



West of England and South Wales

Women's History Network

NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 2022

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 2022

West of England and South Wales Women's History Network
29th Annual Conference

Women and Money: A Historical Perspective

Saturday 15th October 2022
Venue: Friends Meeting House
Champion Square, St Pauls
Bristol BS2 9DB



Bank of England Archive, 'Bank evacuation to Hurstbourne, Hampshire during the Second World War

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<https://www.flickr.com/photos/bankofengland/13443475283/in/album-72157641210005325>

Programme

9.30 - 10.00 Registration

10.00 - 10.10 Welcome

10.10 -11.00 Keynote Speaker: Dr Helen Doe University of Exeter

'Women in Business or Businesswomen?'

11.10 - 11.40 Coffee

11.40 -13.10 Women making and managing money

Hazel Vosper, doctoral candidate, Lancaster University, *"Dear Madam, Your instructions of yesterday's date are duly to hand & shall receive my total attention":*

A Bristol stockbroker and his female clients in the late nineteenth century

Joan Heggie, Research Fellow, Teesside University, *Women as capital lenders in nineteenth-century Yorkshire: evidence from the Registers of Deeds*

Sarah Villiers, *Women as Head of Household: what were the challenges?*

13.10 -14.10 Lunch

14.10-15.40 Strand 1 Women making and earning money (20th century)

Helen Wilson, *Violet Pinwill, professional woodcarver*

Jane Berney, *An unsuitable profession for a woman? The work experience of women members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales (ICAEW)*

Lizzie Broadbent, *More than spending power: women in advertising between the wars*

Strand 2 Women making and trading money (early modern)

Laura Burnett, PhD student University of Exeter, *Her Halfe Penny: women as money makers, users, and subjects in the mid-17th century*

Rosalind Johnson, Visiting Research Fellow, University of Winchester, *'Trade is the Life of the Nation': Economics in the petitions of Elinor James (1681-1716)*

Hannah Young, University of Southampton, *'Almighty money is a good companion': slave-ownership, marriage, and the making of the British aristocracy*

15.40 - 16.10 Plenary discussion, close of conference, future plans

16.15 - 17.00 Tea and WESW WHN Annual General Meeting

Any queries to Jane Howells, mail@sarum-editorial.co.uk

Booking Form

NAME

EMAIL

REGISTRATION (includes morning and afternoon tea and coffee and biscuits)

High waged £18

High waged members of regional network £15

Low waged/students £12

Low waged/student members of regional network £10

Please note that lunch is not included. There are cafes and pubs not far away or you can bring your own food.

Please tick box if you are using direct transfer and use your name as a reference for the payment

Account name: Southwest Women's History Network,

Sort code 40-14-18 Account no 41326295

OR please tick relevant payment box above and enclose a cheque for the total £..... payable to Southwest Women's History Network

Please send this completed form to June.Hannam@uwe.ac.uk or by post to 2 Malvern Villas, Camden Rd, Bath BA1 5JS

Mitzi Auchterlonie 1945 – 2022



Mitzi Auchterlonie who has died aged 76 was one of the earliest members of the West of England and South Wales Women's Network and maintained her interest and enthusiasm for women's history until her death in early April this year. Based in Exeter during the 1980s, Mitzi's commitment, not only to women's history but also to workers' rights and social activism, can be seen in her active trade union membership of NALGO (later Unison), speaking twice at plenary sessions of the Union's AGM; she was also elected Chair of Exeter Amnesty Group and eventually joined Amnesty's UK Council as South-West Groups' representative. Mitzi went on to become one of the first group of students at Exeter University to study for an M.A. in Women's Studies, graduating in 1992. This was not long after her marriage to her second husband Paul whom she met in the 1980s through their mutual love of cinema; they maintained a very happy partnership until her death.

In 1996 she began her PhD in the Department of History at Exeter University. She chose as her topic what, if any, was the Conservative Party's contribution to the campaign for women's suffrage. She found that, contrary to popular opinion, there were numerous Tories in favour of votes for women and that the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association was at one time the third largest women's suffrage group in England. She

submitted her thesis in April 2002 and turned it into a book, *Conservative Suffragists*, in 2007. This had been preceded in 2000 by the *International Encyclopaedia of Women's Suffrage*, jointly authored with two of her friends from the Women's History Network, June Hannam and Kath Holden. Her co-authors remember her strong commitment to this project which was delivered to the publishers in a remarkably short space of time and has attracted an international readership.

Mitzi attended the inaugural conference of what was then known as the Southwest Women's History network in Bristol in 1993 when she volunteered to represent the Exeter area. She organised regular meetings over many years and also recruited other students at Exeter University to join the committee. Together they ran our annual conference in 1996 on historical perspectives on the family. Mitzi also attended many of our later conferences in other parts of the region and reported on activities in the Exeter area at the AGM.

Mitzi was invited to join the Department of Continuing Education as a Teaching Fellow and Online Tutor at the beginning of the new millennium and she particularly enjoyed the face-to-face teaching of the B.A. in History, as well as her online modules. When the Continuing Education Department's degrees were phased out, she taught short online courses on her favourite topics such as the English Country House, the Victorian City and the Edwardians, until these too were abolished by Exeter University in 2016, much to Mitzi's regret. Former students Ann and Julia remember that her courses were always well-designed, and that she evidently enjoyed teaching and did it well. Mitzi had also been invited in 2008 to become the Book Review editor of *The Devon Historian*, a job she continued diligently to the end, and the 2022 volume will be the fifteenth for which she commissioned all the book reviews.

Mitzi's health worsened over the last few years but not long before her death she was delighted to witness the culmination of a longstanding project for her and three of her friends from Devon History Society. This was to write a book on Devon women and Mitzi's last public appearance was at the book launch of *Devon Women in Public and Professional Life, 1900-1950* in September 2021, for which Mitzi co-wrote the chapter on Eleanor Acland, Liberal politician and suffragist, with her husband Paul.

Her other co-authors on the Devon women project, Julia Neville, Ann Roberts and Helen Turnbull, all enjoyed working with Mitzi during the preparation of the book. She was modest about her background and qualifications but always focused and very professional during the drafting, editing and publication process and, determined not to compromise on the way she presented the life of Eleanor Acland, she brought these qualities to the book. Her commitment to bringing to light neglected areas of women's history was also exemplified in her work to ensure that more women were included in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, to which in 2019 she contributed three biographies, those of Eleanor Acland, Edith Pratt, a leading civil servant at the Ministry of Agriculture, and Jean Trustram Eve, a Conservative party activist and social reformer.

Mitzi will be much missed by all who knew her. In addition to her other achievements, her legacy for our network, enabling it to extend its reach into Devon will always be appreciated.

Kath Holden

Reflections on the Challenges of Writing Women's Lives



Our online summer study morning on writing women's lives in June, organised by Julia Neville and chaired by Kath Holden, was a stimulating and fascinating occasion.

Karen Hunt introduced us to Dora Montefiore (1851-1933), about whom she has been researching and writing for many years, without producing a 'book'.

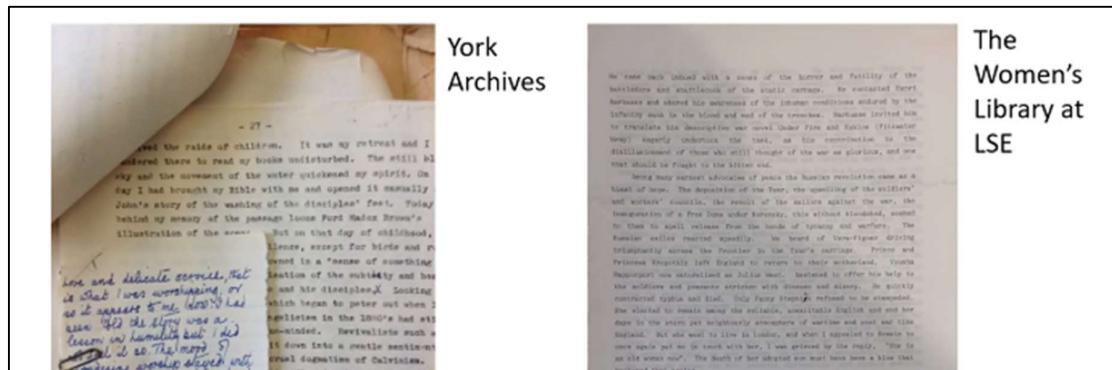
Much of this work has been in response to conference themes which Karen has subsequently reflected upon to consider how these had directed, distorted, and distracted her research. The result was a fascinating collection of papers, but only a partial view of a life.

Striking a balance between narrative and analysis is always a challenge. Dora Montefiore was a socialist, then communist, and active suffrage campaigner, writer, and poet. She lived at times in Australia and South Africa where there are sources for her life, and she travelled widely. There is no surviving personal archive, so the sources are varied, particularly from the many groups and individuals with which she was involved. Karen offered an extensive list of possible ways to approach writing about Dora's life: including her many organisational affiliations; different aspects of her politics; how did she acquire and develop the skills for a political life; how did she organise her private life to enable her public life; how should we assess her with hindsight; and much more.

Julia Neville has published *Viva Juanita: Juanita Phillips, Champion for Change in East Devon between the wars*. This came about because 'Honiton Senior Voice' wanted to celebrate her life, and asked Julia to research the background which became a commission for the book. The local community was actively involved with the celebrations and were the readers of the book. Juanita Maxwell Phillips (1880 – 1965) was the first woman mayor of Honiton, the first woman county councillor in Devon and held many roles in local government in the county. She was an avid supporter and campaigner for women's rights. In addition to local newspapers, a major source on her life is a series of scrapbooks which cover the middle period of her most active years. Even so there are unanswered questions – such as what to do with the bits of information that do not fit with the whole? There are also some intriguing inconsistencies, such as a reference on Juanita's blue plaque to her having served prison sentences for which there is no other evidence. In addition, Julia pointed to how it is interesting that she was careful not to involve her husband in her public political life and took care not to reveal her personal party politics. There would be much work to do to create a *full* biography.

Lucienne Boyce discussed her current work on a biography of Millicent Browne (1881-1975), a teacher, suffrage campaigner, pacifist, and Garden City pioneer. This had been intended to be a joint authored work with Antonia Raeburn, who sadly died in 2021.

Millicent wrote an unpublished autobiography *The World's Festival* which was the starting point, but which also raises a number of challenging issues for a biographer. It only goes up to the 1920s, was written 50 years after the events described, a chapter is missing, all the photographs have been lost, and there are two extant versions.



The memories described do not provide context, some events are in the wrong order, other people are omitted; however, as Lucienne pointed out, it is of course how Millicent chose to remember the past. Factual details can be checked against other sources, of which there are plenty. However the relationship between autobiography and biography reaches deeper into the issues surrounding writing about women’s lives. Lucienne proposed a number of questions, including ‘how do I handle knowing more about Millicent Browne’s life than she did’?

The three papers were followed by discussion and contributions from other attendees that took us in a variety of directions, raising issues that will stay with us. Some had experience of using oral testimony with its advantages and disadvantages. Others had limited archival material indirectly connected to their subject. Questions were raised such as how reliable are the notes and interpretations we made many years ago? In what ways does the potential audience for a biography influence the biographer? When should we stop looking for more information?



Karen’s metaphor of ‘french knitting’ – an interweaving of different threads so a multi-coloured whole appears – provided a powerful image. Whose life is not made up of many separate elements, none of which operates on its own? We look forward to reading more about these three subjects as their biographers make progress.

Jane Howells

Aviation and Aerospace Archives Initiative

Aviation manufacturing began within the UK in February 1909 when Short Brothers set up the UK’s first aircraft factory at Leysdown on the Isle of Sheppey. The popularity of flying led to a significant number of aircraft design and manufacturing companies being established

across Britain. What remains today of those early pioneers, and their aircraft manufacturing successors, are not just examples of their machines, but also business papers, technical drawings, marketing brochures, photographs and other records that evidence their extraordinary contribution to the aviation industry.

This archival material has been scattered across the nation amongst a large number of archives, libraries, museums, societies and individuals. To assist researchers in locating material, the Aviation and Aerospace Archives Initiative (AAAI) has compiled a guide to signpost relevant archive collections to anyone wishing to learn more about the history of the UK's aircraft manufacturing industry.

Each entry in the guide includes a history of the organisation, principle or significant aircraft and a list of where records of that particular company are held. Bristol was a major centre. A sample entry for the British & Colonial Aeroplane Company Ltd, shows that material for this company exists at Aerospace Bristol, The National Aerospace Library and Bristol Archives. The company history notes that the British & Colonial Aeroplane Co Ltd was formed at Filton, near Bristol, in 1910 and traded under that name until 1920 when assets were transferred to a new company, Bristol Aeroplane Co Ltd.



BAE_PH1_OW_77 British & Colonial Aeroplane Co Ltd Works female workers, 1918

The guide is available at <https://ukaeroarchives.wordpress.com/>. Contributions to the guide to be sent to: aviationarchives@mail.com

A longer article about this project appeared in *Local History News* in July and will be available at balh.org.uk/publications

BLOG

'*The Story of Bet Carter, a convict to New South Wales*' is the June post on our Blog. Lucienne Boyce has explored the experiences of Bet Carter who was transported to Australia on the convict ship *Surprize* in 1794. Probably the Elizabeth Carter who was sentenced at the Old Bailey in 1792, she was a prostitute at 'Mother Macclew's' house in Sharp's Alley, London and was arrested for stealing money from a client. After waiting in prison for a ship to be available, she suffered the dreadful conditions on board during the journey and was flogged for her supposed involvement in a mutiny. Read the blog for more exciting and distressing details.



<https://weswhnblog.blogspot.com/>

OTHER FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN THE REGION



This year's 25th Annual Conference of the Women's Archive of Wales will be held on Saturday 1st October to Sunday 2nd October 2022 at Yr Egin, College Road, Carmarthen, SA31 3EQ and is being held in partnership with University Wales Trinity Saint David.

The conference programme and booking form are available via the website:

<https://www.womensarchivewales.org/en/>

The **Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre**, Cocklebury Road, Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN15 3QN



History on your doorstep - Wiltshire's ordinary extraordinary women.

Saturday 17th September 2022 10.30am

Enjoy a lively and engaging talk by Lucy Whitfield exploring some of Wiltshire's ordinary extraordinary women, from pilots and stockbrokers to criminals and promoters of do-it-yourself health solutions!

Bristol Radical History Group present....

South Bristol History Festival

September – November 2022

Hidden histories of South Bristol Bedminster Union workhouse, resisting World War One, kicking Mosely's Blackshirts out, squatting army bases in 1946, working in the tobacco industry, pit disasters and garden suburbs.

A series of free talks and films ... for details see:
Venues: Bedminster Library and the Tobacco Factory
For more information: <https://www.brh.org.uk/>
And: @BrisRadHis

Bristol Radical History Group present Bedminster-Southville history festival in September and early October.

This features events on the history of tobacco and the experiences of those who worked in the Wills and Churchmans factories as well as talks and films on mining, squatting the White City after WWII, resistance to World War One and the Bedminster workhouse.

Full details of the programme of events can be found at <https://www.brh.org.uk/site/event-series/south-bristol-history-festival-september-november-2022/>

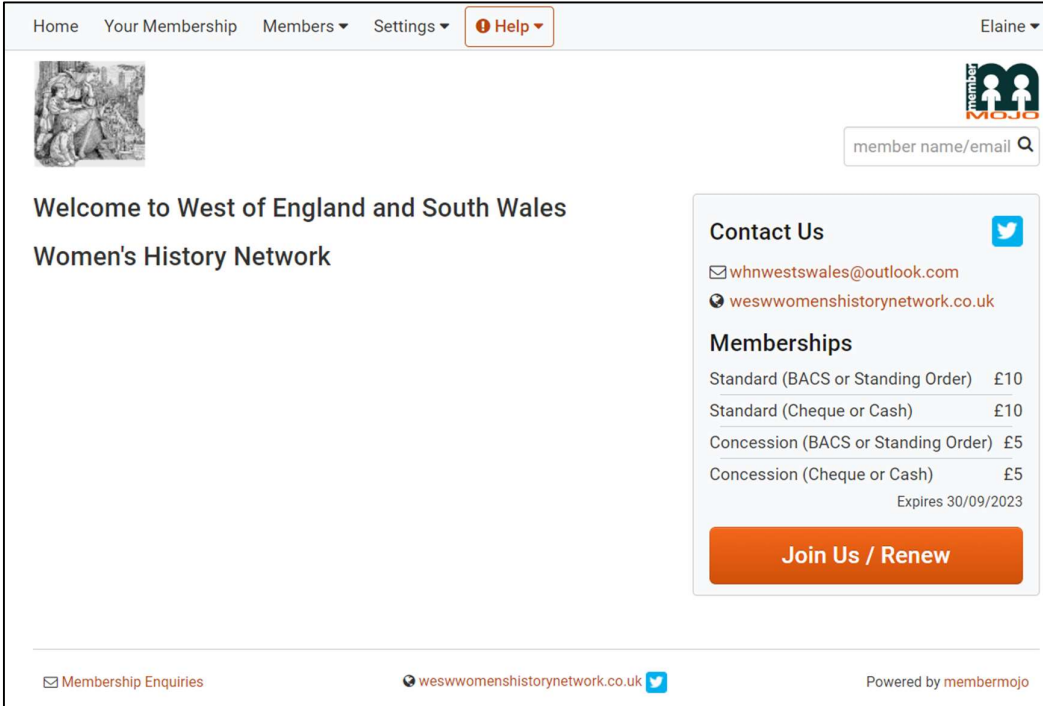
MEMBERSHIP & SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please be reminded that annual subscriptions to the West of England and South Wales Women's History Network are due on **1st October 2022**. We encourage members to set up an annual standing order to assist in the administration of the membership or alternatively to make a direct bank transfer (bank details are available on request from whnwestwales@outlook.com), however cheque payments can be sent to the Membership Secretary if preferred.

Please make sure you are paying the correct amount: the current rates are £10 full or £5 unwaged/student/concession.

New membership applications can also now be made using the Membermojo website <https://membermojo.co.uk/weswwhn>. Unfortunately, it is not yet possible to make a direct (PayPal) payment to the Network via Membermojo.

Existing members can also log in and update their contact information following the Membermojo link above and entering in the email address registered with the Network – you should be able to sign in without a password on the first occasion, and then create one for future logins.



The screenshot displays the Membermojo website interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for Home, Your Membership, Members, Settings, and Help. The user's name, Elaine, is visible in the top right corner. Below the navigation, there is a search bar labeled "member name/email". The main content area features a welcome message: "Welcome to West of England and South Wales Women's History Network". To the right, there is a "Contact Us" section with a Twitter icon and two contact options: an email address whnwestwales@outlook.com and a website link weswwomenshistorynetwork.co.uk. Below this is a "Memberships" section listing four options: Standard (BACS or Standing Order) for £10, Standard (Cheque or Cash) for £10, Concession (BACS or Standing Order) for £5, and Concession (Cheque or Cash) for £5. The membership information expires on 30/09/2023. A prominent orange button labeled "Join Us / Renew" is located at the bottom of the membership section. The footer contains a link for "Membership Enquiries", the website URL weswwomenshistorynetwork.co.uk, and a note that the site is "Powered by membermojo".

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

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 947 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.

NEWSLETTER: Please send contributions, to include notice of events, book reviews and suggestions to Jane Howells, *mail@sarum-editorial.co.uk*

For more information please email: **WHNWESTSWALES@outlook.com**

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