

West of England and South Wales

Women's History Network

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2019

Co - Chairs: Kath Holden and June Hannam **Membership Secretary:** Elaine Titcombe
Treasurer: June Hannam **Publicity:** Lucienne Boyce **Newsletter editor:** Jane Howells
Committee: Katrina Gass, Karen Hunt, Diana Russell

West of England and South Women's History Network 26th Annual Conference

Saturday 29th June 2019, 10am – 5pm

Abergavenny Community Centre, The Old School, Park Street, Abergavenny, NP7 5YB

Histories of Women in Agriculture and Rural Life



Keynote Speaker: Professor Nicola Verdon, author of *Rural Women Workers in 19th century England*, will give an overview of work in this area with special reference to women and agriculture in the First World War.

CALL FOR PAPERS

We invite papers on any aspect of the history of women in agriculture and rural life.

Topics could include:

- Farming
- The Women's Land Army
- Industrial employment in rural communities
- Family Life
- Allotments
- Women's Institute
- Protest
- Women farmers and agricultural workers

Paper proposals of not more than 300 words should be sent to Katrina Gass, katrinagass@yahoo.co.uk by **Friday 8th March 2019**.

TOUR OF BRISTOL ARCHIVES

Following a very successful tour to the archive in 2018 a second opportunity to attend is currently being organised. This will take place during February or March – date to be confirmed. If you would be interested in attending and learning more about the women's history resources available please contact Lucienne Boyce, lucboyce@blueyonder.co.uk, to discuss dates of availability. The tour costs £60 for a group of 8 people, which equates to £7.50 each.

PRESS RELEASE – JANUARY 2019

Extraordinary Women in Bath - Exhibition

Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution, 16 Queen Square, Bath BA1 2HN, www.brsi.org

'Extraordinary Women in Bath' is an exhibition that opened at Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution (BRLSI) on 5 January 2019.

EXHIBITION EXTENDED UNTIL MARCH 2ND

- **Notable women were historically connected to Bath**

This exhibition features real women, with real lives and real stories, who have had a connection to Bath over a millennium.

So often women have played important but overlooked roles as educators, reformers, writers, artists, traders, and community builders – both in Bath and the wider world. No longer silent and invisible ghosts in our history, these women reveal themselves and their contributions.

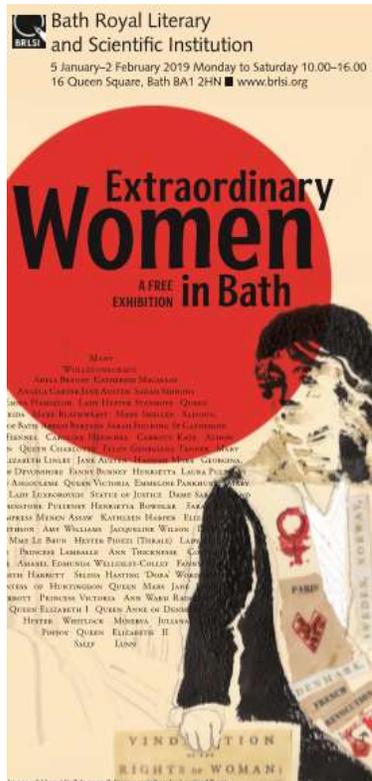
Around the historic city of Bath there are few plaques commemorating women. Only eleven out of eighty placed by Bath Heritage recognise women and their achievements. This is not unusual. Across the UK only 2.7% of statues are of actual, historical, non-royal women – and most are of Queen Victoria. This small selection of pioneers honours the legacy of all women, especially those lost to the historical record with their stories untold.

- **The exhibition will also feature other aspects of women's activities linked to Bath:**

- Books from the historic library of BRLSI written by women over the last 250 years, for example 'A Word in Favour of Female Schools' by Frances Broadhurst (1826/27)

- Women who contributed to the development of BRLSI over two centuries, including some who donated items to the collection. For example, pages from a herbarium donated to BRLSI in 1825 by Miss Lucy Sarah Atkins, which formed the core of the Institution's botanical collections.

• **Artworks by Louisa Albani**



In the gallery will be artworks by artist Louisa Albani, inspired by two notable women who spent time in Bath. Mary Wollestonecraft wrote *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* one hundred years before the Suffragettes took up the cause of equal rights for women; 35 years after her mother's departure her daughter, Mary Shelley, arrived and wrote much of her innovative novel *Frankenstein* here. These women left a legacy of progressive ideas, philosophies and stories, part of a historical powerhouse of women writers whose literary works still resonate. Louisa Albani's work engages audiences in a new and fresh way, bringing their words to life again through creativity.

For more information please contact:
 Jude Harris jude.harris1@btinternet.com
 Mobile 07866277309

Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution¹
 16 Queen Square
 Bath BA1 2HN
 01225 312084 brlsi.org.uk

REGIONAL NEWS

A BLUE PLAQUE FOR BRISTOL'S PIONEERING SUFFRAGE CAMPAIGNERS

The weather was awful but that didn't deter us and in true suffrage spirit over thirty people braved a bitterly cold and wet day for the installation of a Blue Plaque to commemorate the Bristol and West of England Society for Women's Suffrage on Saturday 15 December 2018.



The Bristol and West of England Society for Women's Suffrage was set up when Florence Davenport Hill (1828/9–1919) invited a group of like-minded individuals to a meeting at her home at 3 West Mall (formerly 3 The Mall), Clifton, Bristol on 24 January 1868. The society joined the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (NUWSS) in 1896, and continued campaigning until all women won the vote in 1928. Mrs Millicent Garrett

¹ The Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution (BRLSI) is an educational charity based in the centre of Bath. The Institution runs a programme of more than 150 public lectures each year of topics including science, philosophy, art and literature. It also maintains collections of minerals, fossils and other items, as well as a library of rare books. The BRLSI's Jenyns Room is one of Bath's leading gallery spaces with a year-round programme of art and museum exhibitions.

Fawcett, the leader of the NUWSS, was honoured by a statue in Parliament Square earlier this year.



One hundred years after women voted in British Parliamentary elections for the first time, Bristol MP Thangam Debbonaire was guest of honour at the installation of a Blue Plaque at 3 West Mall, Clifton.

The event had a lovely surprise ending when Professor Bhupinder Sandhu and Richard Whitburn invited a group of extremely wet and bedraggled people into their home for coffee and cake. Their hospitality was most welcome, and we were all extremely grateful to them.

The Blue Plaque has been made possible with funding obtained for the Votes for Women 100 Project from the Barry Amiel and Norman Melburn Trust, the Regional History Centre at the University of the West of England, and the Government Equalities Office in a bid led by Bristol Women's Voice, together with a crowdfunding campaign and private donations. Votes for Women 100 was organised by a partnership of M Shed, the West of England and South Wales Women's History Network, the University of Bristol, the University of the West of England, Bristol Libraries, and the Diversity Trust.



The event had a lovely surprise ending when Professor Bhupinder Sandhu and Richard Whitburn invited a group of extremely wet and bedraggled people into their home for coffee and cake. Their hospitality was most welcome, and we were all extremely grateful to them.

*Lucienne Boyce
January 2019²*

Do tell us about other blue plaques (planned or unveiled) dedicated to women in the region

VOTE 100

Exhibition Feedback

From August to September 2018 an exhibition, with a display of original books, pamphlets, and postcards on Women's Suffrage in Bristol was held at Bristol Reference Library. The feedback received was overwhelmingly positive, and a few of these comments can be seen in the extract below:



² Picture Credits: Plaque – Gordon Young

Florence Davenport Hill – Bristol Reference Library

Thangam Debbonaire MP; Lucienne Boyce, WESWWHN; Lori Streich, Blue Plaques Committee – Gordon Young

- 16/8 A very informative & beautifully display with lovely photos & interesting vintage books, great selection of Postcards, poetry & letters, I really thank you... looking forward to Hiki.V.
- 17/8 A superb exhibition which the appetite. We will be back. Excellent timeline and use sources.
- 17/8 So pleased we saw this exhibition in Redland Library. It is fascinating would be brilliant if it could tour Bishop Libraries.
- 18/8 A fantastic exhibition, very informative, display is a great reminder of why we were created. Why do we not protest
- 20/8 A very good exposition of suffragette France.

Hidden Heroines / Merched Mawreddog

Which Hidden Heroine do you think should be the first real woman to be immortalised as an outdoor public statue in Wales?



Background

Two years ago, a group of women came together to address a huge gap in Welsh culture – the fact that there isn't a single statue of a real Welsh woman anywhere in an outdoor space in Wales.

They created a task force called Monumental Welsh Women and in May 2018 – with the help of the Women's Equality Network (WEN) Wales - drew up a list of 50 historical Welsh women who epitomised and illustrated the achievements, talents and successes of Welsh women over the years. From this list of 50, a panel of experts chose five women to be put forward for the

public to vote for their Hidden Heroine – who will be immortalised as the first outdoor public statue of a real Welsh woman in Wales?

The shortlisted women were:

1. Elizabeth Andrews, 1882 – 1960
2. Betty Campbell, 1935 – 2017
3. Cranogwen (Sarah Jane Rees), 1839 – 1916
4. Elaine Morgan, 1920 – 2013
5. Lady Rhondda (Margaret Haig Thomas), 1883 - 1958

The profiles of the five shortlisted women featured across BBC Cymru Wales programmes and services from Monday January 6th to Friday January 11th.³

BREAKING NEWS: The public vote has now closed.
The winner has been confirmed as
BETTY CAMPBELL.



A campaign is now underway for statues for the other four remarkable women!

For further information and profiles of all five of the shortlisted women visit: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/1YBm76ymQspSp1xkRwLyxdl/hidden-heroines-merched-mawreddog> . Other information can also be found in various online articles such as <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-46508394> or <https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/wales-hidden-heroines-vote-now-15637009>

ARCHIVE NEWS

Women's Royal Voluntary Service, Archive & Heritage Collection



From 1 October 2018, members of the public have been able to visit the Archive & Heritage Collection in Devizes, Wiltshire. The collection is open by appointment (one month in advance) on the first Tuesday and Wednesday of each month between 10am and 4pm (closed for lunch between 1pm and 2pm).

If you are a researcher and are interested in visiting the Archive & Heritage Collection, or if you have any questions please use the contact link via the archive website:

<https://www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk/about-us/our-history/archive-and-heritage-collection/visiting-the-archive-and-heritage-collection>

³ All text quoted from BBC promotional material, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/1YBm76ymQspSp1xkRwLyxdl/hidden-heroines-merched-mawreddog>

WOMEN'S HISTORY in print

BRILL publications

Call for Papers – Love Letters

What is and who does a love letter? Are there any essential elements, or do the defining characteristics of amorous correspondence change from generation to generation, and from one culture to another? Is a song, the words of which adopt the conventions of epistolary communication, a letter? Or a love poem in an envelope? Or a greeting card?

At a 2016 conference in Oxford, academics and non-academics explored these ideas within an inter-disciplinary context. We are now interested in taking these questions further with a publication (Brill). In the aim of further enriching this dialogue, we invite papers from any discipline or time period that challenges this once popular epistolary genre. This might include but is not restricted to:

Love poems in letters

Love letters in fiction, biography, opera, music, film, art

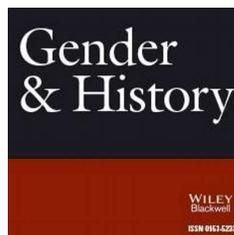
Involving LGBT and Queer partners

Love letters sent from or to prison, POW camps, or asylums

Online love letters

The future of the love letter

Please send expressions of interest and 300 word (max) proposals to ternetwork@hotmail.com and sur.bluetunes@gmail.com by **January 31, 2019**.



Gender & History Special Issue

Call for Papers: 'Gender and Reproduction'

“This Special Issue intends to explore the links between reproduction and gender, and the ways in which these links have been assumed, negotiated, and/or challenged over space and time. The intention is to recognise, and go beyond, traditional heteronormative frameworks, considering the extent to which understandings and experiences of sex, sexuality and gender identity also shaped discourses and experiences of gender and reproduction.”

The deadline for abstracts of proposed papers is **March 29, 2019** at 5pm GMT.

For more information visit: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/14680424>

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

- **Raphael Samuel Memorial Lecture 2019**

Yasmin Khan: 'Women on the frontline of empire: a feminist history of the Second World War'

Thursday 7th March 2019, 6.00 – 7.30pm (Wine reception to follow)

Imperial soldiers played a significant and increasingly well acknowledged part in the Second World War, but what about the women of the British empire? What stories might global and feminist histories of the Second World War reveal? Along the thoroughfares of empire, from Aden to Calcutta and Hong Kong, women's lives were transformed by the pressures of the global war. This lecture will consider some of the most marginal and forgotten voices in British Second World War history.

Yasmin Khan is an Associate Professor of British History at the University of Oxford. She has published on the decolonization of South Asia including refugees, war and the Partition of 1947, most recently *The Raj at War* (Bodley Head, 2015). In 2018 she presented a short series, *A Passage to Britain*, on BBC2.

Venue: Arts 2 Lecture Theatre, Queen Mary University of London, Mile End Road, London E1 4NS. To locate the venue, please click on this campus map: www.qmul.ac.uk/docs/about/26065.pdf

Free of charge, but please reserve your place via [Eventbrite](http://www.rsmemoriallecture2019.eventbrite.co.uk) (www.rsmemoriallecture2019.eventbrite.co.uk)

For further information please contact Katy Pettit, Administrator, Raphael Samuel History Centre. @RSHistoryCentre [facebook.com/RaphaelSamuelHistory](https://www.facebook.com/RaphaelSamuelHistory)

- **Commemoration, Conflict and Conscience**

This is a year-long project which culminates in a national festival in Bristol **27-28 April 2019**. The project looks at 'hidden' or lesser known stories of the First World War, legacy, peace-building and alienation from commemoration. The festival will bring together community groups, local historians, academics, campaigners and activists, artists and performers in a free, open access weekend event, timed to coincide with the centenary of the release of many absolutist conscientious objectors from prison in April 1919. The MShed in Bristol will be the festival hub, with talks, film showings, exhibitions and performances, but linked events will take place in other parts of the city both over the weekend and leading up and following it. Regional workshops have been taking place around the country for people to share ideas and generate new projects for future research. Further details can be found at <https://everydaylivesinwar.herts.ac.uk/ccf/>

- **British Association for Local History: Local History Day**

1st June 2019, Conway Hall, London.

In recognition of the centenary of the Representation of the People Act 1918, which gave the vote to some (but not all) women, Professor Krista Cowman, University of Lincoln, will give

the morning presentation on the extension of the suffrage. This has been marked in many ways around the country and there have been numerous local research projects on the subject.

The 2019 BALH Annual Lecture will be given by Dr Rose Wallis from the University of the West of England. Her title is **'Rulers of the county': the magistracy and the challenge of local government, c.1790-1834**. Dr Wallis is Associate Director of the Regional History Centre at UWE and was the academic consultant for the newly re-opened Shire Hall in Dorchester which is now an historic courthouse museum.

In addition, the programme includes the presentation of certificates for the three categories of BALH Awards for Local History. These are to encourage research and publication, to recognise individual personal achievement, and for a society newsletter. In the middle of the day we hold the BALH Annual General Meeting, when members can contribute to the organisation and development of the Association.

There will be bookstalls and society displays to browse during the lunch break.

Further details will be available on www.balh.org.uk/events

Museum Crush



Sign up (free) for regular digest emails from the Museum Crush website. There is a section on Women's History that draws attention to current and imminent relevant exhibitions and events, all around the country. <https://museumcrush.org/category/history/womens-history/>

Our Website

www.weswwomenshistorynetwork.co.uk

Here you will find all the current and historic information about the network, including programmes and abstracts from previous conferences, papers from study days, links to other relevant organisations and much more. It will continue to develop as a valuable resource for members and friends. It's the first place to go for details about all our forthcoming events! Contributions are welcomed; please contact Kath Holden in the first instance katherineuna.holden@gmail.com

Twitter

The West of England and South Wales Women's History Network now has its own **Twitter** account so you can keep up to date with events, resources and member news. It's at [@WHNWestSWales](https://twitter.com/WHNWestSWales) and if you're on Twitter do follow and retweet.

Your ideas wanted!

The regional network exists for its members. Do let us know if you have any particular interests for topics and /or suggestions of potential contributors (and venues) for Study Days, or any alternative ideas for different events or activities.

Subscriptions

Membership subscriptions are the regional network's income. Please make sure you are paying the correct amount: the rates are £10 full or £5 unwaged/student. Subscriptions are renewable annually on 1 October. It helps us if you can pay by banker's order.

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

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