

THE HISTORY OF PARLIAMENT TRUST ANNUAL REVIEW FOR THE YEAR 2018-19

Aims and objectives of the History of Parliament Trust

1. 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.
2. 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. Our volumes on the House of Lords provide political biographies of peers. In addition the volumes contain surveys drawing out the themes and discoveries of the research and adding information on the operation of Parliament as an institution.
3. The History has published 22,136 biographies and 2,831 constituency surveys in twelve sets of volumes (46 volumes in all). They deal with the House of Commons 1386-1421, 1509-1558, 1558-1603, 1604-29, 1660-1690, 1690-1715, 1715-1754, 1754-1790, 1790-1820 and 1820-32; and the House of Lords 1660-1715. All of the House of Commons 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 1715-1832. 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; the House of Lords projects, 1,211 biographies. With what is now published and in progress, the History covers 414 years of the history of the House of Commons, and 155 of the House of Lords.
4. 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.
5. The History's objectives are normally set out in its annual plan. An annual plan was last approved by the Trustees in June 2017, and is published on the History's website. In January 2018 a Review of the Trust's activities by Professor Michael Braddick FBA was published, having been commissioned by the House of Commons. In the light of the Review's findings, the plan for the History is being revisited, in particular to include an expanded mission to reach wider publics by means of all available avenues.

HISTORY OF PARLIAMENT TRUST

Review of activities in the year 2018-19

HIGHLIGHTS

- 207 new articles completed; the entire text of one multi-volume project now complete and in the layout and design stage prior to publication; the text of another on the point of the layout and design stage after finalization of texts; 497 articles revised for publication during the course of the year.
- Contributed to creating a major exhibition in Westminster Hall, and created another in Portcullis House, which subsequently toured.
- Former Members oral history project continued, with 179 interviews now completed, 168 deposited at British Library.
- Work begun on rebuilding the website.
- In social media, the number of impressions on the three twitter feeds, @Histparl, @TheVictCommons and @Georgian Lords, continued to grow. There has been a 30 per cent rise in the number of Twitter followers across our three Twitter accounts, so that they now number over 16,000. Daily tweets with news from the History and references to our articles based on anniversaries or current events.
- The blogs 'History of Parliament', 'Georgian Lords', 'Victorian Commons', 'Revolution to Referendum', 'James I to Restoration' widely read on various aspects of parliamentary history.
- 5 events held at the Palace of Westminster, and 4 elsewhere

RESEARCH

13. The staff of one of our projects, House of Commons 1422-61, have completed the texts of their volumes, including the Introductory Survey. Revision of articles prior to publication of another project, House of Lords 1604-29, has been completed and the Introductory Survey is complete in first draft. Another project has revised 78 per cent of its articles; one project is in its second year. Altogether, the History's staff and some external authors compiled 207 new articles, containing over half a million words, and revised 497 old ones. Below we describe some of the work that has emerged from each of the projects.

The House of Commons, 1422-1461

14. By the end of the year all of the 2,844 biographies and 144 constituency articles had been revised in final form prior to publication, and sections of the Introductory Survey, numbering 50 in all, had been completed. Project staff are Linda Clark (Editor), Hannes Kleineke, Charles Moreton and Simon Payling.

The House of Commons, 1640-1660

15. Revision of this project's output has now reached 78 per cent of the articles. Over the year, 497 articles were revised. Project staff are Vivienne Larminie (Associate Editor), Andrew Barclay, Patrick Little and David Scott. Stephen Roberts remains nominally Editor while serving as Director.

The House of Commons, 1832-68

16. During the year, 139 articles totalling 323,638 words were written, bringing the proportion in draft of the project's 2,991 articles to over 64 per cent. The new articles are uploaded for viewing on the Victorian Commons website. Although now operating with only four staff, a growing number of external contributors are producing an increasing number of articles. 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. Members completed include:

- *Sir George Berkeley (1785-1857)*: a scion of Gloucestershire's most prominent aristocratic family, Berkeley was a much decorated veteran of the Peninsular war and Waterloo and held a number of subsequent commands. In 1852 he became the first Conservative to be returned for the government borough of Devonport. When present in the Commons, he provided consistent support for Lord Derby's party, but was unable to attend after June 1855 and retired from Parliament shortly before his death in 1857.
- *Richard Richards (1787-1860)*: Richards was generally known in legal and parliamentary circles by his sobriquet of 'Double Dick', an allusion 'not to his nature, but to his name'. A successful barrister, he was returned as Conservative MP for Merionethshire in 1836 as the nominee of the county's chief proprietor, Sir Robert William Vaughan. After breaking with Sir Robert Peel over Maynooth in 1845 he supported the agricultural interest and became a staunch Derbyite. Well-regarded within his profession, he remained a 'very popular' figure in the House until he retired in 1852.
- *Peter Rolt (1798-1882)*: a successful Deptford timber merchant, who rose to eminence as a dockyard contractor and shipbuilder, Rolt was known for his 'quiet and ready humour'. Tall, 'well setup and dignified', it was said of him that 'rarely in one person has the man of pleasure and the man of business been more shrewdly and intimately comingled'. After securing a seat for his native borough of Greenwich in 1852 he spent four years in the Commons as a solid supporter of Lord Derby, before resigning early in 1857 in order to resume work as a government contractor, his firm being responsible for the construction of Britain's first ironclad warship, HMS *Warrior*, in 1860.
- *Alexander Baring (1773-1848)*: a leading banker and major landowner, Baring represented Taunton, Callington and Thetford in the pre-reform Commons. His opposition to the reform bill prompted him to move from the Whigs to the Tories, earning him the nickname 'See-saw Baring'. As MP for Essex North from 1832 until he was created Baron Ashburton in 1835, he was extremely active in debate and in the committee-rooms, and served as president of the board of trade in Peel's short-lived 1834-5 ministry. He negotiated the 1842 Webster-Ashburton

treaty, settling the U.S.A's north-eastern border, opposed corn law repeal in 1846 and died in 1848.

- *John Williams (?1800-1855)*: a self-made man, Williams rose from humble origins in North Wales to become a prosperous London linen draper and silk mercer. His dealings with the town's silk industry prompted him to stand as a Liberal candidate for Macclesfield in 1847, when he was elected with Chartist support. He claimed to have given 1,000 votes at Westminster and although not a regular speaker, he intervened to advocate the ballot and the importance of the Welsh clergy knowing the Welsh language. Defeated in 1852, he did not return to Parliament thereafter, and died in 1855.
- *Robert Hollond (1808-1887)*: a noted amateur balloonist, Hollond funded and flew in Charles Green's record breaking hot air balloon voyage from London to Weilburg in Germany in 1836. Elected the following year for Hastings, where he was a prominent local philanthropist, he sat for the next 15 years as an advanced Liberal, helping to expose the frauds committed on military officials by the 'inventor' Samuel Warner. Overshadowed in society by his extraordinary wife, the leading salonnière Ellen Julia Hollond (1822-84), he moved to France with her in 1852 and took to drink.
- *Joseph Planta (1787-1847)*: the government's treasury and patronage secretary from 1827-30, Planta played a key role in organising the Tories before losing his seat for the treasury borough of Hastings in 1831. Considered far too 'amiable' and 'kind-hearted' to continue to whip the party after 1832, he was passed over by Peel for a senior role following his surprise re-election for Hastings in 1837, and sat as a loyal Conservative backbencher until ill-health forced his resignation in 1844.
- *Patrick Francis Robertson (1807-1885)*: a Scotsman and retired East Indies and China merchant, who had lived for 'many years' at Canton, Robertson helped to develop the Victorian seafront at Hastings, where he built himself a large mansion. He represented the borough as a Liberal-Conservative from 1852-59 and 1865-68, making occasional contributions to debates concerning China and India.
- *Thomas Gill (1788-1861)*: a prominent Plymouth merchant responsible for the production of Millbay soap, 'well known throughout England', Gill represented Plymouth as a moderate Liberal during the 1841 parliament. He paid some attention to fiscal policy, but criticism of his self-interested promotion of railway legislation forced his retirement in 1847.
- *George Grenfell Glyn (1824-1887)*: a partner in the 'railway bank' Glyn, Mills and Co., Glyn was returned unopposed for Shaftesbury from 1857 thanks to financial and family influence. He proved a loyal but inactive Liberal until his appointment as nominal chief whip in December 1866. In post his 'wealth and position' allowed him to 'exercise a very considerable influence over both the leaders and the rank and file', and he was central to the successful organisation of the 1868 Liberal election campaign. He played a key role in the centralisation of Liberal party organisation thereafter and as one of Gladstone's closest political confidants served in the cabinets of his second and third ministries.
- *William Tooke (1777-1863)*: a prominent solicitor and metropolitan reformer, as well as a founding member and treasurer of the University of London, Tooke was returned for Truro in 1832, and as an active reformer spoke frequently, and

proposed numerous legislative measures, taking a keen interest in legal reform and the business of the House. His parliamentary efforts secured a charter for the University of London in 1836.

- *Sir George Forster (1796-1876)*: a prominent and popular member of the gentry of Louth and Monaghan, Forster represented the latter county as a reliable Derbyite from 1852-65. He was, nevertheless, prepared to take an independent line on tenant-right, which was the dominant issue in his constituency. Affable and generous, he was well-regarded by his tenants and by the time of his death in 1876 was described as foremost among 'a class of fine old country gentlemen fast passing away'.
- *Lord Richard de Aquila Grosvenor (1837-1912)*: from an old Whig family, Grosvenor possessed the high connections and pleasant manners which secured him influence in the Commons and marked him out to William Gladstone as a suitable party whip, most notably during the Irish home rule crisis of 1886. His early years as MP for Flintshire from 1861 were spent as a loyal Liberal until he joined his elder brother, Earl Grosvenor, in opposing the Liberal government's 1866 reform bill. After taking an independent line on the Conservative bill in 1867 he sheepishly re-joined Gladstone's parliamentary following.
- *Richard Assheton Cross (1823-1914)*: a barrister on the northern circuit, Cross was returned as Conservative MP for his native Preston in 1857 but resigned in 1862 to devote more time to his business interests. He was an active backbencher during his first stint in Parliament, notably securing reform of the law on municipal elections. He returned to the Commons in 1868, when he defeated Gladstone in South-West Lancashire, which he represented until his elevation to the Lords in 1886. An 'outstanding' Conservative home secretary, 1874-80, he played a major part in the social reforms of Disraeli's ministry and later served at the India Office and as lord privy seal.
- *Edward Ryley Langworthy (1796-1874)*: a wealthy and public-spirited Liberal cotton manufacturer and merchant, Langworthy served as mayor of his adopted home town of Salford, 1848-50, and was a major benefactor to local educational institutions. He reluctantly stood for a vacancy in February 1857, but gladly retired at the dissolution the following month, having not found parliamentary life to his liking. It appears that he was one of relatively few Baptists to sit in the Commons during this period.
- *Reginald James Blewitt (1799-1878)*: a solicitor turned newspaper proprietor and industrialist, Blewitt established Monmouthshire's leading Liberal newspaper in the 1820s. Aided by his development of the Cwmbran ironworks in Newport, he took over as MP for Monmouth in 1837. An active radical reformer and regular speaker, he was a sympathetic apologist for the Chartists, whose violence he personally witnessed in the famous Newport rising of 1839. Financial difficulties forced his resignation in 1852.
- *Bailey Crawshay (1789-1872)*: one of the 'great iron kings' of South Wales, Crawshay entered the ironworks of his famous uncle Richard Crawshay aged 12 and rose to become one of the leading industrialists of the Victorian era, owning ironworks, coal mines and brickworks. A silent MP for Monmouth from 1852-68 but a useful committee man, he gave general support to the Conservatives but

also backed Liberal issues such as extension of the county franchise and the abolition of church rates.

- *Benjamin Hall (1802-67)*: known as 'Big Ben' and credited with lending his nickname to Parliament's famous bell and clock tower, which was completed on his watch as commissioner of works, Hall was a Liberal MP for Monmouth, 1831-37, and Marylebone, 1837-59. A regular speaker, he campaigned steadily in support of the Welsh language, Church reform and public health improvements. As a junior minister he initiated civil engineering solutions to the 'Great Stink' caused by sewage in the Thames and established the Metropolitan Board of Works. He was rewarded for his efforts with a peerage in 1859.
- *Robert Laffan (1821-1877)*: a career officer in the Royal Engineers who saw active service in various colonies, Laffan was Inspector of Railways at the Board of Trade from 1847-52 before sitting for St. Ives as a Liberal-Conservative from 1852-7. During his Commons career he spoke on military issues but was frequently absent inspecting fortifications. He is best remembered today as a popular and reforming governor of Bermuda, where a native fern was named after him.

17. Constituencies completed include:

- *Ashton-under-Lyne*: a single member borough created in 1832, Ashton-under-Lyne was a manufacturing town in south-east Lancashire, dominated by its cotton industry. Divisions between the borough's middle-class reformers and its working-class radicals enabled the return of an outside Radical candidate, George Williams, in 1832, but he was ousted by Charles Hindley, a local Liberal cotton manufacturer, in 1835. Despite a notable but hopeless challenge from the factory reformer and anti-poor law campaigner Joseph Rayner Stephens in 1837, and more credible Conservative opponents in 1837 and 1841, Hindley held sway and was untroubled by contests in 1847, 1852 and 1857. The Conservatives fielded a candidate at the by-election caused by Hindley's death in December 1857, at which Thomas Milner Gibson retained the seat for the Liberals.
- *Macclesfield*: a major centre of the silk industry, Macclesfield was given two MPs under the terms of the 1832 Reform Act. One was held throughout this period for the Liberals by John Brocklehurst, a Unitarian silk manufacturer and major local employer. He never campaigned jointly with any other Liberal candidate, enabling the second seat to be held by the Conservatives for much of this period. The borough reverted to shared representation in 1852 when Edward Egerton, from a Cheshire landowning family, was elected as a Conservative. He and Brocklehurst only faced a serious challenge to their position in 1865.
- *Hastings*: a former 'treasury' pocket borough, managed by the comptroller of excise Edward Milward and the closed corporation, Hastings had returned Tory government nominees until 1831, when an agreement was made to share its two seats between Milward's nephew and a reformer. Similar deals to divide the representation, aided by ambiguous party addresses from candidates, continued to shape electoral outcomes after 1832, with Tories and Liberals sitting as colleagues for two-thirds of the 1832-68 period. The dramatic expansion of the electorate, from a mere 25 before 1832 to almost 1,000 ten years later, and the corporation's replacement with an elected town council in 1835, created opportunities for a series of challenges, including by an Anti-Corn Law candidate

in 1844. Ultimately, though, it was the arrival of the railway and the rapid development of the coastal suburb of St Leonards, with its own identity and leading personnel, that determined the later politics of this fishing port.

- *Ashburton*: a single-member borough reliant on the wool trade with China, Ashburton was under Liberal control for all but six years of this period. Although its electorate rarely surpassed 300, the borough's elections were marked by intense partisanship, extensive registration battles and expensive contests until 1841. Both parties fielded candidates with trading links to the East India Company, and left no stone unturned in their attempts to secure voters via the creation of dubious tenancies, extensive treating and bribery. By the early 1840s, a trade depression provoked by the First Opium War, and an exorbitantly costly contest in 1841, left the Conservative interest bereft of financial and institutional backing. After purchasing extensive property in the borough in 1843, the Liberal East India Merchant James Matheson effectively secured control of the representation until the Conservatives' careful attention to the register and creation of faggot voters provided them with a surprise single-vote victory in 1859. The borough was abolished by the 1867-8 reform legislation.
- *Barnstaple*: a North Devon port, where lace was replacing woollen cloth as the major item of manufacture, Barnstaple had its boundaries extended in 1832. This did little, however, to curtail the borough's reputation for venality, associated by many observers with the large number of surviving freemen voters. The power of the purse was far more significant than political issues in influencing the outcome of elections, and the representation regularly changed hands. Barnstaple was one of six boroughs which saw a prolonged suspension of its writ due to corruption at the 1852 election, but this did not prevent electoral malpractice recurring thereafter.

18. Project staff throughout the year were Philip Salmon (editor), Kathryn Rix (assistant editor), Stephen Ball and Martin Spychal (research fellows).

The House of Lords, 1603-1660

19. The revision of all the 286 biographies has been completed and the writing of the Introductory Survey was virtually complete at 31 March 2019.
20. Project staff are Andrew Thrush (editor), Ben Coates, Simon Healy and Paul Hunneyball.

The House of Lords 1715-90

21. Work has continued on writing the 925 biographies of peers who sat in the House of Lords in this period. This was the second year of the project. Members of the section have added to the project's research resources with research carried out at the Kent History and Library Centre, the British Library, the Bodleian Library, The National Archives and with indexing of transcripts from the Montrose papers.
22. Here are brief summaries of some of the biographies completed this year:

- *Francis North, 2nd Baron Guilford (1673 -1729)*: a thorough-going Tory with possible Jacobite leanings, by the close of his career Guilford had reconciled with the Hanoverian regime in return for a much-needed pension. Much of his property was leased out and by the time of this death he was living in lodgings in London.
- *Lionel Cranfield Sackville, duke of Dorset (1687 -1765)*: in the course of his long career Dorset was promoted to a dukedom, was lord lieutenant of Ireland twice and held a number of other significant household and governmental posts. Closely allied to his kinsman Spencer Compton, earl of Wilmington, there was mutual dislike between him and Walpole.
- *John Sheffield, duke of Buckingham (1648 -1721)*: Buckingham remained a significant figure in Parliament and as a patron of the arts after the death of Anne, and was often mentioned as a possible candidate for a return to government. His duchess was a Jacobite sympathizer but there is little reason to believe Buckingham shared her views.
- *Robert Sutton, 2nd Baron Lexington (1662 -1723)*: a former diplomat, Lexington had sought retirement during the reign of Anne and was disinclined to do much more following the accession of George I. As such he rejected promotion in the peerage. He died without direct heirs, leaving his estates to kinsmen.
- *Charles Talbot, duke of Shrewsbury (1660 -1718)*: a towering figure from the reign of William III and Queen Anne, Shrewsbury lost power soon after the Hanoverian accession but remained an important political broker and continued to be considered a possible member of the administration to within a few months of his death.
- *Arthur Annesley, 5th earl of Anglesey (1678 -1737)*: an important Hanoverian Tory at the end of Queen Anne's reign, who survived in office at the beginning of George I's reign. He continued to be effective on occasion in the Lords, but his interest and activity declined over time.
- *John Churchill, duke of Marlborough (1650 -1722)*: the military hero of Anne's reign was a very important politician between 1714 and 1716. He suffered a stroke in 1716 and was much diminished by illness thereafter, when his strong-willed wife was probably responsible for many of the actions taken in his name.
- *Benson, Robert, Baron Bingley (1676 -1731)*: chancellor of the exchequer in the earl of Oxford's ministry and remained a member of the Tory opposition under George I. Financially astute and well-connected, he appears to have benefitted from the South Sea Company crash. A member of Cowper's group of protesters he remained in opposition until 1730 when, deciding that the Tories were as useful as a 'rope of sand', he unexpectedly joined Walpole's administration
- *Bentinck, Henry, duke of Portland (c.1682 -1726)*: a Whig hero largely on account of his father, William III's closest Dutch adviser. He maintained a lavish lifestyle until ruined by the crash of South Sea Company stock, after which he took refuge from his creditors in Jamaica where he was governor.
- *Clinton, Henry, 7th earl of Lincoln (1686 -1728)*: began the reign of George I impoverished and almost landless, and ended it with a court office, a landed estate and country seat and connected by marriage to the duke of Newcastle. His uncompromising Whiggism and a fluke legacy aided this change of fortune. He held a series of important offices and was a core member of the ministry

- *Herbert, Thomas, 8th earl of Pembroke (c.1656 -1733)*: began George I's reign famous for his efficient, and largely non-partisan, service in office under both William and Anne and he remained a respected figure in the House. He died in 1733 perhaps best known for his large collection of antiquities and his eccentricities.
- *Stanley, James, 10th earl of Derby (1664 -1736)*: was the first earl by precedence in the peerage, but after the first few years of George I's reign, concentrated his influence on Lancashire and the Isle of Man. He was a consistent government supporter, until the 1730s when he went into opposition.
- *William Greville, 7th Baron Brooke (c.1694-1727)*: 'a rakish man' Brooke had inherited the peerage while still at university. As a Tory he spent his brief career in the House in opposition but attempted at times to exercise his interest in his native Warwickshire. Marriage brought him estates in Hampshire, where he died of an unknown malady aged just 33.
- *John Hervey, earl of Bristol (1665-1751)*: possibly best known as the father of the court wit Lord Hervey, and the author of a large cache of important letters, Bristol was a significant broker in Suffolk and closely associated with the opposition court of George, Prince of Wales. He was affected by the deaths of a number of his children, including his eldest son, Carr Lord Hervey, and John Lord Hervey, and spent the final part of his life instructing his grandson in politics.
- *William Nevill, 16th Baron Abergavenny (d.1744)*: cousin of the previous two lords, Abergavenny achieved notoriety for throwing his wife out of doors on discovering her infidelity and then pursued her lover with a criminal conversation case. He was also one of very few peers to sue for scandalum magnatum during the period. He eventually acquired court office but rejected the offer of promotion to an earldom.
- *Nicholas Lechmere, Baron Lechmere (1675-1727)*: a Whig lawyer with ambitions to be lord chancellor. His eloquence perhaps explains how he was able to procure the chancellorship of the duchy of Lancaster for life. Safe from dismissal he continued in opposition after most other people had given up.
- *Samuel Peploe, bishop of Chester (1667-1752)*: the Whig bishop chosen to succeed the Tory incumbent at Chester, after challenging the Jacobites in Preston in 1715. His combative nature ensured a constant battle with the local Tories. At Westminster, he never deviated from loyal support for the Whigs.
- *Charles Seymour, 6th duke of Somerset (1662-1748)*: a famously proud man, who continued to play a role in politics owing to his power of patronage in several parliamentary seats. His wealth and electoral power made him dangerous to ignore and useful to know, hence his friendship with Prince Frederick.
- *Richard Boyle, 3rd earl of Burlington (1694-1753)*: best known for his architectural projects. Except for a brief tenure of court office, he voted against the ministry. The argument that the symbolism in his buildings prove that he was a Jacobite is inconclusive, but he was certainly a more complicated figure than merely a 'Whig grandee'.
- *William Ferdinand Carey, 8th Baron Hunsdon (1684-1765)*: of an English family which had settled in the Netherlands and fought for the States General since the 17th century. He was a poor lord and reliant on a government pension to maintain his standing, which ensured he was a reliable court supporter.

- *Robert Darcy, 3rd earl of Holderness (1681-1722)*: a Whig and a courtier who maintained a presence in the capital through his own building projects and through inheriting Schomberg House from his father-in-law. As lord lieutenant of the North Riding, he was a busy election manager for the burgage constituency of Richmond.
 - *Theophilus Hastings, 9th earl of Huntingdon (1696-1746)*: remained detached from the court under the Hanoverians owing to his Tory, perhaps even Jacobite, principles. He was a good friend of the earl of Strafford, to whom he usually entrusted his proxy. He is overshadowed by his wife who spent her widowhood establishing the Methodist 'Lady Huntingdon's Connexion'.
 - *Frederick Nassau van Zuylestein, earl of Rochford (1683-1738)*: son of one William III's Dutch peers and a Whig. His marriage to an illegitimate daughter of Earl Rivers brought him into a testamentary dispute, by which he gained possession of St Osyth's Priory in Essex, where he spent his later years in retirement.
23. The project staff are Robin Eagles (Editor), Stuart Handley and Charles Littleton.

Oral History: The Members Project

24. The History began working with volunteer interviewers on creating an oral history of parliament and parliamentarians in late 2011. The project, a collaboration with the British Library, 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 March 2019, 179 interviews in total had been conducted.
25. In 2018 the project focused on interviewing former female MPs to celebrate the anniversary of the 1918 Representation of the People Act. By the end of 2018-19, 9 interviews with women had been completed and 4 with female former MPs continuing. The British Library has continued to add our interviews to their online database, making them available to listen to outside the library. We sent 12 more interviews to the BL in 2018-19, and so far 168 interviews have been deposited there.
26. A book by Priscila Pivatto and Emma Peplow, *The Political Lives of Post-war British MPs: An Oral History of Parliament*, accepted for publication by Bloomsbury Academic, is in progress. The book will be a collection of highlights from the interviews with a short introduction and brief commentary on key themes, intended to showcase the archive as a whole.

Reformation to Referendum: a new History of Parliament

27. Our former director, Paul Seaward, was awarded a research professorship in 2017 by the Wolfson Foundation and the British Academy for a project to write a new, thematic, history of Parliament, based around five themes central to the way the institution works – Space, Time, Memory, Community and Leadership. The project, funded jointly by Wolfson and the History of Parliament, is a new type of partnership for the History, and will result in a major and innovative book which will transform the way we think about parliamentary history. It will also draw extensively on the enormous corpus of work already compiled by the History, and work that is currently in preparation. Paul began work on the three-year project in January 2018, collecting material for and mapping out the book. Some of the early results of that research are being presented through posts on his blog, <https://historyofparliamentblog.wordpress.com/>. During 2018-19 Paul gave papers at a conference marking a centenary of women in the Parliament of the German Republic, in the Bundestag in Berlin; to a conference in the Italian Chamber of Deputies in Rome and while in Rome also delivered a talk to the secretariat of the chamber on ‘Brexit and Parliament’.

Parliamentary Proceedings of 1624

28. Work continued intermittently through the year on the transcription and editing of the proceedings of the 1624 Parliament. The History began work in January 2012 on the completion of this project, initially taken on by the Yale Center for Parliamentary History. 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, and the History committed itself to completing the edition on the basis of this material. The History successfully bid for a Leverhulme Foundation Grant of £97,000 in 2011 in order to do this work, which has also been supported with funding from other donors.
29. Although the entire text of the Commons’ proceedings (which run from February until the end of May 1624) is now available online through British History Online (BHO), a web library of sources for British History developed by the Institute of Historical Research and the History of Parliament Trust (see <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/no-series/proceedings-1624-parl>), work has continued on an edition of the remaining unpublished materials, including the proceedings of the House of Lords. This work has been managed by Paul Hunneyball, the Associate Editor of the project, in tandem with finalising the text of the House of Lords 1604-29 volumes.

New Projects

30. The History continues actively to work with other institutions, contributing expertise to joint initiatives that foster academic collaboration between the History and the universities. . One of our partners is the Humanities Research Institute at the University of Newcastle. In October 2018 we became partners in a bid to the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) for funding for a project entitled *Eighteenth-Century Political Participation and Electoral Culture*. This project was awarded AHRC funding in July 2019 and will make a significant contribution to

citizenship studies. The History of Parliament will contribute expertise and occasional accommodation and computing facilities to the project but will receive no income from it. We have also entered a partnership funding bid to the AHRC with Durham University, on the subject of *Petitioning and People Power in Twentieth-Century Britain*. The bid was submitted in April 2019 and if successful will follow the same model by which the History benefits from networking and collaboration but will receive no income.

DISSEMINATION

History of Parliament Online

31. With the exception of the *House of Lords 1660-1715* volumes, all of the History's published articles are available to access for free on our website, www.historyofparliamentonline.org. The website remains popular with a wide range of audiences. During the year there were nearly 1.5 million page views by nearly 400,000 users. However, in order to overhaul and expand the capacity and potential of the website, we have appointed a senior web designer, Alex Monaghan, who began work with us in September 2018. Alex has begun a programme of updating and rebuilding.

Social media and Blogs

32. The History has an active and growing social media presence on Twitter (now with over 16,000 followers) and Facebook. We now maintain five popular blog series. Over the past year, we have seen a 20 per cent increase in the number of viewers of our blogs: the main History of Parliament blog, which includes blogs from the *Parliaments, Politics and People* seminar at the Institute of Historical Research; the very popular *Georgian Lords*, maintained by the House of Lords 1715-90 Section; the blog maintained by the 1832-68 section, *Victorian Commons*; the monthly blog, *James the First to Restoration* managed by the House of Lords 1604-29 and House of Commons 1640-60 Sections, and the blog series *Revolution to Referendum*.

OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

Education Activities

33. Our specially-written website resources for schoolchildren aged 11-14 Key Stage Three (KS3) have maintained their popularity over the past year. They consist of two sets of materials, which include bespoke articles, activities and lesson plans for teachers, and this year we have added new KS3 materials as part of our project on *Josiah Wedgwood and the Fight against Fascism* funded by the Heritage Lottery Foundation. In connection with this we created a video to promote the materials, available on YouTube.
34. In the year, this part of the website received 54,773 hits, an increase of over 10 per cent on last year. We hope to develop new online educational resources aimed at further and higher education students, such as podcasts, after consulting teachers, examination boards and the Historical Association.

35. We collaborated with the Citizens 800 project in a pilot project to transform blogs into vlogs. The pilot chosen was on the trial of Charles I, also available on YouTube.
36. After a series of disappointing responses to our schools prize competition, we have reluctantly abandoned this. However, our undergraduate essay prize remains popular. This year there were sixteen entries of high quality. As usual the entries were reduced to a shortlist, and the judges were unanimous in awarding the prize to James Bennion of King's College London, for an essay of great maturity and confident command of sources entitled "Imperial Deception: Machiavellian Policy and the Decolonisation of British Togoland". James's essay was a study of an aspect of Britain's retreat from Empire during the 1950s. James was presented with his prize at the Annual Lecture on 12 June.
37. On 18 November we organised a stand at the University of London School of Advanced Study History Day, an opportunity to publicise our work and generate interest in our seminar and other events in the community of those interested in the serious study of history. In January 2019, Martin Spychal delivered a seminar at the University of Westminster on political history and the History of Parliament, as part of history students' second year *Writing History* module. Between January and March 2019, we hosted an intern undergraduate public history student from Goldsmiths, University of London, as part of a public history work experience module. The intern was based in our office one day a week for 10 weeks and supervised by Sammy Sturgess.

Parliamentary Activities

38. A number of successful events were held in Parliament. The first took place on 12 June, when Dr Paul Mulvey gave a talk to accompany our Exhibition in Portcullis House, *Forever Freedom: "Jos" Wedgwood and the Fight against Tyranny, 1933 - 1943*, on the life and work of Col. Josiah Wedgwood, the founder of the History of Parliament. On 5 September, we hosted *Being a Woman MP*: a round-table discussion with former and sitting women MPs. It consisted of a panel of former and current female MPs, chaired by Baroness Helene Hayman, and included Baroness Fookes, Jackie Ballard, Jess Phillips MP, Nicky Morgan MP, Jacqui Smith and Dr Philippa Whitford MP.
39. 29 October saw a panel event at the Attlee Suite, Portcullis House, intended to mark the centenary on 11 November of the end of the First World War. The event was entitled "*Frocks" versus "Brass Hats" - Who exactly was making policy?* and the speakers were Allan Mallinson, Sir Hew Strachan FBA, Professor Heather Jones and Keith Simpson MP. On 16 January 2019 in Portcullis House we held a series of talks on *1918 Electoral Firsts*, in partnership with the Co-operative Party. Angela Whitecross spoke on Alfred Waterson, the first Co-operative MP; Professor Krista Cowman discussed women voters in 1918, and Dr Edward Madigan spoke on Sinn Fein and Constance Markievicz, the first woman elected to Parliament, who did not take her seat. The Annual Lecture, to be given by Dr Paul Seaward, was to be held on 20 March 2019, but owing to threatened industrial action had to be postponed until 12 June.

Conferences

40. On 6-7 September 2018, we organised *A Century of Women MPs, 1918-2018*, a conference in collaboration with UK Vote 100 and Westminster University, held at Portcullis House and other venues. There were 68 people attending. A conference entitled *Testament to Democracy: J.C. Wedgwood, British Politics and the Struggle against Fascism, 1933-45* was held on 22 November, in partnership with Keele University and the Remembering Eleanor Rathbone group. There were 35 people in attendance. On 14 December a workshop conference with our neighbours in Bloomsbury Square, the German Historical Institute, was held. Robin Eagles was responsible for organising this event, entitled *Scribal News and News Cultures in Late Stuart and Early Georgian Britain*. A number of staff gave papers and chaired sessions, and there were 19 registered attendees.

Other promotional activities

41. Emma Peplow presented at a talk on *Women in Westminster: Memories from the History of Parliament's Oral History Project* at London Metropolitan Archives History day on 31 May. *Equaliteas*, an event on the history of equal opportunities, an initiative of the Vote 100 team in Parliament, was held at our office on 19 June for staff members and staff of the Institute of Historical Research Library. Two special meetings were held of the Parliaments, Politics and People seminar series. One, on 16 October, was a commemoration of the work of the former Director of the History of Parliament, the late Valerie Cromwell; and on 13 November a round-table discussion was held at the Institute of Historical Research to mark the 150th anniversary of the University of London's securing representation in Parliament. This was our contribution to this year's Parliament Week. Speakers were Dr Susan Cohen, Professor the Lord Norton, Professor Jon Parry and Dr Martin Spychal. Sammy Sturgess, Paul Seaward, Kathryn Rix and Martin Spychal took part in the *Hansard at Huddersfield* project steering group. Philip Salmon and Martin Spychal began work with the Parliamentary Archives on preparing an exhibition in Parliament entitled *Peterloo and Parliament*, to be opened in summer 2019.

Publications and Media

42. In November 2018, Kathryn Rix was involved in extensive media coverage, including interviews on a number of BBC channels, about adding Gerald Arbuthnot, MP for Burnley, to Parliament's War Memorial. Kathryn had made the case for this addition in conjunction with the Curator's Office in Parliament. On 8 December Philip Salmon appeared on an episode of *Prime Properties*, a BBC Parliament programme, speaking about the 14th earl of Derby. Robin Eagles featured in a BBC Radio 4 programme on 19 January, discussing John Wilkes in an episode of *Battles that Won our Freedoms*. BBC Parliament filmed the presentations at our Electoral Firsts, 1918 event at Westminster, 16 January.

St James's House

43. On 27 June 2018, in partnership with the publishing, PR and advertising company, St James's House, we launched our book *Voice and Vote: Celebrating 100 Years*

of *Votes for Women*, which as well as providing an overview of the subject also formed a catalogue to accompany the major exhibition at Westminster Hall to mark the centenary of the extension of the franchise to a section of the adult female population. The Launch took place at Westminster Abbey and on the Terrace of the House of Commons. As with our volume called *The Story of Parliament*, the book was published in two versions: a hardback containing 'advertorial' articles by companies and organisations, to be distributed widely by St James's House; and a paperback, without these articles, available for sale through the Parliamentary Bookshop and its website. We received a fee of £125,000 from St James's House for our participation in the project, as well as the income from sales of the paperback version of the book. In October 2018 we entered a further agreement with St James's House for a further three publications over a period of five years, with a total fee to the Trust of £300,000.

Academic Collaboration

44. The History continues to be involved 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.

The History of Parliament

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