Steering Committee News

Committee Meetings
The next meeting will be held at 11.30am on the 16th November at the IHR, London. As always all members are welcome to attend.

WHN Announcements

Member profiles
We would be grateful if members could ensure that their details are up to date, particularly with regard to payment and contact details. To check/amend your details please go to the WHN members’ login page on our website: www.womenshistorynetwork.org. Please check that you are paying the correct amount in membership fees. This is particularly important if your status changes (for example if you were a postgraduate student and now have an academic post). If you are paying more than you should we will assume it is an additional donation to WHN, which, of course, is always most welcome! Subscription rate are as follows:

- Student/unwaged £15*
- Low income (*under £20,000 pa) £25*
- High income £40*
- Overseas minimum £40
- Life Membership £350

UK Institutions £45
Overseas Institutions £55

* £5 reduction when paying by standing order.

Gift Aid
We would be very grateful if as many members as possible could gift aid their donations and annual subs. This is very useful source of income for the WHN. The easiest way to do this is to go the WHN website (www.womenshistorynetwork.org) and then log in to your account, and go to the payments/donations tab - it gives you a prompt/link if you are eligible for gift aid but have not signed the form.

Blog
We are always looking for contributions to our blog. If you have an idea for a blog post then please contact Jocelyne Scutt at blog@womenshistorynetwork.org. For the guidelines for submission please see here: http://womenshistorynetwork.org/blog/?page_id=5.
Women’s History Network Midlands Region Conference

Military Women
Saturday 23rd November 2013
The University of Worcester’s annual Women’s History Conference seeks papers for this year’s event under the heading of ‘Military Women’. Potential topics may include, but are not restricted to:

- **Covert women** – female agents
- **Enemy women** – “Booby traps” and sexually-transmitted disease, “Keep Mum She’s Not So Dumb”
- **Femininity and Feminism in the military**
  - “G.I. Jane” – career military women, combat and killing
  - “Private Benjamin” - Representations of fighting women
  - R&R – military prostitution, “Hookers” & “Comfort Women”
- **Women in recruitment & anti-recruitment** – images in recruitment media, “date strikes”, the white feather campaign
- **Women as military leaders** – female politicians and advisers

Conferences, Seminars, Workshops

Call for Papers
Women as Wives and Workers: Marking Fifty Years of *The Feminine Mystique*
Saturday 30th November 2013 at Royal Holloway University of London

2013 marks the fiftieth anniversary of *The Feminine Mystique*’s publication. From the outset, Betty Friedan’s text had an enormous influence on academic and popular audiences, selling millions and shaping feminist discourse about the housewife throughout the Western world. Yet at the same time, full-time housewifery was becoming both a less common experience and a cultural battlefield. Since the 1950s, levels of employment amongst married women (notably white women) have risen enormously. Women have increasingly been confronted with the ‘superwoman’ paradox, which Friedan herself encapsulated: writing about ‘the zombie housewife’ and ‘the problem that has no name’ whilst being a working wife and mother. Many other women likewise negotiated domesticity and paid work, but their experiences were by no means uniform and were shaped by various other factors including race, age, sexuality and socio-economic status.

This conference aims to draw these themes together by offering an opportunity to explore *The Feminine Mystique* alongside discussions of women and employment. Areas of consideration may include but are not limited to:

- Women’s paid employment
- *The Feminine Mystique*, its impact and critiques, for example with regards to race
- The international impact of *The Feminine Mystique*
- Domesticity and the figure of the housewife: experiences, rights, cultural portrayals
- Discourses of motherhood and fatherhood
- Evolving notions of family
- Gender and education
- Notions of ‘having it all’ and being ‘Superwoman’
- The National Organization for Women: its impact, legacy and critics
- The development of women’s organisations and networks since the 1960s
We invite papers that address these topics either broadly or specifically. While papers with a particular emphasis on mid-twentieth century America may be given priority, we also encourage scholars to present work with a comparative perspective (across time and/or space) or looking at other geographical areas. Panel submissions are also welcome. A special issue of History of Women in the Americas based on the conference papers is planned, subject to the usual peer review procedure.

‘Women as Wives and Workers: Marking Fifty Years of The Feminine Mystique’ is the sixth annual conference of the Society for the History of Women in the Americas (SHAW) and is being co-organized with The Bedford Centre for the History of Women at Royal Holloway University of London. The conference organisers are Helen Glew (University of Westminster), Jane Hamlett (RHUL), Sinead McEneaney (St. Mary’s University College) and Rachel Ritchie (Brunel University).

A 250-word abstract and a short biography should be emailed to thefemininemystiqueat50@gmail.com by Monday 14th October 2013. Please use the same email address for any other enquiries about the event.

Gender and History in the Americas

2013/14 is the second year of the ‘Gender and History in the Americas’ seminar series at the Institute for Historical Research, London. Held at 17.30 on the first Monday of the month, the series offers a forum for speakers to present research investigating women’s and gender history from a hemispheric perspective that stretches from Canada to Argentina, Mexico to the Caribbean. The presentation of works-in-progress and contributions from postgraduate and early career scholars are particularly encouraged, reflecting our desire to create a series in which new and cutting-edge ideas can be shared and discussed in an intellectual and supportive environment.

For further information, visit the website (http://www.history.ac.uk/events/seminars/370) or contact the Society for the History of Women in the Americas (shawsociety@gmail.com)

7th October 2013 Janet Floyd, King’s College London, “Letter-Writing, Friendship and the Foote-Gilder Correspondence”

4th November 2013 Antonia Mackay, Oxford Brookes University & Goldsmiths University of London, “The Influence of Architecture in Cold War Literature”


6th January 2014 Henrice Altink, University of York, “War and the Female Franchise in Jamaica”

3rd February 2014 Laila Haidarali, University of Essex, “Modelling Beauty Brown: Sex, Race, Representation and African American Womanhood in the early Cold War era”

3rd March 2014 Claire Irving, University of Newcastle, “Women of Letters - Editing and Writing the Caribbean”

7th April 2014 Stephen Robinson, University of Southampton, “Freemen and Citizens”: The Citizen-Soldier and the Spanish-American War of 1898”

2nd June 2014 Morwenna Chaffe, University of East Anglia, “An Incurable State: Involuntary Childlessness in Nineteenth-Century America”

Convenors: Professor Jay Kleinberg (Brunel University); Dr Rachel Ritchie (Brunel University)
Dr Inge Dorman (Brunel University); Dr Lee Sartain (Portsmouth University)
Dr Dawn-Marie Gibson (RHUL); Ms Imaobong Umoren (Oxford University)
Dr Sinead McEneaney (Saint Mary’s University College); Dr Natalie Zacek (University of Manchester)
**Events**

**NEW**

**IN CONVERSATION WITH THE WOMEN'S LIBERATION MOVEMENT**

**October 12th 2013, British Library**

A day of dialogues between Women’s Liberation activists and younger feminists. Today Britain is experiencing a resurgence of feminist activity. From online activism to protests at the impact of government policies, women are on the march again. What is the relationship between this new feminism and the Women’s Liberation movement of a generation ago?

On October 12th the British Library will host a day of discussion on the British women’s movement. Inspired by the new ‘Sisterhood and After’ oral history archive at the BL, women’s liberationists will be talking about their experiences as feminist activists with younger women who are working on the history of second-wave feminism. In sessions on race, sexualities, reproductive choice, the rise of women’s history, and class and work, we will both celebrate and critically examine British feminism and its legacies. There will be lots of time for audience members to pose their own questions and provide their own memories of the time, so we encourage anyone with an interest to attend. The day will close with a question: what now for the women’s movement?

For a full programme, please see below.

**Tickets will be £15 for the day (£5 concession). Pre-booking is essential, through the British Library’s Box Office, which can be accessed online (http://boxoffice.bl.uk), via telephone (+44 (0) 1937 546 546), or in person at the Information Desk at the British Library.**

‘In Conversation with the Women's Liberation Movement: Intergenerational Histories of Second Wave Feminism’ has been supported by the Sisterhood and After: an Oral History of the Women’s Liberation Movement project at the British Library, the University of Sussex, the Raphael Samuel History Centre, and the History of Feminism Network.

**Programme:**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tr>
<td>9.30-10:00</td>
<td>Arrivals. Refreshments will be provided</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.00-10:30</td>
<td>Introductions</td>
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<td>10:35-11:20</td>
<td>Session 1 Women’s History</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Interviewees: Sally Alexander and Catherine Hall</td>
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<td>Interviewers: Lucy Delap (King’s College, London) and Rachel Cohen (De Montfort)</td>
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<td>11:25-12:10</td>
<td>Session 2 Reproductive Choices</td>
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<td>Interviewees: April Gallwey (Warwick) and Freya Johnson Ross (Sussex)</td>
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<td>12:10-13:10</td>
<td>Lunch (not provided; sandwiches can be purchased in the BL or locally)</td>
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<td>13:10-13:55</td>
<td>Session 3 Sexualities</td>
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<td>Interviewees: Sue O’Sullivan and Beatrix Campbell</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Interviewers: Sarah Browne (Nottingham) and Charlotte Jeffries (Cambridge)</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:00-14:45</td>
<td>Session 4 Race</td>
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<td>Interviewees: Gail Lewis and Amrit Wilson</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Interviewers: Nydia Swaby (SOAS) and Terese Jonsson (London Metropolitan)</td>
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<td>14:45-15:15</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
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<td>15:15-16:00</td>
<td>Session 5 Work and Class</td>
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<td>Interviewees: Cynthia Cockburn and Lynne Segal</td>
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<td>16:05-16:30</td>
<td>Closing remarks: Susuana Antubam, Women’s Officer of the University of London Union</td>
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Please contact Sarah Crook at s.r.crook@qmul.ac.uk or Signy Gutnick Allen at signy.t@gmail.com with any questions about the event.

**The North West Labour History Society – 23rd November 2013**

The North West Labour History Society is celebrating 40 years of activity promoting labour history with a conference on women’s history on 23 November 2013 in Manchester. There will be sessions on topics such as music, trade unionism, socialism, Votes for Women, socialism and feminism. The speakers will include Lindsey German, Claire Mooney, Alice Nutter, Louise Raw, Rae Street and Sonja Tiernan. The fee for the day will be £10 waged/£5 unwaged.
For more information please visit
http://workershistory.wordpress.com/nwhs-events

Publications

NEW
ENCOUNTER ON THE GREAT PLAINS
SCANDINAVIAN SETTLERS AND THE DISPOSSESSION OF DAKOTA INDIANS, 1890-1930

In 1904, the first Scandinavian settlers moved onto the Spirit Lake Dakota Indian Reservation. These land-hungry immigrants struggled against severe poverty, often becoming the sharecropping tenants of Dakota landowners. Yet the homesteaders’ impoverishment did not impede their quest to acquire Indian land, and by 1929 Scandinavians owned more reservation acreage than their Dakota neighbors. Norwegian homesteader Helena Haugen Kanten put it plainly: “We stole the land from the Indians.”

With this largely unknown story at its center, Encounter on the Great Plains brings together two dominant processes in American history: the unceasing migration of newcomers to North America, and the protracted dispossession of indigenous peoples who inhabited the continent. Drawing on fifteen years of archival research and 130 oral histories, Karen V. Hansen explores the epic issues of co-existence between settlers and Indians and the effect of racial hierarchies, both legal and cultural, on marginalized peoples. Hansen offers a wealth of intimate detail about daily lives and community events, showing how both Dakotas and Scandinavians resisted assimilation and used their rights as new citizens to combat attacks on their cultures. In this flowing narrative, women emerge as resourceful agents of their own economic interests. Dakota women gained autonomy in the use of their allotments, while Scandinavian women staked and “proved up” their own claims.

"I wish more scholars were as open as Karen Hansen in sharing the personal ties that draw them to their subject matter, and I'm so glad she followed the trail of her childhood curiosity. Her sensitive, multifaceted, gracefully written portrait of the interactions between Dakota Indians and Scandinavian immigrants—both peoples feeling far from their native lands—is fascinating. I'm not surprised she received a postcard from one of her interview subjects saying, 'Thanks for making our lives more interesting.' Readers of this book will feel the same.”
-Adam Hochschild, author of Bury the Chains and To End All Wars

978-0-19-974681-1 | November 2013 | Hardcover 346 pp. | List Price: £25.00

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About the Newsletter

The Newsletter of the Women’s History Network is circulated to all members on a monthly basis. It provides an up-to-date means of communication and information sharing between members of the network and enables the Steering Committee to keep members up-to-date with news, conferences and other events concerning women’s history. The Newsletter provides a forum for publicising your events and informing members about other activities and projects. The contents of the Newsletter depend partly upon what has been submitted for circulation by members. So please feel free to send information about Conferences, Events, News, indeed anything that you think would be of interest to members of WHN. Send copy to the editor, Meleisa Ono-George, at: newsletter@womenshistorynetwork.org. The deadline for copy is the last day of the month, for the next month’s newsletter (usually sent out on or before the 5th of the month)

Visit your WHN Web Page: womenshistorynetwork.org
Minutes of the 22nd Annual General Meeting [AGM] of the Women’s History Network [WHN] held at Sheffield Hallam University, City Campus, Saturday 31st August 2013.

Chaired by Barbara Bush [BB], the current Convenor of the WHN Steering Committee.

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<tr>
<th>Agenda</th>
<th>Discussion</th>
<th>Action</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Minutes of the 21st AGM, 8th September 2012, Cardiff University. The minutes were accepted as a true record.</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Matters arising: Will be dealt with accordingly.</td>
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| 3      | **Steering Committee Report [BB]:** Written report submitted by BB. Main points:  
- WHN in good financial state with buoyant membership. Enabled us to fund bursaries for conference and plan new community history prize;  
- Magazine performing well;  
- The Steering Committee has been closely involved in the transfer of the Women’s Library to the LSE and the archivist now responsible for the collection, Anna Toulson, has been co-opted on to the committee;  
- Thanks to Grainne Goodwin, Anne Logan, Linsey Robb and Flora Wilson who are all leaving the committee.  
- Welcome to new members – see below;  
- BB reminded members that her term of office will end next year and she is actively seeking a successor. Suggestions welcome;  
- Thanks to Claire Jones, steering committee members, editorial board of Magazine, book prize panel and organizers of conference. | Report to be attached to next newsletter (BB and LR) |
| 4      | **Treasurer’s Report [Grainne Goodwin]:** Written report submitted and PowerPoint presentation given by GG. Main points:  
- This is GG’s last report as Treasurer and pleased to report that WHN’s finances are healthy, due to increased membership and Gift Aid. Emergency fund safeguarded. However, need to continue to be vigilant considering wider economic context;  
- Balance of current account, 29.8.13 - £4,401.87;  
- Balance of bonus account, 29.8.13 - £11,500;  
- Main items of expenditure the magazine, web presence, admin (mainly travel to committee meetings) and conference bursaries. All to be monitored so we keep within budget.  
**Discussion:**  
- To reduce travel costs BB suggested that steering committee members should live in the UK, although membership of the WHN is open to overseas residents. This would require a change to the constitution. The membership, however, were unhappy with this and various suggestions were made to restrict travel costs such as setting a cap or video conferencing.  
- Issue and options to be discussed at next steering committee meeting and report back to membership at next AGM | Report to be attached to next newsletter (GG and LR) |
| 5      | **Membership Report (Imaobong Umoren):** Written report submitted by IU. Main points:  
- 431 individual and 14 institutional members (both up on | Report to be attached to next newsletter (IU and |
Membership database sends out automatic renewal and so it is vital that contact details are up to date. A plea made for members to notify membership secretary of changes in address or e-mail (or can update on website).

**Charity Rep [Jane Berney]:**
Written report submitted by JB. Main points:
- Awaiting rebate from HMRC;
- As Anne Logan is retiring from the committee and to ensure continuity, Kate Murphy and Maggie Andrews have been nominated by the steering committee as trustees. Approved by members.

**Regional, National and IFRWH Reports:**
No reports

**Election of New Steering Committee Members:**
- Four candidates nominated for election to the Steering Committee. They are Aurelia Annat, Gillian Beattie-Smith, Meleisa Ono-George, and Rachel Rich. Biographical details have been previously circulated via the newsletter.
- All candidates elected.
- Aurelia Annat confirmed as next treasurer. Roles of other new members to be allocated.

**WHN Magazine [Kate Murphy/ Lucy Bland]:**
Written report submitted by LB, read by KM. Main points:
- Continues to flourish but articles etc always welcome;
- New editorial board members required.

**Website [Linsey Robb]:**
- Running smoothly.

**Publicity [Tanya Cheadle]:**
Written report submitted by TC. Main points:
- Postcards and bookmarks have proved very successful and more have been ordered. Please contact TC if need any for conference/ event.

**Blog [Jocelynne Scutt]:**
Written report submitted by JS. Main points:
- Call for contributions. Approx. 1000 words. Please tell students.

**Newsletter [LR]:**
- Linsey Robb is leaving the committee so a new editor needed.

**The Women's Library:**
- See Convener's report.

**Schools' Liaison Report:**
- Nothing to report.
- Flora Wilson has retired from the steering committee so new liaison officer needed.

**Prizes [Maggie Andrews]:**
Written report submitted by MA. Main points:

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Report to be attached to next newsletter (JB and LR)

Roles of new members to be allocated at next steering committee meeting

Report to be attached to next newsletter (KM and LR)

Reports to be attached to next newsletter (LR, TC, JS and LR)

Steering committee to appoint a new editor at next meeting.

To be discussed and appointed by steering committee

Report to be attached to next
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| 8 | - Book Prize: awarded but number of entries down on previous years;  
- Claire Evans Prize: not awarded due to lack of entries;  
- Carol Adams Prize: not awarded due to lack of entries;  
- New community history prize – first ward will be next year;  
- Publicity of awards and eligibility to be considered to increase the number of good quality entries  
  newsletter (MA and LR).  
  To be discussed further by steering committee. |
| 15 | **WHN Conference, 2014:**  
At Worcester, 5-7 September 2014. Theme “Home Fronts: Gender, War and Conflict.” |
| 16 | **Next Meeting of the Steering Committee**  
Saturday 16 November 2013, 11.30am, at IHR, Senate House. All members welcome. |
| 17 | **Vote of Thanks to Conference Organizers:**  
Clare Midgley at Sheffield Hallam University. Also administrators. |
Membership Report

Over the past few months, there has been a steady increase in membership. At present, WHN have 431 members and 14 institutional members. I continue to update members payments, but as I have not been in the UK since June 19th as I have been conducting research for my thesis abroad, I have been unable to pay in cheques. I will return to the UK in early October and will cash outstanding cheques immediately and update members records. The delay in payment of cheques and my absence was told to members in the WHN monthly newsletter. I continue to respond to any problems that members are having via email. Sue Bruley has also been helping to monitor late payments and is continuing to chase up members as best she can.

I would again like to recommend that members update their details online regularly. If members have any problems, they should email me. Members should also check that they are paying the correct amount, especially if their membership subscription is via standing order.

Blog Report

Introduction

WHN Blog goals:

- Women's History Month (March) a blog a day if possible and otherwise as often as can be maintained.
- Black History Month (October) as many blogs on ‘black history and women’, ‘Black women’s history’, ‘The History of Black Women’, etc as possible.
- One Blog per week, uploaded on the Sunday of the coming week.
- Additional ‘themed’ months or weeks, or (for 2014 – see below) blogs addressing an important aspect of the year throughout the year amongst non-themed blogs.

2012-2013 Blogs

Black History Month was the most successful aspect of the WHN Blog for 2012-2013, with blogs appearing most days of the month. Women’s History Month aims at one blog per day and this was almost met. More and regular contributors for both Black History Month and Women’s History Month are welcome. This follows in respect of the regular blogs appearing on WHN Blog, where the aim of one per week was generally met throughout 2012-2013.

Themed blogs – first raised in the AGM report for 2012-2013 – has a potential for being followed through for 2013-2014, particularly the later months of 2014, which will see a huge outpouring of information, television and radio programmes, newspaper features, magazine articles relating to the Great War/WWI. WHN Blog has begun on this theme with an article published for the week commencing 4 August.

Call for Bloggers

This is an opportunity for graduate and undergraduate students to gain experience in paring down their work to 1000 insightful words, or to ‘publicise’ their work in advance of longer articles, books, etc, the latter applying to academics and independent scholars. WHN Blog provides a forum for discussion and exchanges, and can provide contributors with a record where potential employers are seeking blogging experience. This is particularly so if scholars are minded to try journalism. The Guardian for example pays attention to a potential contributor’s blogging record for freelance contributions. New, past and existing bloggers welcome.

List of 2012-2013 Blogs

‘Life at Home During the Great War’ – Nina Koo-Seen-Lin, August 2013
‘After the Vote – Post 1928 Women’ – Orlando/Isabel Grundy
‘Living Memories – Ellen Malos’ Archive, Bristol’ – Debi (Deborah) Withers
‘Jessie Kenney and women seafarers’ – Jo Stanley
‘The Centenary of the Women’s Suffrage Movement’ – Rebecca Simpson
‘Socialist Women for Justice in Oz’ – Marian Hosking
‘Grand Matriarchs Worldwide’ – Patmalar Ambikapathy Thuraisingham
‘Sisterhood and After – The Women’s Liberation Oral History Project’ Polly Russell
‘Fergie and the Funeral’ – Rachel Ritchie
‘Virtue & Vice: Reflecting on Women’s History at Hardwick Hall’ – Helen Smith
Charity Rep's Report

The WHN is registered as a charity and as such has to conform to the regulations for charities laid down by the Charity Commission. This means submitting an annual report, which I have done for the current year and ensuring that we have the correct number of trustees. We have a minimum of three trustees, chosen from the steering committee, one of whom is also the Charity Representative. The current trustees are Anne Logan, Barbara Bush and Jane Berney. Jane is the Charity Rep. As Anne is retiring from the committee this year she will also stand down as a trustee; Barbara and Jane’s term of office will expire next year. Kate Murphy and Maggie Andrews will, therefore, take over as trustees and at the next steering committee meeting one of the new members will be appointed as a trustee and, to shadow Jane, as Charity Rep, before her term of office expires next year. Hopefully this will mean a smooth transition. I have prepared and submitted and will prepare and submit the relevant paperwork to the Charities Commission and HMRC to reflect these changes.

The Charity Rep also has to claim gift aid from HMRC. I am currently waiting to hear from HMRC regarding our last claim. I would ask all members to consider allowing WHN to claim gift aid on their subscriptions. If you have not done so and wish to, full details are on the website.

Jane Berney.

Newsletter Report

Linsey Robb will be stepping down as newsletter editor. However, members are still encouraged to send anything they want included to the email address listed on the website. Members are also encouraged to ensure their email addresses are listed correctly on the website. This is very easily rectified by logging in to the members’ area of the website.

Website

There is very little to report this year, the website is running smoothly as ever. This is entirely down to the excellent work of Claire Jones. However, if any members have any problems or any suggestions please do report them to the web liaison.