

West of England and South Wales

Women's History Network

SPECIAL ISSUE NEWSLETTER
MAY 2020

Co - Chairs: Kath Holden and June Hannam **Membership Secretary:** Elaine Titcombe
Treasurer: June Hannam **Publicity:** Lucienne Boyce **Newsletter Editor:** Jane Howells
Committee: Karen Hunt, Diana Russell **Associate Committee Member:** Julia Neville

WELCOME TO A SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER *edited by Elaine Titcombe*

First and foremost, we hope this newsletter finds you, your families, and friends all safe and well. But for any of you touched by these unprecedented events of our lifetime, we send you all our love and best wishes.

*“Hope” is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops - at all -*

*And sweetest - in the Gale - is heard -
And sore must be the storm -
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm -*

*I've heard it in the chilliest land -
And on the strangest Sea -
Yet - never - in Extremity,
It asked a crumb - of me.*

*Emily Dickinson*¹

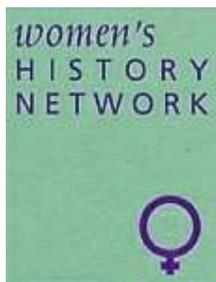


WE & SW WHN 2020 EVENTS

Due to the current social distancing measures in response to the Covid-19 outbreak we will not be running any face to face events throughout the Spring and Summer of 2020. We do however intend to still hold the annual conference in October as planned!

If permitted it will be in Swindon, but if this is not viable, we will hold it as an online event – or it may be a mix of the two formats! The day is shaping up well and we have received some excellent proposals, but in response to the way all our lives have been affected recently, we have decided to extend the call for papers – all details below.

¹ Emily Dickinson, 314 *“Hope” is the thing with feathers* (1861)



West of England and South Wales Women's History Network

27th Annual Conference

Saturday 3rd October 2020, 10am – 5pm

Central Community Centre, Emlyn Square, Swindon, SN1 5BL / Online

Women and Transport: Historical Perspectives

Keynote Speaker: Dr Susan Major will speak on working class women on railway excursions in the early Victorian period, on which she has done extensive research. She is the author of *Early Victorian Railway Excursions* (2015) and *Female Railway Workers in World War II* (2018)



CALL FOR PAPERS

We invite papers on any aspect of the history of women in connection with transport of all modes.

Topics could include (but are not limited to):

- women's employment in transport industries / women running transport businesses
- women innovators in transport technologies
- reactions of women to changes in transport
- the impact of transport on communities and women's lives
- changes to women's leisure and communications

Papers should be addressed to an interested, enthusiastic, and supportive audience, and should be of not more than 20 mins length. Suggestions for presentations in film, or other non-standard formats, will also be considered.

Proposals of not more than 300 words should be sent to Elaine Titcombe via whnwestswales@outlook.com by **Sunday 14th June, 2020**.

More information regarding the WE&SW WHN can be found on our website: <http://weswwomenshistorynetwork.co.uk/> or follow us on Twitter  @WHNWestSWales

Photo: A woman railway worker operating the signals in a siding on the Great Central Railway in Birmingham during 1918. © IWM (Q 28148)

OTHER (ONLINE) EVENTS OF INTEREST

(Note these events are not organised by and are separate from WE&SW WHN)

Though it is not currently feasible to attend events outside of our homes it is now possible to connect to some excellent events online. Here are some we have found that may be of interest...

Working Class Movement Library

Admission free. Light refreshments afterwards ... as long as you boil your own kettle...

- **'Mary Macarthur, the working woman's champion'**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uZKq9J29b4k>

Dr Cathy Hunt's talk was hosted online on Wednesday 8th April, and a recording is now available on the library's YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/user/wcmlibrary>

Cathy subsequently posted on her Twitter feed that *"There were so many interesting comments from folk at the Mary Macarthur talk @wcmlibrary online... I would love to carry on discussions, including those who posted about branch activists of the NFWW. Do please get in touch either by DM or email via [the contact page on] cathyhunthistorian.com"*

- **'The pre-First World War labour unrest and women's suffrage revolt: never the twain shall meet?'**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VP0OKsfJqtk>

Ralph Darlington, Emeritus Professor of Employment Relations from the University of Salford, gave a talk on Wednesday 22nd April.

"This talk highlighted some of the links, often tenuous, that were made between some sections within the suffrage movement and sections of the trade union and socialist movement, drawing conclusions about links between gender and class, and the relationship between labour, suffrage and socialist movements and its implications. The talk was part of the Invisible Histories series."

- **'The legacies of wartime strikes: interwar women trade union leaders in France and Britain'**

Date: **27th May 2020 (new date)**

Event time: 14:00 to 15:00

The aim is to run this talk remotely at the time specified. Keep an eye on the following page for login details nearer the time <https://www.wcml.org.uk/whats-on/events/talk-the-legacies-of-wartime-strikes-interwar-women-trade-union-leaders-in-france-and-britain/>

"Alison Fell's talk will consider the impact of industrial action during the First World War on French and British women workers. It will concentrate in particular on some case studies of working-class women whose initiation into trade unionism during the war led to political careers in the 1920s and 1930s.

Alison is Professor of French Cultural History at the University of Leeds and was chair of the Steering Group for Legacies of War 1914-18/2014-18, a series of research projects and outreach activities with over fifty partners in Yorkshire. The talk is part of the Invisible Histories series."

- **'Betty Tebbs, a radical working class hero'**

Date: 20th May 2020

Event time: 14:00 to 15:00

<https://www.wcml.org.uk/whats-on/events/talk-betty-tebbs-a-radical-working-class-hero/>

"Bury-born Betty Tebbs, who died in January 2017, was a working class socialist, trade unionist, internationalist, equal rights champion, peace activist and class fighter for all of her 98 years. Unite has published a biography by Mark Metcalf of Betty's remarkable life, which drew on taped interviews, correspondence, and other material by and about Betty held in the library. Mark will speak about what about Betty has most inspired him."



(Photo: Betty Tebbs, Working Class Movement Library)

LSE Library

- **'Was Florence Nightingale a Feminist? Reading Cassandra'**

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/library/events/general/was-florence-nightingale-a-feminist-reading-cassandra>

Date: 12th May 2020

Event time: 13:00 to 14:00

Online public event organised by LSE Library and RCN Library.

This event is free and open to all. Dr Sarah Chaney (RCN) and Debbie Challis (LSE Library) will lead.

This event marks the 200th anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth, and Nurses Day, and will explore Cassandra, and other feminist writings of her era.

"Before she became the "lady with the lamp", 32-year-old Florence Nightingale penned a furious essay, transforming her despair about the forced idleness of upper-class Victorian women into a rebellious anger that fuelled her determination to undertake useful work. Written in 1852, just two years before Nightingale went to the Crimea, Cassandra was printed privately in 1860 but not published until 1928 and was republished by a feminist press in 1978. Nightingale herself had an ambiguous reputation within the women's movement as she refused to join the women's suffrage campaign, yet her work and legacy was an inspiration to women who wanted a profession."

Register through Eventbrite.

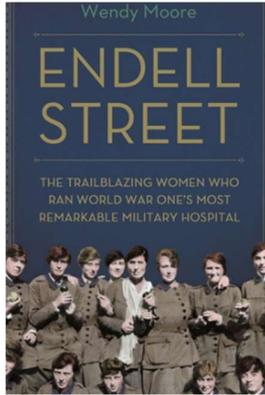
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/was-florence-nightingale-a-feminist-reading-cassandra-a-zoom-event-tickets-98211347785> The event will be on Zoom - an interactive platform for conference calls. Instructions on how to join will be sent to attendees beforehand with a meeting link and passcode for access. For any queries, email library.enquiries@lse.ac.uk

- 'Endell Street: the trailblazing women who ran World War One's most remarkable military hospital'
<http://www.lse.ac.uk/library/events/general/endell-street-the-trailblazing-women-who-ran-world-war-ones-most-remarkable-military-hospital>

Date: 21st May 2020

Event time: 18:30 to 19:30

Online public event co-hosted by LSE Library and Feminist Book Fortnight (@FeministBkFt20).



“Wendy Moore speaks on her new book *Endell Street: The trailblazing women who ran World War One’s most remarkable military hospital*. Endell Street tells the story of the suffragette doctors, Louisa Garrett Anderson and Flora Murray, who set up and ran the Endell Street Military Hospital in the heart of London in World War One.”

A review of this book was published in the Guardian on Friday 17th April:

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2020/apr/17/endell-street-by-wendy-moore-review-the-suffragette-surgeons>

Anne Lister Birthday Weekend



Celebrating the fascinating history of Anne Lister and Ann Walker, brought to light through Sally Wainwright's ground-breaking BBC/HBO series, *Gentleman Jack*, the ALBW programme included a talk by historian Jill Liddington, author of *Female Fortune: Land, Gender and Authority*, the book that inspired the popular TV drama.

Available on YouTube 'Jill Liddington *LIVE from ALBW: The Inspiration of History*'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mgrvXMLajfA>

A talk by Helena Whitbread entitled, 'The Woman Who Lit the Fuse' is also available as part of the same event <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0jLkLnO7r8s>

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

19: Interdisciplinary Studies in the Long Nineteenth Century is delighted to announce that 'George Eliot 1819-2029 in 19' is live at <https://19.bbk.ac.uk>

Responding to last year's bicentenary of the birth of Mary Ann(e) Evans issue 29 of *19* reflects upon her life and work. The essays gathered here look again at a writing life, offering fresh insight into the essayist, editor, poet, novelist – into the extraordinary imagination and thinking one of the Victorian period's most significant writers.

19 is a peer-reviewed journal dedicated to advancing interdisciplinary study in the long nineteenth century. Based at Birkbeck, University of London, *19* extends the activities of the Centre for Nineteenth-Century Studies by making the high-quality, original scholarship presented at its regular conferences, symposia and other events available to an international

audience. 19 publishes two themed issues annually, each consisting of a collection of peer-reviewed articles showcasing the broadest range of new research in nineteenth-century studies, as well as special forums advancing critical debate in the field.

COLLABORATION REQUESTS

Carrie de Silva (cdesilva@harper-adams.ac.uk) has placed a call for assistance:

“Last summer I launched a Women in Street Names Project at a lunchtime talk at the LSE. Not an original idea but most projects to date only take in a single city (London, New York, etc.). I want entries from all over Great Britain and the island of Ireland.

Having done little on the project for some months I thought this might be a good time for people to trawl their memories of current haunts, past homes, holidays and travels for hidden gems. Some will be the well-known - the Pankhursts, Curies and Cavells of this world. Others will be obscure local councillors or whatever who, in their lives and locations, made a huge difference. If they are just single first names, often in a group of streets, they tend to be the families of landowners or property developers, e.g. Saltaire in Bradford has around a dozen streets named for Titus Salt's wife, daughters, daughters-in-law and a granddaughter.

Initial output will be a booklet of entries with brief biographical notes. I also intend to work it up into an academic paper on unconscious bias, culturalization / socialisation, and the possible or actual or perceived impact on how women place themselves with particular regard to the impact on senior career positions.

I don't really want royals unless obscure or pre 16th century and, again, only saints if obscure (there are many thousands of St Anne's, etc. although I do have a penchant for some of the Anglo-Saxon saints). And I think I only want real people - someone sent in Lara Croft Way, Derby and Anna Livia Bridge, Chapelizod, Dublin and I will probably exclude fictional characters (although they have cultural and gender reference, of course, so haven't fully decided).

So far, my favourite entry is Rosie Hackett Bridge, Dublin, named for Irish political activist and trade unionist. The saddest is Lisa Head Way in Huddersfield, named for the first woman bomb disposal officer to be killed on active duty (in 2011).”

In response to this request, the Committee for the WE&SW WHN have decided to expand the scope of this research to include other commemorative sites with links to historical women, particularly those in our region. This could include buildings such as schools or statues (though not churches) or other places of interest. It is hoped this will enable further discussion about who has been commemorated, by whom and how, as well as a consideration of those not represented. We will also submit the street name entries to Carrie for her project.

So if you are out on a safe, social distanced, walk for exercise, please keep an eye open for historical women and email the information (with photo if appropriate) to Kath Holden at katherineuna.holden@gmail.com. We will publicise the results in due course.

Her Salisbury Story is a project looking at the city's heritage through the lives of Salisbury's women, past and present. Spearheaded by members of Soroptimist International of Salisbury, the launch took place on International Women's Day with an exhibition in the Guildhall, an

enthusiastic launching speech from the mayoress, musical entertainment, a quiz, creative writing workshops and guided walks. They have Heritage Lottery funding for training and research which will be developed and put into practice as soon as possible. Look out for the tag @hersalisburystory for further updates.

ONLINE RESEARCH

Good news from @JSTOR...

To better support researchers through the COVID-19 crisis until end of June, independent researchers without institutional access can now read 100 articles per month online for free. Registration is required. Further details can be found at <https://support.jstor.org/hc/en-us/articles/115004760028-How-to-register-get-free-access-to-content>

The National Archives - Free access to digital records

For as long as the Kew site is closed to visitors, users who register will be able to order and download up to 10 items at a time, to a maximum of 50 items over 30 days. The limits are there to try and help manage the demand for content and ensure the availability of digital services for everyone.

To access this visit <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/news/digital-downloads/>

The British Association for Local History publishes the quarterly journal *The Local Historian*, and magazine *Local History News*. Under normal circumstances only members of BALH can see the latest three years of *TLH*, but for the duration of the lockdown both publications are freely available on their website <https://www.balh.org.uk/>

Over the years many fascinating and relevant articles have been published in *TLH*; for example as long ago as 1986 (*TLH* 17.3) Angela V John wrote about 'What to read on modern British women's history', defined as 'one of the fastest expanding areas of historical research'. Wonderful to read after nearly 35 years! The Association would be happy to hear from readers willing to write 100 words or so on why an article from *TLH* remains important to them.

In the latest issue of *TLH*, there is an article that members might find interesting by Rachel Campbell, 'Opinion: the hidden women of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society (1822 – 1850) - developing a public understanding of women's history'. In this article she considers the creation of exhibitions and writes, 'Museums are keen to develop exhibitions which reflect a broader range of histories. In 2018 the Bath Royal Literary and Scientific institution (BRLSI) found that only 11 of the 80 blue plaques across the city were dedicated to women.' (*TLH* 50:2)

Lucienne Boyce has also recently written a review article about books on the local history of women and suffrage, <https://www.balh.org.uk/publication-tlh-the-local-historian-volume-50-number-1-january-2020>

And in the current issue of *LHN*, Jo Mattingly writes about the spring conference of the Cornwall Association of Local Historians, at the beginning of March, one of the last events to take place with people gathering together in person. The topic was 'Clothing in Cornwall – Vanity and Utility' <https://www.balh.org.uk/localhistorynews>

NEW ORAL HISTORIES



<http://greenhamwomeneverywhere.co.uk/oral-testimonies/>

Greenham Women Everywhere have interviewed almost 100 Greenham Women and over the next few months, on the last Wednesday of every month, they will be gradually sharing these testimonies on their website. The first 10 are now available.

BLOGS

Accosting MPs and royalty on the trains...in Lucienne Boyce's latest blog explore the way suffragettes used the railway network to further their votes for women campaign.



Part 1: Cheap and easy railway traffic”: Suffragettes and the Railways

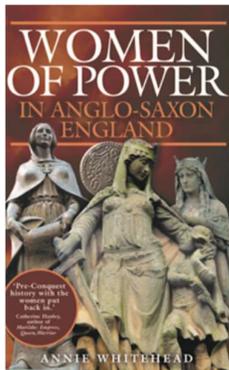
<https://francesca-scriblerus.blogspot.com/2020/04/cheap-and-easy-railway-traffic.html>

Part 2: The Battle to Free Mrs Pankhurst

https://francesca-scriblerus.blogspot.com/2020/04/cheap-and-easy-railway-traffic_14.html

Part 3: Arson on the Railways

https://francesca-scriblerus.blogspot.com/2020/04/cheap-and-easy-railway-traffic_17.html



The Writing Desk Annie Whitehead blogs as a special guest to Tony Riches about her up-coming book *Women of Power in Anglo-Saxon England*.

<https://tonyriches.blogspot.com/2020/04/special-guest-post-by-annie-whitehead.html>

“The book features over 130 women, almost a whole alphabet of names, this blog selects 7 randomly, by using the book title and making a sort of acrostic.”

Annie also talks about her historical fiction on her blog. The latest blog is entitled ‘The ‘Evil’ Women of Mercia...’ <https://anniewhitehead2.blogspot.com/2020/04/the-evil-women-of-merciam.html>



National Trust

“Dig into the history behind some of your favourite gardens and the women who shaped them” in ‘Great Women Gardeners’ by Jacq Barber. Looking at some of the pioneers over the past 170 years, from aristocratic women who, as garden owners, orchestrated their personal visions, to others from a variety of backgrounds who became garden designers in their own right:

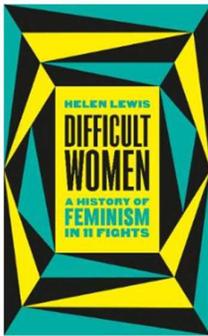
https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/great-women-gardeners?campid=Social_Central_Spring_Twitter_Women-Gardeners-030520

NEW PUBLICATIONS

The titles chosen for this edition are those published during the first quarter of 2020, several are available from High Street retailers that are still operating online. The synopses reproduced below are those published by either the Publishing House or the retailer. If you have a copy of any of the books listed, or any other recently published text that considers any aspect of women's history, and would like to provide a reader review for our members in the next newsletter, please submit your proposal to us by emailing WHNWESTSWALES@outlook.com

Difficult Women: A History of Feminism in 11 Fights, by Helen Lewis

Publisher: Vintage Publishing
ISBN: 9781787331280



Waterstones Synopsis

“Helen Lewis argues that feminism's success is down to complicated, contradictory, imperfect women, who fought each other as well as fighting for equal rights. Too many of these pioneers have been whitewashed or forgotten in our modern search for feel-good, inspirational heroines.

It's time to reclaim the history of feminism as a history of difficult women. In this book, you'll meet the working-class suffragettes who advocated bombings and arson; the princess who discovered why so many women were having bad sex; the pioneer of the refuge movement who became a men's rights activist; the 'striker in a sari' who terrified Margaret Thatcher; the wronged Victorian wife who definitely wasn't sleeping with the prime minister; and the lesbian politician who outraged the country.

Taking the story up to the present with the twenty-first-century campaign for abortion services, Helen Lewis reveals the unvarnished - and unfinished - history of women's rights. Drawing on archival research and interviews, *Difficult Women* is a funny, fearless and sometimes shocking narrative history, which shows why the feminist movement has succeeded - and what it should do next. The battle is difficult, and we must be difficult too.”

[Source: Waterstones <https://www.waterstones.com/book/difficult-women/helen-lewis/9781787331280>]

Topping & Company Booksellers, The Paragon, Bath, BA1 5LS will be holding a book launch for this title on Monday 12th October 2020 at 7:45pm. For further details and bookings visit: <https://www.toppingbooks.co.uk/events/bath/helen-lewis-on-difficult-women-a-history-of-feminism-in-11-fights/>

Double Lives: A History of Working Motherhood, by Dr Helen McCarthy

Publisher: Bloomsbury Publishing
ISBN: 9781408870730

Waterstones Synopsis

“A ground-breaking history of mothers who worked for pay that will change the way we think about gender, work and equality in modern Britain.

In Britain today, three-quarters of mothers are in employment and paid work is an unremarkable feature of women's lives after childbirth. Yet a



century ago, working mothers were in the minority, excluded altogether from many occupations, whilst their wage-earning was widely perceived as a social ill.

In *Double Lives*, Helen McCarthy accounts for this remarkable transformation, whose consequences have been momentous for Britain's society and economy. Drawing upon a wealth of sources, McCarthy ranges from the smoking chimney stacks of nineteenth-century Manchester to the shimmering skyscrapers of present-day Canary Wharf. She recovers the everyday worlds of working mothers and traces how women's desires for financial independence and lives beyond home and family were slowly recognised.

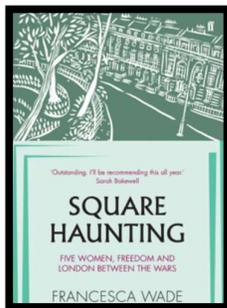
McCarthy reveals the deep and complicated past of a phenomenon so often assumed to be a product of contemporary lifestyles and aspirations. This ground-breaking history forces us not only to re-evaluate the past, but to ask anew how current attitudes towards mothers in the workplace have developed and how far we have yet to go. Through vivid and powerful storytelling, *Double Lives* offers a social and cultural history for our times.”

[Source: Waterstones <https://www.waterstones.com/book/double-lives/helen-mccarthy/9781408870730>]

A further review is available from <https://www.theartsdesk.com/books/helen-mccarthy-double-lives-history-working-motherhood-review---doing-it-themselves>

Square Haunting: Five Women, Freedom and London Between the Wars, by Francesca Wade

Publisher: Faber & Faber
ISBN: 9780571330652



Faber & Faber Synopsis

“Mecklenburgh Square, on the radical fringes of interwar Bloomsbury, was home to activists, experimenters and revolutionaries; among them were the modernist poet H. D., detective novelist Dorothy L. Sayers, classicist Jane Harrison, economic historian Eileen Power, and writer and publisher Virginia Woolf. They each alighted there seeking a space where they could live, love and, above all, work independently.

Francesca Wade’s spellbinding group biography explores how these trailblazing women pushed the boundaries of literature, scholarship, and social norms, forging careers that would have been impossible without these rooms of their own.”

[Source: Faber & Faber <https://www.faber.co.uk/9780571330652-square-haunting.html>]

OUT NOW

Angela Carter's 'Provincial Bohemia' The counterculture in 1960s and 1970s Bristol and Bath, by Stephen E. Hunt

Publisher: Bristol Radical Pamphlet No.47
ISBN: 9781911522522

Cover Synopsis

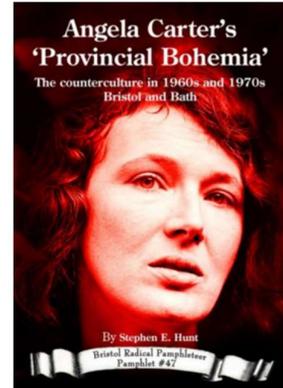
“Socialist and feminist novelist Angela Carter is one of the most acclaimed late-twentieth-century English writers, famous for short-story collections such as *The Bloody Chamber* and novels including *Nights at the Circus* and *Wise Children*.

Angela Carter's 'Provincial Bohemia' takes Carter's life and work in Bristol (1961-1969) and Bath (1973-1976) as a starting point to explore the artistic, radical and experimental communities that flourished at that time. Newly recorded interviews and other primary sources reveal the experiences that may have shaped Carter's outlook during her formative years as a writer.

Along the way, Stephen E. Hunt looks at the character and impact of the West Country's counterculture: a journey that takes us through the folk and rock scene, CND and the Vietnam war, the 1968 student occupations, radical media, the women's liberation movement, the Bath Arts Workshop, performance art, community technology and more.

There are even a couple of Angela Carter jokes..."

To purchase a copy visit <https://www.brh.org.uk/site/pamphleteer/angela-carters-provincial-bohemia/>



As a compliment to this new publication why not also take the opportunity to watch the production of *Wise Children* by Emma Rice, now available to view on BBC iplayer until June 2020.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p0892kf6/wise-children>

And still on a literary note, it is perhaps worth mentioning that the National Theatre has been showing past productions weekly online, including Sally Cookson's excellent production of Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*.



Streaming from 7pm on Thursday 30th April until 8th May will be Academy Award winner Danny Boyle's direction of Benedict Cumberbatch and Jonny Lee Miller as Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* and his creation. To find out more visit

<https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/shows/nt-at-home-frankenstein>.

There are also short talks available on their YouTube channel, such as *Mary Shelley: A Biography* featuring writer Philip Hoare and biographer, Daisy Hay.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E4p96vqI3zA&list=PLJgBmjHpqgs5ipC8HNDSoodtt_s0JtGL

Other organisations such as Shakespeare’s Globe and are also screening past productions on YouTube, and the RSC in collaboration with ‘BBC Culture in Quarantine’ is set to broadcast six best-loved Shakespeare titles between now and September.

COMING SOON

Women art workers and the Arts and Crafts movement By Zoë Thomas

Publisher: Manchester University Press
ISBN: 9781526140456



Manchester University Press Synopsis

“This book constitutes the first comprehensive history of the network of women who worked at the heart of the English Arts and Crafts movement from the 1870s to the 1930s. Challenging the long-standing assumption that the Arts and Crafts simply revolved around celebrated male designers like William Morris, it instead offers a new social and cultural account of the movement, which simultaneously reveals the breadth of the imprint of women art workers upon the making of modern society. Thomas provides unprecedented insight into how women navigated authoritative roles as ‘art workers’ by asserting expertise across a range of interconnected cultures: from the artistic to the professional, intellectual, entrepreneurial and domestic. Through examination of newly discovered institutional archives and private papers, Thomas elucidates the critical importance of the spaces around which women conceptualised alternative creative and professional lifestyles.”

If this subject is of interest, Zoe Thomas has also published an open access article, ‘Between Art and Commerce: Women, Business Ownership, and the Arts and Crafts Movement’ in *Past & Present*, Volume 247, Issue 1, May 2020. Pages 151–196.

<https://doi.org/10.1093/pastj/gtz071>

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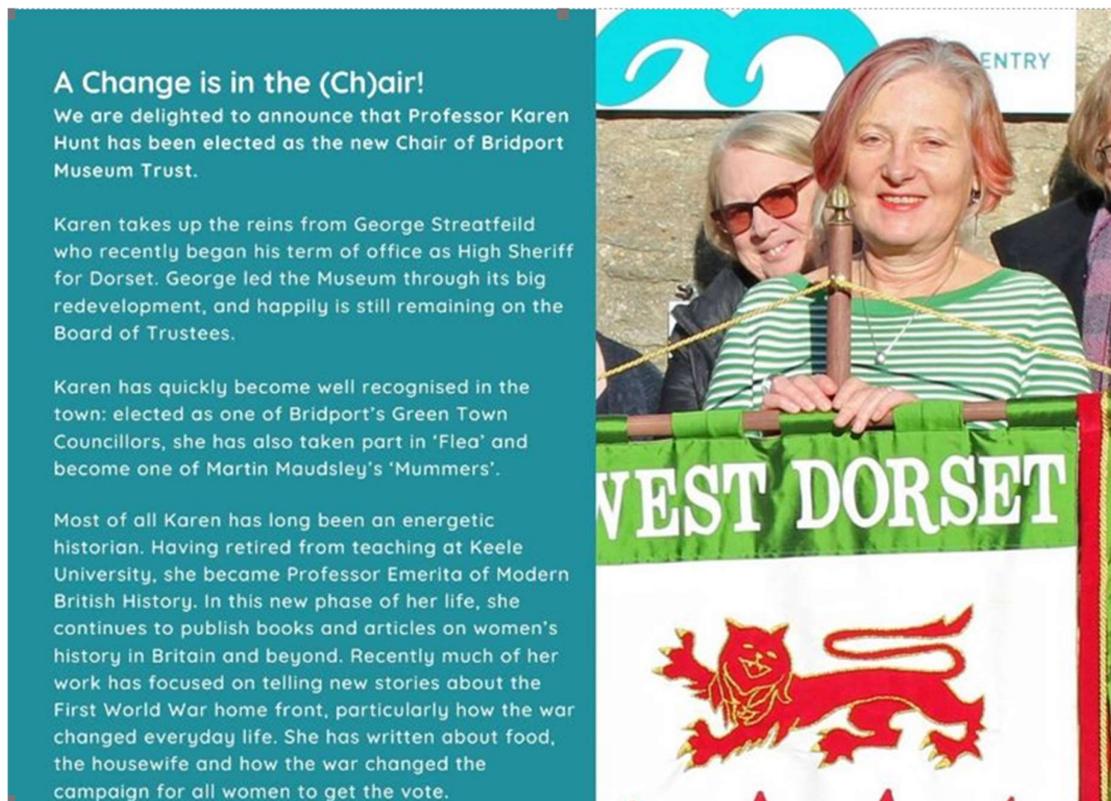
Only **£14.99** for selected eBooks and Softcovers in May.

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<https://www.palgrave.com/gb/shop/textbook-sale>

OTHER NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS, to Karen Hunt who has been elected as the new Chair of Bridport Museum Trust!



A Change is in the (Ch)air!
We are delighted to announce that Professor Karen Hunt has been elected as the new Chair of Bridport Museum Trust.

Karen takes up the reins from George Streetfeild who recently began his term of office as High Sheriff for Dorset. George led the Museum through its big redevelopment, and happily is still remaining on the Board of Trustees.

Karen has quickly become well recognised in the town: elected as one of Bridport's Green Town Councillors, she has also taken part in 'Flea' and become one of Martin Maudsley's 'Mummers'.

Most of all Karen has long been an energetic historian. Having retired from teaching at Keele University, she became Professor Emerita of Modern British History. In this new phase of her life, she continues to publish books and articles on women's history in Britain and beyond. Recently much of her work has focused on telling new stories about the First World War home front, particularly how the war changed everyday life. She has written about food, the housewife and how the war changed the campaign for all women to get the vote.

To read more visit <http://www.bridportmuseum.co.uk/blog/view/?v=a-change-is-in-the-chair>

And, once we return to a more normal way of life, do look in on the **Bridport Women's History Group** if you can. Details of events at: <https://bridportandwestbay.co.uk/events/bridport-womens-history-group/>

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 is 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 is at @WHNWestSWales and if you are on Twitter do follow and retweet. We currently have 956 followers – help us get to 1,000.

YOUR NETWORK!

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 only 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, to include notice of events, book reviews and suggestions to Jane Howells, 7 St Marks Rd, Salisbury SP1 3AY jane@sarum-editorial.co.uk

For more information please email: WHNWESTSWALES@outlook.com

Web site: <http://weswwomenshistorynetwork.co.uk/>