

The Local Studies Librarian



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EDITORIAL

The various changes within CILIP mentioned in the last issue have now been implemented. The main effect on the Groups has been a sharp reduction in funding via capitation and LSG has taken action to take this into account. There will be fewer Committee meetings and more use of communication by Email and the subgroups, which have sometimes been grant-aided by the main Group, will now have to be self-supporting. The Local Studies Librarian, as the Group's journal of record and the major means of contact with many of our members, will continue: it has already made changes to reduce costs. It will continue to appear in printed form. The Committee, however, would like to find out readers' feelings about electronic publication, whether as an extra, or ultimately instead of the printed version: the Committee does not feel that the latter is an option at the present time. The other change at CILIP Headquarters affecting the Groups is that it is no longer possible to maintain individual Liaison Officers for each Group, so Groups will now be serviced via a new Membership Support Unit.

In her Editorial in the Spring 2007 issue of LOCSCOT, the editor comments on the amount of information produced by local communities, groups and societies which is now being put online, rather being committed to paper: for instance, a club's history which would previously been produced as a pamphlet is now at least as likely to appear as a few pages on its website. Having done a quick count of websites in West Lothian, her own local authority, and one of the smallest in area in Scotland, she found a total of 200 – 300 websites in community, recreational and voluntary sites alone, without including any commercial websites, and she is alarmed by the amount of local information which is going unrecorded. At present she feels that it is beyond the financial, technological and staffing of local libraries to do much about it, but she notes that Locscot is hoping to enter into discussion with various bodies to find some means of harvesting at least some of these websites. She asks that, if anyone has taken any steps locally, or has any suggestions or comments to offer, they should get in touch. That applies to members in the rest of the UK, too! We would like to hear your views.

Finally, thanks to those who sent in items after my request in the last issue. Please continue to do so: this is your journal and people like to know what is happening in the world of local studies librarianship. The more we are told the more we can inform everyone.

And do take a look at our website at:

<http://www.cilip.org.uk/specialinterestgroups/bysubject/localstudies>



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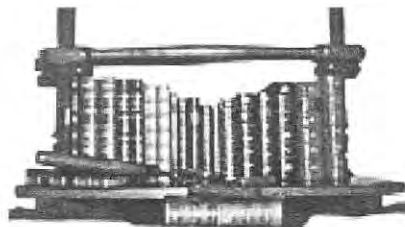
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LOCAL STUDIES IN RUTLAND

Emily Barford

The county of Rutland is easy to miss. We are bypassed by every major motorway, and our county 'capital' is a small market town. Officially the "smallest county in England", Rutland is probably most famous for Rutland Water, which since the 1970's has taken up a sizeable chunk of the county acreage. In years gone by Rutland relied mainly on agriculture as the main form of income, and had a healthy population of framework knitters. Now it is the reservoir which attracts visitors worldwide for its leisure facilities and wildlife habitats, and which has completely changed the shape of the county, and the people who live here. The two major private schools too (at Oakham and Uppingham), attract many visitors to the area and swell the population of just over 37,000. Tourism is now the main income provider for the county and centres on the reservoir and its picturesque surroundings, and many villages are now weekend retreats and populated by the retired.

This year is a big year for Rutland – it is both the 30th anniversary of the Reservoir, and the 10th anniversary of Rutland as an 'independent county'. We have somewhat of a chequered history here in Rutland, having at various times been completely independent, part of Leicestershire County Council, and more recently a unitary authority. All of this has been a little confusing for residents, and provides even more of a challenge when researching our history. Rutland residents have always been outspoken, particularly about the need to return to full independence, and at times in the distant past, have been on the somewhat revolutionary side! None of this however, seems to put off our local historians, who are a productive community, and make considerable use of the enquiry facilities here in Oakham.

I started working in Oakham in April 2006 after the absence of a Local Studies Librarian due to the unfortunate death of my predecessor. Due to the low population of Rutland it is usual for local authority staff to cover many different jobs (or be the department yourself!). This occurs in the Library Service too. My position is that of Extended Services Librarian, which means that I cover the Housebound Service, Teen Outreach, Disability Services, and Local Studies (and anything not covered by anyone else including Reference, Careers, etc.) for the county. I have worked in almost every other library environment imaginable including a school library service, and a hospital library – which, with the huge amount of training and outreach I provided to medical staff there, has set me up very well for serving Rutland's very rural community.

I am now full time: when I arrived I was only here 28 hours per week, fourteen of which I spent on our very busy reference desk, leaving little time for local studies specifically. This was unfortunate as there was about 10 years of cataloguing backlog in the reserve collection, and very little of the collection listed or indexed, with huge gaps in the fiche collections as well. The task before

me when I arrived here was, to say the least, extremely daunting especially as I have only 20 minutes of assistant time per week for shelving. In the time I do have, I have been attempting to address this backlog, and instil some kind of order and indexing of the most used items.

Despite our lack of resources, and the major changes being implemented in the collection, we managed well over 600 local studies enquiries last year - and got some excellent responses in our user surveys concerning our stock and service. I must admit that currently I tend to be enquiry responsive, and am concerned with getting the existing collection catalogued and available to the public, rather than thinking too deeply about filling obscure gaps or providing genealogy internet courses. Such courses are greatly needed here, but are not possible to provide given my other commitments. I am keen to make as many of our resources available as possible, rather than hiding them away, and to this end I produced a new leaflet for the service which I have posted to an updated local studies web page (I'm also responsible for all of the Library Service web content). I have also produced new activity sheets for the public and for children this year, a new logo for Children's Local Studies Resources which I intend to expand, and one or two new items of Genealogy stock for kids - although these are very hard to find. New posters and displays have freshened up the image of local studies in Oakham library, and a stock reorganisation has made the collection less confusing for the public to view.

We do not provide an extensive research service for the public as we could not possibly cover this with current staffing, but we will investigate the relevant items from the reserve collection and collate them for the public to look through themselves. We get many long distance enquiries, so I often enquire at other libraries and record offices on a reader's behalf if we do not have enough material ourselves. We generally need to order very little via Inter-Library Loan for local studies users, but as we share our Talis catalogue with Leicestershire, our items are often requested by Leicestershire, further boosting the usage.

Whilst going through the reserve backlog, it became apparent how many duplicates of some items we possessed - and how little room there was available for it. We did not, however, want to sell on any of these as they are so difficult to replace if items get lost or damaged. In order to adequately access our existing material, it became necessary to heavily de-duplicate the stock, get everything out of boxes, put it on the catalogue... and set up a second reserve store of duplicate items. This has allowed us to put our main reserve in order (although still not yet all on the catalogue), and answer enquiries in more depth. We can now protect our more delicate and valuable assets from damage and loss too.

At Oakham we are grateful to have a small room set aside for local studies, with a film/fiche reader-printer, a spare film reader and a PC. The popularity of genealogy and house history programmes on television mean that we currently get heavy usage of these machines, and our old fiche reader on the enquiry desk

is often in use too. We get good usage of our local studies stock, even in the village libraries. All three of our branch libraries have at least two shelves of material, and there is a small selection on the mobile library. I rota most new items to keep these collections changing, and put as much as possible out to loan rather than keeping it for reference. We rota every six months here which ensures a good turnaround, and I think this really does help with usage of the collection, especially for local studies where collections are traditionally 'stagnant'.

Although independent, the county still has very close ties with Leicestershire, from whom we purchase many of our services. The library service is no exception, and we buy most of our stock via an agreement with Leicestershire. The benefits of this are that once a month I go to Leicestershire for stock selection along with representatives from Leicester City Council, and the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland. It is essential to discuss new titles among this group as Rutland local studies donations are rare, and I have little time to track down obscure new titles myself. Much of our new local studies purchases are vanity press titles – and publishers are not particularly good at publicising them, leaving us to scour newspapers for the few snippets of information available! The good relationship between us also helps when it comes to enquiries where we don't have the resources in Oakham – it is nice to return the favour too, and very useful to have that bit of background knowledge about what they have in stock in their own collections, gleaned from our meetings.

There is an active Local History Society here which is located in the Rutland County Museum across the road from us, and we also house materials for another group in Uppingham. The incumbent Local Studies Librarian traditionally produces the county bibliography for the Society's journal. Local historians here are prolific authors, and much of the material they produce is essential for answering some of our local and family history enquiries. In future we intend to have much closer ties with these groups than we have at present.

There is a great deal of pride in our small corner of England, and interest in its varied history. When people come all the way from Australia, Canada or America to research their families, it is important for them to have something tangible to see when they get here. So far we have been very successful in providing what both researchers, and the casual user, want and need. With a little more work, we will continue to do so and will improve the range of resources available, not just preserve what is already here.

Emily Barford is Extended Services Librarian, Rutland Library Service

LOCAL HISTORY PACKS IN HULL: educational resource tools for schools.

David Smith

Having undertaken a number of school visits and talked to teachers, it was clear that there was a need to help them with classroom resources as an aid to teaching the local history units of the national curriculum. The ideal would be a local history librarian or expert in every school, but this of course was impossible as also would have been undertaking class visits by library staff (on our finite resources) to all schools in Hull in sufficient quantity to deliver the full curriculum. Therefore a different approach was needed, one that would have maximum impact but could be achieved from the resources available. In this technological age most schools have interactive white boards or readily available ICT hardware and so it was felt that this approach was the best way forward. It was always very clear what sources needed to be included, the next step was to work out the exact method of delivery (website, DVD or CDR) and how to pay for the creation of it. Thanks to a £5,000 MLA Yorkshire Frontline Fund grant the money was found and following further discussions the CDR format was favoured as a tangible resource tool teacher's could use in the classroom with much of the CDR content also available via the My Learning website.

Advice was also sought from the Hull Museums Education section as they have a great deal of experience in putting resource tools together. They were also able to provide a volunteer who carried out the research for and scanning of the resources included on the CDR. Rather than be too broad, we decided to focus on the Key Stage 4 subjects of trade, industry and the development of Hull. Therefore, the contents of the CDR included: maps through the centuries showing the growth of Hull particularly through its dock system; census returns and trade directories showing the various trades carried out in Hull and where they were concentrated; illustrations of ships, businesses, the dock system; and of course written information and documents on these subjects. Once all this had been selected and scanned a commercial company was chosen for the design and pressing of the CDR which was then delivered to all secondary schools in Hull and is regularly used by the Hull Museums Education section for class visits.

It became clear very quickly that the CDR could also be used by Key Stage 3 and even some Key Stage 2 groups and we found a bigger demand for it than originally anticipated. This, in turn, made us realise that perhaps a local history resource tool could be created for all local history teaching whatever the age group. Further consultation with teachers, adult education tutors and education experts was sought. From this it was decided to create a paper based local history pack, a folder with various information sheets inside on a variety of topics including: how to research the history of streets, houses, entertainments and biographies of famous local people. Also included in the pack were newly written guide sheets on how to research local history and the top ten local history sources available. The idea behind the pack was that it could be used

by any age group interested in learning about local history. In addition to this, although the information sheets are very specific to Hull, the idea of the pack can transfer to any area as the basic idea is there and the guide sheets can apply to any locality. So far the pack has been delivered to libraries, primary schools, sixth form colleges, adult education courses and the History Department of the University of Hull. Eventually the pack will be in every school and college in Hull. To view the sources included on the CDR visit www.mylearning.org, type Hull in the search box and then click on "History Around Us".

David Smith is Senior Local Studies Librarian, Hull History Services, Hull City Council

HOW MUCH IS £1 WORTH?

This article first appeared in the Sheffield History Reporter, the newsletter of Sheffield Local Studies Library, issue no. 110, Feb/Mar 2007, and is reproduced by permission.

It looks like a silly question. We all know that £1 is 100 pence – and some of us remember when £1 was 240 pennies or 20 shillings. But that does not tell us what £1 was really worth in the past – what you could buy with it and what you would need today to match its buying power. This a commonly asked question and here are two websites that can help:

www.measuringworth.com is the creation of two economics professors in the USA. The site offers several different calculators but the most obviously relevant to UK users are:

- What is relative value? Five ways to compare the worth of a UK £ between 1830 and 2005
- Computing Purchasing Power of the British Pound 1264-2005

Using the first calculator you can find out that £10 in 1860 could be worth anything from £630.88 to £15,090.13 in 2005. It depends whether you want to use the Retail Price Index (RPI) or average earnings or Gross Domestic Product (GDP). You can have too much choice!

The website gives some interesting examples of relative value and helpful information on sources. 'Normal working class' tea in 1870 cost 3s 4d (that is, 3 shillings and 4 pennies) per pound weight. At today's prices that's the equivalent of anything between £39.75 and £163.97.

The second calculator lets you choose an amount of money and two dates for comparison. So, using the RPI, £100 in 2005 would buy the equivalent of £1 7s 9d in 1900 and 5s 10d in 1360. But the site does not really give costs – you have to look up what they have used to come up with their calculators.

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/currency is in the 'Take a Break' section of the National Archives website. It is intended almost as a bit of light relief. I didn't find it from the homepage – only by using the address above. It has two sections:

- Convert old money to new 1270-1970 and 1971-present (ie 2005).
- Buying power

In the money conversion section, you can only specify a decade up to 1900 and then every fifth year until 1970. You only get one result, so it is not as precise as www.measuringworth.com but the introduction makes it clear that it is meant to be a general guide.

The conversion is given in terms of buying power. So, £1 in 1905 is worth £57.35 in 2005. You can also use the Buying Power section to get an idea of what you could buy for an amount of money. For example, £100 in today's money would be worth £2 15s 1d in 1900 and 5s 6d in 1300; you could have builders' days' work, stones of wool and quarters of wheat for that money! I'm not sure how useful that is to know!

There is no introduction to pre-decimal currency on this website. The interesting short articles on living standards and currency from each century are only accessible after you have made a calculation.

Both sites have something useful to offer but you need to be aware of their limitations.

CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION: The Way Forward

LOCSCOT Day School, Mitchell Library, Glasgow, 28 March 2007

Jo Sherington

On 28 March, LOCSCOT, the Scottish sub-group of CILIPS Local Studies Group, held its spring Day School in the Mitchell Library on the subject of conservation and preservation.

The day was divided into two parts, with the morning being a practical workshop on conservation techniques, run by Archie Fisher, Senior Conservator, Glasgow City Council. In the afternoon Christine Miller, Reference Librarian at East Dunbartonshire Libraries, gave a presentation on their photographic collection, and Chris Fleet from the Map Library of the National Library of Scotland ended the day with some tips on map digitisation.

Archie Fisher began his workshop with an explanation of the work of the conservation department; the kinds of material that have to be conserved and their particular problems. Maps, plans, seals, paper, parchment, photographs, watercolours and glass negatives are just some of the materials they deal with. In his introduction he highlighted the need for both librarians and archivists to give

serious thought to what they want to preserve in their collections – the Mitchell Library currently has 100 years of backlog material requiring conservation!

With a selection of tools laid out, delegates were invited to try their hand at some simple conservation techniques. We were shown the correct way to clean books using a 'smoke sponge', brushing away from the centre. We also tried some repair work using 'bone folders' and document repair tape. Archie suggested that one of the best things to do to conserve your collections is to clean your books – something that can be done by volunteers among your staff – and is a good deal cheaper than paying the commercial rate of anything from £35 - £50 per hour.

We were given a fascinating demonstration of different types of paper. For example, paper dating from pre-1855 can be washed as the ink used was oak gall ink which can be immersed in water: the ink tends to be sepia in colour and does not run when put in water. After this date the ink does tend to run if it is immersed in water. In the case of newsprint, earlier papers tend to deteriorate less badly than later ones as the quality of the paper was better. It is the lignin in the newspapers that causes the problems. Paper deteriorates if not kept in correct storage conditions and Archie suggested that for the conservation of newspaper collections the best thing to do is to keep them in the dark and not to handle them.

Archie advised us of other things not to do, such as not to use sellotape as the pine resin causes paper to yellow, a process which is irreversible; never to use poly pockets as the plastic will in time eat the paper - polyester pockets are the best, or polypropylene - and not to laminate, as this bleeds the ink. Finally, have a Disaster Plan which should be kept as short as possible with details of what you need, who to contact and who will help. Copies of this should always be stored elsewhere, maybe at home.

The workshop was enjoyed by all and proved to be practical, useful as well as good fun.

In the afternoon, Christine Miller gave a talk on East Dunbartonshire Libraries Photographic Archive. With a selection of images from their collection, Christine described the Libraries' pro-active work in collecting photographs as well as their outreach programme of projects, talks, exhibitions and publications. The archive began as a community history project in the 1980s as an employment scheme for graduates who went out to the community to collect photographs for one year.

The majority of the photographs are copies, with the originals returned to the owners. A 35mm negative and 10x8 print are taken, with information gathered on each photograph. Each negative has an accession number and is put in a conservation envelope. The 10x8 prints are put on card with an index tag attached. Filed in cabinets, by subject, these are open to the public for browsing. They are catalogued under broad subject headings, so they are easy for the

public to access. Where originals are held, these are stored in the William Patrick Archive in Kirkintilloch.

Some digitising of the collection has been done, for SCRAN and different projects, and 1600 images have been put on to CD-Rom. The problems they are now encountering include finding the time to index the backlog, and funding for further digitisation. Christine's presentation showed what can be done with a good local history photographic collection, the problems and opportunities it presents.

In the final session of the day, Chris Fleet, the Deputy Map Curator at the National Library of Scotland, gave some tips on equipment and techniques for map digitisation. Chris's main responsibilities relate to digital mapping, both in presenting historical map images over the web, and in making modern digital mapping accessible. Over the last ten years he has been involved in scanning over 8,000 maps, in a number of externally-funded projects using a range of scanners and digital cameras.

Chris described the practical essentials for successful map digitisation projects. He gave information and advice on suitable scanners and camera equipment, explaining the resolution requirements and how to calculate pixel bit depth and colour precision. He explained that the aim should be to capture an image once, storing archival masters for the longer term, from which more short-lived formats for presentation can be generated. He explained the different geo-referencing processes including assigning co-ordinates, how to crop images, and how to calculate image sizes.

He stressed how important it is to record metadata about images, particularly in larger projects, and that this metadata can be divided into categories, such as: copyright information; description of the item using controlled vocabulary; preservation information such as physical condition; and technical data, such as format.

He suggested that descriptive metadata may be more suitable for librarians, with a range of options such as using controlled vocabulary like that of the Library of Congress, and that even an access database can be custom designed. Chris explained that maps have similar subject headings as other library material, and that using metadata can make website design easier, even if this is a long way off in your library's plans.

Chris's presentation provided extremely practical advice on equipment requirements, as well as solutions to the accessing of digitised maps.

A more detailed account of each of the above presentations will be published in the autumn edition of the LOCSCOT Magazine and on the group's website www.slahte.org.uk/locscot.

Jo Sherington is Reference Librarian, Stirling Council Libraries

THE ALAN BALL AWARDS

The Alan Ball Awards have been, since 1985, one of the major awards for local studies librarians, alongside our own McCulla Prize. The two, however, are very different: while the McCulla draws attention to librarians whose professional work is of outstanding quality, the Alan Ball Awards draw attention to outstanding publications in the field of local history issued by local authorities. The Awards were set up by the Library Services Trust, which was then administered by the London and Home Counties Branch of the Library Association, to mark the many years of service given to the Branch by Alan Ball, then Borough Librarian of Harrow. The idea was that publications by libraries needed to be improved in terms of authority and quality of production so that they could make a greater impact on the public, thereby also encouraging more people to use local studies libraries. The pattern of the Awards has varied slightly over the years, starting with one award for the author and one for book production, to the pattern today where there are three awards, all looking at the overall publication. The type of entry has also evolved: whereas in the early days all entries were printed works, today, with all the developments in information technology the judges welcome entries in any format including CDs, microfilm and websites – indeed of recent years the judges' comments have specifically encouraged these types of entries. For example, one of the awards for 2006 went to an online index to the first newspaper to be published in Wales. Throughout the life of the Awards, however, the emphasis has been on quality of authorship, production and suitability of presentation for the user.

Over the years a large number of local authorities, small as well as large, have submitted entries. Some authorities have won several Awards, some just one, and some, of course, have not been successful at all. However, the opportunity is there and any authority publishing material for the public should consider its offerings for entry. The Awards are prestigious and, particularly in winners' local areas, often generate good coverage – excellent publicity for both local studies and the library as a whole.

The *Local Studies Librarian* has always supported the Awards, both by encouraging entry and by listing the winners each year. It is well worth submitting copies of items you consider to be of a high standard and the judges are anxious to have as large a range of publications as possible to consider. Further information and details of how to enter are given overleaf.

ALAN BALL LOCAL HISTORY AWARDS 2007

The object of the awards is to encourage Local Authorities to produce local history publications of a high standard. Publications will be deemed to include books, maps, manuscripts, prints, drawings, exhibition catalogues, bibliographies, CD's, websites or any other audio visual or electronic format.

LIBRARY SERVICE TRUST is a registered charity. The Trust has a range of awards, one of which is the Alan Ball Local History Award.

ALAN BALL is now retired but was formerly Chief Librarian of the London Borough of Harrow. He was for many years an officer and member of the London and Home Counties Branch Committee, which has published a number of books written by him on local history topics. This award is named after him in recognition of his service to the Branch.

ENTRY FORM

AUTHOR

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr (Surname)

..... (Forenames)

TITLE OF WORK

DATE OF PUBLICATION

LOCAL AUTHORITY

NAME OF CONTACT

CONTACT ADDRESS

.....

..... postcode

TELEPHONE NUMBER

EMAIL ADDRESS.....

FURTHER DETAILS

On a separate sheet, please give any available details about the publication which you would like the judges to consider.

DESPATCH

Please enclose works to be submitted in an appropriately-sized padded book bag with an entry form for each work and address to:

Library Services Trust (Alan Ball Awards)
7 Ridgmount Street, WC 1 E 7AE

ENQUIRIES

Queries about the awards may be addressed to:

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Library Services Trust 7 Ridgmount Street,
London WC1E 7AE

CLOSING DATE

October 31st 2007



WHATEVER NEXT?

Susan Halstead

Reference and local studies work is so interesting because of the number and variety of enquiries that we get, often needing a good deal of research: in fact the reason I love being a Reference and Local Studies Librarian is that I learn something new every day. For instance, a recent letter to Burnley Reference Library requested details of unusual deaths in church registers. Our research for this enquiry, aided by a local historian, revealed some intriguing causes of death (for us and not for the unfortunate individual involved!). It is a paradox that the way someone died can tell us so much about how they lived.

We find poor Ellen Cunliffe of 4 days "Dying from its birth" in 1797 and the sad entry in 1794 for James of 4 days who was "a monster unable to take my nutrient." Life was no less difficult for children as they grew a little older; Harry "died at 2 ½ burnt to death by being clothed in cotton!" and helping out on the family farm proved dangerous for Benjamin of 12 years who was "killed by a cow to which he had fastened himself by a rope".

On attaining adulthood, there were many ailments to be avoided which the unfortunate John Chadwick did not do and, at the tender age of 20 years in 1807, he died of "quinsy caught by sleeping on the grass". Outdoor pursuits also caused the untimely death of John Faber, a pauper of 26 years in 1793, from "scrofula and consumption caught by night hunting". Work on the farm was, however, unrelenting and this contributed to the death of John Smith in 1808, "overheated by mowing", and Ellen in the same year who "drowned in a well the water only 9 inches deep".

There were many deaths in middle age from "mortification of the bowels" and "stoppage of the intestines" but, surely, the fate of John Howarth in 1800 must have been unique – "indigestion after a plentiful meal upon a famished stomach at the last funeral". Although living conditions were very harsh, it is surprising how many people lived into their 70s and 80s, dying at last of "gradual decay", some even dying of "old age" at 84 years and others lucky enough to be "found dead in bed" at 74 years of age. However, some suffered a harsher end and the pauper, John Schofield, died in 1799 at 70 years from "want of food, cloaths and bedding in this hard winter, alas!"

Next time we grumble about – anything! – maybe we should appreciate our comfortable lives a little more.

(All these examples have been extracted from the registers for the parish church of Holme in Cliviger 1742-1841, published by the Lancashire Parish Register Society in volume 124).

Susan Halstead is Reference Librarian, Burnley Library, Lancashire County Library and Information Service

LOCAL STUDIES GROUP ANNUAL REPORT 2006

The Local Studies Group has spent part of the year considering its future operation in the light of the reduced financial support provided by CILIP. Officers have worked hard to balance the priorities of members, as they understand them, with any changes in the functioning of the group. Responses from members are always welcome and details for officers are available on the website.

The website was revised in line with the relaunch of the main CILIP website in order to provide a more efficient service to members. Helen Pye-Smith coordinated the redevelopment of the content and continues to maintain the site information effectively on behalf of members and as always, constructive feedback on the content is valuable.

Our CILIP Council representative, Elizabeth Melrose was active in her participation in CILIP affairs, including membership of the Group Review committee, which has now reported and all members should be aware of the final decisions.

Committee members are active in other professional groups, for example Helen Pye-Smith attends the Standing Committee for Archives in Museums and Jill Barber attends the Society of Archivists Education and Learning Group.

The subgroups have provided an active programme of events, including visits and day schools. A visit to the National Archives was organised during the summer. The Midlands and Anglia sub-group held a well attended day school titled *Catching Them Young* where some delegates paid for their own attendance and the North West held a successful day on military history. Locscot reviewed the continued format of their local studies week to enable sustainability in future events.

The Dorothy McCulla Memorial Prize was awarded to Eleanor Nannestad for her outstanding work and contribution to the local studies field over a period of many years and in particular for her commitment to supporting other colleagues through the Midlands and Anglia sub-group.

Training, particularly in relation to the opportunities provided by the Framework of Qualifications, continues to be a priority and work is in progress bringing in members from other sub-groups and regional committees. Jill Barber will be speaking at Umbrella in Hatfield in 2007.

Dissemination of information and a forum for discussion continues to be the main strength of local studies subgroups, which produce substantial newsletters for their members. Recent financial constraints have challenged but not affected the production and distribution of *The Local Studies Librarian* one of the most valued aspects of the Local Studies Group. Copies are sent to Latvia, USA and New Zealand.

Jan Horrell - Honorary Secretary LSG

LSG TREASURERS REPORT 2006

These accounts, which show a surplus, look more cheerful than a year ago, although the share of Umbrella 2005 proceeds should have been included in 2005, but was received far too late from CILIP HQ.

Our Committee expenses were some £400 less than expected, as members were finding it increasingly difficult to get time off from work to attend our meetings.

Regretfully, we have written off the remainder of the Cedric Chivers debt as the chances of any recovery now appear very remote. As a result of this, we are starting the year with a nice clean Balance Sheet

As members will know, CILIP HQ have severe financial problems, brought about in the last few years by weak management and profligacy. A direct result of this has been a cut of 50% in Capitation to us and all other Groups and Branches. Your Committee have discussed fully various options for economy.

These are likely to result in fewer Committee meetings, with more communication by e-mail, and much less financial support for the Sub-Groups.

We do intend to maintain and, if possible, improve our services to our loyal membership, especially with the continued regular publication of the "Local Studies Librarian", which is so valued by so many members.

I commend these accounts for your approval.

Philip Thomas, ACIB – *Hon. Treasurer, LSG of CILIP*

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December 2006

EXPENDITURE	£	INCOME	£
Net VAT on Goods & Services	2-06	Capitation from CILIP HQ	4381-00
LOCAL STUDIES LIBRARIAN		"Guidelines" – Royalties on	
2 issues – Net Cost	2292-06	FACET (CILIP) Sales	14-03
Main Committee Exes ;		UMBRELLA 2005 – Share of	
(3 Meetings)	1052-35	Surplus from CILIP	577-00
Attendance at Outside Mtg	7-20	COIF Deposit Account Interest	<u>122-33</u>
McCULLA AWARD:			<u>£5094-36</u>
2006 Award	100-00		=====
2005 Expenses	<u>0-60</u>		
Membership Services	1-77		
International Relations	8-45		
Stationery & Photocopying	138-93		
Postages/Phone Calls	8-38		
Payments to/for Sub-Group	<u>620-88</u>		
	4232-68		
Surplus for Year, carried down to			
Profit & Loss Account	<u>861-68</u>		
	<u>£5094-36</u>		
	=====		

Profit & Loss Account for the year ended 31st December 2006

Working Surplus for year, brought down from above	£861-68
Balance of Cedric Chivers Ltd (in liquidation) written off	<u>243-00</u>
Net Surplus carried forward to Balance Sheet	£618-68
	=====

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2006

LIABILITIES

Accumulated Surplus as at 31st December 2005	£3888-21
ADD Surplus for 2005, brought down from Profit & Loss Account	<u>618-68</u>
	£4506-89
McCULLA Award for 2006 – not yet paid	100-00
Prepayments for LOCAL STUDIES LIBRARIAN (Winter 2006)	<u>30-75</u>
	<u>£4637-64</u>
	=====

ASSETS

Balance at Bank	£1556-28
Balance at COIF Charities Deposit Account	3081-36
	<u>£4637-64</u>
	=====

ADDITIONALLY

BALANCES HELD FOR SUB-GROUPS on CHARITIES DEPOSIT

London & Home Counties (in Suspension)	£1142-61	
ADD Interest for year	<u>51-96</u>	£1194-57
Scottish (LOCSCOT)	£1535-02	
ADD Interest for year	<u>69-81</u>	1604-83
CYMRU/WALES	£ 725-20	
ADD Interest for year	<u>32-97</u>	<u>758-17</u>
		<u>£3557-57</u>
		=====

BALANCES HELD BY SUB-GROUPS

Midlands & Anglia (Current Account	£ 649-17	
(Their Own) COIF Charities Deposit	<u>2412-84</u>	£3062-01
North-Western		644-56
Scottish (LOCSCOT)		1017-58
CYMRU/WALES (Old Bank Balance of 1p, written off)		<u>NIL</u>
		<u>£4724-15</u>
		=====

P.D. Thomas, Hon. Treasurer.
22nd February 2007.

G.M. Underwood }
C.A.Perry } Hon. Auditors

LOCAL STUDIES LIBRARIAN OF THE YEAR

The winner of the Dorothy McCulla Memorial Prize for 2006 is Eleanor Nannestad of Lincolnshire County Library. The calibre of entries was high, and Eleanor achieved the award for her long term and continuing commitment to Local Studies in Lincolnshire County Libraries. She has spent her whole career in the county and from the 1980s, when she was Local Studies Librarian in Lincoln Central Library, to the present she has demonstrated her enthusiasm and commitment to the subject. Although her post in the library service, as in so many other places, now includes other responsibilities her commitment still shows through. She does a good deal of outreach work including an annual 'Lincolnshire Quiz' and contributes to local journals. In the wider library world she was one of the founder members of the Midlands and Anglia subgroup of the CILIP Local Studies Group and for several years has organised the successful annual Day Schools run by the subgroup as well as shorter workshops and seminars. It is good to reward the work of one of the unsung 'journeyman' librarians who do so much excellent work in their communities. Eleanor will be presented with her Award by Ian Snowley, President of CILIP, at the Midlands and Anglia Day School at Nottingham on September 19th.

* * * * *

Nominations are now being sought for the 2007 award. This is a prestigious award and usually generates a good deal of publicity locally. There is much work being carried out and appreciated at a local level but this gives a chance for a colleague to be recognised nationally. Do YOU know anyone you would like to nominate for this Prize? The nominator does not need to be a chief librarian – nominations are welcome, for example, from line managers, colleagues and service users who are aware of the candidate's achievements: the nominee, however, must be a member of the Local Studies Group.

The nomination procedure is very straightforward. Details about the Award and a nomination form can be obtained from our Hon. Secretary, Helen Pyc-Smith, email: helen.pyc-smith@nationalarchives.gov.uk
tel: 020 8392 5278

Closing date: 30 September 2007.

LOCAL STUDIES GROUP COMMITTEE 2007

Chairman	Don Martin, East Dunbartonshire Libraries don.martin@eastdunbarton.gov.uk
Vice Chairman:	Alice Lock, Tameside Libraries localstudies.library@tameside.gov.uk
Hon Secretary:	Helen Pye-Smith, Resource Centre and Library, National Archives helen.pye-smith@nationalarchives.gov.uk
Hon Treasurer:	Philip Thomas, Birmingham pthomasPdt@aol.com
Hon Editor, LSL	Ian Jamieson, Newcastle upon Tyne injamieson@c-pac.net
CILIP Councillor:	Elizabeth Melrose, York eam@freeuk.com

Members:

Jill Barber, Hertfordshire County Library
jill.barber@hertscc.gov.uk
Diana Dixon, Southwold
(Deputy Hon Treasurer)
diana.dixon@cilip.org.uk
Julian Jefferson, Rochdale Libraries
julian.jefferson@link4life.org

Representatives of the geographic subgroups:

Midlands and Anglia:	Terry Bracher, Northamptonshire Libraries tbracher@northamptonshire.gov.uk
North Western:	Alice Lock, Tameside Libraries localstudies.library@tameside.gov.uk
Scottish:	Don Martin, East Dunbartonshire Libraries don.martin@eastdunbarton.gov.uk

Please feel free to contact committee members or the Hon. Secretary on any matter you wish to have brought to the Committee's attention – or for ideas for meetings, day schools or workshops.

The Group is kept in touch with CILIP headquarters via its new Membership Support Unit.

FROM OUR CILIP COUNCILLOR

CILIP Council met at the beginning of April 2007. This was an anniversary month for CILIP – five years standing, advocating growth in the profession, supporting members during a period of complex change within libraries, spearheading a positive attitude within government circles and the media, local authorities and, above all, the membership - while being aware that for many the national organisation appears to be less relevant due to the shifts in their working lives. An uphill task that must be taken on board.

Council representatives, new and old, were welcomed and office holders for the new Boards, Panels and Committees were appointed. Ian Snowley was invested as president of CILIP for the period 2007–2008. He believes that *'Our members are the key to our future...'* and he has already shown himself willing to attend Branch and Group meetings to underline his message. Indeed he has accepted an invitation to attend the Midlands and Anglia Local Studies Sub-group meeting in September to present Eleanor Nannestad with the LSG Dorothy McCulla Award 2006.

The future of CILIP depends on a sound financial superstructure and until this is achieved, professional education and advocacy cannot be carried through:

- Many members had considered that a relocation of CILIP HQ and staff out of London would be a savings option. Professional advice had indicated that this would not create the necessary savings and the fourth floor of Ridgmount Street is to be let out to provide needed revenue.
- Members were once more urged to change their subscriptions to Direct Debit to save on administrative costs and Councillors were relieved to hear that, though still sizeable, the projected funding gap had been significantly decreased.
- Branches and Special Interest Groups must continue to work within their attenuated budgets and consider ways of maximising income. Here LSG members must thank its Treasurer, Philip Thomas, and Journal Editor, Ian Jamieson, for their careful use of present resources, but members will have to understand that capitation in the next financial year will be greatly reduced.

The **Governance Implementation Group** has:

- reported on projected changes to the texts of the Royal Charter and the Byelaws. These will be sent to the Privy Council before being presented to CILIP AGM in October.
- sent out a summary of the changes to the Governance of CILIP to Group Committee Officers. Fuller details of the proposed changes in the Report of the Governance Review Task Force is available on the CILIP website.
- proposed the harmonisation of the CILIP year. When agreed, the full recommendation will ensure that Group and Branch financial years will fall into line with CILIP by the beginning of 2009, affecting the work-flow of Group and Sub-group Treasurers.

A Policy Forum

The Executive Board, Standing Committees, the existing range of sub-groups and panels will be dis-established by the end of 2007. A Policy Forum, chaired

by the Vice-President, will be set up. A Draft Specification has been circulated and our Group has responded through our Chairman, Don Martin. The Draft Specification sets out the remit, the principles and the role of the Policy Forum and attaches importance to representation from Branches, Special Interest Groups, the Home Nations, the Affiliates and the Retired Members' Guild. These groups will report to this Policy Forum on matters of professional policy, and all will have equal voting status, through their representative, elected by and from the committees of each body.

A report '**Review of CILIP membership engagement**' (March 2007), researched by Jill Martin at the request of the New Business Model Working Group, was presented to Council. This report looks at the interaction of CILIP HQ and the membership and recommends changes - within the existing activities of Ridgmount Street, the staff structures, communication and marketing. One of the proposals will be that the Group Liaison Officer system be abolished as a budget saving measure but be replaced by a suitable alternative system.

The **New Business Model Working Group** convened in May to consider the progress that has been made within this CILIP working programme.

- The CILIP President, Ian Snowley, is progressing a transitional funding model for Branches and Special Interest Groups. This model needs definition, but it is hoped that it may be available shortly for consultation. It was agreed that this was a difficult issue and submissions from Branches and Special Interest Groups have been considered.
- The ICT Review would be delayed as the CILIP Head of ICT was leaving the organisation. However work on a tender document was underway and it was hoped that the Review would be completed by September 2007.
- A tender document for the Review of the Framework of Qualifications and Accreditation is being drafted and it is hoped that a Review could be completed by the end of 2007.

It would be useful to read this report alongside the previous one in the *Local Studies Librarian* vol.25 no.2, Winter 2006, pp.15-16, as it is a continuation over a period of much activity in Council. Also, members should be aware that CILIP matters are ongoing continually. I originally wrote this report for *The Local Studies Librarian* last month and it has already had to be revised for publication thanks to recent updates from the Governance Implementation Group.

Should members of the Local Studies Group wish to have anything within this account clarified, I will be very pleased to do so. Please just contact me. I would like to finish by thanking the Local Studies Group for the opportunity of representing their interests (and, at times, harrying them to respond to CILIP requests for information) at Ridgmount Street. It has been a privilege and an education.

Elizabeth Melrose: CILIP Councillor representing the Local Studies Group
Tel: 01904 644335; email eam@freeuk.com

FROM OUR SUBGROUPS

Our **North West** subgroup reports that their joint day school with the Society of Archivists attracted 43 delegates from all over the country including London, Northern Ireland and Birmingham. The Society of Archivists did most of the organising but the subgroup feels that it has raised their profile among other professionals, especially as it was chaired by Morris Garratt, the subgroup's Chairman. As well as archivists, many of the library delegates came from social inclusion rather than local studies perspectives. The speakers included Julie Devonald and Jackie Ould from the Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre, Sian Roberts and Izzy Mohammed on the Connecting Histories Project in Birmingham, Alice Lock and Nazrul Hoque on the Tameside Oral History Project, Kevin Bolton on the Queer Up North Project in Manchester and Mervyn Busted on sources for the Irish community. There was also an opportunity to tour the Race Relations Resource Centre. The next day school will be on 21 November at the Cheshire Record Office on the theme of digitised sources. It will cover the Cheshire Tithe Map Project (a very useful project which has digitised tithe maps and will put them online), Blackburn's Cotton Town project and House of Images (digitised photographs). We have one other speaker to organise. Meanwhile, Maureen Burns has done a draft of a new edition of our newsletter which hopefully will be out in the Autumn, and it is hoped to try to circulate it among non local studies librarians. The subgroup is currently concerned that committee members working for Lancashire County Council have been told that they can no longer attend meetings during working hours if they have been on the committee longer than three years. The explanation is that this gives new people a chance to serve, but the subgroup comments that in fact it denies it the experience of long serving members and that so far no replacements are coming forward, and that it seems short sighted for the library authority who of course benefit from the contacts and knowledge built up by committee members.

The **Midlands and Anglia** subgroup reports that its committee has been concentrating on compiling the programme for the forthcoming Annual Day School and AGM to be held in Nottingham on 19th September with the general theme of 'Using your Initiative', and a full programme has now been completed and advertised [Further details in 'Notes and News']. The subgroup also reports some changes to its committee. Margaret Beard has retired from her post at Stoke Archives and has stepped down: our thanks are due to her for all her work for the committee. Terry Bracher will be resigning as Secretary and from the Committee as he is moving to a new post in Wiltshire. The subgroup also expressed its pleasure at the award of the Dorothy McCulla Prize to Eleanor Nannestad of Lincolnshire: she has been on the Midlands and Anglia committee since the subgroup's inception and among her other activities has been responsibility for organising all of its highly successful Day Schools.

Our **Scottish** subgroup, LOCSCOT, reports that following their Autumn day school, which discussed the future direction of Local History Week, a working party has been formed to look at the issues raised and to develop a strategy for future Weeks including marketing, promotional material and centralised

resources. The Spring Day School was on conservation issues and proved most interesting and informative, covering areas such as map preservation and digitisation, photographic collections and a hands-on workshop on paper handling and conservation, though some suspected at the end of the latter that it was simply a scheme to get delegates to help in the task of cleaning the books in the Mitchell Library! A fuller report on this Day School appears elsewhere in this issue. The CILIPS conference in Peebles was held on June 13th, with the overall theme of 'First Customer: developing people-centred library services'. Within this, LOCSCOT presented a well-attended paper on projects for children which involved a variety of speakers who focused on three local studies projects across Scotland, showcasing events for Pre-5, primary and secondary school age groups. The subgroup also reports that Eileen Moran has left the committee and that Christine Miller from East Dunbartonshire has joined.

HAVE YOU SEEN...?

Some recent items of interest to local studies librarians

Paul Pedley. Copyright and images. Update, 6(5), May 2007, 36-37.

A very useful article on a thorny problem. The author points out that there is widespread confusion about copyright in images published on the web: even copying a small image without permission could cost a lot if a rights-holder finds out. There is a good deal of useful information on potential problems in the article and there are examples from the local history field – indeed the author's 'case study' deals with problems where a public library local studies collection wishes to digitise photographs which have been donated over the years. Read it!

Susan Bell. Better late than never: a learning experience in Local Studies. LOCSCOT 5(1), Spring 2007, 8-12.

The author briefly describes her career as a local studies librarian, leading ultimately to her experience on the new course on local studies management at Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen. She describes and comments on the course.

History Alive Tameside. No 2, 2007. Tameside Local History Forum. 64pp. Free. Available from the Forum at www.tamesidehistoryforum.org.uk or email Gay Oliver at gayoliver@aol.com

This is the second issue of a most interesting publication and contains a miscellany of information about the Tameside area, with short articles on a variety of topics such as churches, industrial history and people, and includes a directory of Forum members. It is free because of financial support from the Community Foundation for Greater Manchester. Like many local publications some of its material will be of interest to a wider audience – for instance a contribution by Bob Hayes on ebay as a source of material for local historians, in which he notes that on a fairly cursory search he noted some 70 items relating to Tameside which were of potential interest to local historians.

Pamela Brooks. *How to research your house*. *Local History Magazine*, 113, May/June 2007, 21-24.

A straightforward introduction to sources for tracing the history of your house, with comments. Could be useful to show to users starting to work on this topic. Author has written a book of the same title.

Ian Jamieson. *Local studies*. In *British Librarianship and Information Work, 1991-2000*, ed J H Bowman. Ashgate, 2006, pp 245-261; also 2001-2005, Ashgate 2007, pp 231-247.

These contributions in these volumes are brief summaries of developments in the field during the relevant period, with extensive bibliographies.

NOTES AND NEWS

Congratulations to Diana Dixon on receiving the prestigious **Walford Award** for 'sustained and continual contribution to the science and art of bibliography'. During her lengthy and successful career Dr Dixon has certainly shown this to be true, with her bibliographical publications, reports and periodicals. While the Award is for her contribution to bibliography in all fields, and her treatises have ranged over reference stock, the newspaper and periodical press and business archives, many of her publications are, in fact, related to local studies. These have included local newspapers and NEWSPLAN, as well as the invaluable *Local Studies Librarianship: a world bibliography* (2002), which has become the essential reference in the field. Alongside her bibliographical work has been support for the Local Studies Group, where she has held various offices over the years and published material, bibliographical and otherwise, in *The Local Studies Librarian*. Overall, she has produced a body of work of which any author could justly be proud, and the Award citation includes the statement that 'Her work is appreciated by scholars, historians, local historians and librarians in local authorities, universities and colleges'.

Congratulations also to Malcolm Holmes for his **MBE**, awarded in the New Years Honours List. Malcolm, until his recent retirement, was the Borough Archivist for Camden. At library school in Newcastle he became interested in local history, and in 1974 he was appointed as Camden's first Local History Librarian. He remained in this post, with various changes in title, until a reorganisation in 1994 led to his appointment to a new post of Borough Archivist: by then he was a registered archivist as well as a chartered Librarian. During his time as Local Studies Librarian the service expanded and the stock grew enormously and in 1995 the opportunity arose for the collections to move from their cramped accommodation to Holborn Library, creating the Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre of today. He was interested in people as well as information, and gave many talks and produced various local publications. As a colleague said, 'For Malcolm local history has not just been a job, but more a way of life'. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

'Local history is alive and well' is the title of a photograph and paragraph relating to the Local Studies and Maritime Library in Southampton published in the June issue of *Update*. This deals with a quiz night held by the Local History Forum in the Library to commemorate the 95th anniversary of the *Titanic*. Competitors used the collection to research their answers and the winner was presented with a book about the ship.

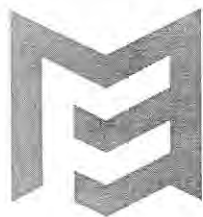
Warwickshire Library Service has launched a website to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the publication of George Eliot's first novel 'Scenes of Clerical Life'. The site is putting the county's collection of George Eliot's letters online for the first time. These letters provide a rare opportunity for scholars and students to gain insight into Eliot's life. The main group consists of letters to and by Eliot and her partner George Henry Lewes: others show correspondence to and from members of her brother's family. They cover a range of subjects including matters such as vivisection and some correspondence on scientific works. A further collection relates to family letters. The site also contains a biography, and the printed collection of Eliot's works can also be accessed: useful links to other relevant material are also provided. Lesley Kirkwood, the local studies librarian, says that the website is a wonderful opportunity to find out about one of the county's foremost figures and that the letters are of great importance to those interested in Eliot or to those who are curious about society life in the nineteenth century. Visit www.warwickshire.gov.uk/georgeeliot. The digitisation of the letters was funded by MLA West Midlands.

The Midlands and Anglia subgroup of LSG has announced the latest of its very successful Day Schools. This will be held in Nottingham Central Library on 19th September, under the title "Using your Initiative: connecting Local Studies with the regional and national agenda". Speakers will cover various aspects of the ways in which local studies can be used as part of regional and national agendas. Brian Ashley of Nottingham City Libraries gives a personal and professional view of how Local Studies is well placed to contribute to the current regional and national agenda; Cathy Peterson describes a partnership project working with secondary schools using a variety of local studies and ICT resources to develop Key Stage 3 literary skills; Nick Barratt, historian, talks about working with the media and his new web-based initiative *Nation's Memorybank*; and Ruth Riding discusses developing a workshop and exhibition intended to appeal to young people interested in journalism and research using archival materials. The subgroup's AGM will also be held during the day.

The Images of England project of photographing every 'listed building' in England has now been completed and a publicity/information leaflet has now been produced. It includes very brief information about the project and its parameters, acknowledges the work of its volunteer photographers, gives some examples of unusual constructions photographed, and explains how to get the best out of the website, including some 'top tips'. It points out that it is one of the largest free online image libraries on the internet. See www.imagesofengland.org.uk

You may have seen that long-established bookbinder Riley Dunn and Wilson went into administration in March, and some 70 workers were made redundant. The good news now is that the assets have now been bought by Charles Dunn, grandson of the one of the firm's co-founders, and his partner Jeremy Mills, safeguarding the remaining 57 jobs in Falkirk and Huddersfield. The Riley Dunn and Wilson name will be retained. Charles Dunn said recently that while the problem had been falling demand for reference book and periodical binding as more people opted to store information electronically, there are substantial and growing markets for specialist publishing and book production services such as conservation, repair and restoration and it is planned that these will be developed. There has already been much support from existing customers and the company is now intending to build on its longstanding reputation for craftsmanship and customer service.

Elizabeth Melrose, the Group's CILIP representative, has now retired from her post in North Yorkshire County Library. Please note her new email address: eam@freuk.com Anything sent to her address at North Yorkshire will be rejected. We wish her a long and happy retirement.



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