



**THE HISTORY OF PARLIAMENT**

**Annual Review 2020-21**

**July 2021**

## HISTORY OF PARLIAMENT TRUST

### Review of activities in the year 2020-21

#### OVERVIEW

1. As it has for every other institution, 2020-21 has been an unusual and in some respects difficult year. The History's programmes of research have inevitably been disrupted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the availability of online resources, and the fact that each project has over time collected key resources, have helped to minimize its impact. Some articles completed during the period will need to be revisited when access to libraries and archives is easier. The impact has been most strongly and keenly felt in our oral history project, as it has made it entirely impossible to make any significant progress at all.
2. As if to compensate, 2020-21 has seen three major publications. *The House of Commons 1422-1461*, with 2,844 biographies, is an enormous project and a major contribution to the study of the English middle ages; *The House of Lords 1604-1629* may, like the peerage, be smaller, but it takes our knowledge of the peerage in the early seventeenth century to a new level; *The Political Lives of Post-War British MPs* is the first publication to emerge from our oral history project, and marks a very significant moment in the life of this new departure for the History.

#### RESEARCH

3. Progress in each of the History's five current research projects and the oral history project is described below.

##### *The House of Commons 1461-1504*

4. Following the completion last year of *The House of Commons 1422-61*, edited by Linda Clark, the volumes were published in June 2020 (see below). The new project, on 1461-1504, follows on directly from it. Project staff are Hannes Kleineke (Editor), Charles Moreton and Simon Payling. In this first full year of operation, a total of 99 articles were produced (97 biographies and two constituency articles), totalling over 108,000 words. Among the biographical articles completed in the year were:
  - **John Danaster**, a Surrey-born merchant of Exeter, which he represented in the Parliaments of 1485 and 1497. Elected the city's receiver in the immediate aftermath of the assault on the city by Perkin Warbeck's adherents in the late summer of 1497, Danaster had to handle the dual challenges of financing the repairs of the city walls and a royal visit by King Henry VII. Elected mayor six years later in succession to Robert Newton who had died of the plague, Danaster himself died of the disease while still in office.
  - **Philip Beaumont**, MP for Devon in 1467, was a major Devon landowner, related by marriage to Edward IV's Bourgchier relatives, who spent much of his career fighting off the claim to the family estates mounted by his illegitimate nephew, the natural son of the violent Sir Henry Bodrugan; his career was cut short by his sudden death at the age of not much over 40 in 1473.
  - **Roger Holland**: a lawyer descended from a family of Courtenay retainers resident near Exeter, propelled to prominence at the accession of Henry VII, who went on to become one of the King's men of affairs in the south-west. He also served as recorder of the city of Exeter from

1498 to his death in 1506. Following a return to the Parliament of 1491 by the townsmen of Totnes, he sat for Exeter in Henry VII's final Parliament of 1504, and it is probable that he was also a member of other Parliaments for which no returns survive.

- **Thomas Baynard:** a lawyer from a minor Suffolk gentry family who owed his connexion with Great Yarmouth, which he represented in 1491, to his marriage to a daughter and coheir of a leading burgess there. In the early 1490s he was nevertheless said to have become guilty of leading a band of armed rioters in the local area.
- **Robert Cromer:** a prominent merchant and customs official at Great Yarmouth, who fell into financial difficulties towards the end of the career, after being found to have falsified his accounts as a customs collector.
- **Thomas Iryng:** a merchant of Great Yarmouth, who was serving as bailiff of the borough when he represented it in Parliament in 1461 and subsequently faced litigation in Chancery when one of the officers he had employed to serve under him absconded into the royal army quashing residual Lancastrian resistance in the north, and failed to pay over the moneys he owed.
- **Thomas Babington II:** MP for Nottingham in 1495 and 1504; an Inner Temple lawyer from a prominent family who made a remarkable series of marriages for his many children and purchased the manor of Ashover, finding time to involve himself in the lead industry. He left a remarkable tomb which survives in Ashover Church.
- **Thomas Thurland:** MP for Nottingham in five Parliaments between 1442 and 1461, an import into Nottingham from Boston who became Nottingham's greatest 15th-century merchant, his surname preserved in that of a modern city centre street Full biography in *The Commons 1422-61*.
- **Humphrey Blount:** MP for Bridgnorth in 1461, he greatly extended his inheritance, respectable enough in itself, by winning a dispute over the lands of the Cornwalls of Kinlet against the legal odds. Committed himself to the Yorkist cause and secured election for Bridgnorth, nine miles from Kinlet, to the first Parliament of Edward IV's reign. As he was then serving as sheriff of Shropshire, his election was in breach of statute. Knighted at the battle of Tewkesbury, his fine tomb survives in the church of Kinlet.
- **Thomas Croft:** MP for Leominster in 1478. The Crofts were major beneficiaries of the change of regime in 1461, and Thomas was rewarded with lands and offices in Oxfordshire. He had a varied career, and, as a customs official in Bristol, sponsored an expedition to find 'the Isle of Brasil' in the Atlantic. (4,518 words)
- **Sir Henry Pierrepont:** MP for Nottinghamshire in 1472 and 1491, he was the defeated candidate in the contested Nottinghamshire election of 1467. Pierrepont lost his father and a brother in two separate feuds in the 1450s. Thereafter, his active support for the house of York allowed him to reverse the decline in the family's fortunes occasioned by the dispute of his grandfather Sir Henry Pierrepont with Ralph, Lord Cromwell. By the early 1470s he had become a very significant figure in his native Nottinghamshire, perhaps the most important of the county's gentry. Yet thereafter there was a new reversal in his fortunes, from which, despite his election in 1491, he never really recovered. His tomb survives at Holme Pierrepont.
- **John Leynton:** a minor Cambridgeshire lawyer, who served as recorder of Cambridge from 1493, and served as MP for Cambridge in 1489 and 1491; he owned copies of the Fables of Aesop and of the writings of Cato.

5. The constituency histories completed in the year were:

- **Totnes:** the Devon market town was under the overlordship of the Lords Zouche of Harringworth. As a result of the attainder of John, Lord Zouche, after Bosworth, the lordship of the borough fell to the Crown, which granted it to the Edgcombe family, in whose control

it remained even after the Zouches' restoration in 1495. The names of the town's MPs are known for just four Parliaments in the period, three of them during the reign of Edward IV.

- **Bath:** One of the two cathedral cities of Somerset, Bath enjoyed considerable prosperity in the second half of the 15<sup>th</sup> century on account of the regional cloth industry. Successive bishops of Bath and Wells in the period held high office under the Crown, and there is some suggestion that they exercised a degree of influence over Bath's parliamentary representation. The recent death of the long-serving bishop Robert Stillington may account for the unique omission of the city's MPs from the Crown office list of 1491.
6. The section also produced a large number of contributions (24) to the History of Parliament's blog, including 'The barbarity of the medieval criminal law: petty treason and the murders of Sir Thomas Murdak and John Cotell', 'Divorce, cuckoldry and bastardy: two unhappy medieval marriages', and 'A New Dawn? The accession of Edward IV on 4 March 1461'. The section organized an online workshop with the German Historical Institute in October, on 'Law and Consent in Medieval Britain'.

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

7. Current staff are Vivienne Larminie (associate editor); Andrew Barclay, Patrick Little and David Scott (senior research fellows). Stephen Roberts, who served as director up until his retirement at 31 December 2020, was nominally editor of the section. He is continuing to contribute to the project from retirement.
8. By the end of 2020-21 only 32 revisions remained to be done and work was well underway on the introductory survey for this project. The total number of articles revised over the period was 145 (129 biographies, 16 constituency articles). Work on the introductory survey included chapters on committees of the House of Commons, politics and party, and elections and constituencies; numerous appendices and further preparatory work for chapters on members and political organisation were also completed.
9. The section made eighteen contributions to the History of Parliament's blog, among them "'Cakes, cheese and zeal": Puritan Banbury, the Fiennes family and civil war radicalism'; 'Cancelling Christmas? William Prynne, kill-joy and martyr, and the onslaught on "pagan Saturnalia"'; 'Q. When is a Shire not a Shire? A. When it's a Stewartry! Kirkcudbright in the 1650s'; 'Violence at the door of Parliament, 1640-48'.
10. We currently are making preparations for loading the biographies and constituency articles into our database from which they will ultimately be extracted to print the volumes. Our expectation is that work on the project will be entirely complete by the end of the 2021-22 financial year. Work is underway on considering what will take its place.

### ***The House of Commons 1832-1868***

11. This project, begun in 2009, covers the period between the first and second Reform Acts. The target is 2,591 biographies and 401 constituency articles. Project staff are Philip Salmon (editor), Kathryn Rix (Assistant editor), Stephen Ball and Martin Spychal (research fellows). During the year the section completed 120 articles (32 from external authors) amounting in total to over 335,000 words. The articles completed during the year include the following:
- **Ulick Canning De Burgh, Lord Dunkellin (1827-1867):** a grandson of the prime minister George Canning (1770-1827), Dunkellin was heir to the huge Clanricarde estate in county Galway.

Returned for Galway borough in 1857 he switched to the county in 1865 and became a prominent 'Adullamite', moving the famous amendment which marked the death knell of the Liberal reform bill in 1866. Regarded by his admirers as a nobleman of 'unquestionable talents', he possessed 'a ready wit and a keen sense of humour' and was said to be universally popular. Widely expected to rise to high office, his career was cut short by a fatal illness in August 1867.

- **Sir John Owen (1776-1861)**: a lawyer by profession, Owen was a landed proprietor, coal owner and patron of six church livings. One of the 'great barons' of Welsh rural society, he was a fixture of Pembrokeshire politics for more than 50 years, during which time his extravagance and enormous electioneering expenses drained his financial resources. After assuming leadership of the Tory interest in Pembroke boroughs in 1809 he sat for the county from 1812 until 1841 but agreed to support the reform bill in 1831. He remained loyal to the Conservatives thereafter, however, and as the borough MP from 1841 he supported the repeal of the corn laws. Later described as voting with 'whatever Government happened to be in power', he backed Lord Palmerston's ministry before dying in harness in 1861.
- **Francis Crossley (1817-1872)**: a wealthy carpet manufacturer, Crossley was elected in 1852 for his native Halifax, which he represented until 1859, when he was returned for the West Riding. An 'advanced Liberal', he was a diligent attender for most of his parliamentary career. He was a long-standing advocate of parliamentary reform and, as a Congregationalist, he played a leading role in the opposition to state endowment of religion. His generosity to Halifax, where he funded almshouses, a park and an orphanage, was rewarded with a baronetcy.
- **James Stansfeld (1820-1898)**: a Unitarian brewer, Stansfeld was elected for his native Halifax in 1859 and represented it for more than three decades. An ardent Radical, he soon came to prominence in the Commons with a motion on retrenchment in 1862. Palmerston appointed him to the admiralty the following year, but his links to Italian conspirators prompted his resignation in 1864. He returned to the ministerial fold in 1866 and later held office under Gladstone, although he was not included in the 1880 Cabinet due to his prominent role in the campaign for the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Acts.
- **Francis Henry Fitzhardinge Berkeley (1794-1870)**: one of the finest shots and amateur pugilists of his time, and one of a 'clan' of brothers in the Commons, Berkeley is best remembered today for his annual motions in support of the secret ballot, which he brought forward with great wit over the course of some 20 years after 1848. MP for Bristol from 1837 until his death in 1870, he was also a leading campaigner against military flogging, on which he was opposed by his brothers, and other radical causes.
- **George Charles Grantley Fitzhardinge Berkeley (1800-81)**: another of the Berkeley clan and one of the most colourful characters in the reformed Commons, Berkeley was a political enigma, whose obsession with field sports, penchant for duelling and violent behaviour, and literary activities earned him notoriety during his twenty years as MP for Gloucestershire West after 1832. A bizarre combination of extreme reactionary and advanced radical, he was at the forefront of the campaigns for a ladies' gallery in the Commons, the secret ballot and the rights of Catholics and Dissenters.
- **James Caird (1816-92)**: best known for his ground-breaking publications on new 'high farming' techniques and for pioneering what amounted to an agricultural revolution, Caird used his reputation to secure election as a Liberal for Dartmouth in 1857 and Stirling in 1859. A regular speaker on issues relating to agriculture and fisheries, he was instrumental in establishing the board of trade's statistical returns on agriculture. He left the Commons to become an inclosure commissioner in 1865 and rose swiftly through the ranks of various land departments thereafter.
- **John Dunn (1818-60)**: a wealthy merchant and ship owner from Van Diemen's land (Tasmania), Dunn served a colourful nine year political apprenticeship in the colony's

Legislative Council, becoming a key figure in the campaign against convict transportation, before coming to England and securing a seat for the venal port of Dartmouth in 1859. A loyal but mostly silent Conservative, his promising political career came to an abrupt end when he died from heat exhaustion while returning to Hobart the following year.

- **George Moffat (1806-78)**: a 'merchant prince' in the China tea trade, Moffat became a leading figure in the extra-parliamentary campaigns for the penny post and in Cobden's early free trade movement. After a string of defeats he eventually secured election as an advanced Liberal, sitting for Dartmouth, 1845-52, Ashburton, 1852-59, Honiton, 1860-65, and Southampton, 1865-68. A regular speaker, especially on tariff reform and relations with China, he backed most radical causes and became a key figure in promoting the Great Exhibition.
- **Hon. Henry Bouverie William Brand (1814-92)**: best known for his stint as Speaker, 1872-84, Brand served his political apprenticeship as private secretary to the influential Whig home secretary Sir George Grey before representing Lewes as a Liberal from 1852-68. A 'forgotten' agricultural campaigner, he became a junior whip in 1855 and three years later took over as chief whip, raising the 'tone and character' of the role and managing his party behind the scenes for the next decade, including during the reform crisis of 1866-8. He represented Cambridgeshire from 1868 until 1884, when he was elevated to the Lords.
- **Daniel Whittle Harvey (1786-1863)**: a brilliant speaker with uncompromisingly radical views, Harvey was proprietor of the notorious *Weekly True Sun* and MP for Colchester from 1818-20, 1826-35, and Southwark from 1835-9. A thorn in the side of successive governments, particularly over the size of the civil list, his own precarious finances eventually enabled the Whigs to tempt him into public office as registrar of metropolitan cabs, which disqualified him from sitting as an MP. Later appointed commissioner of the City of London police, he was remembered as 'a patriot whom fortune has persecuted into a place-holder'.
- **Sir William George Hylton Jolliffe (1800-1876)**: a country squire and cavalry officer, Jolliffe sat as a traditional Tory for Petersfield on his family's interest from 1830-32, 1837-8, and 1841-66. A keen Protectionist in the 1840s, he served as that party's chief whip from 1853-9, laying the organisational foundations for the emergence of a re-united Conservative party. In office from 1858-9 he was indispensable, but had to wait until 1866 to realise his family's long-cherished ambition of regaining their ancient Hylton peerage.
- **John Locke (1805-1880)**: a plain-spoken lawyer, Locke represented Southwark as a 'sturdy and facetious radical' from 1857-1880. A regular speaker, he campaigned hard to improve the conditions of the poor in housing, hospitals and sanitation and for Southwark Park and the preservation of Epping Forest. As an associate of the Licensed Victuallers, however, opposed to the growing influence of temperance in Liberalism, he became unfashionable and shortly before his death was de-selected by his local party.
- **Sir William Molesworth (1810-1855)**: a radical landowner and precocious dilettante, Molesworth was a baronet at 13, MP at 23, and minister at 42. A leading 'philosophical radical', he was a co-founder of the Reform Club and the *London Review*. As MP for Cornwall East, 1832-37, Leeds, 1837-41, and Southwark, 1844-55, he became renowned for his long, heavily-researched speeches and radical schemes for 'settler colonialism'. He was appointed commissioner of works in the Aberdeen ministry and served briefly as colonial secretary under Palmerston in 1855 before his untimely death later that year.
- **William John Legh (1828-1898)**: praised by Disraeli as 'the very incarnation of a useful county member', despite being silent in the Commons chamber, Legh was the owner of substantial estates in Lancashire and Cheshire. He represented the southern division of the former county from 1859 until he was ousted by William Gladstone in 1865. He returned to the Commons as Conservative MP for Cheshire East, 1868-85, and was raised to the peerage in 1892.
- **Sir Charles Napier (1786-1860)**: a self-described 'naval hero whom Britannia now acknowledges as her second Nelson', Napier achieved fame with his military successes in Portugal and Syria but also attracted notoriety and ridicule for his vanity and long-running

public disputes with the admiralty. His parliamentary career as MP for Marylebone from 1841-7 and Southwark from 1855-60 was dominated by naval issues and his own grievances, including the furore over his recall from command during the Crimean war. Eccentric in appearance and manner, he showed, according to *The Times*, 'what a strange mixture of merit and demerit, of real courage and idle vapouring, a man may unite in his character'.

- **Charles Cecil John Manners, Marquis of Granby (1815-88)**: older brother of the Tory 'Young England' leader Lord John Manners MP, Granby was heir to the vast estates of the Duke of Rutland, on whose interest he sat for Stamford from 1837-52 and Leicestershire North 1852-7. Derided by Disraeli for his 'emptiness', his zeal for Protectionism was not matched by his skills in debate. Persuaded against his wishes to assume leadership of the Protectionists in 1848, he lasted barely a month, 'principally from my own wont of energy and ability', as he admitted. Later attempts to bring him into Derby's ministry failed.
- **James Mackie (1821-1867)**: Mackie represented Kirkcudbrightshire as a moderate Liberal from 1857 until his death in 1867. He paid close attention to Scottish affairs at Westminster, opposed payment of the Maynooth grant, and was one of the Liberal 'Adullamites' who joined the 'tea-room revolution' and supported the Conservative reform legislation in 1867. As one of the first boys at Harrow School to run with the ball, rather than kick it forward, Mackie is credited in some circles with having invented modern rugby union.

12. Among the constituency articles are the following:

- **Southwark**: a double member constituency with a very large electorate even before the 1832 Reform Act, Southwark experienced a rapid growth in its population and economy during this period. The docks and manufacturing boomed and the borough was transformed by railway development. The electorate strongly supported political reform, free trade and the separation of church and state. The Southwark Reform Association exercised significant influence and provided resources for electioneering. Conservatives stood at only four of the 19 elections held between 1832-1868, without success. Contested elections instead reflected personal rivalries or splits within the radical establishment. Those elected were a mixture of men with local connections and outsiders with a national reputation who were attracted by the prospect of success in a major constituency. Only two of them, however, became ministers.
- **Flintshire**: The small maritime county in North Wales, Flintshire's representation was dominated by its largest and most influential landowners. For much of this period the Whig-Liberal family of Lloyd Mostyn monopolised the representation. They were occasionally challenged by the Conservative Sir Stephen Glynne, of Hawarden, who won the seat in 1837 and 1842. In 1861 the seat fell to Lord Richard Grosvenor, a younger son of the duke of Westminster, who held a valuable estate in Flintshire.
- **Lancashire South**: Lancashire's rapid industrial development made its newly created southern division one of the country's most significant seats. Alongside its urban borough freeholders, however, the constituency also contained thousands of tenants-at-will, whose votes often came under the influence of their landlords. The Liberals were victorious in 1832, prompting organisational efforts from the Conservatives, who won both seats in 1835, 1837 and 1841. The defeat of its candidate in its Lancashire heartland at an 1844 by-election was a blow to the Anti-Corn Law League, which devoted considerable attention to the registers thereafter. The Liberals won a seat at an 1846 by-election and secured both seats without a contest in 1847. The Manchester and Liverpool Liberals then arranged matters between them to choose one candidate apiece. This Liberal 'dictation' was finally challenged by the Conservatives in 1859, when they regained both seats. The constituency received a third member in 1861, when the Conservatives were again victorious. Gladstone had declined an invitation to stand

in 1861, but having lost his Oxford University seat in 1865, he fell back on Lancashire, and succeeded in winning one seat back for the Liberals.

- **Wallingford:** a by-word for corruption before 1832, with bribes distributed by a legendary figure known as the 'miller', Wallingford was 'emancipated' from the corrupt control of the local Whigs by the Reform Act, which removed one of its two MPs. The extension of its boundaries into the surrounding countryside increased its size fortyfold, creating a large 'ruralised' borough of over 25 square miles. As a result the electoral influence of the Welsh copper magnate William Hughes (later Baron Dinorben) was destroyed. A local Tory squire, William Blackstone, who owned the town's castle and priory estate, was elected after a decisive battle against a local Catholic landowner in 1832. Twenty years later Blackstone's falling out with the local party and financial problems ended his tenure of the seat. His attempts to bring in his former Liberal opponent, for whom he acted as a 'paid agent', attracted widespread condemnation. A Protectionist lawyer sat from 1852, but his 'neglect' of the constituency allowed a well-funded Liberal to secure the seat with the support of the Liberation Society in 1865. The Conservatives regained control in 1868 and retained the seat until 1880.

### ***The House of Lords 1559-1601***

13. This project began after the completion of *The House of Lords 1604-1629* and covers the upper House in the reign of Elizabeth I, complementing the volumes published back in 1983 on the House of Commons in the same period. The staff, who all worked on the Lords 1604-29 project, are Andrew Thrush (editor), Paul Hunneyball (assistant editor) and Ben Coates (Senior Research Fellow). With a total of 246 biographies to be tackled, it is planned to complete the project in five years, drawing in as far as possible external contributors, and aiming at a more abbreviated style of entry than in the previous project. After preliminary data collection, the section began working on biographies in the second half of the year, and produced 19 biographies in total, containing a total of over 64,000 words. The project's target when up to speed is to produce 50 internal, 33 external articles a year. Among the biographies completed in 2020-21 were:

- **Anthony Maria Browne, 2nd Viscount Montagu (1574-1629):** a staunchly Catholic peer from Sussex, Montagu was placed under confinement for personally baptizing his daughter in 1594. As a result, he was unable to attend the 1597 Parliament. Although he had regained his liberty by the time of the 1601 Parliament, the Privy Council instructed him to stay away.
- **Edward Parker, 12th Lord Morley (c.1552-1618):** the son of a Catholic exile, Morley conformed to the Anglican Church in hope of securing royal favour in his battles with his tenants. His marriage to the heiress to the 3rd Lord Monteagle united two impoverished baronies. Having succeeded to the peerage in 1577, he attended all of the late Elizabethan Parliaments except the last, but otherwise played a very limited role in the Lords.
- **Blount, Charles, 8th Lord Mountjoy (1563-1606):** A somewhat impoverished peer, Mountjoy aspired to restore his fortunes through military service, though he also enjoyed a successful court career as one of Elizabeth I's favourites. Closely linked to the 2nd earl of Essex, whose sister was his mistress, Mountjoy was implicated in the early planning of Essex's failed 1601 rising. However, success against Spain and the Irish rebels saved him from disgrace. His subsequent reputation as a war hero was later tarnished by his bigamous marriage to his mistress.
- **Carey, George, 2nd Lord Hunsdon (1548-1603):** As Elizabeth I's closest maternal kinsman during the final years of her reign, Hunsdon achieved high office both at court, where he served as lord chamberlain, and in Hampshire, where he was lord lieutenant and governor of the Isle of Wight. However, he appears to have possessed little political influence over the queen and his pursuit of an earldom proved unsuccessful. A series of strokes in his final years



effectively ended his career, though Elizabeth allowed him to retain his offices so long as she herself lived. (2,956 words)

- **Henry Brooke, 11th Baron Cobham (1564-1619):** something of a royal favourite during the final years of Elizabeth's reign, and a useful counterweight at court to the 2nd earl of Essex, Cobham unsuccessfully competed with Sir Robert Cecil for influence with the heir-apparent, James VI. On James's accession to the English throne, Cobham and his friend Sir Walter Raleigh plotted against the new king, for which he was attainted. Stripped of his lands and title, he spent most of the rest of his life as a prisoner and died in abject poverty.
- **Henry Fitzalan, 19th (or 12th) earl of Arundel (1512-80):** a leading Catholic peer, Arundel retained high office on the accession of Elizabeth. Despite his age and an unappealing personality, Arundel initially harboured hopes of marrying Elizabeth, probably hoping to prevent a return to Protestantism. Unable to bend the queen to his will, in 1564 he angrily resigned as lord steward. In the late 1560s he began plotting with his former son-in-law, the duke of Norfolk, in favour of Mary queen of Scots, and was lucky to escape execution. Severe disenchantment probably explains why Arundel rarely attended Parliament.
- **Thomas Howard, Baron Howard de Walden (1561-1626):** a younger son of the 4th duke of Norfolk, who was executed for treason in 1572, Howard initially made a career for himself in the Navy alongside his cousin, the lord admiral, Lord Howard of Effingham. Well regarded by Elizabeth, he was nevertheless only ennobled (in 1597) when the queen, notoriously reluctant to create new peers, believed him to be on the point of death. Under James I he achieved high office, but was dismissed as lord treasurer for corruption in 1618. He sat in two Elizabethan parliaments.
- **John Neville, 4th Baron Latimer (c.1520-77):** a violent sexual predator, Latimer had already been in serious trouble with the Privy Council by the time Elizabeth ascended the throne. His continued detention prevented him from sitting in 1558, and also in the first Parliament of Elizabeth's reign (1559). Although he subsequently resumed his place in the Lords (in 1563), he ceased attending the upper House regularly. In 1569 he decided not to throw in his lot with the rebellious northern earls, who then plundered his lands. On his death eight years later, his title became extinct.

14. The project is also compiling a resource which provides a framework to pull together the various sources which collectively provide evidence of the Lords' proceedings. The resource will flesh out proceedings in the Lords by integrating the sparse outline of the Lords Journal with material from elsewhere, including the Commons' Journal, D'Ewes's *Journals of all the Parliaments*, T.E. Hartley's *Proceedings in the Parliaments of Elizabeth I*, and various other printed and manuscript sources. When finished, it will result in a single, easily searchable database which gives the fullest possible picture of activities in the Lords, which will permit more effective analysis of that source material, both by us and other interested scholars, and provide an easily searchable repository of all the raw parliamentary data which underpins the biographies.

### The House of Lords 1715-1790

15. This project began in 2016 after the completion of *The History of Parliament: the House of Lords 1660-1715*. The project staff are Robin Eagles (editor), Stuart Handley and Charles Littleton. There are 928 articles to be written. 69 of them were completed in 2020-21 (ten of them by external contributors), with a total of over 202,000 words; 703 articles remain to be written. Among those completed in this year were:

- **Anthony Grey, Baron Lucas of Crudwell (1696-1723):** Lucas was marked out for favour early on as the son and heir of the duke of Kent and in 1718 he was summoned to the House by writ of acceleration. He proved a dependable member, often in receipt of proxies. He died

tragically young after choking on an ear of barley, an unfortunate demise that was referred to in the memorial sermon preached by his chaplain.

- **Charles Powlett, 3rd duke of Bolton (1685-1754)**: Bolton was dismissed by the duchess of Marlborough as 'the most immoral, simple and detested man that I know in the world'. Despite this, he managed to carve out a career at court and acquired senior office in the military, derided by professional soldiers for his lack of experience. He was cashiered for rebelling against the Excise but later made his way back over to the ministry and was restored to local office in return.
- **William Villiers, 2nd earl of Jersey (c1682-1721)**: Jersey was involved in Jacobite intrigue and was one of the Tory peers arrested in 1715 on suspicion of involvement in the rebellion. On his release he performed a volte face and for the remainder of his brief career in the Lords was a government supporter, bolstered by a pension. His final months were spent in acrimonious arguments with his countess to whom he left just one shilling in his will.
- **Talbot Yelverton, earl of Sussex (1690-1731)**: Sussex owed his promotion to the earldom to his clear support for the new regime and he developed a career as an accomplished courtier, taking over the role of deputy Earl Marshal in the 1720s, as well as a regular attendant of the Lords. He was considered by contemporaries to be unusually uxorious and on the death of his wife it was commented that he had been 'a martyr to love, even the unfashionable love of his wife'.
- **Hugh Boscawen, Viscount Falmouth (c.1680-1734)**: a well-connected Cornish Whig election manager, whose political usefulness, both at Court (he was a favourite English companion of George I) and in the House of Commons, led to his elevation to the peerage. In the Lords, he continued to speak for the ministry, sometimes living up to his soubriquet of "Foulmouth". For the first few years of George II's reign he acted as one of the most important chairmen of committees in the Lords, thereby helping to facilitate the passage of legislation, both public and private. He continued to support the Walpole ministry until 1733-4 when he joined the Opposition to Sir Robert Walpole, earning the opprobrium of the king whose actions in turning his back on Falmouth gave rise to the name given to the dining club comprised of Opposition peers: the Rumpsteak Club.
- **Thomas Bowers, bishop of Chichester (1660-1724)**: owed his bishopric to his long association with the Pelham family. Having known the duke of Newcastle since the latter was an infant, he acted as an adviser to the duke, in personal and financial matters, and was an obvious choice for elevation to the bishopric covering the duke's Sussex estates. Death cut short a promising career.
- **Henry Herbert, 9th earl of Pembroke (c.1689-1750)**: One of the 'architect earls' of the Palladian movement, he was a prominent courtier of George II, both as Prince of Wales and as king. He held important military commands and was made groom of the stole in 1735. He was a steady supporter of the ministry in the House, but was principally involved in the passage of the Act to build Westminster Bridge, whose construction he promoted to the end of his life.
- **Thomas Wentworth, 2nd earl of Strafford (1672-1739)**: Impeached in 1715 for his part as the principal British negotiator of the Treaty of Utrecht, he remained determined in his opposition to the Whig ministry for the years after the charges against him were dropped. He was one of the leading Tories, and was also involved in Jacobite circles. An active parliamentarian, he attended every session of the House, contributed frequently to debate, and signed almost every opposition protest between 1715 and 1739.
- **Charles Noel Somerset, 4th duke of Beaufort (1709-1756)**: By the time Beaufort succeeded his brother in the dukedom he was already a seasoned Member of the Commons with pretensions to the leadership of the Tories. A committed Jacobite, he nevertheless kept his head down during the 1745 rebellion and was later one of those to meet the Young Pretender

and advise him to go home. He went on to play an important role in the Tory-Patriot alliance that brought down Walpole.

- **Edward Hyde, 3rd earl of Clarendon (1661-1723)**: before inheriting the peerage, Clarendon had earned an unfortunate reputation through his controversial tenure of the governorship of New York. As a cousin of Queen Anne, associated with Viscount Bolingbroke, he expected his star to fall further under the Hanoverians, but he proved remarkably resilient. He found a niche in the Lords as the principal chairman of committees (the first to hold that position) and repositioned himself as a reliable ministry vote.
- **Jocelyn Sidney, 7th earl of Leicester (1682-1743)**: the seventh son of the 4th earl, two of Leicester's brothers had held the peerage before him. Much of his career was taken up with legal battles over the Sidney inheritance, which was further complicated by his estrangement from his countess. He attempted to steer his property towards his illegitimate daughter, but after his death a claimant appeared to challenge the settlement, who appears to have been Leicester's wife's son by a local baker.
- **Philip Wharton, duke of Wharton (1698-1731)**: son of the Whig Junto leader, Wharton was doted on by his father and raised to continue the family legacy. He revolted against it from the beginning. His marriage when underage was said to have precipitated his father's death, and while travelling on the continent he fell in with the Jacobites and accepted honours from the Pretender. On his return, he appeared to conform, was promoted to a dukedom and made a name for himself as a gifted orator. He then returned to active opposition and ultimately settled for life in exile, dying in obscurity in a Spanish convent having sold his title to a fellow Jacobite.
- **Richard Willis, bishop of Winchester (1664-1734)**: was a chaplain-general to the army in the 1690s and then sub-preceptor to the duke of Gloucester. A Whig champion in the lower house of Convocation, he was thwarted in his ambitions for a bishopric by Queen Anne. Appointed to the bench at the beginning of George I's reign, he became an influential bishop, eventually vying with Gibson for a share in ecclesiastical patronage under Walpole.
- **John Boyle, 5th earl of Cork and Orrery [I] (2nd Baron Boyle) (1707-1762)**: was expected to take on his father's mantle as a leader of the English Jacobites, but, petrified of public speaking, was more interested in leading a retired life on his wife's Irish estates, where he could pursue his literary endeavours and his correspondence with his wide circle of friends. When he did appear in the House he voted as a Tory. Under financial pressure in the 1750s he recanted his Jacobite associations and was rewarded with a secret service pension from the government.
- **Thomas Green, bishop of Ely (1658-1738)**: was on the Whig side of the bench of bishops, owing to the patronage of Thomas Tenison and his kinship with his brother-in-law Charles Trimnell. Much of his attention was taken up with his protracted fight with Richard Bentley, Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, over whether the bishop of Ely had, ex officio, visitorial rights over the college. This matter occupied the House for a number of days of heated dispute in 1732-3 but, despite Green's apparent victory, Bentley was still in office at the bishop's death.
- **Hugh Willoughby, 14th Baron Willoughby of Parham (1714-1765)**: was the last, but longest-lived and most prominent, of a line of notoriously poor and Dissenting Lancashire barons. He made his mark on the House through his administration of committees. Throughout the 1740s and 1750s he effectively deputized as backup chairman of committees and he was principal chairman of committees for a few years at the beginning of George III's reign.

16. The project also contributed 24 blogs to the History's output, most of them to the 'Georgian Lords' stream of the History's blog, among them 'From Chicken House to Palace: 10 Downing Street in the 18th Century'; 'Disputing controverted elections in the 18th-century Parliament'; 'The 18th-century aristocracy and an early experiment in immunology'.

### **Oral History**

17. The pandemic struck just as we were planning to relaunch the oral history project with a new group of volunteers. The restrictions on face-to-face meetings made it impossible to run a full programme of in-person interviews: with advice from the British Library and the Oral History Society we decided not to attempt to undertake interviews remotely (the recording quality is of much lower quality, and the rapport and atmosphere possible in a real interview cannot be properly recreated in an online format). The pandemic also prevented the running of training sessions with the new volunteers, originally planned for the beginning of the year. In order to keep our interviewers interested in and engaged with the project we have been running virtual seminars where those not previously involved have had a chance to listen to and discuss some past interviews and be introduced to the basics of oral history interviewing. The publication of the first book making extensive use of the oral history collection was published in August 2020 and is described below.

### **Reformation to Referendum**

18. In 2017 The History's then Director, Paul Seaward, was awarded a three-year British Academy / Wolfson Foundation Research Professorship to work on a project entitled 'Reformation to Referendum', exploring the history of the English/British/United Kingdom parliament in a new way, as not simply a political body, but an institution that has been deeply interwoven into the country's life, culture and government, over the period between the Reformation in the sixteenth century and the 2016 Referendum. The period of the professorship came to an end at the end of 2020. During the three years, he has researched and planned and written a good deal of the book which will be the main result of the project.

19. Some of the key themes of the research have also been developed through a series of blogs: the relationship between the social and the political is the subject of articles on 'Tea on the Terrace' and 'The Smoking Room'; the development of the corporate identity of the house of commons through privilege has been a theme of many of the most recent pieces.

### **DISSEMINATION**

20. During the year we published two projects, the thirteenth and fourteenth sets to be published by the History, bringing the History to a total of 56 individual volumes containing well over 30 million words. Both sets of volumes were published by Cambridge University Press, who have been our publishers since 2002.

### ***The History of Parliament: The House of Commons 1422-1461***

21. In June 2020 we published the seven volumes of *The History of Parliament: The House of Commons 1422-61*, edited by Linda Clark. The volumes, covering the long reign of Henry VI, contain biographies of all of the 2,844 men who sat in the Commons during the period and accounts of the political history of each of the 144 English constituencies. The period covered saw 22 separate parliaments, which sat against a background of a series of political and military crises. These began with Henry V's untimely death, which left the infant Henry VI as king at less than a year old, and the consequent need to arrange the government of the boy's dual kingdoms of England and France during a protracted minority. In spite of repeated invocations of the 'spirit of Agincourt', the English-held territory in France was lost bit by bit. The fall of the last parts of the duchy of Normandy in 1449-50 brought about a full-blown political emergency, accompanied by a popular

uprising at home in England. The remaining English possessions around Bordeaux were lost three years later, and before long England and its Parliament found themselves drawn into the internal dynastic conflict between the partisans of the rival branches of the Plantagenet dynasty, the houses of Lancaster and York. It was a fresh Parliament that brought about a constitutional settlement that guaranteed the crown to Henry VI for his life, but thereafter settled it on the duke of York and his descendants.

22. The Members' biographies span a broad social spectrum. While many were trained lawyers, and some substantial landowners and members of the aristocracy, there were also artisans and manufacturers, as well as traders, both on a great and a small scale. The earliest university graduates to sit among the lay Commons rubbed shoulders with literary figures like Sir Thomas Malory, author of the *Morte d'Arthur*, and the lesser known poet George Ashby. Geoffrey Chaucer's son Thomas would have encountered in the House men who owned copies of his father's writings. Military campaigns and diplomatic missions, along with journeys inspired by religious devotions, such as pilgrimages to Rome, Santiago de Compostela and the Holy Land, gave many MPs of the age extensive experience of foreign lands and peoples. Naturalised second, or even first generation, immigrants, like the Danish-born courtier Sir Andrew Ogard, or the Salisbury merchant John Apont found their way into Parliament in these decades.

### ***The History of Parliament: the House of Lords 1604-1629***

23. In January 2021 we published our second set of volumes covering the House of Lords. The three volumes of *The House of Lords 1604-1629*, edited by Andrew Thrush, contain 286 biographies of lay peers and bishops who sat, or were entitled to sit, in the House of Lords between 1604 and 1629, and a few who might have sat in the Lords between 1629 and 1640 had parliament met in those years. It also contains an introductory survey by Andrew Thrush that brings up to date our understanding of the Lords in this period. Unfortunately it was not possible to hold a physical launch of the volumes, but a seminar was held in April at which the volumes were introduced to an appreciative specialist audience.
24. Together the biographies and surveys provide a more complex and nuanced picture of the House of Lords in this period than has previously been available. It shows how the Lords started to become much less subservient to royal wishes in the period, and side much more frequently than previously with the Commons, particularly when they felt that it would help to protect their corporate privileges against the tendency of James I and Charles I to countenance favourites, notably the notorious George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham. The biographies detail the growth in the sale of peerages through the court, especially by Buckingham, and the partly consequential growth of the aristocracy over the period, following the parsimony of Elizabeth I in this (and other) respects. It resulted in considerable annoyance over the rise of new peers, challenging the dignity and respect of the 'ancient' nobility. The survey provides an overview of the operation of the House in the period, its officers and servants and its procedures, and outlines how it expanded its activities, including through the revival of the process of impeachment in 1621 and subsequent parliaments.

### ***The Political Lives of post-war British MPs***

25. The first book based on the oral history archive *The Political Lives of Post-War British MPs*, edited by Emma Peplow and Priscila Pivatto, was published by Bloomsbury Academic in August 2020. It contains extracts covering some of the key themes that emerge again and again in the interviews, from how families and communities helped to shape the political values and careers of the MPs to selection processes and the experience of being a new MP, and some of the big political events

of their lives. As with our other publications this year, COVID-19 restrictions prevented a proper launch, but the book was virtually launched at an event in October in which Emma and Priscila were in conversation with Rob Perks, the then lead curator of Oral History at the British Library. It has been publicised through, among other things, a blog in the British Library's Sound and Vision Series, and an episode of the Mile End Institute Podcast, and through Emma and Priscila's lecture, hosted by the Speaker's Advisory Committee on Works of Art and marking International Women's Day

### ***The History of Parliament Online***

26. Work continues on rebuilding the History of Parliament's website, integrating the new sections (including recent House of Lords sections) and migrating the site from various different versions of the Drupal programme into the latest, Drupal 9. The work entails fixing a number of problems that have arisen from the site's incremental development over the last few years, and an opportunity is being taken to present the data in a more granular way that will enable it to be interrogated by researchers much more deeply than at present. The number of visitors to the website continues to increase, with around 357,000 users and 1.25 million page views in 2020-21 compared to around 271,000 users and 930,000 page views in 2019-20.
27. The History also hosts a small site, [membersafter1832.historyofparliamentonline.org](http://membersafter1832.historyofparliamentonline.org), initially built as a collaboration between the History and the Parliamentary Digital Service, and the House of Commons Library. The site is based on the database created originally by Professor Michael Rush from the University of Exeter and is kept up to date by staff of the House of Commons Library. In addition, the History is a founding partner of the online library of digital resources developed by the Institute of Historical Research, British History Online.
28. The History's blogging and social media activity is dealt with below, as an aspect of our programme of public engagement.

### **DEVELOPMENT**

29. The History's detailed knowledge of the history of British politics is much sought after and shared through a number of collaborations with universities in the UK and abroad. These have largely taken the form of Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) Collaborative Doctoral Awards (CDAs), although the History is also involved in projects funded by major grants from the Research Councils and other grant-giving bodies. Such projects offer the History ways of enriching, developing and promoting and extending the reach of its own work in engagement with other scholars.

### ***Collaborative doctoral awards***

30. In these, a university provides funding, supervision and support for a PhD project; the History offers a co-supervisor and the opportunity for the student to be involved in the History's activities. Universities need to bid for funding for these in partnership with an external institution through the university consortia that hold the funding. The History has participated in three successful bids for collaborative doctoral projects:
  - Robin Eagles is joint supervisor with Amanda Goodrich of the Open University of a PhD Studentship on 'The Black and Mixed Ethnicity Presence in British Politics, 1750-1850', one aim of which is to create a database of BAME people who are known to have participated in politics during the period. Helen Wilson was selected for the studentship and the project began in October 2020.

- Emma PePlow is joint supervisor with Helen Parr of Keele University (a member of the History's Editorial Board) and Charlotte Wildman of Manchester University of a studentship on ' "A Manly Place"?: The experiences of female MPs at Westminster, 1970-2010'. Katy Tanner has been selected for the studentship and the project will begin in October 2021.
- Paul Seaward is joint supervisor with Anthony Milton of Sheffield University for a studentship on 'Bishops and the English Parliament c. 1558-1642'. The project will be carried out in conjunction with the current House of Lords 1558-1601 project and any potential successor project to the House of Commons 1640-60. The selection of the student took place after the end of the year.

### **Project collaborations**

31. The History is involved in a number of collaborations as a partner institution or co-applicant. Involvement normally means participation in the projects' respective advisory boards and offering advice and occasional assistance where required. Current collaborations underway involving the History are:

- Oxford University: *'Recovering Europe's Parliamentary Culture, 1500-1700: A New Approach to Representative Institutions'*, funded by the University's internal research fund, is a project concerned with the literary, archival and material cultures of parliaments across early modern Europe. It will commence in September. Paul Seaward is a co-applicant, along with Steve Gunn, Tracey Sowerby, Dorota Pietrzyk-Reeves (Jagellonian University, Krakow) and Joris Oddens (REPUBLIC project, Huygens ING Institute, Royal Netherlands Academy).
- Durham University: the AHRC-funded *'Petitioning and People Power in Twentieth-Century Britain'* project, commenced in August 2020 and runs until July 2023 with Dr Richard Huzzey as principal investigator. The History is providing assistance through its oral history collection, and undertaking further interviews.
- Newcastle University: the AHRC funded *'Eighteenth-Century Political Participation and Electoral Culture (ECPPEC)'*, led by Matthew Grenby as principal investigator, started on 1 January 2020 and is ongoing. The History is contributing principally through the expertise of its eighteenth century House of Lords project.
- Exeter University and York University: the Leverhulme funded project *'Parliamentary Empire: British Democracy and Settler Colonialism, c.1867-1939'*, will commence in September 2021. It is led by David Thackeray (University of Exeter) and Amanda Behm (York). The HOP is a partner institution.

32. Other potential collaborations and partnerships are under discussion, including involvement with Royal Holloway, University of London (RHUL) on the 'Towards a National Collection' component of the RHUL AHRC bid 'Discovering Democratic, Diverse and Domestic Heritage'. The project has gone through to stage 2 of the competition.

33. The History is a founder member institution of 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.

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

34. The History's relationship with the public relations and publishing company St James's House dates back to 2013, and is based around the production of a series of books on themes to do with the history of the British parliament and parliamentary politics. The history contributes the main text, usually written partly in-house and partly by external contributors; St James's House sell to companies and organisations the opportunity to contribute text about their own activities and achievements, and the two elements are combined in a well-produced and highly illustrated volume which the company distributes widely and promotes through a launch in a central London location. The History receives from St James's House a regular fee for its collaboration. The last book under our current arrangement with St James's House was published in September 2019; during this year we have been working on another, to be published in September 2021.

### **ENGAGEMENT**

35. The History's programme of public and academic engagement activities, managed by our Public Engagement manager Sammy Sturgess and Public Engagement Assistant Connie Jeffery, has inevitably been struck by the COVID-19 Pandemic. We have not been able to undertake a number of planned public events, and have not been able to take forward planning as yet for next year's events. As with other organisations, though, much activity has moved online, and we have been pleased with the number of people attending some of our events, including many who would even in normal times have found it difficult to do so. Our social media activity has remained strong, and the team has been busy developing a collection of videos freely available to the public for teaching and learning.

36. A new public engagement strategy was developed and agreed by the Trustees in September 2020, building on the 2018 Braddick Report, and identifying methods of improving accessibility to our research via media that cater for diverse audiences, while working towards embedding public engagement as a core practice within the Trust. The strategy will be reviewed again in the autumn of 2021.

### ***Academic, university and professional engagement***

37. The History has continued its regular competition for the best undergraduate dissertation on British and Irish political and parliamentary history. The 2020 prize was awarded to Alfie Banks, a student then at the University of Southampton, for his accomplished dissertation on 'The Imperial Afterlife of Warren Hastings, 1818-1947'. Because of current restrictions we were unable to award the prize at a History of Parliament event, but we intend to do so when conditions allow.

38. We have been experimenting with involvement in teaching university courses, with Martin Spychal working on developing relationships with universities, though this has been disrupted by the Pandemic. The History of Parliament is a partner heritage institution on the Sheffield Hallam BA course module 'Communicating History'. In October Martin contributed a podcast discussing the 1832 Reform Act and Parliament to the 2<sup>nd</sup> year BA Module 'Hard Times: British Society 1815-1902', and in February Martin and Kathryn Rix delivered a seminar on 'The History of Parliament and its Audiences' to the first year students.

39. The Parliaments, Politics and People seminar at the Institute of Historical Research is run by a number of the History's staff. The seminar has moved online for the 2020/21 academic year and has run a full programme. The online format has led to an expansion of the seminar's audience



and reach, with the fortnightly sessions now attracting around 70 attendees and is generating extra traffic to the History of Parliament blog.

40. The History's staff continue to interact routinely with the wider academic community, principally through contributions to conferences and seminars and publication in academic history journals. Staff of the History are editors or members of the editorial board of a large number of journals concerned with British and parliamentary history, or trustees or board members of organisations that deal with these subjects, including the International Commission for the History of Representative and Parliamentary Institutions, *Parliamentary History* and the Parliamentary History Trust, the Court Studies Society and the journal *Court Studies*, the *London Journal*, the Cromwell Association, the Victoria County History Trust, *Fifteenth Century Studies*, and many others.
41. The staff of the History are also been called on from time to time to provide expert assistance. Paul Seaward was a member of the Conservation Framework Group, part of the Palace of Westminster Restoration and Renewal programme, which over the course of 2020 reviewed the entire Palace to develop a Conservation Framework to provide the Restoration and Renewal Delivery Authority with easily accessible high level guidance on the significance of individual parts of the Palace of Westminster to inform the business planning and feasibility stages of the project. The Group brought together experts in history, architectural and art history and conservation under the chairmanship of Simon Thurley.

#### **Social Media, Videos and Podcasts**

42. At the end of March 2020 our twitter accounts, @HistParl, @TheVictCommons, and @GeorgianLords, had between them 21,792 followers; at the end of March 2021 they had 25,725. Twitter impressions grew from 10.2 million in 2019-20 to 11.6 million in 2020-21.
43. A remarkable 160 blogs were published on the History's main blog in the course of the year. Most of these were written by the History's own staff, covering subjects as diverse as Parliament and the Welsh language (a blog for St David's day), Children and Parliament in Medieval England; the Early modern Parliament and Coffee; Ancient Britain, the Mother of Parliaments?, and many others. The pandemic formed a theme for many blogs of course, from the 1721 Quarantine Act to Parliament's response to epidemics in the 1640s. The staff's own blogs are complemented by occasional guest blogs, and short summaries of the papers delivered to the History's Parliaments, Politics and People seminar. There were a further 27 blogs published on the Victorian Commons, the blog of the 1832-68 project, and 10 on the Reformation to Referendum blog, the blog of Paul Seaward's project. The three blogs between them recorded a total of 195,842 views, up from 162,079 in 2019-20.
44. The public engagement team have established a Youtube channel and is developing a series of short films about parliamentarians and parliamentary history, some of them continuing a collaboration with the School of Humanities at Royal Holloway, University of London which began in 2019-20. Fifteen films were made and posted on the channel in 2020-21, and it is planned to continue adding films to the channel at the rate of one a month. Many of the films so far posted to the channel have been on the theme 'Parliamentary leadership', and consist of twenty minute or so interviews with the History's staff. The film on Robert Walpole has been the most successful so far, with over 1,500 views.
45. The team have also been experimenting with creating a podcast. The first result was a podcast made for LGBT+ History Month based on the remarkable diaries of Victorian politician Lord Ronald

Gower, and featuring Martin Spychal from our 1832-68 project. Further work will be undertaken in 2021-22 to develop and exploit the possibilities offered by this medium.

### Events

46. The pandemic effectively nullified our plans for events in parliament and elsewhere. Some events, including our launches for our three major publications of the year had to be cancelled, and we had to change our plans for our annual lecture. Many events were moved online instead, however, and these attracted a large audience, including many people who would almost certainly not have been able to attend in person. Our events included:
- September: workshop marking the anniversary of the South Sea Bubble (50 attendees)
  - October: the launch for Emma Peplow and Priscila Pivatto's *The Political Lives of Postwar British MPs* (81 attendees)
  - October: workshop in collaboration with the German Historical Institute on 'Law and Consent in Medieval Britain' (50 attendees)
  - November: Bicentenary of the Queen Caroline affair, in collaboration with the Parliamentary Archives and the Speaker's Committee on Works of Art (65 attendees)
  - November: workshop on the 'History of Parliament and Local History' for the IHR 2020 History Day (46 attendees)
  - November: annual lecture delivered by Chris Bryant (58 attendees)
  - February: Chris Bryant in conversation with Baroness Barker on Chris's book *Glamour Boys*, event in collaboration with Queer Britain and the All Party Parliamentary Group on Global LGBT+ Rights (151 attendees)
  - March: Annual International Women's Day lecture given by Emma Peplow and Priscila Pivatto, hosted by the Speaker's Advisory Committee on Works of Art and run by Parliament's Visitor Services Team, with assistance from the History.

### GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE TRUST

47. At the end of July Gordon Marsden stepped down as chair of the Trust. He will remain a Trustee. The Trustees record their thanks to Gordon for his service over the period since he became chair in 2016. Lord Norton of Louth took over the chairmanship. Lord Rowlands resigned from the Trust in December, having served as a Trustee since ?? and as chair between ? and ?. Three new Trustees were appointed during the year: Jonathan Djanogly MP; Chris Bryant MP; and Chris Skidmore MP. In March Sir Graham Hart announced his intention to step down from the treasurership in 2021-22. At the end of December John Morrill stepped down as chair of the Editorial Board. He was replaced by Jane Winters. Elaine Chalus came to the end of her third term on the Board at the end of 2020. She was replaced by Dr Perry Gauci of Lincoln College, Oxford. The History are most grateful to all of those stepping down for their long and able service, as they are to continuing members of the Trust and the Editorial Board.
48. Stephen Roberts retired as Director of the Trust at the end of 2020, at the end of his three-year term. The Trustees and the Editorial Board record their indebtedness to Stephen for his very successful tenure of the directorship, as well as his work in leading the 1640-60 project before it, and for his continuing engagement with the work of that project and of the History. Paul Seaward returned as Director, at the end of his three-year British Academy/Wolfson Foundation Research Professorship. Apart from the director, the administrative team consists of the Administrator, Adam Tucker, and Finance Manager, Jonathan Comber. Dealing with the consequences of COVID-19 and government restrictions was a significant administrative challenge over the year, involving the creation of a set of protocols for attendance in and use of the building, as well as developing

new means of keeping regularly in touch with staff, including through regular weekly social meetings by Zoom.

49. The Trust leases a building in Bloomsbury Square from Bedford Estates, of which it sub-leases the top floor. The current lease on the building, agreed in 2015, included a break clause after five years. In the end the Trustees decided not to leave in 2020, but negotiated a reduction in the annual rent over the remaining period of the lease. Our own tenants decided not to renew their lease, which expired in 2020. Despite the uncertain market conditions, a new tenant was found, who moved in early in the 2021-22 financial year.

**The History of Parliament**  
**July 2021**