Welcome to the annual newsletter about History at Keele. *History Matters* is designed as a window into the department for prospective students, and as a means of keeping in touch with alumni.

There are some interesting new developments in which will be apparent to new students in 2012-13. First of all, we are now able to offer Single Honours History, as well as History as part of Keele’s famed Dual-Honours programme. There are also a wide range of new modules which reflect our desire to provide a good range of choice for our students. These include *Histories of the Extraordinary and the Everyday* (Year 1); *Work Experience for Historians, Environmental History*, and *Race & the Body in Colonial Africa* (all Year 2); and *Constructing Eastern Europe, 1800-2000* and *Conflicted European Memories in the Twentieth Century* (Year 3).

Most British Universities are currently beginning to worry about their submissions to the government’s Research Excellence Framework, the mechanism whereby Universities receive a large part of their funding. Teaching. Students starting their courses in 2012 and 2013 will commonly be more likely to be taught by sessional and part-time teachers, as research ‘stars’ are driven to publish or die. At Keele we use a very small number of Graduate Teaching Assistants, and our full-time staff teach at every level. We make our professors teach first-year students not just finalists. In the current National Student Survey student satisfaction with their teaching in History was between 94 and 98% across the four areas tested. The result is satisfying because we have long known, and our students tell us, that a distinctive feature of the Keele experience in history is that we have managed to retain a continuing and meaningful link between our academic staff and their students. None of us is just a name on a door. As bigger institutions struggle to guarantee a personal experience delivered on an industrial scale, we know all of our students.

*Professor Karen Hunt, Head of Department*
Dr Cathryn Spence has been a teaching fellow in the department for the last year teaching courses in the middle ages and early-modern Europe. She is leaving us to join the department of history at the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada, as a SSHRC post-doctoral fellow in history. Her courses have been very popular and she will be much missed.

Dr Robert Gray was recently appointed as a lecturer in modern history, specialising in eastern Europe. He writes: ‘Having a long-running obsession with the captain of the great Hungarian team of the 1950’s, Ferenc Puskas, I decided to dedicate myself to the study of a small and rather obscure county in the middle of Europe. After completing my PhD on the Hungarian peasantry, I now make frequent trips back, travelling around the country to visit archives, explore remote villages, and trapse across fields. My research focuses on the landscape and environment, and I am currently working with the Danubian Environmental History Initiative to produce a history of woodland and wetland use in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. This summer, I was knee-deep in the Danube collecting material on the

Gemenc National Park, Hungary

Dr James Koranyi has just been appointed as a Lecturer in Twentieth-Century European History. He comes to us from a teaching fellowship at St Andrews University. His research focuses on Romanian, Hungarian, and German history, the discovery of rural Europe in the 19th century. He is also interested in conceptual issues around identity, conservation, discourse, memory and history. He is currently completing a book on Romanian Germans in the 20th century. He will teach on our modern European-history modules.

Sir Thomas Fairfax the parliamentary general during the English civil war was born 400 years ago. To celebrate the anniversary there will be a range of conferences and events. Ian Atherton
and his PhD student, **Robert Barcroft**, are both giving papers in Leicester in July. Ian has clearly gone in for the anniversary business in a big way since he also contributed to the anniversary of Edward Wightman, the last person last person in England to be burnt at the stake (in Lichfield) for heresy in April 1612, sharing the platform in Lichfield Cathedral with two other Keele staff and former students.

**Anthony Kauders** is continuing his research on the German reception of psychoanalysis as part of a two-year grant by the DFG (German Research Council) at the University of Munich. His study of ‘the German reception of Freud, 1930 and 1956,’ has just been published by the *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences* and he has lectured at the Freud Museum in London and the Max Planck Institute in Berlin. Anthony also continues to publish widely on the Jewish community in Germany after 1945, and will resume his courses on post-war Germany on his return.

**In Our Time With Melvyn Bragg.** These days the great accolade for historians is an invitation to appear on BBC Radio 4’s highbrow programme. **Kate Cushing** joined the panel earlier this year to discuss the *Concordat of Worms*, the treaty between the papacy and the Holy Roman Empire, signed in 1122, which put an end, at least for a time, to years of power struggle and bloodshed. It created a historic distinction between secular power and spiritual authority, defining more clearly the respective powers of monarchs and the Church. Catch something of the flavour of her teaching style by listening again on the BBC podcast:

http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/radio4/iot/iot_20111215-1100b.mp3

**Alannah Tomkins’s** work on poverty has developed uncomfortable modern resonances as much of contemporary Europe struggles to deal with the rising impact of poverty. Historically the poor are seen as having had little voice, more written about than writing themselves, though archives are full of material in which the poor were frequently obliged to petition in another voice for care and help. In a new book *Poverty and Sickness in Modern Europe*
Narratives of the Sick Poor, 1780-1938 a group of European historians have conducted an analysis of pauper narratives, focusing on experiences amongst the sick poor in England, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Scotland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Wales. Alannah’s chapter looks at the use of ill-health in Englishmen’s pauper letters between 1780-1840. The end date of 1938 perhaps now ought, alas, to be extended.

Emeritus Professor of Medieval History Colin Richmond taught in the History Department for over 30 years. He was primarily a historian of the fifteenth century, writing the definitive study of the Paston family, but he also introduced the first special subject on the Holocaust in a British University. His teaching and research did much to determine Keele History. Having been 'doing history' for well over half a century, the author felt he had something to say on the matter. His recent reflections on the trade of a historian have just been published. The cover, drawn by Myrna Richmond, shows Colin in a characteristic pose - thinking. Note the absence of a computer!

The Victoria County History forms part of a national series founded at the end of Queen Victoria’s reign (hence the title) and which is being re-dedicated to the present monarch in this Jubilee year. The series aims to publish the local history of every community in England, and the projects for Cheshire and Shropshire have been housed at Keele for a number of years.

A new volume produced by Nigel Tringham covers the north-west part of Staffordshire, including Keele itself with an account of how the Keele Hall grounds were transformed into the University campus after 1950. It also includes a long article on Trentham, whose spectacular 19th-century gardens have been partly restored in the present major tourist attraction.

If you are visiting the campus have a look at the University chapel with this brief guide from the volume:

“G. G. Pace, was responsible for the chapel of 1964–5, a bold design somewhat squeezed into the space between the roundabout and Walter Moberly Building. Built of blue brick (a welcome gift from the nearby Berryhill brickworks), the rectangular chapel appears almost fortified with its two semi-circular eastern apses rising into towers, each topped by an asymmetrical copper-clad pyramid. The walls of the congregational space are patterned with irregularly sized and spaced rectangular windows and its interior finished with rough materials in a Brutalist
fashion. Pace himself stated that the exterior design was intended to be ‘austere, highly disciplined, and timeless’, and that by shunning ‘fashionable clichés and gimmicks’ he hoped that the simple interior had ‘something of the character of the numinous (revealing the presence of the divine)’. The chapel is the only post-war building on the campus to be listed, as grade II in 1998”.

**Crook père et fils.**

Joining the family business is not always what children want to do, but Malcolm Crook, professor of French history at Keele currently collaborates with his son, Tom Crook, Lecturer in Modern British History at Oxford Brookes University on research and writing on the global history of voting. Two articles, ‘L’isoloir universel? L’avènement d’un scrutin secret global au XIXe siècle,’ in *Revue d’histoire du XIXe siècle* 43 (2011) and ‘Reforming Voting Practices in a Global Age: The Making and Remaking of the Modern Secret Ballot in Britain, France and the United States, c. 1600-1950’, *Past & Present* 212 (2011) have recently appeared, and they are currently ‘performing’ at conferences on the invention of the modern ballot paper.

**Student News**

**DUAL HONOURS** Keele has always specialised in dual honours where students read two principal subjects. Many choose obviously related disciplines - History with subjects such as Politics, English and Criminology are perennially popular. But there is also a long tradition in which students have made less obvious choices. Sometimes this might be because a student has had broad interests and is reluctant to drop them, and sometimes because students have had particular career plans. Two examples from this year’s graduates in history illustrate the possibilities.

**Adam Wootton** has just graduated with a first-class degree in History and Physics, and is nominated for the Marjorie Cruickshank prize in Local History for his dissertation on the medieval lords of Alton. He grew up in the Potteries and originally applied to read single-honours in History at another minor Midlands University, but came to Keele to take dual honours. He says that he has felt that he had exhausted his Physics at every stage since GCSE which no doubt explains why he has now applied to do a PhD in Physics on a strikingly innovative project which will examine the Physics of historic objects.
Jonathan Davies has also just graduated with a first-class degree in History and Maths. He did his final-year dissertation on the ‘Peace of God movement in early-medieval Europe’ but in Maths had done a module on medical statistics. He will start on an MSc course at Nottingham University in the autumn on biomedical applications in statistics. He found that dual-honours kept each subject fresh, and intends to keep up historical interests in the Napoleonic wars and Scottish history.

Dissertations Many undergraduate students do a detailed final-year dissertation. As historians they are mostly used to dealing with dead people and thus escape many of the ethical considerations of other disciplines. Laura Frost, however, wrote about reconstructive surgery in the second world war at East Grinstead by Archibald McIndoe. Her research involved oral-history interviews with one of the hospital technicians who worked with McIndoe and with a surviving member of the renowned 'guinea-pig club'.

Field Trips Just as field trips and field work seems to be on the decline in schools their number has been on the increase in undergraduate study at Keele. Second-year students following modules on ‘Saints and Society’ visited Chester, Plemstall, Holywell and Valle Crucis Abbey to look at saints’ cults in Wales and the north-west, whilst two students who had followed the second-year module on the Holocaust used their Easter vacation to visit Auschwitz. The Department has a scholarship fund to support independent trips in Europe. Final-year students visited the county record office in Stafford, Lichfield and Gloucester cathedrals, and Tewkesbury abbey, following in the footsteps of King Edward II, whilst another group visited Southwell workhouse, the most complete nineteenth-century workhouse in existence. Their special subject looks medical education and the rise of the professional, the evolution of institutional medical care, medical practitioners in
fiction, insanity and the emergence of psychiatry, anatomy and bodysnatching, the roles for women in medicine and the drive for sanitary reform.

Work Experience We have been offering work-experience as part of one of our core second-year modules for a number of years. Often heritage or archive related, students get the chance to contribute to the work of regional museums and archives as part of their degree programme. This year students catalogued material in Staffordshire archives and Lichfield Cathedral library, they contributed to the website at the Wedgwood museum and to exhibitions for Englesea Brook Museum of Primitive Methodism, Newcastle Museum and Staffordshire County Museum, and developed a history of St John the Baptist Church, Barlaston. On 23 June a small group of student volunteers also assisted at the University’s Community Open Day, guiding visitors around Keele’s own historic landscape from Templar settlement to country house to military barracks and finally to a University.

Student Awards As historians we sometimes forget that our students do a wide range of other things at University from sport to music to community activities. Two of our students, Craig Doughty and Amy Thomson, were this year nominated as Keele Student Ambassador Leaders of the Year and Craig Doughty was awarded a prize for Outstanding Contribution to Community/Partner Activities

What can you do with a History degree? That question is often in the forefront of parents’ minds at open and visit days. In 2010 7% of our students graduated with first-class honours, 60% with a 2:1 and 30% with a 2:2. The statistics for graduate employment continue to be encouraging as far as Keele historians are concerned, and early employment in graduate jobs remains high. Of graduates in 2010, the latest for which national statistics are published only 10% had not found work or study within a year of graduation. However, when you read the HESA statistics you do need to bear in mind that many feel that a census a few years after graduation provides a better benchmark for what graduates end up doing. It is also true that many students are also beginning to see postgraduate qualifications as a normal part of the business of going to University, some using the recession to raise their skill and qualification level. We offer an excellent programme in postgraduate taught courses which lead both to the degree of MA and MRes. Students here value the research-skill training which their dissertations afford, and which allow them to stand out a little more in the employment market.
Our Postgraduate Community

2011-12 saw 9 new students begin a Master of Research degree in History. The range of their studies illustrates the range and vitality of history at Keele. The University offers generous fee reduction to its own students, but others have been recipients of studentships from the Arts and Humanities Research Council: Sarah Carter (*Accusations of witchcraft in early-modern English communities*); Victoria Conrad-Smith (*Fourteenth-century English noble women*); Matt Coombe-Boxall (History studentship, *Sabbath Observance in the Interregnum*); Craig Doughty (AHRC studentship, *Reconstructing history from Allende to Pinochet*); Keith Lawrence (*English and Welsh Toll collectors*); Kathryn Percival (*Local Anti-Suffragism in Manchester, 1908-18*); Samantha Shepherd (*Religious persecution and tolerance in the reigns of Mary and Elizabeth Tudor*); Glenn Price (*Redefining European internal crusades*); Robert Wallace (*Soviet contributions to the Nuremberg Trials*).

Studentship Awards for 2012-13

Craig Doughty (BA, Keele) has been awarded a PhD Studentship/ Graduate teaching Assistantship in History to undertake his PhD beginning in September, he will be working on ‘Locating the Subaltern in the West’.

Anthony Mansfield (BA/MA Winchester) has been awarded the AHRC studentship in History to undertake his PhD in history beginning in September 2012. He will be working on 'Lords of the North Sea World: Place and Identity c.1000-c.1066'.

Gemma Scott (Keele BA) has been awarded the AHRC studentship to undertake a Master of Research in History beginning in September 2012. She will be working on ‘Emergency rule in India, governed by Indira Gandhi from 1975-1977’.

**Employability Skills.** But, in answering the initial question perhaps it is honest to say what we as historians think about what we do? Innovation and resourcefulness in employment is about different thinking: the single greatest reservoir of different thinking is the experience of past societies. To think that the past, the cumulative experience of that different thinking, is not a resource in which value is to be found seems to us incredible. And what better training in different thinking is to be found than in the challenging task of reconstructing and comprehending the past.

*History Matters* is edited, and in cases where colleagues have been slow in responding to his emails ‘made up,’ by the admissions tutor, Dr Philip Morgan.

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Further details are available on our web site

http://www.keele.ac.uk/history/