

West of England and South Wales

Women's History Network

NEWSLETTER
October 2023

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

WESWWHN Events 2023

Study Morning and Annual General Meeting 2023

Saturday 25 November 10-12 am on Zoom

Free event, all welcome

Join us to hear Micaela Panes' talk on her research and to participate in the Network's AGM

Please register by email to katherineunaholden@gmail.com

End of an Era? Working-Class Women's Political Activism in South Wales, c.1945-1970.

Micaela Panes (Cardiff University)

The experience of working-class women activists in post-war Wales is a particularly neglected area in British political history. Scholarship has predominantly focused on what has been considered the 'golden era' of women's labour activism - the interwar years.

In Wales, the end of the 'golden era' of women's activism has been marked by Elizabeth Andrews retiring from her role as Women's Labour Organiser in 1948, leaving the grassroots movement in south Wales weakened due to a lack of focus and unity in constituencies. More broadly, scholarship on women's labour activism in the post-war Britain has focused on the institutional barriers women faced in parliamentary politics or the specific successes of individual women and campaigns. The focus on institutional barriers and success has resulted in post-war local women's politics largely being overlooked. This paper explores the different spaces and environments working-class women participated in local labour politics in south Wales, 1945 - 1970. Considering the societal and cultural changes following the end of the Second World War, this paper demonstrates how local contexts informed women's political

activism. While historians have focused on the decline of women’s labour activism in post-war south Wales, this paper highlights how women continued to take an active role in neighbourhood politics. This is achieved by focusing on the local community and the home, demonstrating women’s agency in using and reconstructing gendered space to experience politics. This will highlight how ‘political environments’, and the forms of activism developed within them is both fluid and subjective. Exploring these themes in a local framework creates greater depth for wider understandings of women and national politics in post-war Britain.

Biography

Micaela Panes is a PhD candidate in History and Welsh History at Cardiff University. Her research explores the experiences of working-class political women in twentieth century Wales and south-West England. Her wider research interests include twentieth century British and Welsh history, history of the labour movement, and women’s movements and organisations. Email: PanesM@Cardiff.ac.uk



AGM to follow.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2022

Taken by Elaine Titcombe Saturday October 15th, 2022.

Meeting held at Bristol Central Friends' Meeting House, Champion Square, St Judes, Bristol BS2 9DB.

1. Apologies received from Julia Neville and Cheryl Morgan.
2. Minutes of the 2021 AGM held on Saturday December 4th, 2021, were agreed.
3. Matters arising:

- The Book Group continued into 2022 but was wound down in the summer. It was noted that this had been a well-received activity during the pandemic, but as people returned to normal activity it was not as well attended as it had been. It was agreed that this could be revisited in future if members requested.
- The annual conference in 2022 was held as planned.
- The symposium with Devon History Society did not take place in 2022 and no Study Day was held, however other events did take place.
- AGM scheduled as planned.
- A new run of Membership Leaflets has been delayed to 2023.

4. Chair's Report. Katherine Holden presented the report on the Network's activity during the year to October 2022.

Chair's Report AGM 2022 by Kath Holden

Activities this year have been more limited than in some other years as committee members have been busy with other commitments. We therefore concentrated mainly on organising our annual conference that has been held today Saturday 15th October in Bristol. This is a face to face event for the first time since 2019.

Our last AGM was held last December on Zoom following a successful study morning on the subject of 'Women, Health and Wellbeing'. The papers were all very relevant to current health and welfare concerns and provoked some good discussions. Diana Russell discussed women and private health care in Bath c.1911-1928. Karen Moore's talk 'Teaching the Plymouth Mermaids: Madame Gent, Plymouth Swimming Teacher, 1880 – 1904' can be linked to the recent revival of cold water swimming. Finally, Penny Bayer spoke about 'Edna Gunnell, Devon County Council Horticultural Superintendent, and the Women Gardener movement.'

Diana Russell, who has been a longstanding committee member, felt obliged to stand down in March due to caring responsibilities. We wish her well and thank her for her contribution over the years. Diana had been the latest convenor of our book group and, as no one else was free to take over, we decided to end meetings for the summer months. If anyone wishes to start it up again, please let us know.

In June we ran a members-only workshop reflecting on the challenges of writing women's lives in which Karen Hunt, Lucienne Boyce and Julia Neville spoke about a wide range of issues raised in telling the life stories of three women whose lives spanned the 19th and 20th centuries. It was a stimulating and enjoyable morning which Jane Howell wrote about in detail in the September newsletter.

The committee discussed contributing towards a blue plaque for Hilda Cashmore who was a Quaker and the first warden of Barton Hill Settlement in Bristol. It was agreed to donate up to £150 and be open to supporting similar projects in our local areas. We have also awarded a research bursary of £500 for the first time for several years to Micaela Panes, a PhD student at Cardiff University. Her project aims to explore the spaces and environments

where working-class women engaged with politics in South Wales, 1928-1969, and she is using the grant to cover the costs of accommodation and travel to archives this year.

Our main other activities have been the production of three newsletters in January, April and September, ably put together and edited by Jane Howells and Elaine Titcombe, and the publication of a number of new entries on our BLOG by Lucienne Boyce which she will tell you about in her report.

It only remains for me to thank Lucienne, Jane and Elaine and our other committee members, June Hannam, Karen Hunt, Julia Neville and Linda Henderson for their work this year. The committee has met three times in January, May and September on Zoom to coordinate our activities. However, it was decided as we are scattered so widely over the region that it was best not to have any further face to face meetings at present due to the extra time and expense involved to get us all together.

5. Treasurer's Report: June Hannam presented the accounts for the year up to September 19th, 2022. This corresponds with bank statement dates and is in line with previous year reports.

The closing balance on September 19th, 2022, was £2,370.17.

This is a decrease of £507.94 on the balance held at the same point last year.

Overall costs in the year totalled £802.94. The largest contributor to these was the award of a £500 bursary. Regular costs incurred to run the Network include Zoom subscriptions, the website and membership of BALH (which provides insurance for our events). In addition, HSBC have charged £45.80 in bank charges during the year.

Income was from membership subscriptions and the 2021 annual conference fees. Total income recorded was £295.00. This is a decrease of £141 compared to the previous year. However, 2021 included an exceptional item of £100 and a prior year income of £24, so the comparable decrease was £17. This was mainly due to a decrease in membership fees receipted of £20 from £236 in the year to September 2021 to £216 in the year to September 2022. This was driven by the mix between full and concession rates paid. However, the fees collected from attendees for the annual conference increased from £76 in 2021, to £79 in 2022.

19 September 2021- 19 September 2022	
Balance as at 19.09.21	2,878.11
Income	
Conference 2022 fees	79.00
Membership	216.00
Total	295.00
Expenditure	
Student bursary	500.00
BALH subs	75.00
Web rent	95.80
Zoom	86.34
Bank charges	45.80
Total	802.94
Balance 19.9.22	2,370.17

The Network's standing charges each year are, £95.80 to rent the web space; £75 subs to BALH; and Zoom costs of £86.34. Total £257.14. In the year membership subs came to £216. Therefore, membership income in 2022 did not cover the base costs of running the Network in the year.

The other significant cost was the introduction of bank charges which HSBC have applied to the account. This is to be discussed with the bank to determine whether these charges are correct and/or appropriate. If these cannot be avoided, it may be possible to move the account to another bank (possibly Lloyds), but this could be difficult especially for members who pay their annual subs by standing order.

The accounts do not include the 2022 annual conference costs (which will fall into the next period's report), and similarly additional income may need to be recorded in the next period, but it should be noted that speakers were not charged to attend. This decision may need to be reviewed in future if expenditure continues to look like it may exceed income, and particularly as we return to holding more in-person events. However, there is no immediate risk as there are sufficient funds in the bank to cover costs that do occur, but this will need to be monitored closely.

6. Secretary's Report: Elaine Titcombe confirmed that membership levels have remained consistent in the year 2021 to 2022 to prior years.

Membership Report AGM 2022 by Elaine Titcombe

Memberships run from October to September each year. Membership levels have fluctuated from between 30 and 45 members over the past five years and have often

corresponded with activity. During 2021/2022 there were 36 paid up members compared to 32 members in 2020/2021 and 31 members in 2020/2019. Therefore, there has been a small upward trend in recent times. Strategies for increasing the membership continue to be discussed regularly by the Committee. The Network maintains links with other groups such as Bristol Radical History and the Regional History Centre to promote our group and events.

A large core of the membership subscriptions are automatic renewals which helps to maintain the level year on year. All existing and new members have been encouraged to set up a standing order to the Network to help secure the long-term future.

The next audit of the membership is due to be carried out in the next few weeks once the latest bank statements are received to produce an updated membership list. Any potential lapsed members will receive a reminder to ensure those who wish to stay connected to the Network do so. However, we would like to ask that members check their own accounts regarding their membership status. If there are any queries in this area members are encouraged to email Elaine Titcombe at whnwestswales@outlook.com

Members pay a subscription of £5 [student/low income/unwaged] / £10 annually. Subscriptions are payable each October. There are no current plans to change the membership fees, but this position may change in future if costs exceed income.

Members are encouraged to check their subscription is set to the correct value and paid in the correct month for ease of administration. (New members are welcome at any time during the year.) All members are urged to set up and pay by Standing Order as this is much easier to manage than payment by cash or cheque.

Last year the Committee discussed putting in place a new membership system like that used by other organisations. The system chosen was Membermojo. Members can now manage their own contact details from this platform. Login instructions can be obtained by email to whnwestswales@outlook.com. While the functionality exists on this platform, payments cannot be processed directly into the WE&SW WHN Network bank account at present. This feature requires a Paypal account for the Network, but this has not been set up. The Committee will continue to investigate whether to do this. If this feature goes live we will inform members in due course.

Newsletters have continued to be circulated electronically, keeping costs low. Members are reminded to ensure that the contact detail registered is their current / preferred email address. A paper newsletter is possible for anyone without email access and whilst this will incur cost to the Network it is expected that it would be small. There have been no requests for a paper copy in the year. Members are reminded to submit any articles to Jane for the Newsletter as this helps to build the Network and will hopefully encourage people to stay connected with us in the long term.

Membership leaflets are not currently available in a printed format (old copies are now out of date). New leaflets will incur a printing cost as the Network no longer has institutional support. This work is planned for 2023 and costs will be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

- 7. Publicity:** Lucienne Boyce has continued to actively promote the Network and the events taking place throughout the year.

Publicity Report AGM 2022 by Lucienne Boyce

- Blog (<https://weswwhnblog.blogspot.com>)

Since the last AGM we've published blogs on individual women (Henrietta Small, an "ordinary woman" of the 19th century; Dolly Pentreath (last speaker of Cornish); and Bet Carter (transported convict). Other blogs have explored the act of memorialising, the Women in Street Names project, the history of care, and reported on our workshop on Reflections on the Challenges of Writing Women's Lives.

Proposals for blogs of 500-1000 words are always welcome on subjects related to women's and gender history (e.g., biographical pieces, research projects, events, resources e.g., letters/diaries etc).

Guidelines at <https://weswwhnblog.blogspot.com/p/write-for-us.html> or contact Lucienne Boyce (lucienne@lucienneboyce.com).

- Twitter

At the time of the AGM, we have 1,414 followers and are following 957. Follow us @WHNWestSWales.

- 8. Election of Steering Committee:** The Committee members all offered to continue in post for another year. This proposal was carried.

New Committee members are always welcome.

9. Any Other Business:

- Conference and Network feedback was provided from the audience.

Points raised included suggestions for increasing membership, such as attendance at Freshers Fairs and linking with other groups. It was widely agreed the conference was a very successful day, and people wanted to encourage ongoing links made during the conference. Suggestions such as small network groups within the wider group were discussed and it was agreed the Network would facilitate this as required.

Linda Henderson asked for it to be noted that her experience of the Network since joining, and whilst participating as a committee member, has been extremely positive and supportive. This view was widely endorsed by other members.

- Activities in 2023

It was proposed that there would continue to be a mix of online and in-person events to ensure all members had an opportunity to attend. However, it was agreed the annual conference should be an in-person event whenever possible.

- Bank Charges

To be investigated. It was proposed that the Committee should propose a move to another bank to members before the next AGM if deemed necessary. No objection was raised.

- Membership Leaflets

To be updated, costs to be investigated, and a new print run to be completed in 2023.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee is scheduled to take place on Friday November 11th, 2022, on Zoom. Details of the next organised event will be published soon after.

2023 Annual Conference Report

Women and the Natural World: historical perspectives on nature, climate, and environmental change.

The Network's 30th annual conference was held at the end of September. This was a very successful day, despite our disappointment at being unable to hold the event in person due to industrial action the railways.

Varied papers, presented from different countries, explored fascinating aspects of this wide-ranging subject revealing surprising similarities and drawing unexpected comparisons. Thank you to everyone who took part as speakers and attendees, and especially to those who wrote to say how valuable and enjoyable they had found the day.

The Keynote Speaker was Professor Nicola Whyte from the University of Exeter, who discussed a new reading of the writing of Celia Fiennes providing a woman's experience of the landscape, as she was literally 'on the road' during her travels.

Through England on a Side Saddle
in the Time of William and Mary
Celia Fiennes

Celia Fiennes: born 7/6/1662 Died 10/4/1741

THE ILLUSTRATED JOURNEYS OF
Celia Fiennes
1662-1741
Edited by Christopher Morris

Whyte, Nicola

Nicola Whyte, Landscapes on the move: the travel journals of Celia Fiennes (1685-c.1712), *Journal of Historical Geography*, Vol 78m 2022, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhg.2022.02.005>

After a coffee break the three papers in Panel 1 began with Alice Burns speaking about Beatrix Potter as an author, landowner and conservationist, which roles did not always sit in harmony.

BP.1129(ii) Beatrix Potter, Mountain stream with vegetation and rocks (early 20th C.) V&A Museum, London.

'It is a dream - or was - that I wish all that corner of the district were a reservation, running back against the Haweswater land, bounded by the Kirkstone road. The land up the Kirkstone road from Brothers Water and in Woundale is as nearly "plain" = un beautiful - as Lakes land can be, but with judicious planting it could be made interesting. But there is a flaw in that idea already. George Grindale sold his farm last week. [...] Two or three years ago some thousand of acres could have been bought cheap. I do not say it is very beautiful land but it seemed to me to be one of the few corners of the district not exploited; and curiously unspoilt & unknown to be so near railway stations. I have had a good deal of worry and hard work with [Troutbeck] Park [Farm] but I have never for a moment regretted the purchase.'

NT/700/020-21, Letter to Mr Hamer, 26th June 1926. National Trust Archives, Swindon.

Sarah Carter introduced us to a rich collection of photographs at the University of St Andrews Archive taken by Lady Henrietta Gilmour illustrating rural life on her estate in Scotland in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

“Day Dreams” by Mrs. J.O. Wright, *Cosmopolitan* 14:5 (March 1893).


Cathryn McWilliams took us on her journey to discover Kathleen Mackay, one of Ireland's most prolific nature writers of the first half of the 20th century.

Extract from: "The Cobbler's Elm"

The cobbler lived on his two-acre farm by the roadside. In the hedge of his garden, alongside the road, stood his elm. Upon this side and half way around the trunk of his tree he had built a seat where of summer evenings the village meet. Last spring was a twelvemonth since he died. Strangers came later and took possession of his cottage. They removed the seat. To-day with strange helpers they felled him. The whole village had come to watch. Swelled up like frogs in a churn, one would fall the giant this way, another that. They had sawed into him from the east. Some said that the saw cuts should have been made from the west. The tumult to destroy never abated. One man clamoured monotonously for a wedge. At length they turned to the axe, raining their blows, and looking up I saw the Titan shiver.

The end came fittingly. There was a shout to jump clear. While the heart of the village was in its eyes, began the sublime descent. First just a leaning from the perpendicular. Then with rending noise and majestic sweep the great tree crashed to earth, a moment quivered throughout its limbs, then lay in death. Where so long it had raised its friendly bulk there gaped a starved and ugly place.

(3 Nov. 1931)



Ecofeminism and women's activism was the title of the second panel in which Oyeshi Ganguly and Shriya Dasgupta's title was 'Jal, Jangal and Zameen: locating the Indian *Adivasi* women in South Asian eco-literature'. This was followed by Charlotte Oakes who considered Chernobyl as a reference point for East German women's organisations, including how fictional responses contributed to the narrative.

Aranyer Adhikar by Mahashweta Debi








From left to right- Cover of Aranyer Adhikar, Birsa Munda, Mahashweta Debi




Draupadi by Mahashweta Debi

Dramatization of *Draupadi*

Author Mahashweta Debi

Artistic representation of the disrobing of Draupadi in Mahabharata



Christa Wolf


'If one accepts the widespread notion that GDR literature functions as a seismograph of changing social consciousness, it makes sense to consider to what extent specific works which thematise ecological issues reflect such considerations'.
Nancy Lukens, 'Gender and the Work Ethic in the Environmental Novels of Monika Maron and Lia Pirsikawetz', *Studies in GDR Culture and Society* (1988), p.67.

Pre-Chernobyl: *Cassandra: A Novel and Four Essays* (Berlin, 1983)



[*Kassandra: vier Vorlesungen, eine Erzählung*]

Post-Chernobyl: *Disaster: News of a Day* (Berlin, 1987)

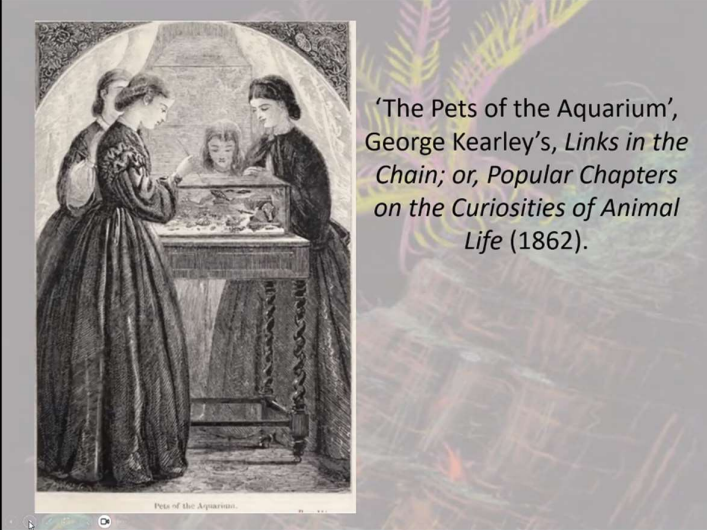


[*Störfall: Nachrichten eines Tages*]




charlotte gakes

In the final session Kyriaki Hadjiafxendi explained how women's interests in 'seaside science' led to the fashion for domestic aquariums, bringing the 'romance of natural history' into the home. And Tony Pratt concluded the day with a survey of early horticultural education for women, including the innovative work of Lady Warwick, Swanley Horticultural College and private gardening schools.



'The Pets of the Aquarium',
George Kearley's, *Links in the Chain; or, Popular Chapters on the Curiosities of Animal Life* (1862).




Kyriaki Hadjiafxendi


Students in the Botany Laboratory at Swanley College c late 1890s

Wiltshire College & University Centre

Donald Opitz, "A Triumph of Brains over Brute": Women and Science at the Horticultural College, Swanley, 1890-1910', *Isis*, 104, (1) 2013, 55

Hextable Heritage Collection D2/014 H. By kind permission of the College Archives, Imperial College London





Tony Pratt, Wiltshire College & UC

Unfortunately, two of the scheduled speakers were unable to join us on the day, but we have invited them, along with all the other speakers, to write a blog for us. We hope you will be able to read these soon. Look out for new postings on: <https://weswwhblog.blogspot.com>

Many interesting questions and comments were raised on the day and recorded in the chat. Just a few were:

Thank you so much for an excellent talk. My PhD was on 17thC clergymen and was totally masculine-focused. I'm only now starting to explore the women in their lives, and you've given me so much to think about.

Thank you for a very stimulating talk. I am interested in two travellers later in century, Jane and Mary Parminter who were also devout Nonconformists who never married. They followed the Grand Tour. Jane's original diary was destroyed in WW2 but 6 weeks were copied out and it would be interesting to compare their perspectives with Celia's.

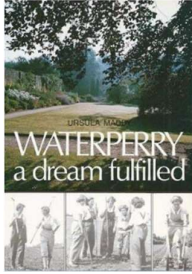
Really enjoyed all the papers today. Alice your slides were beautiful and really added to the talk by bringing the landscape to life and visually conveying what it was she was trying to preserve. It was so interesting to think about how conflicted Potter was about access to the landscape.

Cathryn, I was so taken with Kathleen's writing style. It really painted a picture for the reader, but also brought out the emotions of what was being witnessed.

Some other suggestions of relevant material and sites online:

“Gardeners in bloomers”: Early horticultural schools and colleges for women
(gardenhistorygirl.co.uk)

<https://www.gardenhistorygirl.co.uk/post/gardeners-in-bloomers-early-horticultural-schools-and-colleges-for-women>



Beatrix Havergal established Waterperry Horticultural School in Oxfordshire, which Ursula Maddy has documented in her biography, *Waterperry: A dream fulfilled*. There is also a DVD with some footage of the college. (Contact Elaine Titcombe, elaine.titcombe@hotmail.co.uk if you would like a copy of the book as there are a few remaining from a previous conference.)

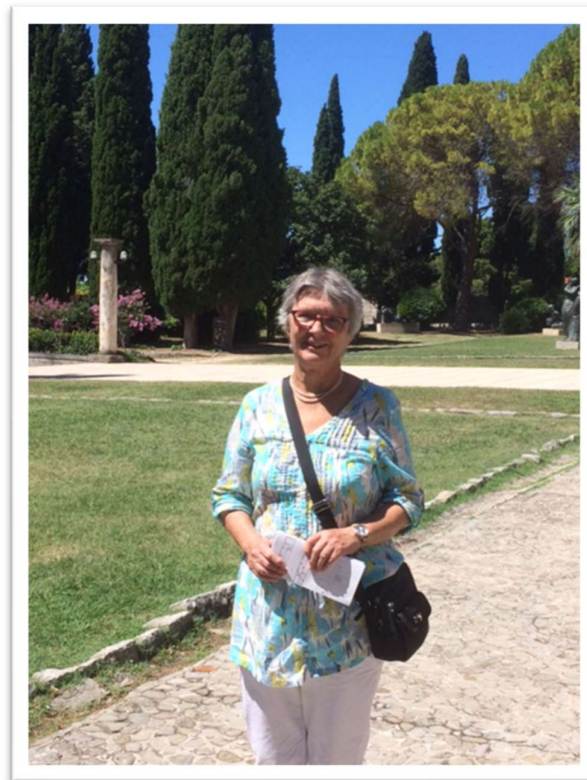
A brief history can also be found at:

<https://www.waterperrygardens.co.uk/about/>

Kew Guild has a membership of students and staff at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Their journal has been digitised from the first issue 1893 (to 2020) and can be searched to trace the horticultural careers of individuals.

<http://journal.kewguild.org.uk>

Moira Martin, 1953-2023



Moira at Split 2018

Moira Martin, who died on July 8th, had been a member of Women's History Network in the South West from the beginning and gave many papers at conferences and workshops. For two years she was membership secretary of the national WHN. After gaining her PhD in the history of old age in the twentieth century, and working as a researcher at the University of Bristol, in the late 1980s Moira became a part-time and then full-time lecturer at Bristol Polytechnic, later University of the West of England. She was an inspiring teacher who thrived in an environment where there were many mature students who needed support. She was also a fine scholar whose meticulous research drew attention to groups who had been neglected in Bristol's social history. Her articles on single women and philanthropy (*Women's History Review*, 2008) and women as Poor Law Guardians (*Regional Historian* 2002) highlighted the importance of Bristol women in the world of philanthropy and 'managing the poor'. Her groundbreaking article on the emigration of pauper children from Bristol to Canada (*Immigrants and Minorities*, 2000) played a part in encouraging others to take an interest in 'history from below'.

Moira could easily have undertaken more research and writing but decided to focus on the needs of students. Alongside teaching she took on a counselling role in which she helped students with both academic and personal problems. She loved the work and realised that she was good at it. This inspired her to take a new direction and to train as a psychotherapist. When she took early retirement from UWE in 2011 she intended to develop this as a new career but was unable to do so when she was diagnosed with terminal cancer. Nonetheless she continued to live life to the full, taking on new interests such as researching her family history and spending every moment she could with her grandchildren George and Tilly. She also found time to co-write a chapter on Bristol women in the nineteenth century in *Women and the City: Bristol 1373-2000*, ed. Madge Dresser, 2016.

Moira made an important contribution to the study of women's history but many of us remember her most for her sociability and gift for friendship. She was warm, kind, and supportive as a friend and, as one colleague put it, her 'sense of humour was legendary'. She will be sorely missed.

June Hannam

Ellen Malos 1937 – 2023

Ellen Malos, a joint founder of the Centre for Gender and Violence Research at Bristol University, died at her home in Bristol in August 2013. Ellen was born Ellen Scarlett, in Ballarat, Victoria, where she grew up with four siblings. She attended the local high school and later went on to Melbourne University. She met her future husband, John Malos, through student politics. The couple arrived in Bristol in 1962. Both soon became active in campaigning circles, for example in CND and for the Labour Party. Ellen's own experiences at this time in trying to balance the academic life she hoped for, with marriage and bringing up children led her to join the growing feminist movement. She had found a cause for which she worked to the end of her life.

Ellen will always be remembered for her research on violence in the home, and for mentoring many students who remember her advice and support with gratitude. But her understanding

of women's lives had a broad sweep. She had an interest in the political process and she always appreciated that our actions today are affected by our shared past history.

In 1984, along with her many other activities, Ellen became an active member of the Bristol Women's History Group, a group which lasted until 1993, before being superseded by the newly formed South West Women's History Network. Our meetings were held in members' homes. We tackled subjects as various as Women in the Bristol Potteries, Marge Evan's memories of her trade union work, or our own personal memories of our grandmothers' lives. Ellen spent some years teaching extra-mural classes for the University. She had been researching the history of activist women in Bristol, and wanted to share her knowledge so that we could look back on Bristol's history better informed about the role that working people, and women of all classes, had played. From this sprang the idea of devising historical walk routes; we identified places, mainly in Clifton, Cotham and Central Bristol, where women had worked and demonstrated for the Chartist, Anti-slavery, Suffrage and educational movements. Ellen was meticulous in her research, and she learned a great deal about individual women and their determination to change the world. But for her context was vital. How was it that the activities of the Bristol and Clifton Auxiliary Ladies Anti-slavery Society were linked to the Bristol and Clifton Society for Women's Suffrage? And did the women working for the vote also assist in the struggles of working women?

Ellen loved seeing the interconnectedness of different movements. I think maybe that's why she so enjoyed learning and writing about the women in the Co-operative Women's Guild. Ellen had rescued, along with Ian Bild, the minute books of the Bedminster Women's Guild, which were being thrown out of Transport House in Bristol. She treasured this link with activists of the past, and it became source material for her teaching. Guild members were generally the wives of working men, and they organised their local Guild meetings. As the Guilds grew they made national and then international connections. These women worked for self-education, they fought for changes to the divorce law to make it easier for married women to leave abusive husbands, questioned the support for World War I, and they fought for better conditions of labour. All causes dear to Ellen's heart.

Ellen greatly enjoyed the meetings of the local Women's History Network. We often went to study days at St Matthias, and sometimes came to the conferences. The last meeting which we attended was in Bath, when Penny Somerfield was the guest speaker.

Ellen leaves a son Rob and daughter Anna, and her two sisters in Australia survive her. A memorial meeting is planned for spring 2024.

Janet Brewer

Nobel prize

The 2023 Nobel Prize for Economics has been given to Claudia Goldin, a professor at Harvard University. She is only the third woman to receive the prize, and the first solo recipient. Her citation reads that her work 'provided the first comprehensive account of women's earnings and labour market outcomes throughout the centuries'. 'She uncovered and interpreted new sources of data for periods in which women's occupations and earnings often went unrecorded, showing that their employment rate was much higher than shown in censuses'.

Financial Times 9 October and 14/15 October 2023. How good to see recognition of the importance of historical analysis on such topics.

Exhibition

'The Women Who Made Shakespeare'

This is a new multi-year exhibition at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust in Stratford-upon-Avon which will be opening in Spring 2024. The link to the announcement can be found at <https://www.shakespeare.org.uk/a-multi-year-project/>. Please contact William Maxwell (07876863562) for further information about associated events; discounts are available for group visits.

Conference

Are you interested in discussing women and the Stuart navy, medicine in Henry VIII's army at sea, the coastal networks which linked shipping for defence in the C15th, C16th and C17th, Hessian garrisons in C18th Hampshire and more? If so, the Southern History Society's 2023 conference on 'The Experience of Garrison Towns in Southern England' is due to be held at the University of Winchester on Saturday 4th November 2023.



Registration fee: £30 (includes refreshments and light lunch): Student rate £15.

More information, including the programme for the day, can be found at <https://southernhistorysociety.org.uk/conferences/the-experience-of-garrison-towns-in-southern-england/>

For enquiries and registration please contact simon.sandall@winchester.ac.uk or cindy.wood@winchester.ac.uk

WESWWHN Blog

New contributions to our blog are welcome, please get in touch. If you would like to write for our blog, you can find the guidelines here: <https://weswwhnblog.blogspot.com/p/write-for-us.html>

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 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

X (Twitter)



The West of England and South Wales Women's History Network has a X (Twitter) account so you can keep up to date with events, resources and member news. It is at @WHNWestSWales. We currently have 1,439 followers so if you are on X do give us a follow.



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: to Elaine Titcombe, whnwestswales@outlook.com

NEWSLETTER: Please send contributions, to include notice of events, book reviews and suggestions to Jane Howells, howellsjane2148@gmail.com

For more information please email: [**WHNWESTSWALES@outlook.com**](mailto:WHNWESTSWALES@outlook.com)

Web site: [**http://weswwomenshistorynetwork.co.uk/**](http://weswwomenshistorynetwork.co.uk/)