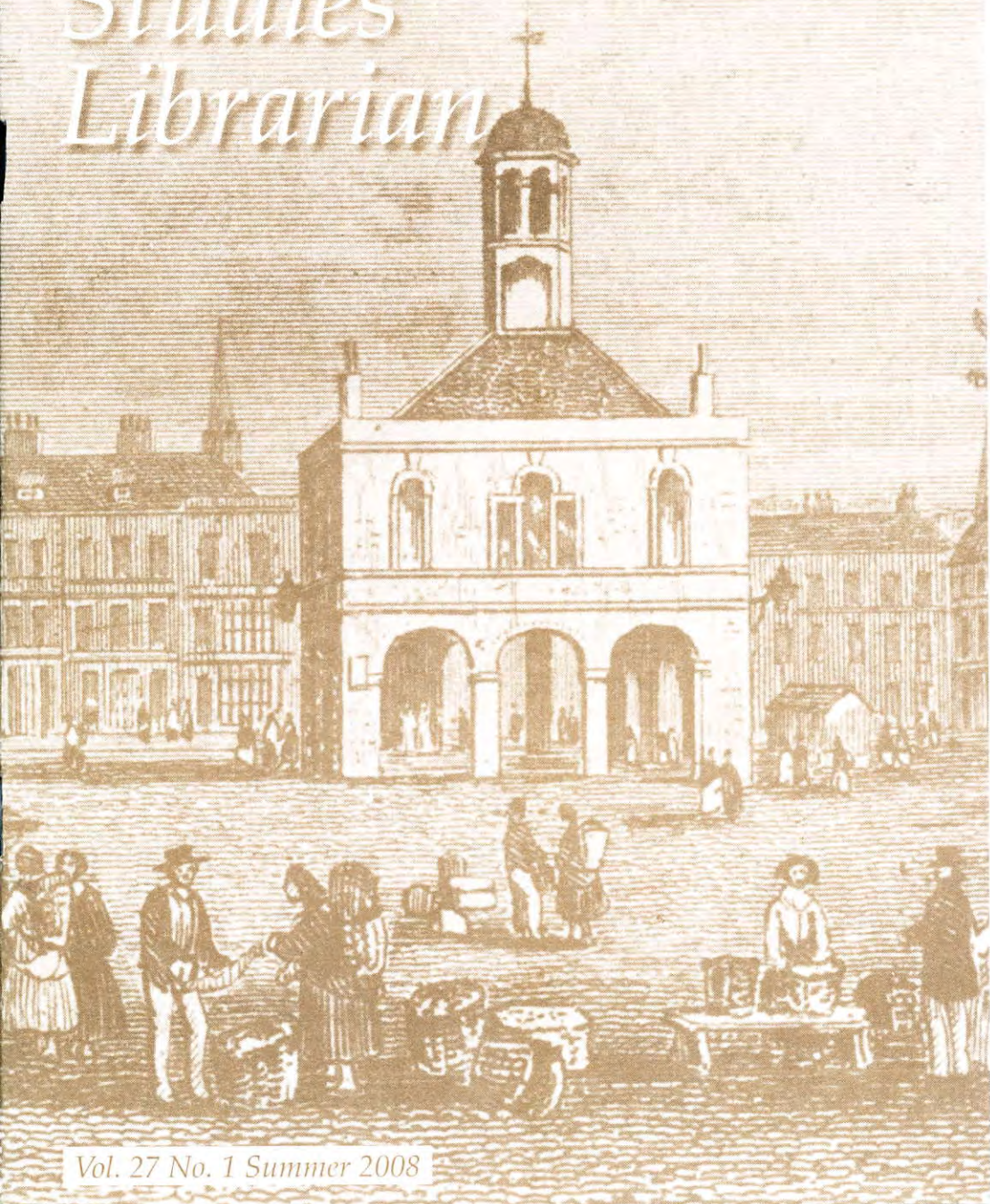


# *The Local Studies Librarian*



Vol. 27 No. 1 Summer 2008

The Local Studies Librarian, the official journal of the Local Studies Group of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP), is published twice per year - Summer and Winter. It is issued free to members of the group. Annual subscription to non members is £6.00 U.K. and £8.00 overseas.

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Distribution, Advertising, Subscriptions and Remittances:

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#### CONTENTS:

Editorial	1
Going Digital: Digitisation and the Local Studies Collection	2
Help Wanted	6
Digitising Local Studies Images: The Cambridge Experience	7
New Genealogical PG Course for Librarians at Strathclyde	10
Honorary Treasurer Needed	13
Local and Community History Month in Staffordshire	14
Local Studies Group Committee 2008	15
From our CILIP Policy Forum Representative	16
Local Studies Group Annual Report and Accounts	17
From our Subgroups	20
Local Studies Librarian of the Year 2008	21
Alan Ball Local History Awards 2007	22
People	23
Alan Ball Local History Awards 2008	24





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## EDITORIAL

Perhaps the first point to make is that we urgently need a new Honorary Treasurer, as advertised elsewhere in this issue. Philip has served us most efficiently for the past twelve years, but has now retired, and a replacement is vital. Everyone on the committee have their own responsibilities and we cannot expect other people to do this work as well as their own. We are a friendly and responsive committee – think about joining us.

The Committee has been spending time on discussing the way forward for the Group in terms of services for our members and in the light of the new CILIP setup. One concrete decision is that there should be subgroups across the whole country. Our existing three active subgroups work hard in their areas and there are proposals in train for two more, in the North East and the South of England, as you will see in the notes on the 'from our subgroups' page. If you would like these to be established and help them to be active contact **[anne.sharp@southtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:anne.sharp@southtyneside.gov.uk)** for the North East or **[nwbriggs@pcintell.co.uk](mailto:nwbriggs@pcintell.co.uk)** for the Southern subgroup.

One of the features of local studies librarianship over the last few years has been a move towards a single department encompassing local studies, archives and museums and sometimes others under a name such as 'Heritage Department' and this is something which can be helpful in bringing staff together. Both libraries and record offices have been inundated over the past years by family historians, and courses intended for both, such as that by the Society of Genealogists, can be helpful in showing the potential for cooperation. Often, in fact, the new 'Local Studies Centres' bring the different departments together under one roof and this makes essential cooperation easier to carry out.

With the trend, too, towards what people are calling 'Deprofessionalisation' there is a need for local studies departments to publicise and market their services both within and without their authority. Although in a general sense CILIP acts as an advocate for library services, and the LSG Committee is discussing the topic, it is up to individual libraries to make sure that the authority, as well as the public, know what you do. One good way of doing this is to enter for an award such as our own McCulla Award or the Alan Ball Awards: details of both are given elsewhere in this issue. From these you can generate a good deal of local publicity in the local media. But however you do it, by articles in the local press or issuing a newsletter, make sure that people know about you.

And a reminder: you can always find out about the Group's activities in our website, **<http://www.cilip.org.uk/specialinterestgroups/bysubject/localstudies>**

# GOING DIGITAL: DIGITISATION AND THE LOCAL STUDIES COLLECTION

*Jill Barber*

LSG North West held a successful day school on digitisation 21 November 2007.

The venue was Cheshire Record Office and this is a report of the proceedings.

## **Mapping Victorian Cheshire: Cheshire's Tithe Maps Online**

Paul Newman, Senior Archivist at Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, began the day by outlining a ground breaking project to digitise the county's tithe maps (and apportionments) and make them available online. Tithe maps, produced as a result of the Tithe Commutation Act of 1836, provide a unique snapshot of land ownership, occupancy and land use in England and Wales. They are often the earliest large-scale map of a whole parish or township, most drawn up between 1836 and 1851.

The project began by identifying the need for online access. Tithe maps are an important source for the history of any county, including house history, family history, land use and ownership, rights of way and archaeology. They link with the development of the railways, and can be usefully compared with the first large scale OS maps, which begin for most counties in the 1870s. User feedback demonstrates the demand for remote access and online content, and there is also a need to preserve these important maps. Only three copies were made of each map and not all of these survive. They are often extremely large, and their size makes them unwieldy and prone to damage when handled. The tithe apportionment data is not easily accessible as it is arranged alphabetically by landowner, not by plot number. Digitisation enables the data to be searched and sorted in a number of ways.

Consultation with users and stakeholders was an important part of the project at every stage of its development. 50% of users consulted at the beginning of the project were not aware of tithe maps, which helped demonstrate the value of the project in terms of promotion and access. Funding of £159,000 was awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund in April 2005 to deliver key project aims. These were to: encourage more people to be involved in their heritage; conserve and enhance our diverse heritage; make sure that everyone can learn about, have access to and enjoy their heritage. To meet these aims it was proposed to recruit volunteers for data entry; conserve maps in poor condition (as part of match funding); and create learning resources for primary schools. Archives and Local Studies acted as project sponsor, drawing up the specification for the website, inputting into specifications for contractors, and managing the volunteer project. Cheshire County Council Information Services acted as project managers for the digitisation process, and developed the website.

The volunteer project was crucial for receiving funding. Volunteers to input data were recruited through the Cheshire Volunteer Bureau and a message posted

on Rootsweb. More than 80 'remote' volunteers were recruited from all over the UK, the US, Australia and New Zealand. The tithe apportionments were already on microfiche, so these were copied and sent by post for volunteers to work on at home, using an Excel spreadsheet. Four 'internal' volunteers checked the data against the originals, which was extremely time consuming, and two members of staff were involved in managing the volunteers, setting guidelines and quality control. Volunteers were also used to test the website.

Digitisation of the maps was carried out by contractors, but as the work came in at under £50,000 there was no need to go to tender. Quotes were sought from three companies, but only two contractors were prepared to do the work involved. The company chosen was Digidata Technologies, who used a rig designed for the coal mining industry, which was large enough to capture maps up to 4 metres long and 3 metres wide. Maps were sent by courier to Mansfield. There were three main elements to the digitisation process: image capture, geo-referencing and the creation of polygons.

The first stage was to capture images as TIFF files for preservation, copy these as JPEGs, and GIS-ready one kilometre tiles. The original TIFFs were then used to add geo-references, so that maps could be cross-referenced to OS and other maps. The most time consuming stage was the creation of polygons, which involved drawing round the outline of every plot, to enable linkage with apportionment data.

Quality control issues were about stitching (making sure images within and between maps joined up correctly); colour balancing (between images of the same map); and checking metadata (for example is the file name correct?). A problem with checking was the time taken to open images (up to 10 minutes for a JPEG, and longer for a TIFF). It was not possible to check everything and it had to be accepted that minor errors would remain to be corrected over the next two to three years. All the maps are joined up, which is a great advantage over the originals, but sometimes where parishes join streets do not match up. These have been left for the user to interpret as it shows the problem of the original maps, where surveying may not have been as accurate.

In designing the website, specifications were based on other historic maps sites, although none linked to apportionment data. The models used were Norfolk E-map Explorer (<http://www.historic-maps.Norfolk.gov.uk/EmapExplorer.asp>) and Dorset Coast Digital Archive ([www.dceda.org.uk](http://www.dceda.org.uk)). This was developed internally which was an advantage in communication between Archives and Local Studies and Information Services. A disadvantage was that it was easy to get carried away! It was difficult to know when to stop, as development could continue to be refined, especially through user consultation. Fortunately new technology meant savings in the digitisation process, which enabled more to be spent on website development. The website development cost as much as the original digitisation process.

The website can be viewed at <http://maps.cheshire.gov.uk/tithemaps>. It has an amazing variety of options. Users can compare tithe maps to OS maps (6" to mile) and aerial photographs; find out who owned and occupied each plot of land; search for individuals; and look at patterns of land use. The only information from the apportionments not available is the tithe payable, which was not of interest to users and would have been difficult to record. A 'show more' facility enables maps to be colour coded by owners (top 10 as limited range of colours); occupiers; and land use, which was simplified in consultation with Archaeology.

Searching is by owner, occupier, plot number and place. A plot name search is useful for archaeologists and for rights of way. For example a search for 'hungry' revealed three plots which included that term. Search results can be saved to a spreadsheet. Free printouts of what you can see on screen can be printed out, and high quality prints ordered from Cheshire record office. There is also advice about obtaining copies of OS maps and aerial photographs.

Future developments will include more contextual information, pages for primary schools developed through the Learning Links programme with the History Adviser, and a facility for users to contribute to the site, feeding back what they have discovered.

In terms of sustainability storage is a key issue. The TIFF files take up 210 gigabytes of space, and are kept on an external hard drive. A separate server stores the JPEGs and GIS tiles. In the long term the data will become part of the Council's GIS system.

This is an outstandingly successful and innovative project which can act as a model for other authorities. There are plans afoot in the South West region, and Yorkshire. By giving us such a vision of what can be achieved, Cheshire has certainly set the standard for the future.

### **Digitising a photographic collection**

Ian Smith, whose company House of Images (set up in 1994) has a good track record of digitising local studies photographic collections, introduced us to some of the projects he has done using web-based online software. His company has digitised collections for Kirklees, Derbyshire and Nottingham's Picture the Past, and Barnet. The imaging software package is stored on the company's server, to make it easier to sort out problems, but libraries can add new images themselves. Google analytics provides user statistics for libraries, including a map showing the worldwide spread.

Kirklees has an additional 'Can you help page?' which encourages user feedback, giving additional information about the images. This seems an excellent facility. Although it does take staff time to reply to users, it is a good evaluation tool to demonstrate how the site is being used. To search across a number of collections, image databases can be linked to the People's Network Discover <http://www.peoplesnetwork.gov.uk/discover>.



### **'From Weft and Warp to World Wide Web'**

Diana Rushton, Community History Manager for Blackburn and Darwen, introduced 'Cottontown' a NOF digitisation project <http://www.cottontown.org>. This five year project was part of a wider consortium 'Spinning the Web' with Manchester, Leicester and Calderdale, funded by NOF for two years. In 2002 Cottontown received an award of £202,000. This paid for three PCs and three scanners. A Content Management System was acquired, costing about £30,000, and contractors appointed for the digitisation: House of Images for photographs, and i-Base for artefacts and paintings. The library and museum worked in partnership with local companies including the local newspaper, digitising their images. About 20,000 photographs, newspaper articles, broadsheets and posters were added to the site. Copyright release forms were used for donors of text and images, and watermarking software used.

Marketing and publicity were crucial to the success of the project, and new initiatives are constantly needed to refresh the site and keep users coming back. Users can send a postcard using an image from the website, and requests for images from newspapers etc help to fund the site, which costs about £6,000 a year to maintain.

The website was linked to outreach activities such as 'Down Memory Lane' reminiscences, and Heritage Town Trails involving local civic and local history societies.

### **What makes a good website?**

As a family history tutor and award-winning website creator, Gay Oliver shared her insight into what makes a good website. Her list of 'dos' included

- Make it dynamic and active
- Content to keep people coming back
- Facility to add user content/feedback
- Storyboarding or organisation chart
- No more than 2/3 clicks
- Content regularly updated
- Good links
- Use of white space
- High google rating
- Easy to get back to home page

Things to avoid are

- Too much text or taking too long to load
- Too busy and bad colour contrast
- Music you can't turn off
- Last updated in 2003!
- Broken links
- Too much jargon



- Getting lost!
- Frames (very old fashioned now)

As examples of good practice she cited The National Archives (although the search facility is not highlighted enough from its home page), Cheshire BMD, Rootsweb and Genuki – especially the Gazetteer which leads to a map – although many people don't find it!

This was a really useful day school, and as always one of the highlights was the opportunity to talk to other people and glean ideas. This was how I heard about Trafford Lifetimes, an excellent database produced by Trafford Local Studies that deserves a mention <http://www.trafford.gov.uk/content/tca/>. There are so many exciting digitisation projects going on across the country and I for one was inspired to go away and get started!

*Jill Barber is Heritage Services Manager, Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies*

## HELP WANTED

Graham Cornish, who many will remember as a former President of the Library Association, writes:

I have just started a project in conjunction with the Transport Ticket Society to identify collections (or even individual items) of railway tickets in library and archive collections. Although many libraries/archives often say they have tickets it is difficult to obtain more detailed information. I shall be sending out a one-page questionnaire over the next few weeks but if any members of the Local Studies Group know of such collections or interesting items I would be very grateful if they could let me know, giving either some indication of the nature of the collection or an email address to make contact for further details.

Any information will be very welcome. Please contact me at **Graham@copyrightcircle.co.uk**

## **DIGITISING LOCAL STUDIES IMAGES: THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE EXPERIENCE**

*Sue Martin*

Cambridgeshire Archives and Local Studies runs its own in-house digitisation unit, the FSB Scanning Bureau, which was originally set up in 2003 as a NOF-funded project within the County's Heritage Department to digitise items related to the Fens. When this project, which created about 5000 images, was completed, the Bureau was transferred to the Archives and Local Studies Department to do work for them as well as for other council departments. From here the Bureau gradually expanded to take digitisation orders from a range of external customers including archives, libraries and museums. Over the past five years it has gathered a wealth of experience on the digitisation of heritage resources, including archaeological finds, parchment maps, bound historical volumes, archival documents of all sorts, photographs of all ages and sizes, glass plate negatives, and museum objects. What is striking about the last five years, however, is the growth in local studies digitisation, so much so that the bulk of our day-to-day work in 2008 is undertaken for local studies libraries.

The first major local studies resource we digitised was for the Cambridgeshire Collection, based in Cambridge Central Library. The Collection holds a quarter of a million negatives dating back to the 19th century. The photographic studio of J. Palmer Clarke, situated in Post Office Terrace, Cambridge, was in business from the 1890s to the 1930s. It was then taken over by Lettice Ramsey and Helen Muspratt, who continued in business until the 1970s, during which time they built up a national and international reputation as being the Cambridge photographers. During the 1940s they photographed many serving members of the US armed forces based in the Cambridgeshire area so that they could send prints back to their families back home, showing them happy and well. In 2006, to mark the 60th anniversary of the Americans' departure, we digitised the complete set of photographs of USAAF airmen and airwomen. The Cambridgeshire Collection made them available on a dedicated website called America in Cambridge 1941-1946, <http://hipweb.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/cambscoll/airmen.html>, which was launched at the American Air Museum at Duxford on 22 February 2006.

### **Equipment and standards**

We use a Better Light digital scan back and a large format 4x5 camera attached to a copystand to create images of large or fragile items, such as rolled parchment maps and archaeological artefacts. The Victorian-style bellows camera, especially designed for use with digital backs: it looks like something from the 19th century, but the bellows give far greater control over perspective and plane of focus than is possible with a normal digital camera. With the Better Light scan back we can create flawless digital images with uninterpolated pixel data up to 6000 x 8000 pixels (48 megapixels) or interpolated pixel data up to 9000 x 12000 pixels (108 megapixels). Our A3 plus FujiFilm flatbed scanner enables us to originate images from the widest possible range of items, including paper

documents, glass slides and photographic negatives. The vast majority of the digitisation work we undertake for local studies libraries is carried out on this scanner, mainly because the jobs usually involve glass plate negatives, nitrate negatives, or other flat formats.

The master digital images created by the FSB Scanning Bureau meet the standards for digitisation laid down in NOF-digitise Technical Standards and Guidelines Version 5, February 2003. The items are scanned or photographed at original size at 300 dpi (600 dpi for smaller or more detailed originals), unless otherwise agreed with our customers. Colour images are created in Adobe RGB 1998 colour space. The master images are supplied in uncompressed TIFF file format. We make no alterations, enhancements, improvements or any other changes to the master images unless otherwise agreed with the customer. We can also supply images in many other file formats, including GIF, JPG, BMP, PICT, PSD and PDF.

In creating many large TIFF images, storage space was a vital issue which needed to be addressed from the outset. At present our files sit on a terabyte server and can be accessed easily by our small team. Our policy is to keep images produced for external clients for one month, giving the customer time to organise secure storage for themselves. We will purchase more server space as we continue to digitise our own items.

The past two years has seen a growing demand for retouching work on smashed or damaged originals. By using our Adobe Photoshop skills we are able to create new versions of original images which have unsightly cracks or spots removed. This work is always carried out on a copy of the image, never on the master TIFF scan.

### **Work for external local studies teams**

After the American Airmen we moved on to digitising other Ramsey and Muspratt negatives held at the Cambridgeshire Collection. To date we have scanned at least 6,000 negatives, many of which are available on a website run by the Cambridgeshire Collection.

In 2006 we digitised a collection of postcards held by Bexley Local Studies and Archive Centre. Images of the postcards are now available online through their website, <http://archives.bexley.gov.uk>. We are currently scanning more postcards and glass plate negatives for Bexley.

We are also scanning a collection of 2,700 35mm slides for another London Borough, and have completed a tricky order of scanning nitrate negatives for a Cambridge college. The digitising of the nitrate necessitated implementing special health and safety procedures. The college's plan was to destroy the original nitrates after scanning, which means that the digital copies we created are now the only surviving versions of these images.

### **Some thoughts on digitisation**

The advantages of high quality digitisation are now very well-known: they include the ability to allow widespread remote access to collections, the ability to have catalogues linked to thumbnails of the items themselves, and the ability to provide safe access to the image while minimising access to the original glass. The issue for many libraries is whether to purchase the equipment so that the scanning can be done in-house, or whether the irreplaceable original material can be safely entrusted to an external scanning unit. Here at Cambridgeshire Archives and Local Studies we have adopted the policy of buying our own equipment and professional expertise, and then offering our services to other local studies libraries and record offices on a charged basis.

By adopting this approach we gain increased experience in the digitisation of local studies materials, while external local studies librarians can have confidence in the fact that we are not a commercial company but are instead a National Archives-recognised local authority archives service with secure strongroom accommodation, run by professional librarians and archivists.

The FSB unit is small: I am the only full time photographer in the bureau, and we have had to turn down some jobs because they were simply too large for us. However, we have built up a healthy working relationship with local studies librarians over the past four years, something which was not foreseen when the Bureau was originally set up.

Other challenges which we have overcome in the course of digitisation have been learning to stitch together multiple scans from large maps using Photoshop, and getting to grips with colour management in order to produce true-colour files and prints of the original documents. Scans to be stitched need a one-third overlap, and this has to be taken into account when photographing the original document. The largest number of scans we have joined together to create a single image is sixteen. This was a time-consuming job (it took over a week, and necessitated the purchase of a new computer) but gave us skills which we employ more and more.

Creating authentic colour copies was important when we were asked to provide exhibition images from our own collections for the Yale Center for British Art in Connecticut, and when we produced poster size image files from over 700 35mm slides from the Royal Society of Chemistry's Rose Collection. We are also occasionally asked to create images for publications and for television programmes, such as Sotheby's catalogues, Wimpole Hall exhibition catalogues and BBC documentaries; our understanding of colour profiles and monitor calibration is essential for these tasks. In 2006 I was honoured to be featured in the MLA Think Digital resource pack where I shared my knowledge of how to digitise the 35mm strips of the USAAF airmen and airwomen. I came to our team having completed a photography degree as a mature student, and now the years of experience gained from working with archival documents has increased my skills and given me an understanding of working with and photographing



materials that are unique, precious and irreplaceable. I am aware that I am not only capturing an image for today but preserving it in its current condition for the future.

If you would like to know more or see examples of what we do please email us at [fsb@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:fsb@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) <<mailto:fsb@cambridgeshire.gov.uk>> or look at our web pages at <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/leisure/archives/FSB/>.

*Sue Martin is Photographer and Technician, Cambridgeshire Archives and Local Studies*

## **NEW GENEALOGICAL PG COURSE FOR LIBRARIANS AT STRATHCLYDE**

*Bruce Durie*

The innovative postgraduate professional qualifications in Genealogical Studies at the University of Strathclyde are recognised as groundbreaking and innovative. This article explains the rationale, the outcome and the implication for librarians.

The genealogical world has changed. The availability of many types of record on the internet – from public and private bodies – has meant that almost everyone has access to a vast wealth of data. The days are gone when someone researching a family tree had to visit Edinburgh, Islington or Kew, or hope that their local library had microfilm and microfiche copies of vital records (birth, marriage, death or BMD) and censuses.

Local and Family Studies librarians (and archivists too) have always been a vital link in the chain helping to connect people with the past. However, the level of customer service and engagement has changed in recent years from a rather grudging (in some places!) one-record-at-a-time and no-you-can't-copy-anything attitude to the current situation where most are generous with their time and resources in answering the most diffuse of queries, producing newspapers, valuation rolls, local directories and all the other tools for the enquirer.

There is no question - genealogy is the new Rock'n'Roll, and this does affect the work of librarians. The popularity of programmes such as *Who Do You Think You Are* and my own *Digging Up Your Roots* has fostered an unfortunate belief that it is possible to turn up at almost any library or archive and be presented, in seconds, with a compiled pedigree or a set of records summarising a particular family history back to the year dot. The more naïve visitors are puzzled and occasionally upset that it's not as easy as it looks when "that bloke on the telly" does it. But in the main, the enquiries tend to be a bit more focussed – it used to be "I think my granny was

born in Heckmondwyke" but now they come armed with dates, places, certificates and computer-generated pedigrees, and want to access more information via the library's PCs or seek out less obvious sources only held locally. Often the queries are sophisticated and well-formed: "I'd like to see the Baron Court Rolls for the period after Enclosure, please"! I have been working closely with local libraries – notably in Perth and Fife – to digitise and web-enable the genealogical information they hold (newspaper index cards, electoral registers, school rolls etc.). Users now expect such material to be online and accessible both in the library and from home. Many libraries now have sophisticated Learning Centres which do a brisk trade. A welcome spin-off is that the librarians and archivists concerned find their jobs more satisfying.

This has also impacted on the work of professional genealogy researchers. There is less call for "spool-turning", or visits to the National Archives or county repositories to dig out wills, deeds, heraldic armorials and the like, by someone based in or near a major centre like Kew, Edinburgh or York. Much of the spadework can be done remotely by private individuals.

From providing a fairly basic (but specialised) record-hunting service, the professional researcher's job is now often one of "Consulting Genealogist" – taking existing pedigrees, biographies and family histories and either confirming or disproving parts of them (usually both!), correcting errors and misapprehensions, adding information from non-internet or less well-known sources and providing context. There are still some clients who need to be disabused of the idea that they are direct descendants of Bonnie Prince Charlie, William the Conqueror or one particular Roman Centurion, but many have just been misled by the various spurious genealogies written at the turn of the 20th Century, wrong information posted on websites and their own leaps of faith.

One far-reaching implication of the genealogy revolution is that Local Studies Libraries now have to understand a lot about the practice of genealogy and the nature of the record sources, as the sophistication and volume of the enquiries increases. And, of course, the day is coming when libraries, archives and Registrar's Offices will be expected to collaborate meaningfully in local "Genealogy Campuses".

It was a recognition of this and other changes that led us to develop the Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma in Genealogical Studies (with a Masters planned to follow). Aimed squarely at those who already use, or would like to use genealogical tools and techniques in their work, or who might like to profess Genealogy as a career, the first Campus-based PGCert course started in January 2007 and from January 2008 is running in both Campus and Online modes.

There's no question it's intensive. Campus-based PGCert. Students attend approximately 11 Saturdays from January to June (about once a fortnight) and there are optional but highly recommended visits to the Mitchell Library in Glasgow and to the General Register Office of Scotland and the national Archives of Scotland in Edinburgh. Beyond this, there is an expectation of some 20 hours per week self-study and assignments to complete. There are Assignments – smaller tasks which are

designed to check understanding after each Lecture or Session – and four set-piece Assessments: an Ancestor Study; a Descendant Study; a Palaeographic and Latin exercise (typically, a will or testament to decipher); and a major Project chosen by the student, with guidance, to be submitted in late August.

Online students follow exactly the same schedule and have the same Assignments and Assessments. Both Campus-based and Online students have access to all the course materials via the University's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), and all contribute to Discussion Groups and other online collaboration.

The Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) is less intensive in terms of sessions, but no less so in its expectations. From 2008-2009 (January 2009 start) there will be six guided "Études" to complete and a Dissertation. Entry to the Postgraduate Diploma is after successful completion of the Postgraduate Certificate, and invitation.

As for coverage, the PGCert deals mainly, but not exclusively, with British subject matter. The PGDip takes these subjects further and addresses overseas records and sources in more detail.

A number of librarians have taken or are taking the course (as well as archivists, lawyers, teachers, existing professional genealogists and others) and have found it has improved their career prospects, given them the ability to specialise and generally enhanced their lives! A major outcome is not only their sense of professional competence and confidence, but the possession of a recognised qualification has proved persuasive in enhancing existing jobs, changing a job descriptions or applying for new posts.

We are commonly asked "Must I have an undergraduate degree to apply for the postgraduate courses?". The answer is that Strathclyde is a university which encourages access and provides "useful learning" – as it has done since 1798, which predates the University of London (it was the place where Dr Birkbeck learned his trade). Therefore we take all prior qualifications and experience into account. Existing students range from those with a couple of degrees, a Masters and a professional qualification through those with no tertiary education but qualifications and experience in (say) librarianship or museum curation, to those with no education post-16 but a demonstrable understanding of and genuine talent for the subjects. What we require is evidence of study skills, good IT ability and an understanding of what's involved.

Of course, not everyone will want to commit to a full academic year of part-time study at this level. For that reason, Strathclyde colleague Graham Holton (also a University Librarian) is designing a set of shorter, tailored CPD courses for librarians – as well as for archivists, teachers, registrars and tourist guides. We also have one-day Summer Courses plus a range of evening and weekend provision throughout the year, which can be taken informally or for Open Studies credit.

There is more information at [www.cll.strath.ac.uk/genealogy](http://www.cll.strath.ac.uk/genealogy) where a Handbook

and FAQ document can be downloaded. Anyone thinking about applying should read these, then contact **elaine.richman@strath.ac.uk** for more information if necessary.

*Dr Bruce Durie CBiol FIBiol FLS FSA Scot is Course Director, Genealogical Studies at the Centre for Lifelong Learning, University of Strathclyde. He is also well known for his local history books, genealogical articles and appearances on BBC Radio Scotland's Digging Up Your Roots, and A House With A Past.*

## NOTES AND NEWS

The Society of Genealogists is to hold a full day course, 'Genealogy for Librarians and Archivists', on Monday 3 November 2008. Organised by Else Churchill and Doreen Hopwood, the aim is to work with those in the field: the course will be suitable both for those with little experience or for those who wish to extend their existing knowledge and understanding of the subject. As active participation will be encouraged, places will be limited. The programme covers Repositories, national and local; genealogical sources and materials; and the main genealogical organisations, as well as a session on 'localising the elusive ancestor'.

Further information from The Society of Genealogists at **[www.sog.org.uk](http://www.sog.org.uk)**

### HONORARY TREASURER NEEDED

Philip Thomas, the Local Studies Group's Honorary Treasurer, has now retired from the committee and we are therefore urgently looking for a new Treasurer. The Local Studies Group is a friendly group and we would warmly welcome new committee members. Playing an active role in a Special Interest Group offers useful development opportunities, particularly for anyone who may be Chartering or Revalidating. You do not necessarily need financial experience to be Treasurer and there would be plenty of support from other committee members.

If you are an LSG member and you feel that this position might suit you and you would like to contribute in this way to the work of the national committee of this lively Group we would be very pleased to hear from you. For further details contact the Honorary Secretary, Helen Pye-Smith, The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU or email her at **[helen.pye-smith@nationalarchives.gov.uk](mailto:helen.pye-smith@nationalarchives.gov.uk)**



## LOCAL AND COMMUNITY HISTORY MONTH IN STAFFORDSHIRE

*Ian Burley*

Staffordshire Library and Information Service marked Local and Community History Month in September 2007 with a range of events intended to celebrate the importance of community cohesion, the promotion of citizenship and fostering a sense of place. In 2006, 600 people had attended events throughout public libraries in Staffordshire during Local and Community History Month, and the target in 2007 was to increase this figure by 5% to 630.

Staff based at libraries within all eight districts in Staffordshire organised a diverse range of events and activities to appeal to everyone:

- talks by a variety of speakers were carried out throughout the county. Among them were Archaeologist Bob Meeson, who addressed an audience at Tamworth Library, speaking on the subject of Tamworth Castle. An evening at Lichfield Library centred around a talk concerning local hero Samuel Johnson, and the Mobile Library Service booked local historian John Bonnett to give a talk at St. Mary's Church Hall, Stretton, on the history of Burton, the brewing capital of England;
- Open Days took place at several of the larger libraries, with various themes being chosen, including family history at Cannock and 'Roman Days' at Burton and Newcastle-under-Lyme. A Viking Longship experience was organised to take place at Perton and an eighteenth century music recital was performed at Shire Hall Library in Stafford;
- craft activities included calligraphy at Cheadle, stained glass at Lichfield, and a doughcraft activity at Tamworth based around the 'Tamworth Two', the infamous local pigs who escaped and cunningly evaded the authorities for some time a few years ago;
- online taster sessions were carried out throughout most of the county's libraries, giving anyone interested in tracing their family history basic guidance in how to go about it, and tips on the best websites to use for the purpose.

Other activities included walks, quizzes, coffee mornings and traditional storytelling and nursery rhyme sessions.

In addition to all this, the month was also marked by stock displays in every major library throughout the county and a leaflet promoting the month was circulated both within and outside libraries to a wide audience.

With so much planning having gone into the month, hopes were high for a successful outcome and, in the event, it was a huge success, far surpassing even the most optimistic of predictions. A target of 50 events had initially been planned, but the final number that actually took place was 97.

1623 people attended the range of events throughout the county, an increase of an incredible 171%, leaving the target of 5% way behind in the shade and feedback forms revealed that 98% of people were more than satisfied with the events and activities, a very impressive level of customer satisfaction.

The month was picked up in the local press, with a variety of articles appearing in local newspapers, ranging from small advertisements to full-page articles accompanied by photographs.

Everyone concerned was very proud of what they had achieved, both in terms of the amount of work that had gone in to making the month such a success, and also the impressive figures relating to attendance and satisfaction levels. After such a high in 2007, let's hope that Local and Community History Month in 2008 can be just as impressive for Staffordshire Library and Information Service.

*Ian Burley is Team Leader – ICT, Information and Local Studies, Tamworth District, Staffordshire Library & Information Service*

## **LOCAL STUDIES GROUP COMMITTEE 2008**

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:	Vacant
Hon Editor, LSL:	Ian Jamieson, Newcastle upon Tyne imjamieson@c-pac.net
CILIP Policy	Elizabeth Melrose, York
Forum representative:	elizabeth.melrose@btinternet.com
Members:	Richard Abbott, Birmingham Public Library Richard_Abbott@birmingham.gov.uk Jill Barber, Hertfordshire County Library jill.barber@hertscc.gov.uk Diana Dixon, Southwold diana.dixon@cilip.org.uk Elizabeth Melrose, York elizabeth.melrose@btinternet.com

Representatives of the geographic subgroups:

Midlands and Anglia:	To be confirmed
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 POLICY FORUM REPRESENTATIVE

As a complete turnabout this first meeting of the CILIP Policy Forum, which was held on March 19th and comprised representatives of the CILIP Branches and Special Interest Groups, the Home Nations, Affiliated Members and the Retired Members' Guild, was held out of London in Birmingham. The IBIS hotel was in the city centre, so was quite easy to reach from the train station. Other representatives coming by road had a far more complicated journey and some had stayed overnight in the hotel.

The fifty or so persons present also included several CILIP Trustees and staff – a fact that was noted within our table group, since the size of the previous CILIP Council had on occasion been called into question and we wished this new Forum to have autonomy within its remit. However, Dion Lindsay, a Trustee, joined our table and alleviated apprehension on this score. This first meeting of the Policy Forum, chaired by CILIP Vice-President Peter Griffiths, boasted an excellent facilitator, Rodger O'Donnell, who seemed well skilled in moving discussion along from topic to topic – 'What is policy?', 'What would the key success factors of this Forum be?', 'What are the expectations of our constituents?'.

Representatives were seated round named tables with a maximum of eight at each table. Unsure as to how these particular sets had been organised, I was happy to be included with Liz Jolly, Chair of the University College and Research Group, the representative from the Yorkshire and Humberside Branch, and Jean Plaister of the Retired Members' Guild. These table groups considered how the new Forum could successfully identify the professional issues affecting not only CILIP members but also the community of all library and information staff.

Spirited plenary sessions deliberated the results of these discussions, and representatives pinned the indisputable key issues for the profession on white sheets, including the obvious suggestion the libraries were losing their sense of professionalism and needed active support from their professional body. In abbreviated form, the important issues seemed to be ones of professional confidence and advocacy, the necessity to embrace the breadth of the contemporary library world and the need to promote the contribution libraries of all kinds can make to the public good, learning, sustainability and so on.

This may all seem on paper to be the usual discussion held whenever librarians meet together. Minutes of the meeting will be distributed from Ridgmount Street later. But there was a sense at this very first meeting of the Forum that the members were prepared not only to distinguish the key issues but to react to events, electronically and otherwise, in a speedy manner, taking on board the opinions of their constituents, and to develop policy using the knowledge and experience of other Branch and Special Interest Group members. A result could be an increase in the proportion of active members within CILIP. I left for the return train journey with some optimism.

*Elizabeth Melrose, Representative of the Local Studies Group on the CILIP Policy Forum.*

## LOCAL STUDIES GROUP ANNUAL REPORT 2007 - 2008

The 2007-2008 year has been full of successes as well as changes for the Local Studies Group.

Diana Dixon, long-time local studies activist and member of the Local Studies Group committee, was presented with The Walford Award at the Library and Information Show in Birmingham on 18th April 2007.

Philip Thomas celebrated his 80th birthday, and after twelve years service as Honorary Treasurer for the Group, plus two as Honorary Secretary, he has decided to retire. The Group is greatly indebted to Philip for all his work and support.

The Dorothy McCulla Memorial Prize 2007 was awarded to Elizabeth Melrose, another long-time member and activist for the Group. Elizabeth was the committee's CILIP Councillor until March 2008. In the new CILIP structure, Elizabeth will represent the Local Studies Group on the Policy Forum. She was County Project Officer (Local Studies and Information) in North Yorkshire County Libraries, Archives and Arts until her retirement in May 2007.

There is an urgent need for more members of the Committee so that the workload can be spread around more and to enable new initiatives to get off the ground. In particular we need a new Hon. Treasurer. Getting involved in a committee is a good way to meet people working in your area, influence how things are done and a useful addition to your CV or Chartership portfolio. If you would like to know more about what the Committee does or are interested in getting involved please do contact us.

The Committee's finances have been a particular concern this year. The Group may need to consider electronic meetings in the future, which would be facilitated by software that CILIP plans to introduce for this purpose. The Committee already uses email actively for discussions in between Committee meetings.

Two issues of the Local Studies Librarian have been published.

The Website has been kept up-to-date and the number of enquiries from members of the Group received via the website has increased. It is good to know that LSG members are using the website and finding the Contact Us form. Feedback on the usefulness of the website itself, or suggestions for other information that could be added to it would be welcome.

The Local Studies Group was included in the series in the Gazette on CILIP's special interest groups in November.

The Regional sub-groups have gone from strength-to-strength and produced another active programme of events. These have all been well attended. Although the Welsh Group is not currently active, plans for a new group to be established in the North East have been publicised.

The Group organised two sessions at Umbrella 2007. Committee members have continued to be active in other professional groups, namely the Standing Conference for Archives in Museums and the Society of Archivists Education and Learning Group.

Helen Pye-Smith took over as Honorary Secretary from Jan Horrell, and attended a CILIP Branch and Group day in December.

*Helen Pye-Smith - Honorary Secretary LSG*



## LSG TREASURER'S REPORT 2007

It is good to report that LSG has survived the first year of drastically reduced Capitation from CILIP HQ and have been fortunate to show a small surplus, due to an unexpectedly higher amount from our share of the Umbrella 2007 overall Surplus.

Our financial assistance to our Sub-Groups had to virtually cease, but they have been very cooperative about this, and we had to manage with two National Committee meetings instead of the really necessary three.

As all expenditure has been cut back as far as it can be, without detriment to services to our loyal membership, income generation appears to be the only way forward and your Committee as a whole are actively considering all viable options.

In this, my Final Report prior to retirement, I want to thank all the Committee members present and past who have supported me and given me constructive help on all matters financial.

Philip Thomas.

7th March 2008

### Income & Expenditure account for the year ended 31st December 2007

EXPENDITURE	£	INCOME	£
Nett VAT on Goods & Services	1-31	Capitation from CILIP HQ	2118-00
LOCAL STUDIES LIBRARIAN:		"Guidelines" – Royalties on	
2 issues – Net Cost	1724-71	FACET (CILIP) Sales	20-40
Main Committee Exes (2 Mtgs)	601-46	UMBRELLA 2007 –	
		Attendance at	
Outside Meeting	5-93	LSG's Share of Surplus	597-70
McCULLA AWARD:		Less Expenses	<u>48-66</u>
2007 Award	100-00		549-04
2006 Award Exes	<u>20-00</u> 120-00	Affiliated Member (Nett of VAT)	5-11
Membership Services	1-19		
International Relations	8-60		
Stationery/ Photocopying	54-00	COIF Charities Deposit Interest	172-51
Postages/Phone Calls	7-68		
Payments made for Sub-Groups:			
Scottish (re 2006)	5-44		
North-Western (2007)	<u>8-79</u> 14-23		
	<u>£2539-11</u>		
Surplus for year, carried down			
to Balance Sheet	<u>325-95</u>		
	£2865-06		£2865-06
	=====		=====

## Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2007

### LIABILITIES

Accumulated Surplus as at 31st December 2006	£4506-89	
ADD Surplus for 2007 (b/d from above)	<u>325-95</u>	
Accumulated Surplus as at 31st December 2007		£4832-84
Creditors: McCULLA AWARD for 2007 (not yet paid)	100-00	
Prepaid Subscriptions for "Local Studies Librarian" ,		
Winter 2007	<u>30-25</u>	130-25
		£4963-09
		=====

### ASSETS

Balance at Barclays Bank	£1111-52	
Balance at COIF Charities Deposit	<u>3253-87</u>	£4365-39
<b>Debtor</b> : CILIP (Umbrella 2007 – LSG's share of Surplus)		<u>597-70</u>
		£4963-09
		=====

## ADDITIONALLY

### BALANCES HELD FOR SUB-GROUPS on CHARITIES DEPOSIT

London & Home Counties	£1194-57	
ADD Interest for year	<u>66-88</u>	£1261-45
Scottish (LOCSCOT)	£1604-83	
ADD Interest for year	<u>89-65</u>	1694-68
CYMRU/Wales	£ 758-17	
ADD Interest for year	42-46	800-63
		£3756-76
		=====

### NETT BALANCES HELD BY SUB-GROUPS

Midlands & Anglia (Current Account)	£ 838-51	
(Their Own) COIF Charities Deposit a/c	<u>3308-44</u>	£4146-95
North-Western		642-58
Scottish (LOCSCOT)		
1756-41		

P.D. Thomas, ACIB (Hon. Treasurer) 7th March 2008

G.M. Underwood, C.A.Perry (Hon. Auditors/Independent Examiners)

## FROM OUR SUBGROUPS

The **Midlands and Anglia** subgroup had a trip to the new Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre, hosted by its former secretary, Terry Bracher. It was fascinating to look round this wonderful new building and find out about the creation of the new centre, which contains the local studies library, county record office, archaeology service, and museum conservation service. The only problem was the feeling of jealousy at seeing such a wonderful facility! It is reported that the subgroup's latest newsletter is due out soon: it is a celebrity edition, featuring Nick Barratt (guest speaker at the last Day School), Mick Aston (joining in Young Archaeologist events in Worcestershire), and Stephanie Cole (winner of Solihull's 'S' Factor) as part of its roundup of events which have been happening in the region. The 2008 Day School is to be held in Solihull Library on 2nd October. The theme is 'Reaching New Audiences' and the day will include examples of projects using Web 2.0. Booking details will be advertised shortly (try the CILIP website or the Gazette, or Paul Hudson of Worcestershire, the subgroup's Hon. Secretary).

Our **North West** subgroup reports that, like the other subgroups, it has been discussing and commenting on ideas for the way forward for LSG. It supports the idea of a network of subgroups round the country, but as it already covers a large and cohesive area it does not think that it should be enlarged. The subgroup, however, is in touch with Anne Sharp of the proposed North East subgroup and will try not to clash with its events and to do joint publicity where possible. The subgroup held a successful day school on Lancashire Dialect at Gallery Oldham on 21 May which 17 people attended. We had very good quality speakers from the academic world who showed the value of dialect as historical source material and felt that we'd learnt a lot about how to exploit it in new ways. There was a very informed debate about the difficulties of knowing how our ancestors really spoke. We were pleased to find that we'd attracted a wide range of people as the audience included customers as well as staff from local studies libraries, though a few more would have been welcome. The event made a profit of about £50. The subgroup is grateful to the North West branch of CILIP who published an appeal for new committee members for us and we were pleased to welcome Julie Devonald, Roger Ivens, Jane Metcalfe and David Perkins to the committee. They brought a very useful range of experience and new ideas as Roger is an archivist, Julie works at the Race Relations Resource Centre, David works in Manchester and Jane in Cumbria (our first Cumbrian representative!).

LOCSCOT, our **Scottish** subgroup, has been discussing various matters of concern. A task group has been set up to rejuvenate Local History Week, including promotional materials, branding, website information, etc. The theme for 2008 was Hot Metal, Cold Print – printing and musicals in Scotland. The week was launched by writer, journalist and broadcaster Jack Webster as part of a very successful event organised in Aberdeen, which had good press coverage. Themes for the next five years have been agreed to allow plenty of time for forward planning. In April LOCSCOT organised a day school in Edinburgh ahead of the 2009 'Year of Homecoming'. *Homecoming Scotland* has been set up to motivate Scots, and those of Scots descent, to come to Scotland in 2009 to take part in a celebration of culture and heritage and this day school gave an indication of the key role libraries have in such a major promotion. About 25 people attended. During the meeting Elizabeth Melrose was presented with the 2007 Dorothy McCulla Award. Other topics discussed recently by LOCSCOT included the progress of the Scotland's People project and census records on microfilm. It is

reported that the LOCSCOT website is now up and running on the Slainte website and includes pdf versions of the LOCSCOT magazine as well as news of events. See [www.slainte.org.uk/cilips/sigs/locscot/locscotindex.htm](http://www.slainte.org.uk/cilips/sigs/locscot/locscotindex.htm)

## **POTENTIAL SUBGROUPS**

### **Southern subgroup**

The Local Studies Group has several well established sub-groups in the North-West, Midlands & Anglia and in Scotland. They provide excellent training and networking events, and keep abreast of relevant activities and developments in their regions. In the past there was one in London as well, but this has not been active recently.

There are plans to establish a sub-group for the South of England, covering the South West, the South East and London. This has the full support of the national committee. We are looking for volunteers from across the three areas to form this group. Ideally the first meeting would be held in about a month's time. If you would like to see a Southern Sub-Group set up and would like to get involved in this, please contact Norman Briggs at [nwbriggs@pcintell.co.uk](mailto:nwbriggs@pcintell.co.uk)

### **North East subgroup**

The proposed North East subgroup is also still at the planning stage, with the support of the national committee. The subgroup is still collecting potential members and is intending to hold a meeting in October. Please do get in touch to register your interest and show support - any member of CILIP with an interest in local studies is welcome. Contact [anne.sharp@southtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:anne.sharp@southtyneside.gov.uk), tel 0191 424 7860.

## **LOCAL STUDIES LIBRARIAN OF THE YEAR**

As reported in our last issue, Elizabeth Melrose was the winner of the 2007 Dorothy McCulla Prize for her long term and continuing commitment to local studies librarianship both locally and nationally. Nominations are now being sought for the 2008 award. This is a chance for high calibre local studies librarians to be recognised nationally as well as at a local level. In particular there is usually a good deal of publicity in the local area and that can only be good for the person and the library service. There is much excellent work being carried out and appreciated by librarians at a local level, and much of it is worthy of wider recognition. Do YOU know anyone you would like to nominate for this Prize? While ideally there would be positive support from the top the nominator does not need to be a chief librarian - nominations are welcome 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 Pye-Smith, email [helen.pye-smith@nationalarchives.gov.uk](mailto:helen.pye-smith@nationalarchives.gov.uk), tel 0208392 5278.

**Closing date: 30 September 2008**



## ALAN BALL LOCAL HISTORY AWARDS 2007

The Alan Ball Awards were established in 1985 to encourage high quality local history publishing by public libraries and local authorities and this is the twenty third year they have been awarded. This year the judges met on 20 February 2008: there were entries from 11 local authorities.

The judges decided to make three Awards, the maximum number permitted, and also felt that one entry should be Highly Commended and another should be Commended.

The Awards are:

**Bedfordshire County Council** for *Bedfordshire Women's Land Army Internet Archive*, which we felt was well structured, easily navigable, and a good example of a library working with a local historian to provide newly researched historical information within an existing website;

**City of Newcastle upon Tyne** for *Victorian Villains* by Barry Redfern, which is a detailed account by a former police officer of prisoners in Newcastle Gaol in the years 1871-73. We were impressed by the meticulous research, the quality of writing and the copious illustrations in a work that throws much light on the social conditions of the time;

**Somerset County Council** for *The Somerset Wetlands*, edited by Pat Hill-Cottingham and others. We thought this an admirable volume, beautifully produced and illustrated, the work of many writers who have contributed a well co-ordinated collection of essays on every aspect of the Wetlands.

Highly Commended is

**The City of Dundee** for *Time Train Dundee* by Matthew Fitt, which would certainly have received a full Award if we were not limited to three. We genuinely enjoyed this history of Dundee for young people, with its humorous writing and cartoons, and felt it was a highly original approach that should attract the interest of youngsters who are less likely to read a more formal academic account. Think of Sellar and Yeatman's "1066 and All That" – praise indeed!

Commended is

**Burnley Borough Council** for *Heritage Appraisals 2004-2007*, six volumes covering sub-areas of Burnley that examine their history, the development of different building types and uses, open spaces, changes over the years, and much more. We were impressed by the standard of production and the meticulous research, but also by the fact that library resources had been skillfully used to produce something so valuable in a present-day planning context.

It was disappointing to see that the number of entries had reduced this year. Even in these difficult times there must be many more libraries than these entrants publishing work, in one form or another, of a high standard. Is it lack of time, or lack of interest perhaps by the authority, or the feeling that 'ours isn't good enough' that inhibits organisations from entering? Although there are highly organised libraries with a catalogue of publications and sales through bookshops, there is always a welcome for one-off entries – and with today's technology any publication, whether

it be printed or for instance a database can be accurately and attractively produced – the award for Bedfordshire this year (cited above) is an internet archive.

This is a prestigious award and can generate a good deal of local publicity (and who these days is not looking for this?). If you have published anything related to local studies, in any form, why not consider entering this year? An application form appears on pages -x-

You can get further information from Eric Winter, Library Services Trust, CILIP, 7 Ridgmount Street, London WC1E 7AE.

Tel: 020 7255 0648: email: [eric.winter@cilip.org.uk](mailto:eric.winter@cilip.org.uk)

## PEOPLE

**Phillip Thomas**, our Hon. Treasurer for the past twelve years, has retired at the age of eighty, having also been our Hon. Secretary for two years during this period. Having also in his varied career qualified as a banker, he was the ideal person to keep our accounts in good order and hand them on to his successor in a perfect condition. Philip came late to librarianship, having worked in various fields (including once long ago when he understudied as tenor with the touring company of La Scala Milano), until he entered Birmingham Library School in his late forties. Almost immediately he became involved with Library Association activities, serving various Groups, many of them simultaneously, while he worked his way through the hierarchy at Birmingham Public Library to become Branch Librarian at Handsworth and running the library at Winson Green Prison. Having taken early retirement in 1988 he continued his professional work for the LA and the various Groups with which he was involved, and was awarded the LA Certificate of Merit in 1992. Eventually he gave up his various offices, retaining, after 2002, only his Treasurership of the Local Studies Group: although not a local studies librarian he obviously felt an affinity with the Group. With his friendly personality he was a popular member of the Committee and everyone is sorry to see him go. His successor will have a good start, with everything in apple pie order. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

Congratulations to **Elizabeth Carmichael**, Education Officer, The Mitchell Library, Glasgow, on being awarded a Cilips Centenary Medal for local and family history services. Cilips is the successor body to the Scottish Library Association and awarded these medals to celebrate the centenary of the foundation of the SLA, taking the opportunity to mark the contributions of a number of individuals who have supported the work and development of library and information services in Scotland. Elizabeth has been for many years one of the leading figures in local studies librarianship in Scotland and the Medal is richly deserved. She comments that she is honoured to receive this medal not just for herself but for everyone in local studies, and that it is good to think that the libraries are being recognised for the resources and expertise that they have in local and family history research.

Sheffield Local Studies Library reports the retirement of **Sylvia Pybus**, the Local Studies Librarian after 47 ½ years service to Sheffield Libraries, Archives and Information. Having started work in 1960 she joined Local Studies in 1965 and has been there since. As the tribute in the Sheffield History Reporter says "...what she didn't know about Sheffield's history wasn't worth knowing!" and they wish her a long and happy retirement.

In case you didn't notice, **Elizabeth Melrose** has been flying the local studies flag in the 'My Week' column in the Gazette for 16-29 May. It's a pretty full diary – and she's retired!

# **ALAN BALL LOCAL HISTORY AWARDS 2008**

**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, CDs, websites or any other audio-visual or electronic format.

**Library Services 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 of the Library Association, 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.

# ALAN BALL LOCAL HISTORY AWARDS ENTRY FORM

AUTHOR Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr..... (Forename)

..... (Surname)

TITLE OF WORK .....

DATE OF PUBLICATION .....

LOCAL AUTHORITY .....

NAME OF CONTACT .....

CONTACT ADDRESS.....

.....

.....postcode .....

TELEPHONE .....

EMAIL.....

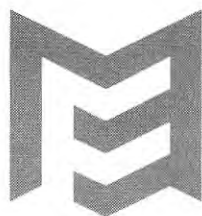
**FURTHER DETAILS**    On a separate sheet, please give any available details about the publication which you would like the judges to consider.

**DESPATCH**            Please enclose works in a padded book bag with an entry form for each work and addressed to: Eric Winter

Library Services Trust (Alan Ball Awards)  
7 Ridgmount Street, London, WC1E 7AE

**ENQUIRIES**            Queries about the Awards may be addressed to:  
Eric Winter tel: 020 7255 0648  
email: eric.winter@cilip.org.uk

**CLOSING DATE**        31 October 2008



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