, I was Head of Department at the Universities of Birmingham and London Guildhall University and subsequently Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities at London Met University. The latter grew, through curriculum expansion and internal mergers, to over 250 staff and 4000 students. It offered an exciting range of subjects which suited

my interdisciplinary inclinations and had a strong commitment to research and public engagement (which were integral to its strategic plans). It became the largest and most successful of the University's Faculties according to a range of teaching and research indicators. As budgets were devolved and determined according to income generated, I was also responsible for ensuring that our expenditure plans fell within our annual allocation of around £30m.

It was a pleasure to work with such a diverse and committed body of staff and students, to promote their achievements and to act as an advocate and spokesperson both within the university and to a wide range of external stakeholders (including employers, community organisations and academics). I would suggest that my management style has been facilitative, seeking consensual outcomes wherever possible and always receptive to diverse and divergent points of view. Team working and collective decision-making have been a feature of the many committees/groups that I have chaired and the dividends of such an approach, I believe, included both the optimisation of diverse talents and a significant level of mutual trust and support.

I have worked in a voluntary capacity throughout my career, including roles in Wolverhampton Council for Community Relations as Vice Chair and President and Chair of its Youth Committee in the 1980s, and for Hackney Borough Council and Toynbee Hall in the 1990s and 2000s. At Hackney I chaired committees responsible for setting mayoral and member remuneration and the adjudication of complaints against members. The roles required a knowledge of procedures and principles, but also critically relied on a perception of making decisions fairly and legitimately. At Toynbee Hall as a Board member, I co-chaired a committee responsible for appointing residential volunteers and later chaired the Governance Committee, responsible for reviewing and changing the process of board appointments, responsibilities (e.g. in the terms of its Constitution and to the Charity Commission) and its relationship to the wider community.

I resigned from my full time post as Dean in 2015, in order to give myself greater flexibility in my commitments. I continue to work at the University on a fractional basis, involved in teaching and research supervision. One of the high points in my career was my involvement in the Refugee Communities History Project, insofar as it provided me with a unique opportunity to combine my interest in teaching, research, community engagement and management experience. I am therefore delighted to have been approached to consider playing an active role in the OHS. I believe the ethos and values of the Society are close to my own and that there is a good fit between my own research, teaching and leadership/management background and the role description and person specification. I would consider it a pleasure and a privilege to serve the organisation.

At a personal level my interests/pleasures include reading, exhibitions, film, music, travel, radio and food (we have an allotment!) and my family. I live with my partner and our two daughters in Highbury, north London.

### **As a committee member:**

Graham Smith (outgoing OHS Chair)