



West of England
and South Wales

Women's History Network

NEWSLETTER MAY 2014

Co - Chairs:

Kath Holden and June Hannam

Membership Secretary:

Elaine Titcombe

Treasurer:

June Hannam Jane Howells

Newsletter editor:

Committee: Virginia Bainbridge, Tracey Loughran, Diana Russell, Stephanie Ward

Associate Committee: Mitzi Auchterlonie, Lyndy Pooley

Forthcoming Events:

REGIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Saturday 21 June 2014 Cardiff University
GENDER, GENERATION AND THE BODY

The 21st annual conference of the West of England and South Wales Women's History Network will be held at Cardiff University on Saturday 21st June 2014. The conference will explore the relation of ideas and experiences of gender, generation and the body in a range of historical contexts. The keynote speaker is **Dr Garthine Walker (Cardiff University)**. Her paper is entitled: **Sex, Age and Bodies: 'Victim-Blaming' and Culpability in the History of Rape c.1500-1800.**

You can book online at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/gender-generation-and-the-body-tickets-10961372761>, or
download a booking form and pay by cheque via the West of England and South Wales
Women's History Network website:

<http://humanities.uwe.ac.uk/swhisnet/index.html>

The full programme will be posted there as soon as it is finalised.

WOMEN'S HISTORY NETWORK NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Home Fronts: Gender, War and Conflict

5-7 September 2014 University of Worcester

www.womenshistorynetwork.org

83rd Anglo-American conference of historians THE GREAT WAR AT HOME

Senate House, University of London, 3 – 4 July 2014

Co-organised by the Victoria County History, the British Association for Local History and the American Association for State and Local History

The programme include TWO panel sessions on 'New perspectives on women in the Great War' as well as others of relevance to women's history such as food, health and a number focussed on particular localities. Full details at www.anglo-american.history.ac.uk

REGIONAL NETWORK WEBSITE

<http://humanities.uwe.ac.uk/swhisnet/index.html>

CALL FOR PAPERS

17th AMC/WAW ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**to be held in the Management Centre, University of Bangor
on Saturday 4th October and Sunday 5th October 2014**

Our conference provides a forum for anyone interested in women's history in Wales, whether academic or not, to present their work and receive feedback in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. It is also an opportunity for members to network and socialise.

Papers are invited on any aspect of the history of women in Wales, from historians, archivists and others interested in promoting women's history in Wales. Proposals from new researchers and students are especially welcome.

Papers can vary in length from 15 minutes to 45 minutes, though most will probably be in the region of 30 minutes. Contributors should send an abstract of approximately 150-200 words outlining the key themes to be covered.

Submissions should be made by Friday 23rd May, 2014.

Please email your abstracts or queries to: conference@womensarchivewales.org

It should be noted that the Women's Archive of Wales is a charity and members work voluntarily. Our money is drawn from members' subscriptions and donations only, and for this reason we cannot usually offer expenses. In exceptional cases, and in order to promote contributions from students, a small contingency fund has been set aside. Please notify us as soon as possible should you wish to be considered for this.

Further details on: www.womensarchivewales.org

Guided Walks with Lucienne Boyce

From Women's War to World War: Bristol Suffragettes Guided Walk - 17 May 2014, Bristol Festival of Ideas

In Bristol 1913, the suffragettes declared war on the government that refused to give women the vote. At the outbreak of the First World War, militancy was at its height. In this walk, we will be asking: how did the suffragettes respond to the war? And how far did their suffragette experiences prepare them for their war-time activities?

Price £7/£6 to include refreshments on arrival. Bookings via Watershed. To book contact Watershed, Bristol on 0117 927 5100 or visit in person, or book on line via the Watershed website <http://www.watershed.co.uk/whatson/4745/lucienne-boyce-bristol-suffragettes-walk/>. Further details also available on the Bristol Festival of Ideas website.

A Walk with the Bristol Suffragettes - 11 May 2014, Bristol Walking Festival

A guided walk as part of the Bristol Walking Festival. The walk starts at 10 am outside the Students' Union Building on Queen's Road and lasts approximately one and a half hours. Cost £5 per person. To book email me at lucienne@lucienneboyce.com If you have any queries, you can email me at the same address. You can download the full festival programme at the Bristol Walking Festival website <http://www.bristol.gov.uk/page/transport-and-streets/bristol-walking-festival>

Foyles' Walk - A Walk with the Bristol Suffragettes - 1 June 2014, 11.30 am

What happened when Winston Churchill came to Bristol? Who accosted King George on Park Street? And why was the suffragette shop on Queen's Road attacked? Join me for a walk with the Bristol Suffragettes to hear about some of the most dramatic incidents of Bristol's militant suffrage campaign. The walk will start at Foyles Bookshop at 6 Quakers Friars, Cabot

Circus, BS1 3BU on Sunday 1 June 2014 at 11.30 am and end at Foyles approximately 1.5 hours later, with the option of a Q and A session. Cost £4 per person payable in advance. Booking essential. To book email lucienne@lucienneboyce.com Find out more about Foyles Bristol <http://www.foyles.co.uk/bookstore-bristol>

For further information about these walks (and other events) contact Lucienne via her website at <http://www.lucienneboyce.com/diary.html>

DAY SCHOOL: WOMEN'S WORLDS AND WOMEN'S WORK
Organised jointly by Llafur: the Welsh People's History Society and Archif
Menywod Cymru/Women's Archive of Wales

Saturday 17 May 2014 Bloomfield Centre, Narberth, Pembs. SA67 7ES
10.00 - 4.00

Professor Deirdre Beddoe, Jenny Sabine & Catrin Edwards: VOICES FROM THE FACTORY FLOOR: a presentation on the Women's Archive of Wales's on-going

Katherine Holden: Nanny Knows Best: History of the British Nanny.

Penny Jones: introducing extracts from her film 'Lavender Lady'.

Rosemary Scadden: Voices from Domestic Service.

Beth Jenkins: The Professional or the Patriot? Women, Agency and the Professions in Wales during World War I.

For further information about the study day contact **Siân Williams, South Wales Miners' Library, Hendrefoelan Campus, Gower Road, Sketty, Swansea, SA2 7NB Tel: 01792 518603 Email: miners@swansea.ac.uk**

Please book by Friday 9th May

Past Study Days

Study Day: Women in Bristol, 1400-2000: Making the City

On Saturday 7 December 2013, the network's study day at University of the West of England, Bristol, took the form of progress reports on sections being written for a new book on women in Bristol.

The first paper was given by Peter Fleming on 'Women in Pre Reformation Bristol'. Medieval Bristol was one of the largest urban areas in the country, and the second port to London. Its thriving economy generated copious records but most present challenges when researching the role of women. Peter described the sources he had used and how that evidence, and its interpretation, enabled him to create a picture of women in Bristol at the time. Inevitably elite women and widows are particularly visible as they had a greater degree of independence, power and responsibility than others. Nonetheless occasional clues revealed relationships with domestic servants and apprentices, and showed how women had an important part to play in the local economy of trading and cloth production.

'Women in Bristol in the Long eighteenth century' were the subject of Madge Dresser's paper. Bristol continued to be a growing mercantile city, and only lost its position as second city in the country in the second half of the 18th century when Liverpool and Birmingham expanded rapidly. Women, especially widows, as property holders and investors were important

members of the community, and increasingly came from 'middling classes' of professionals and manufacturers. Again the availability of sources is a key factor in understanding women's roles, and the arrival of local newspapers and trade directories added to the evidence for an increasing variety of activities being undertaken by women, such as newspaper proprietors, entertainers and dentists.

Thirdly, June Hannam and Moira Martin are working on 'Women and social action in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries: voluntary work and municipal politics'. By this time many more 'ordinary' women were socially and politically active, having achieved a municipal vote in 1918, something not usually noticed in all the attention given to the campaign for the parliamentary franchise. Numerous organisations in Bristol provided opportunities for women to lead lives of 'service' and 'citizenship', both along and across political and religious divisions. Detailed evidence is now available for analysing the contributions of individual women in a wide range of activities.

This event was well-attended, and the papers generated lively discussion. Sadly this will be the last time the network will meet at the St Matthias campus; after many years, numerous study days and a number of successful conferences. UWE is consolidating its facilities at Frenchay and Bower Ashton, and St Matthias will close in the summer. *Jane Howells*

Emotion and the Researcher Workshop

On Saturday 25th January, the Women's History Network (West of England and South Wales) co-hosted an interdisciplinary workshop on 'Emotion and the Researcher' with the Families, Identities and Gender Research Network at Cardiff University. The aim of the workshop was to explore the role of emotion in the research process across a range of disciplines, and in different research contexts. The event featured historians, social scientists, literature scholars, geographers, and physiotherapists, and provided an opportunity to reflect on the difficulties (and rewards) of mediating emotion through personal relations, texts, and sources; the researcher's responsibility (or not) to acknowledge emotion in her writings; and the social and political implications of 'emotion work'. Lively discussions followed all papers, including consideration of many questions relevant to historians of different topics, such as whether the adoption of "neutral" language in research reinforces existing power-relations, and the responsibilities of researchers to their subjects (living or dead). The workshop was attended by 25-30 people, including many historians from outside the regional branch of the WHN. There was a follow-up workshop on Saturday 29th March 2014. *Tracey Loughran*

BURSARIES & SMALL GRANTS: FINANCE FROM THE REGIONAL NETWORK The network offers a **bursary** of up to £500 to any **postgraduate student** writing a dissertation or thesis in women's or gender history. **Closing date for 2014 is 24th May** Research **grants** of up to £100 are available towards expenses that lead to a paper or publication on any aspect of women's history. Please note: **independent researchers** as well as **registered students** are eligible to apply. Applications will be considered through the year. There is no closing date but we advise you to apply as early as you can.

For both schemes please contact June Hannam, june.hannam@uwe.ac.uk

NEWSLETTER: *Please send contributions and suggestions to Jane Howells, 7 St Marks Rd, Salisbury SP1 3AY jane@sarum-editorial.co.uk*

MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES: *elaine.titcombe@hotmail.co.uk*