

**Historical Geography Research Group  
Annual General Meeting  
9 July 2015**

**MINUTES**

In attendance: Hannah Awcock, Alan Baker, Julian Baker, David Beckingham, Dean Bond, Natalie Cox, Ruth Craggs, Rebecca Ford, Isla Forsyth, Hilary Geoghegan, Carl Griffin, Mike Gulliver, David Harvey, Sarah Hinman, Alice Insley, Innes M. Keighren, David Lambert, Carry van Lieshout, Keith Lilley, Hayden Lorimer, Ruth Mason, Briony McDonagh, Cheryl McGeachan, Peter Merriman, Sara Morrison, David Nally, Hannah Neate, Iain Robertson, Frances Rylands, John Schembri, Nicola Thomas, Hillary Walker Gugan, James Wallis, Heather Winlow, Stephanie Wyse

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies received from Alastair Owens, Merle Patchett, Kim Ross, Brian Short, and Lucy Veale.

**2. Minutes of last meeting**

Approved without correction.

**3. Matters arising not on the agenda**

None.

**4. Reports from committee members**

4.a. Chair's Report (Carl Griffin)

Chair welcomed attendants and explained rationale for holding AGM to coincide with large presence of HGRG members at the ICHG conference. Thanked conference organisers for permitting us to hold the AGM at the conference.

Chair noted that this has been a particularly busy year for the HGRG, including sponsoring 22 sessions at the 2014 RGS-IBG AIC. To avoid problems of timetable clashes, it has been agreed to sponsor somewhat fewer sessions in the future.

Since the last AGM, the HGRG has held its 20th Practising Historical Geography conference (at the University of Bristol). The Chair thanked Lucy Veale and Merle Patchett for organising the event.

Chair noted that he and Briony McDonagh had each represented the HGRG at various RGS-IBG meetings during the previous year, and the HGRG will be coming up for Research Group Review in the next 12 months or so.

4.b. Secretary's Report (Innes Keighren)

Secretary thanked the committee for their help in the selection of sponsored sessions for the 2015 RGS-IBG AIC.

#### 4.c. Treasurer's Report (Briony McDonagh)

Treasurer presented statement of accounts, noting that the HGRG remained in robust financial health.

Two items of major expenditure were noted: £3,000 devoted to providing PGR and ECR bursaries for attendance at the ICHG and £200 to support the Empty Spaces day conference at the Institute of Historical Research. Treasurer thanked the organisers of the Empty Spaces conference for returning to the HGRG a £5 underspend.

Treasurer asked all HGRG members to ensure that they are paying the correct membership rate and to adjust their standing orders if not.

#### 4.d. Membership Secretary's Report (Ruth Craggs)

Membership Secretary notes that the group had witnessed a significant increase in membership this year, mostly new PGR/ECR members joining in order to qualify for ICHG bursaries.

Membership Secretary noted that she had been trying to identify a better system to receive and process international members' subscriptions (since bank charges can make small transfers prohibitive). Noted that members can always pay in cash at RGS-IBG AIC, etc.

Chair thanked the Membership Secretary for her hard work and dedication throughout the period of her office.

#### 4.e. Conference Officer's Report (Lucy Veale, in absentia)

The next Practising Historical Geography conference will be held on 28 October at the University of Sussex. The programme is under development and full details will be circulated shortly.

Chair thanked the Conference Officer for her hard work and dedication throughout the period of her office.

#### 4.f. Research Series Editor's Report (Alastair Owens, in absentia)

Noted that one volume is currently in commission and progressing (albeit somewhat slowly). Other ideas (particularly for edited collections) are being considered.

Noted that the Research Series is presented with particular challenges in the REF era, but still offers a useful outlet for ECRs who wish to publish their work, but who do not necessarily intend to pursue an academic career.

David Lambert noted that the requirements of REF mean that the Research Series is probably no longer a venue suitable for publication by academics in the early stages of their careers.

Chair noted that the HGRG may wish to revisit the long-term sustainability of the series in due course.

#### 4.g. Newsletter Editor's Report (Kim Ross, in absentia)

Chair noted that the Newsletter Editor is pursuing a new career path outside academic and will be stepping down from her role. Chair offered thanks to Newsletter Editor for her hard work in the role.

#### 4.h. Web and E-Circulation Officer's Report (Hannah Neate)

HGRG members encouraged to make use of the e-circulation list and also to consider providing content that can easily be tweeted. Members were asked to keep their contact details up to date (especially when moving between institutions).

#### 4.i. Postgraduate Representatives' Report (Julian Baker, Natalie Cox, and Alice Insley)

Representatives noted that they were preparing the "New and emerging research in postgraduate historical geography" session for this year's RGS-IBG AIC. It was noted how much postgraduate students appreciated a large and engaged audience at these events and all HGRG members were encouraged to attend.

#### 4.j. Dissertation Prize Coordinator's Report (Hilary Geoghegan)

Coordinator thanked Lucy Veale and David Harvey for acting as judges for 2014 prize. Alastair Owens and Isla Forsyth have kindly agreed to assist in judging the 2015 prize.

Chair thanked Coordinator for her efforts and hard work in the role.

### **5. Items for discussion**

#### 5.a. Postgraduate bursaries – update

Chair noted that 29 PGR/ECR bursaries for ICHG had been awarded but that applications for standard PGR bursary scheme are infrequent. Members encouraged to bring the scheme to the attention of relevant individuals.

#### 5.b. Maintaining HGRG archives – update

Chair noted that the current plan is to have a provisional catalogue of the HGRG archive drawn up by a PGR student at Royal Holloway (Liz Haines).

#### 5.c. Teaching Historical Geographies – update

Nicola Thomas noted that, despite considerable enthusiasm and support for the project, progress had been slower than hoped. A meeting was held at ICHG to get the project back on track and to identify priority tasks for the development of the online teaching resource. Nicola Thomas further noted that Taylor and Francis are keen to develop a textbook in historical geography and are looking for one or two individuals to take the lead on that project.

#### 5.d. E-circulation, social media, and diffusing news in historical geography

Chair reinforced the importance of members providing E-circulation Officer with tweetable content to ensure our work is publicised as effectively as possible.

#### 5.e. Mentoring in historical geography

Chair noted that the HGRG might wish to establish a mentoring scheme for ECRs in historical geography.

Rebecca Ford noted that, for her, such a scheme would be useful (provided it did not place too-great demands on the HGRG committee).

Chair noted that he will attempt to advance such a scheme.

### **6. Election of new committee members**

Chair extended the thanks of the HGRG to the various committee members standing down and those who have agreed to replace them.

#### 6.a. Membership Secretary

Chair proposed and Treasurer seconded Iain Robertson.

#### 6.b. Conference Coordinator

Secretary proposed and Web and E-Circulation Officer seconded Cheryl McGeachan.

#### 6.c. Dissertation Prize Coordinator

Merle Patchett will officially be proposed at a later date.

#### 6.d. Newsletter Editor

Treasurer proposed and Secretary seconded Jake Hodder.

#### 6.e. Treasurer

Chair proposed and Secretary seconded Briony McDonagh for a further term as Treasurer.

#### 6.f. Chair

Secretary proposed and Treasurer seconded Carl Griffin for a further term as Chair.

### **7. Forthcoming meetings**

#### 7.a. HGRG Practising Historical Geography Conference, Sussex, 28 October 2015

Chair encouraged HGRG member to bring this event to the attention of relevant individuals.

#### 7.b. RGS-IBG AIC 2016 – call for sessions

Chair noted that, whilst this is still some way off, HGRG members are encouraged to begin thinking early about the development of paper sessions.

#### **8. Any other business**

David Lambert asked whether the HGRG dissertation prize is advertised to history departments. Coordinator noted that the prize is mentioned on some history-facing mailing lists but she would investigate whether there are other means of bringing the prize to the attention of historians.

#### **9. Date of next AGM**

To be confirmed, but likely to be held at RGS-IBG AIC in 2016.