

HGRG Minutes from AGM Thursday 29th August Royal Geographical Society, London (fellows tea room)

In attendance:

Carl Griffin, QUB/ Sussex
Harriet Hawkins RHUL
Briony McDonagh, Nottingham
Kim Ross, Glasgow
Rachel Ford, Nottingham
Hayden Lorimer, Glasgow
Eddie Cole, Glasgow
Oliver Dunnett, St Mary's University Colege
Jake Hodder, Nottingham
Alice Insley, Nottingham
Natalie Cox, Warwick
Julian Baker, Edinburgh University
Eaven O'Dochortaugh, NUL, Galway
Jo Byrne, Hull
Louise Henderson, Independent
David Harvey, Exeter
Charles WJ Withers, Edinburgh
Hilary Geoghegan, UCL
Felix Driver, RHUL
Jane Wess Edinburgh
Kallum Dhillon, UCL
Nikolai Polina, Exeter
James Wallis, Exeter
Innes Keighren, RHUL
Lucy Veale, Nottingham
Ruth Craggs, KCL
Alastair Owens, QMUL

1. **Apologies for absence**
Nicola Thomas
KL
2. **Minutes of the last meeting,**
See website, agreed by committee
3. **Matters arising from minutes not on the agenda**
None
4. **Reports from committee members**

Carl Griffiths, Chairs report:

A busy year:

40th birthday celebrations, including cups, presentations and cake on Tuesday 23rd
August, opening night of RGS
Practicing Historical Geography
7th November, annual conference in Hull, part funded by university and RHED division.
A range of workshops and key notes were held, it cost £10 to attend.

Next PHG will be Preston, 6th November

Archives:

Small pot of money to archive HGRG records
Boxes are currently being catalogued by ex committee member Edwin Aitkens. Call for former members to provide material for the archive. Eventually the archive will go to the RGS, some material will be placed in the public domain, there are questions here around digitization to be considered.

Monograph series;

Published two monographs this year, thanks to all involved.

General:

Twitter feed @HGRG_RGS

Carl is the HGRG representative on the ICHG committee for London 2015

Harriet Hawkins, Secretary

Thanks to committee for e- AGM co-operation

Treasurer: Carl/ Briony McDonagh

BAM will take over as treasurer as she has now come back from maternity leave.
Accounts put up on overhead, see attached.

Lucy Veale, Practicing Historical Geography

6th November in Preston

40th birthday celebrations will continue, PHG might be 20

Full programme nearly in place

Innes Keighren: Website officer

Now transitioned away from being housed by Exeter.

Launch has been successful, av. 17 visitors/ day

4251 views across its lifetime

Popular across a range of countries

Search terms include HGRG, Historical Geography, Historical Geography research

Hilary Geoghagen, dissertation prize

Thanks to Innes for efficient hand-over

£200 prize in vouchers and invitation to present at the PHG conference

6 entries, range of topics, from Gloucester, Birmingham, Oxford, Cambridge, Kings, Durham.

External judge: Nuala Johnson, committee judge: Oliver Dunnett

Ruth Craggs: Membership secretary

Continuing the process of getting people to update the right amount of subscriptions, to catching people at conference and linked to newsletter mailing to get them to change their subscription amounts

An email will be done to get these to be checked.

Oliver Dunnett - newsletter

New logo has been used

Tri-annual

Encourage PhD students to send in abstractions

It seems hard copies have not been sent out for a while,

Kim Ross and Jake Hodder, PG Reps.

Minute: official thanks from the whole committee for their excellent work over the years.

They noted:

A strong group in Prague, supported by HGRG

PhD support of PHG was good

New and Emerging Historical Geography contained an excellent suite of papers.

Alaistair Owens; Monograph Series editor

2 monographs published this year, one by Robin Butlin on the 40 year history of HGRG, one a collaborative edited collection put together by Innes Keighren, Ruth Craggs, and Hilary Geoghagen

RHED have agreed to handle the distribution of past copies of the series, including calculating postage etc.

Recently discovered another 75 boxes of post volumes that need to be stored somewhere.

It could be that there will be a bulk buying offer to get rid of the surplus and ensure that more money is funneled into HGRG funds.

Questions to be addressed regarding digitization of this material.

5. Election of new committee members

a. Postgraduate committee members

Elect the new members

Three years: Natalie Cox, University of Warwick, nominated Hilary Geoghagen, seconded Carl Griffin

Two years

Alice Insley, University of Nottingham, nominated Carl Griffin, seconded Hilary

Geohagen.

Julian Baker, University of Edinburgh, nominated Ruth Craggs, seconded Briony McDonagh

6. Items for discussion

a. 40th Anniversary of HGRG

Celebrated with an afternoon of speeches and a cake etc. Great success, thanks to all involved.

b. HGRG-sponsored biennial conference

The proposal CG tables is to institute an HGRG sponsored biennial conference. The idea being host organizations propose a theme, this is backed by the committee, with some HGRG funds given as well as organizational help.

Hayden Lorimer notes that in the past this day conference has been run the day after the PHG conference to great effect.

Alaistair Owns suggests the need to make it clear how much money, ie. An upper limit is put on the amount of funds HGRG will offer.

The AGM passed the proposal by 25 votes

c. HGRG 'legacy' fund

This issue needs to be raised with RGS who have a longer philanthropic tradition. It was noted, especially in wake of 40th birthday celebrations that there was seen to be significant good will amongst the membership for the research group.

d. HGRG international membership and representation

CG suggested we should re-institute an international HGRG position to help liaise with Historical geographers beyond the UK.

Graham Wynne once had this role.

FD reported it had been a successful position in the past.

It was agreed that this was something to think about.

e. Maintaining HGRG archives – update

CG reported that this was an ongoing project, RHED had indicated some money would be available, but that this was dependent on the research group producing a report for all research groups about archiving their work.

f. Teaching Historical Geographies – update

Carl provided a report from Nicola Thomas on the GEES funded project that will see Kevin Milbourne and her touring departments and making videos and pod-casts of historical geography teaching to produce resources to share.

g. International Benchmarking Review – recommendations

The meeting formally thanked Felix Driver for his work on the bench marking document.

Carl reported three key concerns/ recommendations:

a) That HG was not only becoming a smaller community in the UK, but that there were increasing numbers of lone scholars and lone PhD students working, this increased the need to ensure good and effective networking and support mechanisms. PHG is a good example of the work the research group already do in this area.

b) It was noted that there was a reduced ability to apply for small research grants, which was an issue in a field that needed to support young scholars, and all scholars, but which also often did not large sums of research money.

HGRG does have a series of research grants, and so do the RGS

c) Language issues

The issue was raised regarding the contraction of language skills amongst Historical Geographers.

b. RGS-IBG AC 2015 – possible venues

none suggested

7. Forthcoming meetings

a. HGRG Practicing Historical Geography Conference, November 2013

See above.

6th November Preston.

b. RGS-IBG Annual Conference 2014 – call for sessions

HH reported she would send around a call for papers for the membership in the next few months.

8. Any other business

Felix Driver reports on the progress of ICHG plans, including reporting on workshops and keynotes which are progressing well and include a range of partners such as the British Museum.

ICHG will be held in London 5th – 10th July, 2015 at the RGS.

Important event, key notes are getting lined up and website etc. is about to go live.

He thanks HGRG for their continued support and notes the importance of that support and network in securing the conference for London in the first place.

9. Date of next AGM

RGS 2014 in London