

## HISTORY OF PARLIAMENT TRUST ANNUAL REVIEW FOR THE YEAR 2019-2020

### *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 1558 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](http://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 period 1715-1832. In December 2019 a new project on the House of Lords 1558-1603 was established. Major projects on the House of Commons 1422-61 and on the House of Lords 1603-29 were completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. *The House of Commons 1422-61* was published in June 2020 and the Lords 1604-29 volumes will be published later in 2020..These two projects due for publication in 2020 contain a further 2,844 biographies of members of the House of Commons, with 144 constituency surveys, and 286 biographies of members of the House of Lords.
4. The three Commons projects currently in progress will contain a further 5,720 biographies of members of the House of Commons and 865 constituency surveys; the House of Lords projects, 1,378 biographies. With what is now published and in progress, the History covers 414 years of the history of the House of Commons, and 243 of the House of Lords.
5. 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](http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org).
6. 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. Late in 2020, Trustees will be asked to approve a new format for the planning process.
7. The Trust is committed to reducing sickness absence in the workplace and supporting the well-being of its staff. Procedures are in place to provide support to staff who are ill or who have a long-term disability. During 2019-20, the average number of days recorded as absent due to sickness per member of staff was 0.6 days (2018-19 0.45 days).
8. There were no incidents related to the loss or unauthorized issue of personal data in 2019-20.

9. The Trust strives to ensure that the impact of its activities on the environment, consumers, employees, communities, stakeholders and all other members of the public sphere is taken into account at all times.
  
10. Trustees are provided with a set of documents concerning the charity and their responsibilities as Trustees. These are reviewed and updated with each appointment and as necessary. The Director provides additional induction material relating to current issues. New Trustees are offered more information through briefings by the Director and Secretary and are invited to visit the History. Trustees are required to sign a declaration indicating their understanding of their responsibilities as Trustees.

## HISTORY OF PARLIAMENT TRUST

### Review of activities in the year 2019-20

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- One multi-volume project completed and with the publishers in March 2020 (published June 2020); another completed and on the point of being submitted to the publishers; 317 new articles completed; 405 articles revised for publication during the course of the year.
- Contributed to creating one exhibition in Westminster Hall, curated another at University College London and managed a tour outside London of a third.
- Former Members oral history project continued, with 186 interviews now completed, and a book drawing on the interviews at point of publication.
- Extensive progress made with rebuilding the History's website.
- In social media, the number of impressions on the three Twitter feeds, @Histparl, @TheVictCommons and @Georgian Lords, continued to grow, to over 2 million. A 22 per cent rise from 2018-19 in the number of Twitter followers across our three Twitter accounts, so that they now number over 20,000. 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, particularly with reference to current events.

#### RESEARCH

1. One of our projects, *House of Commons 1422-61*, was with the publishers, Cambridge University Press in March 2020 (published in 7 volumes, June 2020). The complete text of another project, *House of Lords 1604-29*, has been completed and is on the point of submission to our publishers. A third project has revised 92 per cent of its articles; one project is in its second year, and another in its first. Altogether, the History's staff and external authors compiled 317 new articles, containing over 750,000 words, and revised and updated 405 original ones. Below we describe some of the work that has emerged from each of the projects.

#### **The House of Commons, 1422-1504**

2. The year saw the completion of the 7 volumes of *The House of Commons, 1422-61*, edited by Linda Clark. Handover took place of the complete and typeset text to Cambridge University Press, with an intended publication date of 3 April 2020. Project staff on 1422-61 were Linda Clark (Editor), Hannes Kleineke, Charles Moreton and Simon Payling. Owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, final publication date was June 2020. After Linda Clark's retirement in October 2019, work was begun on the successor project, *House of Commons 1461-1504*, which will produce 1,325 biographies and 148 constituency articles. During the year, the first 50 biographies and 61,344 words were written. Project staff are Hannes Kleineke (Editor), Charles Moreton and Simon Payling.
3. These are among the first completed biographies:
  - *Walter Baker* alias *Smith*: important Wells clothmaker and merchant, who served four times as master of Wells, which also returned him to the aborted Parliament of 1469. While serving as master in 1470 it fell to him to welcome to the city Edward IV coming from the north in pursuit of the rebel earl of Warwick and duke of Clarence.

- *Richard Burnell*: perhaps the most prominent citizen of Wells in his day, this leading merchant served six times as master of the city, and its MP in 1484 and 1495, two of the assemblies of the period most active in framing legislation. He played a central role in settling the city's dispute with Bishop Fox in 1493.
- *Charles Dynham*: important Devon landowner and younger brother of John, Lord Dynham, who rescued the future Edward IV in 1459, and went on to bankroll the Yorkist monarchy in its early months. Charles went on to become an esquire of the body to Richard III, but appears to have avoided service and likely death at Bosworth. MP for Devon, 1478.
- *William Garet*: goldsmith from Wells, which he represented in 1489. Although he never rose to the pinnacle of the civic hierarchy, he nevertheless held lesser city offices on a regular basis and in 1484 was one of the citizens charged with assessing a local levy intended to provide soldiers for Richard III's army.
- *Nicholas Trappe*: a notary public and leading citizen of Wells, and – unusually for an MP of the period – a university-educated civil lawyer, who represented the city in 1504. His first official duty as master in 1497 was to welcome to his city an irate Henry VII on his way to suppress the western rebellion.
- *William Nicolasson*: The son of a prominent burgess of Lynn, who himself was one of the leading burgesses and merchants of his day. Among other activities, he was regularly party to discussions of the townsmen with their overlord, the bishop of Norwich. MP for Bishop's Lynn in 1472, being elected mayor of the town not long after the dissolution of the Parliament.
- *John Soome*: Mercer and burgess of Bishop's Lynn who was elected to the, ultimately cancelled, Parliament of June 1483. Apparently a litigious man, his fractious nature may explain why he only attained middling borough offices.
- *Robert Thoresby*: From a prominent and well established Lynn family, but a lawyer rather than a merchant. His profession explains why, unusually for one of the town's MPs, he never held local office. Elected for Bishop's Lynn four times between 1463 and 1487.
- *John Tygo*: A prominent clothier and office holder in Bishop's Lynn with interests in the overseas trade. He worked his way up the civic career ladder to become mayor in 1488, and earlier, during Richard III's reign, had played an important part in civic defence, being tasked with siting the town's guns on its walls. MP for Bishop's Lynn in 1487 and 1491.
- *Peter Beaupie*: a Welsh-born servant of Richard, duke of York, who won a place in Edward IV's household, and left a long and interesting will. He probably owed his return for Ludlow in 1472 to his membership of the royal household as much as to his tenure of the recordership of the town he was to represent.
- *Sir Richard Corbet*: an active soldier from a leading county family. By his own account, he saved the future Henry VII from the battlefield of Edgcote, and brought 800 men to Bosworth, service that did not bring him the rewards he might have expected. He was Member for Shropshire in 1491.
- *John Water*: another Shrewsbury Yorkist, who held a range of local offices. On behalf of his neighbours he rode out with letters to the young earl of March following the latter's victory at the battle of Mortimer's Cross. MP for Shrewsbury in the 1463. Parliament.

#### **The House of Commons, 1640-1660**

4. With the submission of a long biography by an external contributor, all first drafts of this project were completed during the year. Revision of this project's output, prior to publication, has now reached 92 per cent of the articles. Over the year, 405 articles were revised, and work began on the Introductory Survey. Section members published 13 blogs. Project staff are Vivienne Larminie (Associate Editor), Andrew Barclay, Patrick Little and David Scott (Senior Research Fellows). Stephen Roberts remains nominally Editor while serving as Director.

#### **The House of Commons, 1832-68**

5. During the year, 188 articles totalling 514,606 words were written, bringing the proportion in draft of the project's 2,991 articles to over 70 per cent. The new articles are uploaded for viewing on the Victorian Commons website. A growing number of external contributors are

producing an increasing number of articles: this year 89 articles were completed by external writers. Project staff throughout the year were Philip Salmon (Editor), Kathryn Rix (Assistant Editor), Stephen Ball and Martin Spychal (Research Fellows). The following brief summaries of a small number of the articles written over the course of the year provide a flavour of the emerging picture of the Victorian House of Commons. Members completed include:

- *James Baird (1802-1876)*: Baird began work on his father's Ayrshire farm at the age of 12. Moving into his family's coal and iron business he became immensely rich from his iron works in Ayrshire and Lanarkshire. More renowned 'for success in a financial sense than for erudition or culture of mind', and noted for the bluntness of his manner, Blair was Conservative MP for Falkirk Burghs from 1851-7, and a very generous donor to the Church of Scotland.
- *James Balfour (1775-1845)*: an East India proprietor who had served with the company at Madras before making his fortune as a naval contractor, Balfour established a dynasty of parliamentary representation that culminated with his grandson, Arthur James Balfour, becoming prime minister in 1902. A veteran of the unreformed Commons, he was returned for his native Haddingtonshire in 1832 and spent three quiet years as a Conservative backbencher before retiring at the dissolution.
- *Alexander Dennistoun (1790-1874)*: a wealthy Glasgow cotton merchant, Dennistoun was returned for Dumbartonshire in 1835 and became one of the 'most decided and firm friends of Reform' in Scotland. At Westminster he tempered his radicalism with support for the Whig ministry before retiring in 1837. He is best known for subsequently developing the residential area in Glasgow that bears his name.
- *Alexander Johnson (1790-1844)*: an enterprising Glasgow merchant and manufacturer, Johnston was president of the city's Anti-Corn-Law Association and was regarded as the chief spokesman for free trade in the west of Scotland. A 'consistent and zealous reformer', he represented Kilmarnock Burghs from 1841-44, but ill-health limited his contribution to parliamentary business before his death in May 1844.
- *Charles Albany Marjoribanks (1794-1833)*: a rich and well-connected official of the East India Company, Marjoribanks had conducted himself with 'much celebrity' during his time as the supervisor of the company's commerce with China. Returned for his native county of Berwickshire at the 1832 general election, he spent one session in Parliament as a Reformer before his untimely death in December 1833.
- *Sir John Maxwell (1768-1844)*: a prominent Scottish Whig and parliamentary reformer, Maxwell was a 'champion of popular privileges' in the West of Scotland, and an advocate of the rights of non-electors. Defeated at Lanarkshire in 1830, he became the first Member for Paisley in 1832 at the age of 64. An unostentatious 'country gentleman of the old school', some questioned his fitness to represent a large manufacturing constituency, and after experiencing 'goading, and turmoil, and censure' from a section of the electorate he resigned in March 1834. Defeat at Renfrewshire in 1837 led him to abandon politics altogether.
- *Sir Michael Seymour (1802-1887)*: the product of a military family, Seymour was a distinguished naval officer who held senior commands during the Crimean war and the subsequent conflict with China. In 1859 he secured a seat at the dockyard borough of Devonport, where he sat for three years as an advocate of 'progressive reform'. He spoke regularly on naval matters and provided reliable support to Palmerston's Liberal ministry before retiring to assume the post of commander-in-chief at Portsmouth.
- *John Evelyn Denison (1800-73)*: Denison spent over thirty years in the Commons before being chosen as Speaker in 1857, a position he held for the next fifteen years. He sat for his native Nottinghamshire South from 1832-37, when he lost favour after becoming a firmer Liberal supporter. He found a new berth at Malton in 1841, but returned to Nottinghamshire in 1857, representing its northern division. He was a 'well-informed, business-like' back bencher who was particularly active in the committee rooms, and was 'fairly well regarded' as Speaker, although not as popular as his predecessor. He retired in 1872 and died the following year.
- *William Entwisle (1808-65)*: a railway director who stood unsuccessfully for his native Manchester in 1841, Entwisle was elected as Conservative MP for South Lancashire in 1844. He was a relatively diligent attender at Westminster, but made little impact, with his speeches confined largely to railway matters. He opposed Peel over the corn laws in

1846. After leaving the Commons in 1847 he continued to be active in Manchester's public life.

- *James Garth Marshall (1802-73)*: third son of a wealthy flax spinner, Marshall followed his father and two older brothers into Parliament. Elected as a Liberal MP for his native Leeds in 1847, he was a silent member and stepped down after just one Parliament to concentrate on his business interests. He remained politically engaged thereafter, notably writing a pamphlet in 1853 which pioneered the case for proportional representation using the cumulative vote.
- *Edward William Watkin (1819-1901)*: the son of a Manchester merchant, Watkin became 'perhaps the best known railwayman' of the late Victorian era, serving simultaneously as chairman of three major railway companies. His parliamentary career got off to a rocky start when he was unseated on petition after his return as Liberal MP for the venal borough of Great Yarmouth in 1857. In 1864 he came in for a vacancy at Stockport, and became a regular contributor to debate, taking a particular interest in railway matters and North American affairs. Defeated in 1868, he returned to the Commons in 1874 as MP for Hythe, which he represented until failing health prompted his retirement in 1895.
- *Thomas Barrett Lennard (1788-1856)*: a veteran reformer, Barrett Lennard represented Ipswich from 1820-26 and Maldon from 1826-37, when his free trade principles cost him his seat, interrupting his political trajectory as one of the Commons' leading Liberals. A regular speaker, he was especially prominent in the campaign for municipal reform and for the abolition of church rates. He was narrowly re-elected for Maldon in 1847 but defeated again in 1852.
- *James Wentworth Buller (1798-1865)*: a wealthy Devon landowner who trained for the law but never practised, Buller sat for Exeter, 1830-35, and Devon North, 1857-65, as a loyal but moderate Whig. His opposition to further parliamentary reform cost him Liberal support and led to his defeat in 1835. He remained sceptical about electoral and church reform in his second stint in the Commons, where his ambiguous watchword was 'Liberalism was the best Conservatism'.
- *Lord Robert Grosvenor (1801-93)*: a junior member of Britain's richest family, headed by the marquesses (later dukes) of Westminster, Grosvenor represented Shaftesbury, 1822-26, Chester, 1826-47, and Middlesex, 1847-57 as an independently-minded evangelical Whig. A prominent campaigner for church reform and a leading Victorian social reformer, his legislative initiatives included limiting county polls to one day (1853) and establishing industrial schools in Middlesex (1854). His Sunday trading bill, however, was less successful and sparked the famous 'Grosvenor riots' in Hyde Park in 1855. A loose cannon within the Liberal ranks, he was moved to the Lords as Baron Ebury in 1857.
- *Sir John Henry Seale (1780-1844)*: a major Dartmouth landowner with business and railway interests, Seale had been the leading figure in the campaign to wrestle the Devon pocket borough of Dartmouth from its Tory patrons prior to 1832. Elected unopposed for the reformed constituency in 1832, he sat as a loyal supporter of the Whigs until his death in 1844, making occasional speeches about the need for corporation and tithe reform.
- *William Wilshere (1806-67)*: heir to his uncle's vast Hertfordshire estates and wealth, which he inherited as a minor in 1824, Wilshere sat for the venal borough of Great Yarmouth as a loyal but generally silent Liberal from 1837-47. In 1838 he attracted notoriety in the growing national scandal over backroom deals concerning election petitions. Faced with a petition from his opponent accusing him of bribery in 1837, he agreed to resign and promised not to contest the resulting by-election, only to be re-elected without his knowledge. An ensuing arbitration insisted that he stand down, but his opponent declined to press the matter.
- *Charles Burrell (1774-1862)*: a staunch advocate of the agricultural interest as MP for New Shoreham from 1806 until his death in January 1862, Burrell was regarded informally as the 'father of the house' from 1850. Initially supportive of the Grey ministry, he gave his independent support to Peel's Conservative leadership after 1835, but as a vocal defender of the corn laws and the established Church sided with the Protectionists from 1846. He contributed regularly to debate from the backbenches but never sought office, sticking rigidly to the ideology of independence in order 'to be dragged at no man's chariot wheels'.
- *Lord Alexander Francis Charles Gordon-Lennox (1825-92)*: 'Boo Lennox' was returned as a Protectionist at the 1849 New Shoreham by-election thanks to the influence of his father, the 5<sup>th</sup> duke of Richmond. He completed little recorded activity in the Commons,

siding with the ultra-Tory wing of the party to oppose the Maynooth grant and the removal of Jewish disabilities. Despite being well known in the upper echelons of the Conservative party, he was considered unsuited to an official position in the 1858 Derby ministry. He retired in 1859.

- *Harry Dent Goring (1801-59)*: a fiercely independent country Whig who was returned for the extensive agricultural borough of New Shoreham in 1832, Goring's independence became increasingly out of kilter with evolving party politics. His preference for Whig ministries, and idiosyncratic Anglican evangelicalism, meant he was distrusted by Conservatives, while his opposition to the abolition of church rates and free trade alienated him from mainstream Liberal opinion. The disappearance of his wife with the adventurer, Edward John Trelawney in 1839, and his inability to secure the support of local parties forced his retirement in 1841.
- *Lord Ronald Gower (1845-1916)*: born into 'the inner circle of English aristocratic life', Gower was nicknamed 'the beautiful boy' of the Commons by his fellow MPs and was the likely inspiration for the character of Lord Henry Wotton in Oscar Wilde's *Dorian Gray*. Better known today as the sculptor of the Shakespeare Memorial in Stratford-upon-Avon, and for his popular memoirs, he sat as a Whig for his family's pocket county of Sutherland from 1867-74. He made little very contribution to the House, but his detailed diaries offer a vivid insight into parliamentary life.
- *George Grote (1794-1871)*: as MP for the City of London, 1832-41, Grote spearheaded the campaign for the secret ballot in the aftermath of the 1832 Reform Act. Regarded as one of the leaders of parliament's disparate and declining radical forces throughout the 1830s, Grote's intellectualism and cynicism towards his fellow MPs made him ill-suited to the role. His deep distrust of the Whigs meant he was unwilling to influence government policy, and his support, on utilitarian grounds, for the poor laws alienated him from a large swathe of radical opinion. That he continued to be held in such high regard by his colleagues owed much more to the political organisation of his wife, Harriet Grote (1792-1878).

Constituencies completed include:

- *Monmouthshire*: a two-member maritime county on England's south-west border with Wales, the political representation of Monmouthshire had long been the joint preserve of the Morgan family of Tredegar and the house of Beaufort. Despite large-scale industrialization and rapid population growth this continued to be the case, and the county remained a Conservative stronghold until its division in 1885. The only contested election in this period took place in 1847, when the arch-Protectionist duke of Beaufort made an unsuccessful attempt to oust his Peelite cousin, Lord Granville Somerset.
- *Whitehaven*: a flourishing seaport on the west coast of Cumberland, Whitehaven was a newly created single member borough in 1832. There was some controversy about the constituency's boundaries, with concerns that it might become a pocket borough controlled by the Tory earls of Lonsdale. These fears were realised, and after Lonsdale's preferred candidate comfortably defeated a Liberal opponent in 1832, there were no further contests. The borough was represented by a succession of outside Conservative candidates, including the second earl's nephew. Despite the lack of parliamentary contests, Whitehaven's local government elections were unusually participatory, with women among those eligible to vote, although Lonsdale also wielded influence in this arena.
- *County Londonderry*: uncontested for two decades after the 1832 Reform Act, this Irish county continued to be dominated by its Conservative landed gentry led by the Bateson family. After the electorate was dramatically increased by the 1850 Irish Franchise Act, the Liberals brought forward credible challengers, one of who captured a seat in 1857. The Conservatives re-established their monopoly in 1859, however, and it was not until 1874 that the county fell under the sway of the Liberal party.
- *Coleraine*: a single member Irish constituency of little more than 200 electors, Coleraine was a small port on the river Bann with a predominantly Protestant population chiefly employed in the linen trade. The borough was closely contested by the parties between 1832 and 1837, but in 1841 a Conservative came in unopposed. John Boyd, a Presbyterian businessman and the town's largest landlord, dominated elections thereafter, sitting as its MP from 1843-52 and 1857-62.

- *Stockport*: one of the cotton manufacturing towns given double member status by the 1832 Reform Act, Stockport's elections generated considerable popular interest, with Chartist candidates in the 1840s and occasional rioting. Its first election was a contest between four Reformers, but one of the victorious MPs subsequently transferred his allegiance to the Conservatives. The representation was shared between the parties until 1841, when the Liberals won both seats, with the leading anti-corn law campaigner Richard Cobden becoming one of the MPs. He was the first in a succession of Liberal MPs who were not Stockport natives, but were instead businessmen from neighbouring Manchester. A prominent local Conservative Wesleyan Methodist, James Heald, won the second seat in 1847. His defeat in 1852 marked a new phase in Stockport's parliamentary politics, with the Liberals holding both seats for the remainder of this period.

### **The House of Lords, 1558-1603**

6. This new project started work in January 2020. It will produce biographies of 249 lay peers and bishops. The first three months of the project were spent in preparatory work, such as gathering and collating materials, and compiling lists and indexes before the systematic writing of biographies begins. Project staff are Andrew Thrush (Editor), Paul Hunneyball (Assistant Editor) and Ben Coates (Senior Research Fellow).

### **The House of Lords, 1603-29**

7. This project, containing biographies of 286 peers, was completed during the year, and the text in three volumes was finalized for submission to Cambridge University Press in June 2020. Project staff from the start through to 31 March were Andrew Thrush (Editor), Ben Coates, Simon Healy and Paul Hunneyball.

### **The House of Lords 1715-90**

8. Work has continued on writing the 925 biographies of peers who sat in the House of Lords in this period. This was the third year of the project. The section has begun to commission external authors to write biographies, and a total of eight articles by external writers have so far been completed to the requisite standard.

Here are brief summaries of some of the biographies completed this year:

- *Montagu Venables Bertie, 2nd earl of Abingdon (1673-1743)*: influential political broker in Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Wiltshire and a prominent Hanoverian Tory, Abingdon appears to have been particularly suspicious of the new regime's expansion of the military. This led to an at times effectively one man crusade against the mutiny bill. The loss of several children meant that at his death the title descended to a nephew.
- *Richard Newport, 2nd earl of Bradford (1644-1723)*: Bradford was already in his 60s when he succeeded to the title after a quarter of a century's worth of experience in the Commons. An important political broker in Shropshire, he was also at the centre of an extensive political network. He was a dependable supporter of the ministry for the remainder of his career in the Lords.
- *George Hay, earl of Kinnoull [S] (1689-1758)*: The son-in-law of Robert Harley, earl of Oxford, he was a mainstay of the Tories until about 1725, when he defected to the ministry. Strapped for cash and encumbered with a large family, he spent many years as ambassador to Constantinople.
- *Robert Raymond, Baron Raymond (1673-1733)*: Raymond served as solicitor-general in the Tory ministry of 1710-14, and as attorney-general in the Whig ministry of 1720-4. He was then appointed to the bench, where he served as a lord chief justice. He was raised to the peerage, where he served as speaker of the Lords on numerous occasions between 1730-33.
- *Charles Boyle, Baron Boyle (1674-1731)*: a Hanoverian Tory who moved into Jacobitism from 1717 after being removed from his court and military posts after the death of Queen Anne. After escaping punishment for his Jacobitism in 1721-3, he set himself up as a self-appointed leader of the Tories in the Lords.

- *John Robinson, bishop of London (1650-1723)*: had been a negotiator of the Treaty of Utrecht, but in 1715 escaped impeachment, unlike his fellow principals in the Peace, perhaps owing to fears that prosecution would enrage the Tories. He was part of a small core of High Church Tory bishops who voted consistently against the ministry.
- *Francis Atterbury, bishop of Rochester (1663-1732)*: accounted the effective leader of the Tories in the Lords after the departure of Viscount Bolingbroke, Atterbury also played an important role in the protesting movement. From 1716 he was involved with Jacobite conspirators and in 1722 was arrested for engagement with a plot that now bears his name. He was convicted, deprived of his offices and sent into exile.
- *Nicholas Leke, 4th earl of Scarsdale (1682-1736)*: a prominent Tory with Jacobite associations, Scarsdale was imprisoned in the Tower during the 1715 Rebellion. He was a frequent subscriber of protests and was linked with opposition clubs, including the Board of Brothers. He is generally thought to have died unmarried, but there is evidence of a secret marriage to his mistress late in life.
- *Charles Powlett, 2nd duke of Bolton (c.1661-1722)*: a Junto lieutenant under Anne, who continued to be trusted with important roles after the Hanoverian succession. He was a not unsuccessful lord lieutenant of Ireland, where he was challenged by a series of impossible situations. His principal area of influence in England was in Hampshire, where he maintained an important interest in several constituencies.
- *Henry Somerset, 3rd duke of Beaufort (1707-1745)*: a prominent Tory, on the fringes of the Jacobites, Beaufort achieved lasting fame thanks to a high profile (and thoroughly scandalous) divorce from his duchess. He died shortly before the 1745 rebellion, saving him from having to decide whether or not to back the insurrection.
- *Sir Jonathan Trelawny, bishop of Winchester (1650-1721)*: Trelawny was one of the most important of the bishops at the time of the Hanoverian succession, but was distrusted for his willingness to change sides. He had been active during the 1688/9 Revolution for William of Orange but subsequently sided with the Tories; he then tended towards the Whigs. Some clergy found his unclerical behaviour difficult; Trelawny insisted that when he swore he did so as a baronet and not as a bishop.
- *Lewis Watson, earl of Rockingham (1655-1724)*: Rockingham was a significant political operator in Northamptonshire and Kent, and his loyalty to the Hanoverians gained him one of the coronation peerages. He was occasionally mentioned as a possible recipient of additional local offices, but the desertion of his heir to the opposition seems to have marked him as well.
- *Thomas Coningsby, earl of Coningsby (1657-1729)*: A querulous figure, Coningsby was a significant powerbroker in Herefordshire, arch rival of the earl of Oxford, and had something of a fixation with the Jacobite threat. His promotion to the Lords came after a period away from Parliament and he was initially closely connected with the ministerial Whigs. Later in his career he embraced opposition and was closely engaged in proceedings in the aftermath of the South Sea Bubble.
- *Maurice Thompson, 2nd Baron Haversham (1675-1745)*: An active Whig in the last years of Anne, Haversham remained attached to the Whigs after the Hanoverian succession, and was associated with some on the radical wing of the party. For much of the 1720s he was absent from the Lords, but resumed his activities following George II's accession and was latterly attached to the opposition to Walpole.
- *Charles Bruce, 3rd earl of Ailesbury (1682-1747)*: Son of an exiled Jacobite, he was a committed Tory and a prominent election manager for the party, both in his pocket borough of Marlborough and in other constituencies where he had less ostensible interest. He was involved in some of the most high-profile controversies of the 1734 election.
- *Charles Douglas, 2nd earl of Selkirk (1663-1739)*: Of one of the most prominent Scottish dynasties, he nevertheless spent most of his career in England, where he served as gentleman of the bedchamber to both George I and George II and as an unflinching supporter of the ministry in the House.
- *Henry Howard, 10th earl of Suffolk (1707-1745)*: Of all the post-Hanoverians earls of Suffolk (of the original line), he was the most engaged in the House. Following his father, he was a consistent member of the opposition. At his death the earldom of Suffolk was merged with that of Berkshire.

- *Bennet Sherard, earl of Harborough* (1677-1732): He was a magnate in the East Midlands, with lands in Leicestershire and Rutland. He remained closely associated with the 2nd duke of Rutland, whose duchess was his sister. Throughout he remained a steadily reliable government supporter, but with little sign of ambition for ministerial office
- *George Smalridge, bishop of Bristol* (1662-1719): One of the earl of Oxford's ecclesiastical appointments, he remained part of a small core of High Church Tory bishops in George I's early years. As dean of Christ Church, he also defended Oxford University against the frequent charges of Jacobitism levelled against it in the Lords.

### **Oral History: The Members Project**

9. 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, is creating a substantial sound archive of people involved in politics at national and constituency level, and will provide a unique record of post-2<sup>nd</sup> 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 has been managed by a volunteer, Dr Priscila Pivatto. By the end of March 2020, 186 interviews in total had been conducted.
10. For most of this year, the project director, Emma Peplow was on maternity leave, and the volunteer manager, Dr Priscila Pivatto left the UK in December 2019. Nevertheless, a further 4 interviews were completed and a number deposited in the British Library, with others from the project. A programme of volunteer recruitment and training was organized in January 2020, aimed at replenishing the volunteer base and relaunching the project. Unfortunately, these plans have had to be suspended or modified for the duration of the Covid-19 emergency, but will be resumed as soon as possible.
11. Emma Peplow and Priscila Pivatto published the article 'Life stories from the House of Commons: the History of Parliament oral history project' in *Oral History Society Journal*, (2019). A book by Priscila Pivatto and Emma Peplow, *The Political Lives of Post-war British MPs: An Oral History of Parliament*, has now been completed and is due to be published by Bloomsbury Academic in September 2020. The book is 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**

12. 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/> and in 2019-20, 14 such blogs were posted. In May 2019, he gave a paper at a conference held at the Library of the Camera dei Deputati (the Lower Chamber of the Italian Parliament) in Rome; in June he gave the annual History of Parliament lecture, entitled 'Time and the Commons, or a Brief History of Parliamentary Time', and in November presented a paper at the History of Parliament seminar at the IHR. In October, Paul gave evidence to the House of Commons Public Administration Committee in its inquiry into the speakership (with our Trustee, Lord Lisvane), and has provided

commentary for the following media outlets: BBC Parliament; BBC News 24; BBC Radio Four World at One; SWR (South West German Public Radio).

### **Parliamentary Proceedings of 1624**

13. Work continued 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 in the USA. 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.
14. 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. All Commons and Lords texts have now been prepared for a final edit by the staff of the Lords 1604-29 Section. Work has temporarily been suspended on this project while the new House of Lords 1558-1603 Section is being established.

### **New Projects**

15. 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. Our partnership funding bid to the AHRC with Durham University, on the subject of *Petitioning and People Power in Twentieth-Century Britain*, submitted in April 2019, was successful, and will follow the same model by which the History benefits from networking and collaboration but will receive no income. The History has entered a partnership with the Open University to advertise a Collaborative Doctoral Award for a PhD candidate on 'The Black and Mixed Ethnicity Presence in British Politics, 1750-1850'. A full-time staff member at the History will provide supervision jointly with an OU colleague, and advise on historical resource material.

## DISSEMINATION

### History of Parliament Online

16. With the exception of the *House of Lords 1660-1715* volumes, all of the History's published articles are available to access free of charge on our website, [www.historyofparliamentonline.org](http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org). The website remains popular with a wide range of audiences. During the year there were nearly 1.3 million page views by nearly 370,000 users. However, in order to overhaul and expand the capacity and potential of the website, our senior web designer, Alex Monaghan, is working on a programme of rebuilding and updating.

### Social media and Blogs

17. The History has an active and growing social media presence on Twitter (now with over 20,000 followers, a 25 per cent increase on 2018-19) and Facebook. We now maintain five popular blog series. Over the past year, we have seen a further 22 per cent increase in the number of viewers of our blogs, building on the figures for 2018-19, which were themselves a 20 per cent increase on the year before. The total number of views of our blogs in 2019-20 was 175,765. The blogs are 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

18. Our specially-written website resources for schoolchildren aged 11-14 Key Stage Three (KS3) have been frequently visited over the past year, as in previous years. They consist of two sets of materials, which include bespoke articles, activities and lesson plans for teachers, with supplementary KS3 materials on Josiah Wedgwood, the founder of the History of Parliament, and the Fight against Fascism in the 1930s.

19. 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.

20. After a series of disappointing responses to our schools prize competition, we had last year reluctantly abandoned the scheme, but as a response to increased home schooling driven by the Covid-19 pandemic, we will be re-launching it during the summer of 2020. Our undergraduate essay prize remains popular. This year there were 11 entries of high quality. As usual the entries were reduced to a shortlist, and the judges were unanimous in awarding the prize to Samuel Willis from the University of Cambridge for his essay 'Reimagining Labour Party "Modernisation" in an affluent suburb, c.1996-2001'. Samuel was presented with his prize on 26 February at our event in Portcullis House, Westminster, 'Astor 100 and women's parliamentary history: where do we go from here?'

21. On 19 November we organised a stand at the annual 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.

22. During the year the History has greatly extended its contacts with universities, and is now working with 10 universities on a range of collaborations. Many of these initiatives have been taken forward by Martin Spychal and Sammy Sturgess. Martin Spychal has delivered a number of seminars as contributions to university course modules on public history or British political history. Between January and March 2020, as last year, 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.

### **Activities in Parliament**

23. A number of successful events were held in Parliament. The first took place on 5 June, when we hosted a conference reception in the Jubilee Room, Westminster Hall, as part of a conference on Britain and Europe, in conjunction with King's College, London. On 12 June, Paul Seaward gave the History of Parliament Annual lecture, entitled 'Time and the Commons, or a Brief History of Parliamentary Time' to a large audience. This had been postponed from March owing to industrial action by parliamentary staff. On 11 July in the Jubilee Room there was a round-table discussion led by invited academics on the subject of the Peterloo massacre of 1819. An event scheduled for 5 November on modern political archives, in conjunction with the British Library had to be cancelled because of the general election. On 26 February 2020 we successfully ran an event in Portcullis House entitled 'Astor 100 and women's parliamentary history: where do we go from here?'. This was an opportunity to reflect on the programme of events in 2019 commemorating the election of Nancy Astor MP. The event was introduced by Rachel Reeves MP, and was planned in collaboration with Dr Jackie Turner of Reading University.
24. On 25 June in Westminster Abbey there was an event to launch *From Westminster to the World: The Commonwealth at 70*, a volume we produced with publishers St James's House to mark the 70th anniversary of the modern Commonwealth.
25. We played a major part in planning and delivering the exhibition *Parliament and Peterloo*, coordinated by the Parliamentary Archives. The exhibition stood in Westminster Hall from 4 July to 26 September. Philip Salmon contributed much of the text for the exhibition, and we advised on the images to be used.

### **Events outside Parliament**

26. On 11 May 2019 we ran a one-day event on Parliament and the South West in Exeter, involving staff from four Sections of the History. Fifty people attended. We displayed the pop-up exhibition, 'Josiah Wedgwood and the Defence of Democracy', at the Weiner Holocaust Library, Bloomsbury, 22-25 October. To coincide with the exhibition, on 23 October Dr Paul Mulvey and Ms Lesley Urbach gave presentations at the Library to complement the themes of the exhibition.

### **Other promotional activities**

27. Vivienne Larminie, Martin Spychal and Sammy Sturgess helped organise, and co-curated, an exhibition at the Main Library, University College London, entitled *Rebel, React, Reform: Making the UK Parliament*, which opened on 2 March 2020. The exhibition explores some of the key moments of change in the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries using manuscripts, archives and rare books from UCL Special Collections. Plans to put on a series of talks on the themes of the exhibition had to be put on hold owing to the Covid-19 pandemic. The History's Parliaments, Politics and people seminar at the Institute of Historical Research met on 12 occasions in this period, with as usual a well-attended wide-ranging programme of seminars on a very wide range of topics and periods.

### **Publications and Media**

28. Philip Salmon presented the BBC Parliament programme, 'Prime Properties: Sir Robert Peel', first broadcast in December 2019. Staff members advised the BBC TV programmes 'Who Do You Think You Are?' and 'Gentleman Jack'. Kathryn Rix and Philip Salmon provided content

on the Peterloo Massacre for BBC Parliament and BBC Radio 4 'Today in Parliament', and Robin Eagles featured in a BBC Radio Wales programme on Frederick Lewis, prince of Wales, eldest son of George II. Other media outlets to which the History contributed interviews or information were BBC News 24; BBC Radio Four World at One; SWR (South West German Public Radio).

### **St James's House**

29. On 25 June 2019, in partnership with the publishing, PR and advertising company, St James's House, we launched our new book *From Westminster to the World: the Commonwealth at 70* in the cloister at Westminster Abbey. 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, distributed widely by St James's House; and a paperback, without these articles. This was the first of three publications we have contracted with St James's House to produce, over a period of five years and with a total fee to the Trust of £300,000.

### **European Academic Collaboration**

30. The History continues to be involved in the network of European Parliamentary Historians (EuParl.net). Partners besides the History include 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 Institute of Contemporary History in Prague; the University of Jyväskylä in Finland, and the Comité d'histoire parlementaire et politique in France.

History of Parliament Trust

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