



Dear Friends

Welcome back to a new term, (it feels too far into January to wish you all a happy new year!)

The new year, with its connotations of a fresh start and new opportunities, brings with it the appointment of a new Vice Chancellor. A panel on which I sat, alongside seven members of Senate and Council, appointed Prof Karen Cox, the current Deputy Vice Chancellor at the University of Nottingham. We look forward to welcoming her in August. You can read about her on p.2. And you can also read about another recent appointment, Kate Morgan. Her office is the Student History reception in the Rutherford courtyard where she works alongside Rob, our Undergraduate Programme Co-ordinator. Kate, a recent History graduate, is a wonderful addition to our team. Do go and say hello. You can also read about Eloise Bates, our Student Support Officer, on p. 6. Our professional services team continue to work hard to enhance the student experience, bringing you skills sessions and employability opportunities. Read about the paid research assistant posts that we're advertising on p.3. Academic staff continue to raise the profile of Kent externally. With the recent inauguration of President Trump, Dr George Conyne was, of course, in demand as an expert commentator. And a number of monographs have been published, including Dr Mark Lawrence's, Dr Will Butler's and my own co-authored book, which I shamelessly (and at some length...) self-promote on p.4.

News for our Final Year students

This year's undergraduate ceremony is taking place at the Cathedral at 7.30pm on Thursday 13 July. History will be hosting an informal party beforehand and staff will be there to celebrate with you. We look forward to seeing you and your family there. There are information packs from the Congregations Office in the History Reception.

And finally, the [National Student Survey has gone live](#). This is your opportunity to give us feedback on your entire three-year degree programme. It will inform our thinking and help us to improve the student experience for current and future students. Recent improvements directly linked to student feedback include online essay submission and feedback, one-to-one feedback, increased choice of modules, streamlining of the Student Handbook, increased transparency over the marking criteria and greater emphasis on employability. Hearing the student voice is thus crucial and we act upon it to the benefit of other students. Your input will result in the School being ranked against other History departments in the country. Last year we came 20th and we are looking to improve on this in 2017. To say thank you for completing the survey the University sends you a £10 Amazon voucher if you complete it before 13 March.

With best wishes,

Juliette

Dr Juliette Pattinson
Head of the School of History

Kent's New Vice-Chancellor is announced

As you'll have seen from an email on Monday, a new VC has been appointed. Professor Karen Cox, who is currently Deputy Vice-Chancellor at the University of Nottingham, will be joining Kent in August.

Our Head of School, Juliette Pattinson, was on the appointment panel, along with three other nominees from Senate, four representatives from Council and Rory Murray, the Student Union's President. Professor Cox has extensive publications in the field of cancer and palliative care, including over 50 articles, impressive grant capture, with just under £5.5 million secured, was an RAE panellist in 2008 for her sub-discipline of Nursing and has been a Visiting Professor at Yale.

For more information, see the Kent website [here](#).



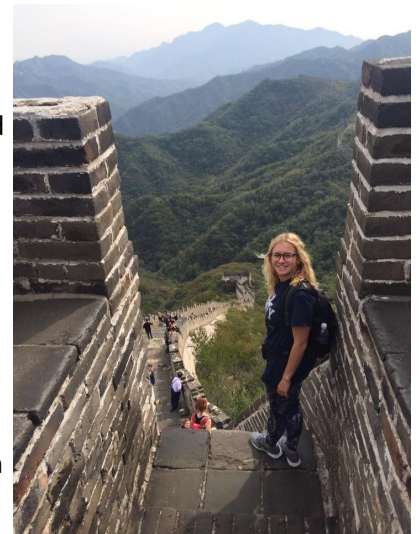
Professor Karen Cox

Meet our new staff member

Alumnus Kate Morgan started with the School at the end of last year as our Undergraduate Programmes Co-Ordinator within the Professional Services team. Here she tells us a little more about her new role.

I finished my undergraduate degree in History here in 2015 and graduated from my MA in Modern History last year. I started working in the History Office in late November after coming back from traveling around China and Vietnam.

The role suits me as I live close by and I am really enjoying working with staff members I knew during my time as a student. I am especially enjoying our monthly staff *Bake Off* events!



School of History team to make Great Strides for charity

PhD students Pip Gregory and Rob Newman will be taking part in Great Strides 65 this summer to raise money for The Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

Their team will also include Assistant Lecturer Dr Vicky Arnold-Woods, and School of History graduate Nikki Gregory, and they'll be taking on the 65km walking challenge through the South Downs on 10th June.

Should you wish to make a donation you can do so here: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/GregoryGreatStrides65>.



Left-right: Nikki Gregory, Rob Newman, Pip Gregory and Vicki Arnold-Woods

Student employability opportunities

Now hiring! Student Research Assistants in the School

The School of History is currently advertising three Student Research Assistant positions to support Dr Emily Manktelow with her research project, 'The Local and the Global at Canterbury Cathedral'.

This project aims to explore the colonial and global past of Canterbury Cathedral through the empire-related memorials within the cathedral and the archive holdings relating to St. Augustine's missionary college. The project will culminate in an exhibition hosted by the Cathedral, and the creation of public engagement resources on the topic of the project.

What are Student Research Assistants?

The Student Research Assistant scheme was first set up in 2014/2015, and, as the name suggests, gives students the opportunity to be hired as research assistants (SRAs) to work with lecturers in the School on their research projects. As an SRA, you are an employee of the School, and paid the National Living Wage for all the work you do on the project. SRAs undertake a range of duties, including things like archival research, helping to organise a conference or an exhibition, and undertaking your own research and learning more about a particular subject to inform your work.

How can I be an SRA?

When SRA roles are advertised, you can apply by submitting a CV and a 500-word covering letter on why you think you would be suited for the role. These applications are short-listed, and everyone who applies receives feedback. The short-listed candidates are invited to interview, and the successful candidates are then contracted to work for the duration of the project.

To see the job description for the SRA roles for Dr Manktelow's project, head to the School's employability website at blogs.kent.ac.uk/history-employability. The deadline to apply is midnight on Sunday 29th January.

If this project doesn't seem like your sort of thing, keep an eye on the employability website for more such roles in the future.

Other opportunities

The [Gateways to the First World War Centre](#) is leading a [project into battlefield tourism in the 1920s and 1930s](#). Sign up to their study day on 10 February to find out more and to join this project as a research volunteer.



Thinking about applying for a graduate scheme?

An alumnus of the School, Thomas Knight, who now works in finance security, has written a really helpful post for our Employability Blog, featuring his advice on how to look for and apply to graduate schemes. Read his guest post [here](#).

Men in Reserve: British Civilian Masculinities in the Second World War

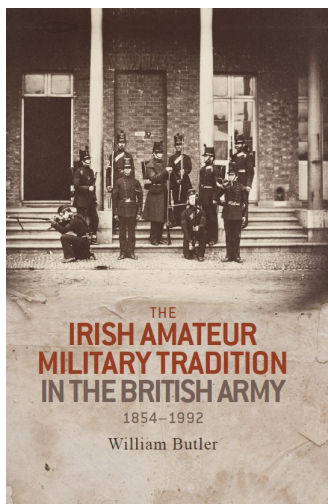
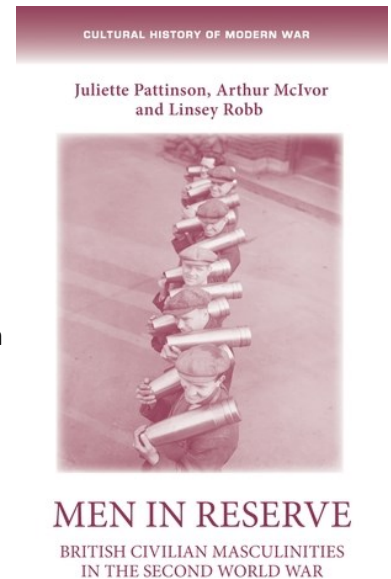
Dr Juliette Pattinson's new book, co-authored with Arthur McIvor and Linsey Robb, was published earlier this month. Here, she tells us a bit about the publication:

For decades, Britain's story of the Second World War has focused on the men who served in the armed forces and the women who stepped up to replace them on the home front. This image, however, isn't very accurate. Not all men served in the armed services. Indeed, 10 million men (that's twice the number that served in the forces) were required to stay on the home front providing vital labour in a broad range of civilian jobs. My recently published book, *Men in Reserve*, that I wrote with Professor Arthur McIvor (a former colleague at the University of Strathclyde) and Dr Linsey Robb (my former Ph.D student), is the first study to comprehensively examine the lived experience of these men in reserved occupations.

We conducted 56 oral history interviews and accessed archived testimonies and official files in order to explore men's lives in and outside of work. The book highlights the complex effects on those men who were prevented from enlisting in the military due to their necessary home front skills. Some men railed against their constraints, feeling disconnected from the war effort and often trying to enlist repeatedly to 'do their bit' in a more obviously militaristic way. Some constructed moving accounts of how they had felt like lesser men: a Scottish cobbler's 'A wis naebody' being perhaps the most poignant. However, this was not true of all men. Others saw the value in their labour, noting that a war could not be won without their valuable contributions in manufacturing goods and providing necessary services on the home front. While the war was an emasculating experience for some, it could also prove to be a masculinising force. War work facilitated the rebuilding of fit and honed civilian male bodies and a culture of masculinity was forged in the workplace where men worked long hours, stood up for their rights and made sacrifices in the more intensified and pressurised production environment of wartime.

The war, then, could be experienced as empowering, enabling breadwinner masculine identities, which had been destabilised by the insecurities and job losses of the Depression, to once again flourish. As a London-based engineer asserted, 'I can be just as proud, particularly the long hours that we did.'

Men in Reserve is out now, [available through Manchester University Press](#).



Book Launch: 'The Irish Amateur Military Tradition'

Dr Will Butler is holding a launch for his new book, *The Irish Amateur Military Tradition in the British Army*.

It will form part of the Conference 'The Irish Military Tradition', which is taking place on Thursday 9 February, from 2-5pm, at the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) in Belfast.

Will's book examines the Irish amateur military tradition within the British Army, and was published in November by Manchester University Press. You can find some further details [here](#).

School of History Research Seminar Series

Please find below details on our upcoming Research Seminars which will be taking place in the Templeman Lecture Theatre from 4.00pm on various Wednesdays throughout this term. A Q&A session and wine reception will follow every paper, and all are welcome.

Date	Speaker	Title
1 February	Dr Amy Blakeway University of Kent	"Privy Council, Parliament, prisoners and propaganda: War and governance in mid sixteenth-century Scotland"
8 February	Dr Mark Lawrence University of Kent	Book Launch: "Renovating the Two Spains: A comparison of the First Carlist War & Spanish Civil War"
15 February	Dr Claire Jones University of Kent	"Decay, dentists, and destitution: Oral health inequalities in Britain, 1870-1948"
1 March	Prof Elizabeth A. R. Brown Brooklyn College, CUNY	"Reading & writing history at Saint-Denis in Abbot Suger's time: Two misunderstood manuscripts"

News Round-Up

Congratulations to both Aske Brock, who successfully defended his dissertation on *'The Company Director: Commerce, State, and Society'*, and Valerie Smith who also passed her viva, successfully defending her dissertation on *'Rational Dissent in England c.1770 - c. 1800: Definitions, Identity and Legacy'*.

Dr George Conyne appeared on BBC Radio Kent on Friday 20 January as a guest commentator during President Trump's inauguration. You can listen again [here](#) (from 33 minutes in), and he was also featured in the Kent on Sunday [here](#).

Honorary Visiting Professor Anthony Beevor was knighted in the New Years Honours, for his services in support of Armed Forces Professional Development.

It's that time of year again - the 2017 Vice-Chancellor's Cup is launching on Thursday 26 and Friday 27 January with their Gladiators style events, and we're currently looking for staff join the School of History team! Each month until September the team will take on a different sport, from volleyball to racket sports, golf to ultimate frisbee. Please see [here](#) for more information, and get in touch with Undergraduate Programmes Co-Ordinator Rob Brown if you'd be interested in taking part in any of the sports.

Getting to Know You

Eloise Bates

Student Support Officer

Describe your role within the school

My role within the School is to provide academic support, and referral to pastoral support, for Undergraduate and Postgraduate students who are experiencing difficulties.

My main responsibilities are to provide ongoing support and advice to students, both in person and over e-mail, while also managing non-submissions, extension requests, concessions applications, ILPs and attendance monitoring.

What type of support can we offer students?

The type of support we offer to students is varied, and often depends on a student's individual needs. We have an extensions procedure in place should a student be unable to meet a deadline due to significant extenuating circumstances. We have two types of Concessions applications, both short-term and long-term, should a student's academic work be impaired due to concessionary reasons. We make adjustments, in line with students' ILPs, to ensure everyone is able to access the same level of education.

We also act as a referral service, and direct students to relevant support services: Student Support & Wellbeing, Student Learning Advisory Service or the Medical Centre. We also offer a place for students to speak to someone confidentially to receive ongoing advice and support.

What's your favourite part of your job?

My favourite part of my job is probably meeting with students. I enjoy doing office hours and meeting students face-to-face, particularly if the advice I give them helps to alleviate some of their stress in some way.

If you have a news item, an upcoming event, or simply an idea for something you'd like to see in the next issue of this newsletter, please get in touch with Sam Crooks on s.l.m.crooks@kent.ac.uk.



Tell us an interesting fact about yourself:

I can juggle? I come from a big family, with six siblings? I know all the words to Boom Shake the Room? Is any of this interesting?

Where's your favourite place in the world?

I haven't travelled as much as I would like, but my favourite place that I've visited would probably be Dublin. I went there last year, and I loved the people and the atmosphere. I also loved New York and Thailand.

What's your favourite book?

I could try and pretend my favourite book was something intellectual and complex, but I'll be honest instead. My favourite book series is Harry Potter. My favourite book is probably Jane Eyre. Or The Book Thief. Or anything by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.

What's your favourite film?

My favourite film is definitely Mary Poppins. Julie Andrews. Animated penguins. The best cockney accent ever attempted on screen. What's not to love?

It also reminds me of my family, and being at home.