

**Historical Geography Research Group
Annual General Meeting
30 August 2018**

CONFIRMED

In attendance: Edward Armston-Sheret, Laura Crawford, Dean Bond, Rachel Dishington, Isla Forsyth, Ian Goode, Alice Harvey-Fishenden, Emily Hayes, Jake Hodder, Helen Houghton-Foster, Innes M. Keighren, Peter Martin, Briony McDonagh, Douglas Mitchell, Tim Moss, James Robinson, Susanne Seymour, Steven Legg and Ruth Slatter.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from James Kneale, Cheryl McGeachan, Hannah Neate, Jo Norcup, Ben Newman, and Iain Robertson.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

3. Matters arising not on the agenda

None.

4. Reports from committee members

4.a. Chair's Report (Briony McDonagh)

BM reported on the inaugural HGRG writing retreat. BM thanked JN for organising the event and CM for helping to facilitate it. BM noted her hope that a second retreat would be held in January 2019.

BM reported that the Teaching Historical Geographies website has been handed over officially to the HGRG. BM noted that material will be added to the site over the coming months under the oversight of Ruth Slatter and Jo Norcup.

BM noted thanks to the ICHG bursary panel (particularly to Nicola Thomas), who evaluated a very large number of applications to the scheme and oversaw their allocation.

BM noted the desirability of moving the HGRG mailing list to a JISC mailing list platform (or similar).

BM noted the considerable work done (by HN, particularly) on consolidating and rationalising the HGRG membership list. BM reminded members to ensure they were paying the correct subscription rate (details on the website and in the newsletter).

BM reported that work was progressing well with the forthcoming “New and Emerging” edited collection (due out, it is hoped, in the autumn as the next number in the Research Series).

BM noted that work is ongoing on preparing the HGRG archive ahead of its deposit at the RGS-IBG.

4.b. Secretary’s Report (Innes M. Keighren)

IK noted that the Group provided £250 to support a day seminar, “Women’s Negotiations of Space, 1500-1900”, organised at the University of Hull by Stormm Buxton-Hill and colleagues. IK reported that the deadlines for applications to the Postgraduate Support Scheme and the Small Conference and Seminar Funding now operate to a set of common dates: 1 April, 1 August, and 1 December in any one year.

IK noted that the Group is sponsoring six paper sessions at this year’s RGS-IBG conference, including two “New and Emerging” sessions. The number of applications for sponsorship was down very slightly this year, but that likely reflects the proximity of the ICHG conference in Warsaw.

IK noted that in October 2017 the Group experienced a short-duration failure of the HGRG website. This was caused by the registration of our domain (hgrg.org.uk) lapsing. The domain had originally been registered for us by the University of Exeter’s IT department (specifically by Ed Creed, who is now Head of Digital). Ed was kind enough to renew our domain for a further 5 years from 16 October 2017 and Nicola Thomas was good enough to settle the invoice (£32.20) using departmental funds. IK recommended that to ensure the longer-term stability of our web presence, the Group ought to have the domain registration transferred over to it.

IK noted that, related to this issue, he currently purchases a domain mapping service from Wordpress (at \$13 per annum) which replaces the Group’s free Wordpress URL (historicalgeographyresearchgroup.wordpress.com) with its easier-to-remember domain (hgrg.org.uk). Our subscription renews on 9 November 2018. IK recommended that someone else on the committee to take over this subscription to ensure continuity of service.

4.c. Treasurer’s Report (Hannah Neate, *in absentia*)

Finances continue to be healthy, with a generous donation at the end of 2017 from senior HGRG member. HGRG were involved in administering travel bursaries for the ICHG conference in Warsaw for postgrads and ECRs. The ICHG funding resulted in forty bursary offers. Thirty-one were taken up, 20 of which were to scholars from outside the UK. It is great to see the positive impact the bursaries had enabling attendance at the ICHG for individuals that otherwise may have been unable to attend. Thanks to Nicola Thomas (who chaired the ICHG Bursary Committee) who coordinated this process. A £1,000 underspend on the bursaries (a result of bursaries not being taken up or not claimed in full) will be ring-fenced for use in the next round of ICHG bursaries. The committee will take up discussion re. planning for any potential underspend from the 2021 round of bursaries e.g. this could be administered by HGRG for the benefit of Historical Geography.

Other key outlays this year are: supporting costs for Writing Retreat (January 2018); funding a place at the Postgrad Forum (April 2018); Research Series Monograph production (published and in the pipeline); Practicing Historical Geography Conference (November 2018); sponsorship of J B Harley Trust Fellowship (an arrangement that started last year). We have received and supported three applications for our Postgraduate and Small Conference and Seminar Funding schemes. Next deadline 1st December, members are encouraged to apply.

Reminder about subscription fees:

- £12 for ordinary members/waged
- £6 for postgrad

Please also see information on the last page of our recent HGRG Newsletter where benefits of membership are explained. It helps us to continue awarding grants, extending our Research Series, and expanding our activities the more members we have!

There are still quite a few members who are paying incorrect amounts, this has been discussed with HGRG Membership Secretary and plan of action has been drawn up. If any members are unsure whether they are paying the correct amount then email H.Neate@mmu.ac.uk (The preference is to have standing order set up for payment in October every year).

A final note which may be of interest – our banking activities recently underwent a periodic review with HSBC who confirmed HGRG had held accounts with them since 1983. HSBC thanked us for our long-standing custom!

4.d. Membership Secretary's Report (Iain Robertson, *in absentia*)

None.

4.e. Communication Officer's Report (Fae Dussart, *in absentia*)

The e-circulation list continues to be a useful mode for engaging with the membership. The website has attracted 18,000 visitors from a range of countries and 5,200 views (a significant increase on last year). The most-visited pages include grants and prizes, the newsletter, and the Research Series. FD noted that Twitter continues to be useful in reaching an audience beyond our immediate membership. FD noted that, as a subscription-based mailing list, the HGHG list is compliant the GDPR regulations.

4.f. Dissertation Prize Coordinator (James Kneale, *in absentia*)

The dissertation prize winner and runner-up will be named by the end of September at the very latest.

4.g. Research Series Editor's Report (position vacant)

BM noted that she had been covering this role while it remains vacant. BM noted that volume 45, *A French reading revolution? The development, distribution and cultural significance of bibliothèques populaires, 1860–1900*, was issued earlier this year in both electronic and hard copy. Volume 46 is due for publication in the autumn. Volumes 47 and 48 are in various

stages of production. Initial enquiries have been made in relation to what might become volume 49. BM noted that the Research Series Editor role would be advertised in the near future and she encouraged any suitably qualified candidates to get in touch.

4.h. Conference Officer's Report (Cheryl McGeachan, *in absentia*)

In November 2017 we held our 23rd Practising Historical Geography conference at Manchester Metropolitan University. The event was well attended with 8 students attending alongside speakers, HGRG members and the dissertation prize winner. The event was very well received with feedback including "Proper engaging stuff from start to finish. Looking forward to next year already" and "Many thanks to you and all involved for an excellent event. Varied, interesting, fun and thought provoking. I look forward to the next". Thank you to all of the speakers Professor Jon Stobart, Dr Hannah Awcock, Dr Sarah Mills, Dr James Kneale and Dr Kimberley Peters for all of their excellent sessions. A special thank you to Hannah should be made for all her hard work in organising the rooms and catering for the event - thank you!

Preparation for the 24th Practising Historical Geography is well underway. The event will take place on Wednesday 7th November at the Royal Geographical Society. A number of speakers including Professor Miles Ogborn and Dr Paul Griffin have confirmed an archive session with the RGS is being planned. The only addition to the programme still required is the HGRG dissertation prize winner. Advertisement for the event has begun and we hope to attract a larger number of attendees due to the event's central location.

4.i. Newsletter Editor's Report (Jake Hodder)

JH offered his thanks to all those who have contributed copy to the last three issues of the newsletter. JH noted the introduction of a new section of the newsletter—the "Shelfie" — which is designed to allow current PhD students to showcase the written works that are informing their own research.

4.j. Postgraduate Representatives' Report (Laura Crawford, Peter Martin, and Ben Newman, *in absentia*)

PM noted that a successful pair of "New and Emerging" paper sessions had been held. PM invited interested postgraduate members to consider submitting to the "Shelfie" section of the newsletter. LC echoed PM's comments about the value and success of the "New and Emerging" sessions. LC discussed the forthcoming edited collection and offered her thanks to the Executive for their assistance in editing the volume.

5. Items for discussion

None.

6. Election of new committee members

BM reported the she and HN will remaining in their positions in the Executive. BM noted that IK is standing down from the Executive after a number of years in various committee positions. BM offered her thanks to FD and BN for their contributions to the Group, variously as Communications Officer and Postgraduate Representative.

6.a. Honorary Secretary

BM proposed Cheryl McGeachan, IK seconded.

6.b. Conference Officer

IK proposed Jo Norcup, HN seconded.

6.c. Communications Officer

BM proposed Ruther Slatter, JH seconded.

6.d Postgraduate Representative

IK proposed Edward Armston-Sheret, HN seconded.

6.e. Ordinary Members

PM proposed Dean Bond, LC seconded.

JH proposed Innes M. Keighren, BM seconded.

7. Forthcoming meetings

24th HGRG Practicing Historical Geography Conference, 7 November 2018 at the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers).

RGS-IBG Annual International Conference, 27–30 August 2019 in London.

8. Any other business

None.

9. Date of next AGM

To be confirmed; likely to be held at 2019 RGS-IBG AIC.