



THE HISTORY OF PARLIAMENT

British Political, Social & Local History

The History of Parliament Trust REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES IN THE YEAR 2014-15



Objectives and Activities of the History of Parliament Trust

The History of Parliament is a major academic project to create a scholarly reference work describing the members, constituencies and activities of the Parliament of England and the United Kingdom. The volumes either published or in preparation cover the House of Commons from 1386 to 1868 and the House of Lords from 1603 to 1832. They are widely regarded as an unparalleled source for British political, social and local history.

The volumes consist of detailed studies of elections and electoral politics in each constituency, and of closely researched accounts of the lives of everyone who was elected to Parliament in the period, together with surveys drawing out the themes and discoveries of the research and adding information on the operation of Parliament as an institution.

The History has published 21,420 biographies and 2,831 constituency surveys in ten sets of volumes (41 volumes in all). They deal with 1386-1421, 1509-1558, 1558-1603, 1604-29, 1660-1690, 1690-1715, 1715-1754, 1754-1790, 1790-1820 and 1820-32. All of these articles are now available on www.historyofparliamentonline.org. The History's staff of professional historians is currently researching the House of Commons in the periods 1422-1504, 1640-1660, and 1832-1868, and the House of Lords in the periods 1603-60 and 1660-1832. The three Commons projects currently in progress will contain a further 7,251 biographies of members of the House of Commons and 861 constituency surveys. With what is now published and in progress, the History covers 414 years of the history of the House of Commons. In addition, the House of Lords projects are currently working on 693 biographies covering 1660-1715, and 458 covering 1603-1660.

Since 1995, the History has been funded principally by the two Houses of Parliament. It is based close to its original host, the Institute of Historical Research, University of London. It was founded before the Second World War, the brainchild of Josiah Wedgwood MP, a Labour parliamentarian and minister, and revived after the war when a number of the greatest British historians of the day, including Sir Lewis Namier, Sir Frank Stenton and Sir John Neale, were involved in its re-establishment. The project is governed by its Trustees, who are mainly Members and Officers of both Houses of Parliament. The quality of the project's research and writing is monitored by an Editorial Board of historians. For further details see the History's website at www.historyofparliamentonline.org.



Review of activities in the year 2014-15

HIGHLIGHTS

Research

- 270 new articles completed, containing over a million words; 800 articles revised for publication.
- Progress towards publication of Lords, 1660-1715 project in 2015-16.
- Additional grant received from the Mercer's Company, to complete work on the 1624 Parliamentary Diaries project.
- 'From the Grassroots' oral history of local politics in Devon continues, with over 50 interviews completed.
- Former Members oral history project continues, with

Dissemination

- Some text of the 1624 Parliamentary Proceedings has now been published online with British History Online, with the remainder to follow early in 2015-16.
- Website traffic has nearly doubled from an average of 30,000 visits per month to around 50,000.

Outreach and Engagement

- Collaboration with Parliament's Public Engagement and Learning team, to help with 'Parliament in the Making', a series of events to mark the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta and the 750th anniversary of Simon de Montfort's parliament.
- Followers of the Twitter account now number over 4,000, and we tweet daily with news from the History and references to our articles based on anniversaries or current events, and publish between one and two posts on our wordpress blog each week on various aspects of parliamentary history.

RESEARCH

With several of our projects now well into their revision phase, checking articles for final publication, the overall output of the History in terms of new articles and draft articles has gone down; but revision of pieces which in many cases were written a long time ago remains a substantial exercise. Altogether, the History's staff and some external authors compiled 270 new articles, containing over a million words, and revised almost 800 old ones, as well as compiling the Introductory Survey for the House of Lords, 1660-1715 project. Below we describe some of the work that has emerged from each of the projects.

The House of Commons, 1422-1461

The project is steadily working its way through the revision process, and is now about two-thirds of the way through; the process should be complete within the next 18 months, leaving the survey to be compiled thereafter. 660 articles were revised over the course of the year, and three new articles were completed. The new articles include *Thomas Hill II*, who has been identified as two separate individuals, one who sat for Barnstaple in 1429 and another MP for Totnes in 1431. The constituency article for *Lancashire* shows that its MPs were drawn, to a greater degree than in almost any other shire, from the families that had represented it in earlier generations, and remarkably, they were almost universally men from only the second rank of county society. Project staff are Linda Clark (Editor), Hannes Kleineke, Charles Moreton and Simon Payling.

The House of Commons, 1640-1660

This project is also in its final stages, steadily working through revision. The process is currently concentrated on articles written right at the beginning of the project's life, which means that much often has to be done to bring them up to current standards. Over the year, 117 articles were revised, and 7 new articles written. The new articles include two of the most significant in the whole project. One is John Pym, 'King Pym', the organisational and political genius behind the 'Junto' of 1640 that confronted Charles I and sparked the Civil War: the biography provides a major reassessment of his career. The other is Sir Simonds D'Ewes, the obsessive diarist on whose journals rests so much of our understanding of what actually went on in Parliament during the 1640s. The project has also commissioned a transcription and translation of D'Ewes's little-used Latin diary, which has contributed to the compilation of the biography. Project staff are Stephen Roberts (editor), Andrew Barclay, Vivienne Larminie, Patrick Little and David Scott.

The House of Commons, 1832-68

The project is now around six years old, and is making good progress towards its target of nearly 3000 articles; although now operating with only four staff, a growing number of external contributors are producing an increasing number of articles. About 1,300 articles have been completed in draft, and most of them have already been added to the online preview website, where they are widely available to view. Over the year, 197 articles were completed, totalling almost half a million words. The following very brief summaries of a small number of the articles written over the course of the year give some idea of the emerging picture of the Victorian House of Commons.

- *Roger William Henry Palmer (1832-1910)*: a survivor of the 'six hundred' who took part in the notorious charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava in 1854.
- *Sir William Bowyer-Smijth, 11th bt. (1814-1883)*: An apparently pious Disraeli-supporting Essex MP, who on leaving Parliament began a second sham 'marriage' with a 16 year-old girl, who, unaware of his married status, bore him thirteen illegitimate children.

- *Charles Du Cane (1825-1889)*: Conservative MP who was one of the most prominent and indefatigable opponents of Gladstone's economic policies throughout the 1860s, though he had little success in defeating the chancellor's budgets.
- *George Palmer (1772-1853)*: best known for pioneering the introduction of lifeboats on the British coastline, for his role in establishing the precursor organisation to the RNLI, and for legislation to improve the safety of timber ships.
- *Hon. Edward Robert Petre (1794-1848)*: one of only eight Catholics elected for an English constituency in 1832, Milbank retired in 1835, when the immense losses he had sustained as a 'patron of the Turf' prompted him to flee England and live on the Continent for several years.
- *Benjamin Smith (1783-1860)*: son of the leading abolitionist William Smith MP, who fathered eight illegitimate children by two different women, the eldest of whom, Barbara Leigh Smith Bodichon, became a prominent figure in the campaign for women's rights.
- *Henry Galgacus Redhead Yorke (1802-48)*: the son of a noted political writer, Yorke, an 'uncompromising friend of the people', was a fervent opponent of the poor law, who endeavoured to mitigate its strictness whilst Liberal MP for York from 1841-8, especially its separation of husband and wife in the workhouse.
- *Edward Royds Rice (1790-1878)*: the husband of Jane Austen's niece Elizabeth Knight, Rice was the son of a wealthy Dover banker and East-Indiaman captain. A first-class cricketer, who found the student drinking culture at St. John's College, Oxford so revolting that he had himself transferred to another college, Rice sat as a loyal Liberal for Dover and spearheaded the parliamentary campaign that resulted in Dover's reconstruction and emergence as the main channel port.
- *George Augustus Frederick Cavendish Bentinck (1821-1891)*: a grandson of the Tory prime minister Lord Portland and a nephew of the protectionist leader Lord George Bentinck, Bentinck spent time in the army, at the bar, playing first class cricket, and as a scholar of archaeology, before being parachuted into parliament by the Carlton. He was noted for his withering attacks on Palmerston and Gladstone's foreign policy and outspoken criticisms of Gothic art and the policies of the National Gallery.
- *John Kelk (1816-1888)*: a silent Member, but a man with an impressive track record as a public works contractor, being responsible for many of the architectural landmarks that came to define Victorian Britain, including South Kensington museum, Victoria Station, the Albert Memorial and Alexandra Palace.
- *William James Chaplin (1787-1859)*: son and heir of a Kent coach proprietor, Chaplin made his family's coach business the biggest in British history, with an annual turnover of £500,000, before making a timely switch to railways.
- *Matthew Henry Marsh (1810-1881)*: a Palmerstonian Liberal noted for his outspoken anti-democratic views, Marsh had made a fortune in Australia, where he served as a member of the New South Wales legislative council before returning to England in disgust at the 'mobocracy' of its 1855 Constitution Act. he sat for Salisbury as a highly opinionated MP from 1857 until 1868, when his growing contempt for his constituents cost him his seat.
- *James Morrison (1789-1857)*: an innkeeper's son, who made his fortune in haberdashery and subsequently diversified into merchant banking, His pet project in the House was greater state control of railways. He died in 1857, leaving an astonishing fortune of between £4 million and £6 million.

Among the constituency articles completed were the following:

- *Morpeth*: reduced to a single member borough by the 1832 Reform Act, Morpeth's representation was controlled entirely by the Whig 6th earl of Carlisle. Although all its elections were uncontested, Morpeth was home to a vibrant, radical culture, with the region's Chartists energising local politics in the late 1830s and early 1840s, particularly via their protests against the new poor law.

- *Isle of Wight*: on its creation in 1832, critics predicted that the Isle of Wight would become a 'nomination borough', dominated by its four leading families. Its status as England's only single-member county, however, made drawing-room agreements about sharing the representation extremely difficult, ensuring a succession of lively and often violent contested elections.
- *Lyme Regis*: a former 'pocket borough' which became notorious for electoral corruption, Lyme Regis never recovered from the loss of its second seat in 1832. Aided by high levels of residential mobility associated with its seaside lettings, it quickly became a battleground for rival borough-mongers. Their conflicts and election petitions not only tested the reformed electoral system to its limit, but also ultimately left the town 'one of the miserable places in the country ... pauperised and ... in ruins'.

Project staff during the year were Philip Salmon (editor), Kathryn Rix (assistant editor), Stephen Ball and James Owen.

The House of Lords, 1603-1660

The four members of the section produced 44 biographies totalling nearly 320,000 words. The number of peers' biographies might have been higher, but in the course of researching the 2nd and 3rd Lords Willoughby, Dr. Hunneyball uncovered a serious error in the standard reference works on the peerage. It is now clear that Henry, 4th Lord Willoughby, never existed, and that, on the death of the 3rd Lord Willoughby in 1617, the Willoughby title actually passed to Francis Willoughby, who is erroneously described in all published works as the 5th Lord. The articles that were written included the following:

- *William James, bishop of Durham (1542-1617)*: an Oxford college head for nearly 25 years, his tireless persecution of recusants was useful to the Crown in an area with a large and vociferous Catholic population, as was his opposition to puritan legislation in Parliament. However, he was unpopular with the Durham gentry, and proved unable to handle the king's cousin, Arbella Stuart.
- *Richard Montagu, bishop of Chichester and Norwich (1575-1641)*: a leading authority on the early Church, Montagu was better known for his sharp tongue and controversial, anti-Calvinist views on Anglican theology. His most outspoken book, *Appello Caesarem*, was suppressed after it stirred up angry protests in the Commons, which eventually overturned the convention that the lower House should not debate doctrinal issues. Montagu's appointment as a bishop, courtesy of his powerful patron, the duke of Buckingham, was a key turning-point in the rise of the Laudian wing of the Church.
- *Henry Howard, 1st earl of Northampton (1540-1614)*: younger son of the executed 'poet' earl of Surrey, Northampton spent most of his life in the shadows. A committed Catholic, he secretly worked to advance the cause of Mary, queen of Scots, for which he frequently suffered imprisonment. Rewarded by James I for his loyalty to Mary with a seat on the Council and an earldom, Northampton may have helped sabotage the 1614 Parliament, which he was too ill to attend.
- *Henry Hastings, 5th earl of Huntingdon (1586-1643)*: the first and best diarist of the Lords in the early seventeenth century, with a keen interest in the procedures of the upper House, though unfortunately for the historian, poor health led him to stay away from the Parliaments of the mid-1620s.
- *Henry Wriothesley, 3rd and 1st earl of Southampton (1573-1624)*: Shakespeare's only certain patron, Southampton was attainted for his part in the 1601 Essex rising, but rehabilitated after the accession of James I. He emerged as one of the leaders of opposition to the Court, despite being appointed to the Privy Council in 1619. Briefly imprisoned for his role in the first sitting of the 1621 Parliament, he allied himself with Prince Charles and George Villiers, 1st duke of Buckingham after they were converted to war with Spain.

- *George Abbot, archbishop of Canterbury (1562-1633)*: the most important administrator of the Jacobean church, Abbot strove to implement his vision of a Calvinist church with close links with the continent. In 1614/15 he helped bring to power George Villiers, later duke of Buckingham, a decision he subsequently regretted. His accidental killing of a gamekeeper in 1621 left him exposed, unable to provide effective resistance to the Spanish Match, and his influence all but ceased upon the accession of King Charles, who disliked him.
- *William Morgan, bishop of St. Asaph (1544/5-1604)*: best known as the chief translator of the Bible into Welsh, Morgan was born in Caernarvonshire and educated at Westminster School and Cambridge University. His translation brought him the bishopric of Llandaff in 1595, before being transferred to St. Asaph in 1601, where he proceeded against Catholics and attempted to defend church lands from the depredations of the local gentry.
- *Robert Snowden, bishop of Carlisle (c.1564-1621)*: a native of Nottinghamshire, and perhaps a client of Roger Manners, 5th earl of Rutland, Snowden would probably have remained in obscurity but for a sermon preached before King James during his 1612 progress through the county. Appointed a royal chaplain, he secured the bishopric of Carlisle in 1616 with the support of the new royal favourite, Buckingham, who was presumably paid handsomely for his services. To the dismay of his successors, Snowden awarded a lease of the best of his estates to his own children, who retained possession for 40 years.
- *William Herbert, 3rd earl of Pembroke (1580-1630)*: one of the most prominent politicians of the early Stuart period, despite never holding a top government post outside of the royal household, Pembroke was a firm advocate of traditional modes of government, which left him out of sympathy with the Stuart shift towards arbitrary rule. He is best known today for masterminding the attack on the royal favourite, the duke of Buckingham, during the 1626 Parliament. Also a major patron of letters, and chancellor of Oxford University, he was joint dedicatee of Shakespeare's First Folio.
- *Algernon Percy, 4th earl of Northumberland (1602-68)*:* more commonly referred to as the 10th earl, Northumberland spent much of his early life in the Tower, where his father was imprisoned on suspicion of involvement in the Gunpowder Plot. Subsequently noted for both his wealth and personal rectitude, in the 1630s he won plaudits as admiral of the Ship Money fleets.
- *Robert Carr, 1st Viscount Rochester and 1st earl of Somerset (c.1586-1645)*: plucked from obscurity by James I, Carr rose from groom of the Bedchamber to lord chamberlain in the space of a decade. Brought low by his enemies, who discovered his role in poisoning his former friend Sir Thomas Overbury, he was convicted of murder in 1616 and spent the next six years in the Tower.
- *Edward Denny, 1st Lord Denny and 1st earl of Norwich (1569-1637)*: a former knight of the shire for Essex, Denny exchanged the hand of his daughter for a barony in 1607. Held up to public ridicule for drunkenness by Lady Mary Wroth in 1621, he was nevertheless granted an earldom five years later, possibly in order to purchase his support for the Forced Loan.
- *Thomas Egerton, 1st Lord Ellesmere and 1st Viscount Brackley (1542-1617)*: lord keeper of the great seal during the final years of Elizabeth's reign, and lord chancellor under James, Ellesmere earned the respect of two successive monarchs. The first Speaker of the Lords in more than half a century to be a member of the upper House, Ellesmere tried without success to curb what he regarded as the growing presumption of the Commons. Kept in office for too long, he eventually forced the king to accept his resignation by refusing to discharge his official duties.

Project staff are Andrew Thrush (editor), Ben Coates, Simon Healy and Paul Hunneyball.

The House of Lords, 1660-1715

This project is now very close to completion, with the year being spent undertaking final revisions and compiling the Introductory Survey. Publication is expected at the end of 2015.

Project staff are Ruth Paley (editor), Robin Eagles, Stuart Handley, Matthew Kilburn and Charles Littleton.

Oral History: The Members Project

The History began working with volunteer interviewers on creating an oral history of parliament and parliamentarians in late 2011. The project will create a sound archive of people involved in politics at national and constituency level, and will provide a unique record of post-2nd World War British political history. The project's aim is to interview as many former Members of the House of Commons as possible, focusing on how people came to be Members, how they worked within the constituency and in Parliament for their constituency and for the particular causes in which they were interested, and what were their impressions of parliament and political life. The interviewers are volunteers, many of them historians of contemporary British politics, all of them trained by the British Library in the techniques of oral history interviewing. The project is being managed by a volunteer, Dr Priscila Pivatto.

By the end of the 2014-15 period we had invited 262 former Members to participate in the project. 160 have agreed to be interviewed. Our volunteer interviewers have completed a total of 118 interviews, with 81 of these now archived and accessible in the British Library. The interviews average 3 hours and are usually recorded over 2 sessions. A section on The History of Parliament website, provides short biographies of the interviewees, a complete summary of each interview and sound clips.

Priscila Pivatto and Emma Peplow participated in February in 'Writing Parliamentary History: Perceptions and Memories of MPs in Europe', a workshop organised by the Institute of Contemporary History of the Academy of Science of the Czech Republic, Prague, and the Kommission für die Geschichte des Parlamentarismus und der politischen Parteien, Berlin, to present a paper on the project. The workshop provided an excellent opportunity to discuss progress on the national oral history project and to learn from the experiences of colleagues working with oral history within other Parliaments, including those of Germany, France, the Czech Republic and Finland.

Dods Publishing, the publishers of The House Magazine, who have been sponsoring the project since 2011, told us in 2014 that they have decided to end their sponsorship from the end of that year. We are seeking alternative funding for the project, and in the meantime covering the small running costs of the project (mostly travelling expenses) ourselves.

Oral History: From the Grassroots: Community Politics in Devon

Our HLF-funded oral history project on local political life in Devon, 'From the Grassroots: an oral history of community politics in Devon', has continued throughout this year. The aim of the project is to go beyond our current oral history project and widen the range of interviewees to include not just MPs but also the county's political activists. The main intention is to create a new oral history archive from these interviews, but also to share the results on a website, through a programme of events and in an exhibition. We are working closely with partners in the region (the Devon Heritage Centre at Exeter, the Plymouth and West Devon Record Office, and the Universities of Plymouth and Exeter) and the project co-ordinator, Dr Kayleigh Milden, is based at the Devon Heritage Centre, Exeter. The project is due to end in June 2015.

Over this year the project has begun to create a new audio archive on Devon's politics including over fifty recordings. Interviewees are from the three main parties as well as smaller parties (such as the Green party and the Liberal party), and range from MPs and councillors with long careers to activists and others who are just beginning their political involvement. They include many recollections of general election campaigns: Jeremy Thorpe's in North Devon; children 'chanting' the names of candidates in the 1950s; Labour canvassers chased with pitch forks. Our interviewees are all volunteers, who we have trained in oral history skills. Some have also attended additional workshops on heritage skills including digital storytelling and archiving. In March we brought our volunteers to Westminster for a meeting and a tour of the Palace.

We have designed and launched a dedicated website for the project (www.historyofparliamentonline.org/from-the-grassroots). The website includes archive video, audioclips from the interviews, biographies of interviewees and larger, thematic articles based on the material, as well as an interactive 'community' section which allows members to share their own memories and comment on other articles. The website also includes a schools section, with materials for the Key Stage Three citizenship curriculum based on our oral history recordings. There are lesson plans and supporting materials for two topics, the 1945 general election and 'motivations to activism', written with the support of an educational consultant.

There have also been a number of From the Grassroots events in Devon this year. We held a witness seminar on 27th October 2014 which explored general elections in Exeter from 1992 to 2001. Three speakers, Jeff Coates (Conservative), Eddie Lopez (Labour) and Rod Ruffle (Liberal Democrat) participated in a lively discussion that produced fascinating insights into local political campaigns. The project's travelling exhibition was launched at The Forum, University of Exeter in January 2015. The exhibition was officially opened by Project volunteer Anna Somner, and welcomed by local MP Ben Bradshaw, and the Conservative Party and Green Party parliamentary candidates for Exeter, as well as Hilary Bracegirdle from the South West HLF Committee and councillor Percy Prowse, Lord Mayor of Exeter. After three weeks at the Forum the exhibition visited Plymouth Central Library and Barnstaple Library and remains on display at the Devon Heritage Centre until the end of the project. Feedback from the exhibition has been very positive so far, and it has received publicity on BBC Radio Devon and in the local press.

Parliamentary Proceedings of 1624

The History began work in January 2012 on the completion of the Yale Center for Parliamentary History's unfinished project to publish the parliamentary proceedings of the 1624 Parliament. The 1624 Parliament is the only Parliament of the early seventeenth century whose proceedings have not been edited and published by the Yale Center. When it was wound up, the Center sent the History of Parliament Trust its remaining funds and research materials relating to the 1624 project, on which work had been undertaken in the 1970s. The History committed itself to completing the edition on the basis of this material, and successfully bid for a Leverhulme Foundation Grant of £97,000 in order to do so. Philip Baker was appointed research assistant for the project and commenced work in January 2012. The staff of the History of Parliament's 1603-60 House of Lords project have also been heavily involved, led by Dr Andrew Thrush, who oversees the project on a day-to-day basis.

The project has taken longer than originally envisaged as we discovered that there were gaps in some of the material inherited from Yale, and that electronic texts were missing and some texts mistranscribed. We were fortunate to make contact with Dr Mark Kennedy, former assistant editor of the Yale project during the 1970s, when the 1624 project was

active, who was able to fill in some of the gaps and provide us with additional material. However, the result of these problems has been that the project has been significantly extended beyond the original plans. However, thanks to funding provided by the Friends of the Yale Center for Parliamentary History (the Jack Hexter grant), and a grant of £10,000 from the Mercer's Company, we expect to be able to complete the full text of the Commons' proceedings and publish it online through British History Online, a web library of sources for British History developed by the Institute of Historical Research and the History of Parliament Trust.

On 12 February 2015 – the 391st anniversary of the Parliament's opening – the proceedings for February 1624, some 91,000 words covering eleven days of debate, were published as part of BHO's free-to-access content. This was followed on 2 March with the publication of the proceedings for March 1624, which cover 24 days and amount to just under 290,000 words. The progressive release of material continued on 1 April with the proceedings for April 1624, consisting of just over 250,000 words covering a further 25 days of debate. <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/no-series/proceedings-1624-parl>

The proceedings have been published on BHO as simple transcripts, without any editorial or scholarly apparatus or additional material. The reason is to preserve the integrity of the planned hardback publication of the proceedings, which will include this further material. However, a short set of accompanying editorial notes has been written for the BHO release (<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/no-series/proceedings-1624-parl/editorial-note>), which outline the editorial method employed and list the manuscripts contained in the edition. Where the authors of those manuscripts sat in the 1624 Parliament, hyperlinks are provided to their respective entries in the History's Commons, 1604-29 volumes. Establishing links in this way between the diary material and the History's biographies shows how an interconnected set of resources might be developed in the future, linking the outputs of the History with all manner of relevant digital texts, not least those already available on BHO.

A series of blog posts has accompanied each stage of the release of the 1624 proceedings, by Philip Baker, Prof. Chris Kyle, of Syracuse University, and Dr. Maija Jansson, the former Director of the Yale Center for Parliamentary History. Philip also wrote a series of daily tweets based on the proceedings, which appear on the History's Twitter feed for every day that we have material. All of these activities have generated a good amount of interest, with a large number of views and many comments from both sides of the Atlantic.

Editorial work on the proceedings for May, the final month of the Parliament, remains to be completed. At the end of the year this was well under way and is expected to be completed over the following months on a freelance basis and we expect that it will be published online over the summer.

DISSEMINATION

History of Parliament Online

The History of Parliament's publications are all currently freely available on its website, www.historyofparliamentonline.org, and this year we have added materials to our 'oral history' and 'schools' sections (see below). Our website viewing figures have significantly increased during this period. Traffic has nearly doubled from an average of 30,000 visits per month to around 50,000. Most of our visitors viewed individual articles in the 'Research' sections, but they also viewed 'About' and 'Explore' articles. Most traffic is direct, but we also receive a number of referrals from Wikipedia, Connected Histories and social media.

Social Media and Blogs

The History has a wordpress blog, a twitter account and facebook page. In addition, the 1832-68 section manage their own blog and twitter account. Again, we have had a successful year on social media; we have run a number of popular social media campaigns and have further increased our following. Our number of twitter followers has increased to over 4,000, and we tweet daily with news from the History and references to our articles based on anniversaries or current events. We publish between one and two posts on our wordpress blog each week on various aspects of parliamentary history, either from our own staff or academic 'guests'. We now have over 100 followers and regularly have over 2000 views of the blog each month. The 1832-68 section's 'Victorian Commons' blog has a strong following and a readership of over 1000 per month.

We ran a number of social media campaigns this year on several different themes. We marked the 300th anniversary of the death of Queen Anne with a series of 'live tweets' narrating the political events surrounding her death supported by blogposts. This increased our twitter 'reach' by a factor of ten during the campaign. We published a series of blogposts on the relationship between England and Scotland throughout the centuries during the Scottish independence referendum campaign. These included posts from our own staff as well as guest posts from Dr Alastair Mann (Stirling), Dr Gordon Pentland (Edinburgh) and Dr Alan MacDonald (Dundee). Dr Kathryn Rix (1832-68 section) has begun a series marking the deaths of MPs who died in the First World War. Her piece on Arthur O'Neill's death was this year's most popular post. We are also marking the publication of the 1624 diaries with a series of blogposts and tweeting quotations from the diaries (selected by Philip Baker) on each day the parliament sat. To promote our summer conference and mark the anniversaries of Magna Carta and de Montfort's parliament, we are currently publishing a series of guest blogs on the impact of Magna Carta and de Montfort across the centuries. Posts so far have been authored by Dr Sophie Ambler (UAE), Ian Stone (KCL), and Professor Louise Wilkinson (Canterbury Christ Church University).

OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

Competitions

The History has run an annual competition for schools for many years. In recent years we have been extending our education activities to include bespoke online materials for use at Key Stage Three, and designed to introduce students to the biographies and constituency articles on our website. After the success of our Reformation section, this year we launched another set of materials on political reform in the 18th and 19th centuries. We collaborated with an external consultant from the Historical Association on the materials, which include specially-written articles for KS3 students, lesson plans and teaching aids designed for the new history curriculum. They are all available to use and download on our website. Our education partners (the Historical Association and Parliament's Education Service) have helped us promote the new section, and website traffic to this part of the website has increased significantly since release.

For our 2014 competitions we have again had support in judging and promotion from The Historical Association and Parliament's Education Service, as well as the Parliamentary Archives. Our KS3 competition asked entrants to imagine they were an MP in 1914 and write a response to Sir Edward Grey's speech calling for Britain to enter the First World War. We received over fifty entries, and the prize was won by Matthew Pearson (Salesian College, Farnborough). The judges were particularly impressed by Matthew's awareness of the context for the speech, and the fluency of his writing. He was presented with his prize by the Lord Speaker Baroness D'Souza on 25th February after a tour of the Palace of Westminster.

Our A level competition required entrants to submit essays on any aspect of British or Irish parliamentary or political history. The competition was won by Alan Petri of Manchester Grammar School. Alan's essay, 'To what extent can Margaret Thatcher be seen as the architect of Scottish and Welsh devolution?' was considered to be especially thought-provoking by the Historical Association.

The History also runs a competition to find the best undergraduate dissertation submitted on British or Irish political history up to 1979. We received 16 dissertations this year, stretching from Mary I to the 1970s. Judging was undertaken by The History of Parliament's editors and Editorial Board, and despite strong competition Stuart Clark of Edinburgh University won with "An Old Tory Dodge", or "a Large and Liberal Project of Practical Benevolence"? The Congested Districts Board, Politics and the Press in Ireland, 1890-1914'. Both A level and dissertation competition winners were presented with their prizes by Lord Speaker Baroness D'Souza, at a reception on 4 March.

Parliamentary activities

Over the year we have worked closely with Parliament's Public Engagement and Learning team, to help with 'Parliament in the Making', a series of events to mark the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta and the 750th anniversary of Simon de Montfort's parliament. We supplied the text for an exhibition displayed in Westminster Hall, 'The Beginnings of that Freedom'. The exhibition consists of 18 banners, each focussing on a significant event in parliamentary history since 1215 on either the theme of 'representation' or 'freedoms'. The History's contribution to the commemorations was particularly mentioned by Mr Speaker, Rt. Hon. John Bercow at the launch event on 20 January. The banners will remain in Westminster Hall for the whole year and will form the inspiration for a number of other events.

We have also supplied information or text for a number of other 2015 anniversary events organised by Parliament, including the interactive digital arts project Democracy Street' (<http://democracystreet.com/>), and publications in BBC History Extra.

This year's History of Parliament annual lecture took place on 5 November in Portcullis House, given by Rev. Professor Sir Diarmaid MacCulloch (St Cross College, Oxford) who spoke on 'Parliament and the Reformation of Edward VI'.

Academic collaborations

Over the year we have been preparing for a major conference to take place in July 2015, when the History will host the 66th annual conference of the International Commission for the History of Representative and Parliamentary Institutions (ICHRPI) at Portcullis House, at King's College London and Royal Holloway, University of London. We received a grant of £5,000 from the Magna Carta 800 organising committee to help fund the conference, along with other contributions (either in kind or monetarily) from Parliament, Royal Holloway and King's College, London.

The Digging into Linked Parliamentary Data (DiLiPaD) project funded by JISC, continues. This project, which the History initiated and in which it is a partner with the IHR and the Universities of Toronto and Amsterdam and Kings College London, is designed to link speakers to available biographies of members of parliament and government in specialized biographical databases, as well as the Wikipedia / DBpedia / Linked Open Data cloud, and to deliver a common format for encoding parliamentary proceedings appropriate for the UK, Dutch and Canadian Hansards; a joint dataset covering all three jurisdictions; a 'workbench' with a range of Natural Language Processing tools for the comparative, longitudinal study of

parliamentary data; and extensive substantive case studies focusing on immigration and parliamentary language, which will showcase the new research opportunities. Although no financial benefit comes to the History, the project will provide ways in which we can begin to build links between the History's biographies and the online Hansard data.

The History has continued its involvement in the network of European Parliamentary Historians (EuParl.net). Partners besides the History include the Montesquieu Institute (a state-funded collaboration between a number of universities in the Netherlands), the Centrum voor Parlementaire Geschiedenis at the University of Nijmegen and the Kommission für Geschichte des Parlamentarismus und der Politischen Parteien (Commission for the History of Parliamentarism and political parties), which is funded by and works closely with the German Bundestag, the University of Jyväskylä in Finland, and the Comité d'histoire parlementaire et politique in France, which works with the Sénat.

We continued to support the work of two doctoral students based at the Institute of Historical Research, supervised by Miles Taylor, under the AHRC's Collaborative Doctoral Award Scheme. Martin Spychal is working on 'The Geography of Power: The Role of the Boundary Commissioners in Shaping the Electoral Representation of Britain', and Rebekah Moore is working on 'Space and Power in the New Palace of Westminster'.

The History is also involved in an AHRC-funded project of the University of York and Institute of Historical Research in collaboration with the Palace of Westminster, as a member of the Executive Board for the project. The AHRC-funded project 'St Stephen's Chapel, Westminster: Visual and Political Culture, 1292-1941' brings together a team of historians and art historians to research a building which was successively a royal chapel, the House of Commons, and the main entrance to Parliament. The research will feed into a digital reconstruction of St Stephen's in its successive roles, modelled by the Centre for the Study of Christianity and Culture.

We have had one intern working with us over the summer: David Whitehorn, from the Medieval section's established connection with Royal Holloway, worked with the 1422-61 project during August.

The History of Parliament

June 2015

ARTICLES COMPLETED 2014-15

The House of Commons, 1422-61

Members completed

Thomas Hill II:
Thomas Molyneux,

Constituencies completed

Lancashire

The House of Commons, 1640-60

Members completed

John Pym: Gilbert Gerard: Sir Gilbert Gerard: Sir Simonds D'Ewes: George Thomson:

Constituencies completed

Norfolk:

Committees completed

The Committee for Scandalous Ministers:

The House of Commons, 1832-68

Members completed

Robert Armstrong (1815-1880): Robert Bateson (1816-1843): George Charles Bingham, Lord Bingham (1830-1914): Mark Blake (1818-1886); Cadwallader Davis Blayney (1802-1874): George Bryan (1770-1843): Benjamin James Chapman (1810-1888): Lord John Ludford Chichester (1811-1873): Hon. Wellington Henry Stapleton-Cotton (1818-1891): Richard John Devereux (1829-1883): Hon. William Cary Dobbs (1806-1869): James Fagan (1800-1863): Lord Otho Augustus Fitzgerald (1827-1882): Robert Gore (1810-1854): James Kennedy (1798-1859): George Morris (1833-1912): Roger William Henry Palmer (1832-1910): Robert Potter (?1794-1854): James Spaight (1820-1892): John Edward Walsh (1816-1869): Richard Baker Wingfield, afterwards Wingfield-Baker (?1801-80): Sir William Bowyer-Smijth, 11th bt. (1814-1883): Thomas William Bramston (1796-1871): Lord Eustace Henry Brownlow Gascoyne Cecil (1834-1921): Charles Du Cane (1825-1889): John Payne Elwes (1798-1849): Joseph Alfred Hardcastle (1815-1899): Edward George Granville Howard (1809-1880): Frederick George Howard (1805-1833): George Palmer (1772-1853): John Watlington Perry-Watlington (1823-1882): John Gurdon Rebow (1799-1870): Charles Gray Round (1797-1867): John Round (1783-1860): Henry John Selwin, afterwards Selwin-Ibbetson (1826-1902): Sir John Tyssen Tyrell (1795-1877): Sir Thomas Burch Western (1795-1873): Thomas Sutton Western (1821-1877); Rawdon Briggs (1792-1859): Hugh

Culling Eardley Childers (1827-96): Thomas Collins (1826-84): Hon. Arthur Duncombe (1806-1889): Hon. Octavius Duncombe (1817-1879): Hon. William Duncombe (1798-1867): Hon. William Ernest Duncombe (1829-1915): James Lowther (1840-94): John Henry Lowther (1793-1868): Frederick Acclom Milbank (1820-1898): Hon. Edward Robert Petre (1794-1848): Titus Salt (1803-76): Benjamin Smith (1783-1860): Henry Galgacus Redhead Yorke (1802-48): Robert Archbold (1790-1855): Sir John Rivett Carnac (1818-83): William Henry Ford Cogan (1823-94): Thomas Duffield (1780-1854): Charles William Fitzgerald, marquess of Kildare (1819-87): David O'Connor Henchy (1810-76): Joseph Haythorne Reed (1828-58): Edward Royds Rice (1790-1878): William Henry Ashe A'Court-Holmes (1809-1891): Edward Thomas Bainbridge (1798-1872): Alexander Charles Barclay (1823-1893): George Augustus Frederick Cavendish Bentinck (1821-1891): William Bowles (1780-1869): Richard Edmund St. Lawrence Boyle, Viscount Dungarvan (1829-1904): Robert Edward Boyle (1809-1854): William George Boyle (1830-1908): Henry Broadwood (1793-1878): Alexander Henry Campbell (1822-1918): Sir Charles Cavendish Clifford (1821-1895): Sir Thomas Edward Colebrooke (1813-90): Edward Dawes (1805-1856): Brent Spencer Follett (1809-86): Sir John Gray (1815-75): Thomas Chandler Haliburton (1796-1865): George Alexander Hamilton (1802-71): Francis Venables-Vernon Harcourt (1801-1880): Lord William Montagu Hay (1826-1911): Sir John Pope Hennessy (1834-91): Peter John Locke King (1811-85): Alexander William Kinglake (1809-91): Henry Labouchere (1798-1869): John Orrell Lever (1824-1897): Henry Charles Lopes (1828-1899): John Francis Maguire (1815-72): Arthur Mills (1816-1898): Josceline William Percy (1811-81): John Simeon (1815-70): Sir Richard Simeon (1784-1854): William Tayleur (1803-1873): Henry Westropp (1811-1886): Hon. William Browne (1791-1876): Hedges Eyre Chatterton (1819-1910): Hon. Arthur Henry Cole (1780-1844): Hon. Henry Arthur Cole (1809-1890): William Willoughby Cole, Viscount Cole (1807-1886): Lord Francis Nathaniel Conyngham (1832-1880): James Daly (1782-1847): Ion Trant Hamilton (1839-1898): John Hatchell II (1825-1902): Henry Arthur Herbert II (1840-1901): Henry George Hughes (1810-1872): William Henry Hyett (1795-1877): Sir Charles Lanyon (1813-1889): John McClintock (1798-1879): James Henry Monahan (1801-1878): Hon. Algernon William Fulke Greville-Nugent (1841-1909): James O'Brien (1806-1881): Standish O'Grady (1792-1848): John Edward Redmond (1806-1865): Robert Richard Warren (1817-1897): John Attwood (1781-1865): John Bagshaw (1784-1861): Robert John Bagshaw (1803-1873): Alexander Ellice (1791-1853): William Henry Hawkins (1816-1868): Henry Jervis-White-Jervis (1825-1881): Edward Kent Karstake (1820-1892): John Kelk (1816-1888): Taverner John Miller (1804-1867): Philip Oxenden Papillon (1826-1899): George Montagu Warren Peacocke (afterwards Sandford) (1821-1879): Henry Thoby Prinsep (1792-1878): Richard Thomas Rowley (1812-1887): Richard Sanderson (?1783-1857): Sir George Henry Smyth (1784-1852): 'Christopher Thomas Tower (1775-1867): David Waddington (1810-1863): George Drought Warburton (1816-1857): Hugh Edward Adair (1815-1902): John Thomas Walshman Aspinall (1812-1865): Ralph Assheton (1830-1907): John Chevallier Cobbold (1797-1882): Thomas Bright Crosse (1796-1886): Nathaniel Eckersley (1815-1892): Richard Fort (1822-1868): George Leeman (1809-1882): William Mordaunt Edward Milner (1820-1867): James Morrison (1789-1857): George Rennie (1801-1860): John George Smyth (1815-1869): Le Gendre Nicholas Starkie (1828-1899): Thomas Neville Abdy (1810-1877): Thomas Hussey (1814-94): William Francis Knatchbull (1804-1871): William Gore Langton (1760-1847): William Miles (1797-1878): Richard Horner Paget (1832-1908): William Pinney (1806-98): John Wright Treeby (1809-1882): William Henry Adams (1809-65): John Bonham-Carter (1817-1884): Hon. Duncombe Pleydell Bouverie (1780-1850): William Bird Brodie (1780-1863): John Studholme Brownrigg (1786-1853): Edward Pery Buckley (1796-1873): Benjamin Bond Cabbell (1781-1874): William James Chaplin (1787-1859): Sir James Duke (1792-1873): James Buller East

(1789-1878): *Bickham Sweet Escott* (1800-1853): *Benjamin Handley* (1784-1858): *Ambrose Hussey* (1807-1849): *John Wingfield Malcom* (1833-1902): *Matthew Henry Marsh* (1810-1881): *Alexander Oswald* (1811-1868): *James Oswald* (1779-1853): *Richard Alexander Oswald* (1771-1841): *Thomas Parry* (1818-79): *Dudley Worsley Anderson Pelham* (1812-51): *Charles Edmund Rumbold* (1788-1857): *William Barrow Simonds* (1820-1912): *Meaburn Staniland* (1809-98): *Charles Baring Wall* (1795-1853): *John Wilks* (1776-1854): *William Henry Whitbread* (1795-1867): *Wadham Wyndham* (1773-1843):

Constituencies completed

County Tyrone: Kilkenny: Essex North: Essex South: Morpeth: Yorkshire, North Riding: County Kildare: Isle of Wight: Launceston: Surrey East: Taunton: County Roscommon: County Westmeath: Colchester: Harwich: York: Lyme Regis: Salisbury: Winchester:

The House of Lords 1603-60

Members completed

Henry Danvers, 1st Lord Danvers and 1st earl of Danby (1573-1644): George Hastings, 4th earl of Huntingdon (c.1540-1604): Edward Talbot, 8th earl of Shrewsbury (1561-1618): George Talbot, 9th earl of Shrewsbury (1566-1630): Thomas Wriothesley, 4th and 2nd earl of Southampton (1608-67): John Buckeridge, bishop of Ely (c.1564-1631): Nicholas Felton, bishop of Ely (1562/3-1626): John Howson, bishop of Durham (1556/7-1632): John King, bishop of London (c.1561-1621): Rowland Searchfield, bishop of Bristol (1565-1622): Richard Vaughan, bishop of London (c.1553-1607): William James, bishop of Durham (1542-1617): Arthur Lake, bishop of Bath and Wells (1567-1626): Richard Montagu, bishop of Chichester and Norwich (1575-1641): Henry Percy, 3rd earl of Northumberland (1564-1632): Henry Brooke, 11th Lord Cobham (1564-1619): Henry Howard, 1st earl of Northampton (1540-1614): Richard Fiennes, 1st or 7th Lord Saye and Sele (1555-1612): Henry Hastings, 5th earl of Huntingdon (1586-1643): Robert Spencer, 1st Lord Spencer (1567-1627): William Spencer, 2nd Lord Spencer (1591-1636): Gilbert Talbot, 7th earl of Shrewsbury (1552-1616): Henry Wriothesley, 3rd and 1st earl of Southampton (1573-1624): George Abbot, archbishop of Canterbury (1562-1633): John Jigon, bishop of Norwich (1550-1618): George Lloyd, bishop of Chester (1559/60-1615): Richard Milbourne, bishop of Carlisle (c.1563-1624): George Montaigne, archbishop of York (c.1569-1628): William Morgan, bishop of St. Asaph (1544/5-1604): John Overall, bishop of Norwich (1561-1619): John Owen, bishop of St. Asaph (1580-1651): Henry Parry, bishop of Worcester (1561-1616): Richard Parry, bishop of St. Asaph (1559/60-1623): Robert Snowden, bishop of Carlisle (c.1564-1621): John Young, bishop of Rochester (1531/4-1605): William Herbert, 3rd earl of Pembroke (1580-1630): Algernon Percy, 4th earl of Northumberland (1602-68): William Sandys, 3rd Lord Sandys (1549-1623): William Sandys, 4th Lord Sandys (1607-29): Charles Willoughby, 2nd Lord Willoughby of Parham (c.1537-1611): William Willoughby, 3rd Lord Willoughby of Parham (1584-1617): Robert Carr, 1st Viscount Rochester and 1st earl of Somerset (c.1586-1645): Edward Denny, 1st Lord Denny and 1st earl of Norwich (1569-1637): Thomas Egerton, 1st Lord Ellesmere and 1st Viscount Brackley (1542-1617):