



HISTORY CENTRE NEWSLETTER

Issue No 11 June 2010

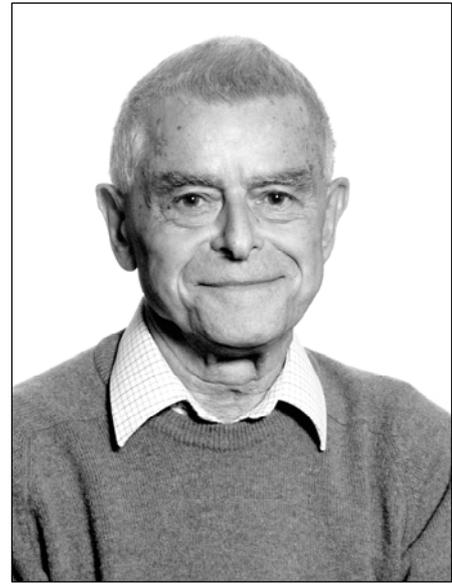


Jerry Morris Memorial Conference

Report by Virginia Berridge

Jerry Morris, a colleague in the Faculty of Public Health and Policy, and a towering figure in post war public health, died at the age of 99 in October 2009.

Colleagues and I had been planning a low key afternoon celebration of his centenary- in May 2010. Unfortunately, this was not to be. Instead, we organised a much larger memorial meeting on 12 May.



CMO assesses Morris' contribution to public health

Nearly 200 people registered; Jerry's family, staff who had worked with him, former and current students in the School. A glittering array of speakers spoke of Jerry's influence ; these ranged through Sir Liam Donaldson, the Chief Medical Officer; Professor Sir Michael Marmot; Professor Alan Maryon Davies, Professor Elizabeth Dowler and Professor George Davey Smith. All paid tribute to Jerry's single minded purpose and determination to make things better.



Remembering Jerry Morris, L to R: Frank Dobson MP, George Davey Smith, Alexandra Zalewska, David Morris

Jerry's son David, also spoke movingly of his personal loss.

A Jerry Morris room was opened during the lunch break in the new Faculty building in Tavistock Place and his archive has been donated to the School. Jerry's history epitomised many of the tensions and issues in public health in the last 70 years. His membership of key committees such as the first Royal College committee on smoking in the early 1960s and the Black Committee in the late 1970s was both a personal and professional history of public health.



Virginia Berridge and
Dame Beulah Bewley

Forthcoming Events!

The History Centre has a number of events planned for the coming months.

On November 11th, the **Centre Annual Lecture** will be given by Professor Gerald Oppenheimer (City University of New York) on the history of epidemiology.

Also in November, a **Workshop on the history of voluntary organisations in public health** will be held, organised by one of the Centre's PhD students, Gareth Milward and the Voluntary Action History Society.

Events are also being planned for 2011. In February, **Professor Nancy Tomes** (State University of New York, Stony Brook) will be visiting the Centre. She will give a **lecture on the history of health consumerism**, and also contribute towards a conference on the history of health rights and citizenship. Further details coming soon!

Conference: Nutrition and history in the twentieth century 15 September 2010

This one day conference will bring together historians, archivists and past and present members of the Nutrition Unit at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. It is jointly organised by the Centre and the School archive.

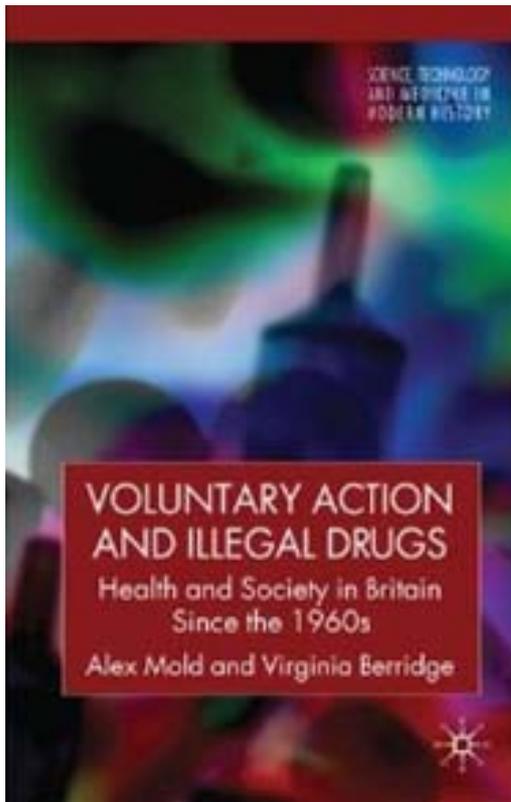
The archival holdings of the Nutrition Unit are being catalogued with funding from the Wellcome Trust. The conference will draw attention to nutrition archives at LSHTM and at the Wellcome Library. There will be a 'witness' session with past members of the Nutrition unit including **Professor Philip Payne and Dr Liza Draper**.

Historical speakers on nutrition science, food policy, diet and famine and other topics include **David Smith, Anne Hardy, Tim Lang, John Manton and Sander Gilman**.

For further details and an application form please contact **Ingrid James** (ingrid.james@lshtm.ac.uk). See also our website: <http://history.lshtm.ac.uk>.

New Publications from Centre Members

Alex Mold and Virginia Berridge's book on the history of voluntary organisations and illegal drugs, *Voluntary Action and Illegal Drugs: Health and Society in Britain since the 1960s*, has just been published by Palgrave Macmillan. This book came out of an ESRC project on illegal drugs and the user on which Virginia Berridge was the principal investigator and Alex Mold was the research fellow. Drawing on extensive archival and interview based research, this book takes the voluntary activity around drugs as a case study through which wider developments in the relationship between the state and civil society can be explored.



Thinking in time: does health policy need history as evidence?

This was the title of an invited contribution in March 2010 by Virginia Berridge to *The Lancet's* Art of Medicine section. Virginia drew attention to the rise of 'public history' and the parallel rise of evidence based medicine and evidence based policy. These developments seemed far apart. But, as she pointed out, history is the evidence based discipline par excellence. Why is it not more regularly used in setting objectives and providing context for policy discussion?

Ranging across vaccination policy; through alcohol and prohibition; malaria campaigns; and the role of cannabis; the paper provided plenty of examples of ways in which history could be used productively. Thinking in time should be a pre requisite for policy makers. For a full version of the paper see.

[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(10\)60334-0/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(10)60334-0/fulltext)

Other new publications:

Responding to Drug Misuse: research and policy priorities in health and social care (edited by Susanne MacGregor) Routledge 2010

Susanne MacGregor and Marcus Whiting 'The development of European drug policy and the place of harm reduction within this' in *Harm Reduction: evidence, impacts and challenges* (edited by Tim Rhodes and Dagmar Hedrich) EMCDDA monograph 2010 Lisbon

News of Research Projects

The Health Protection Agency's (HPA) response to Swine Flu (H1N1).

A research project commissioned by the Health Protection Agency is about to commence on the response of the HPA to the swine flu pandemic of 2009. This project will examine the response of the HPA to the perceived threat of the swine flu pandemic through twenty interviews with key players within the organization and it will use standard oral history methodology. Interviews will provide an insight into the epidemic in its early days, and into the organization including organizational links between and among the various HPA Centres and Divisions involved in the pandemic work. The project will focus on, but not be restricted to, the containment period from April to July 2009. The resulting record will be in the form of a web-booklet which will be published on the HPA website and possibly later the production of a more formal printed booklet. The finished booklet will build upon the interviews with a broader analysis and will be framed by an introduction section and a concluding section which will enable it to serve as a stand-alone piece.

Suzanne Taylor and Virginia Berridge.

Voluntary Hospitals Database

The Centre and LSHTM is hosting a new online resource for researchers with interests in the history of British and Irish voluntary hospitals between c.1890 and 1946. The Voluntary Hospitals

Database is at

<http://www.hospitalsdatabase.lshtm.ac.uk/> and contains statistical data on over 1,300 hospitals located in England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. Originally recorded in a series of annual yearbooks, these data were digitised by John Mohan, Martin Powell and Martin Gorsky in 1996-9. Thanks to the generous support of the Wellcome Trust we have now been able to make this material available online, and users may search for hospitals of interest by name, by place or through an interactive map. Simple graphing facilities are available to aid visualisation of main trends, and users may freely download to Excel data relating to individual hospitals, either separately or at the level of city or county. Where possible each hospital is linked to the relevant entry in the National Archives/Wellcome Trust Hospitals Database, so that readers also have instant access to details of the archives where further records of their chosen hospital are located.

Our original project explored the spatial and temporal patterns of hospital provision and finance immediately prior to the establishment of the British National Health Service, and links to the articles we wrote about this are included in the website. We hope this material will be of use to medical historians, to urban and local historians, and to all with an interest in the historical development of social welfare!

Martin Gorsky

Visitors to the Centre and their Work

Michele A. Riva, of the Research Centre on the History of Biomedical Thought, University of Milano Bicocca, Milan, Italy, reports on his **50th Anniversary study of Chris Wagner’s paper on the relationship between pleural mesothelioma and asbestos exposure.**

Fifty years ago, in July 1960, John Christopher (Chris) Wagner (1923-2000), a South African physician, published in the *British Journal of Industrial Medicine*, a paper generally credited as the first study that “convincingly” demonstrated the association between pleural mesothelioma and asbestos exposure. In spite of its enormous impact in the field of occupational medicine, it’s curious to observe that almost all the cases analyzed by Wagner in 1960 were drawn from exposure outside the workplace. Thus, this article deeply changed the knowledge about asbestos-related dangers not only in an occupational context, but also in a non-occupational one, suggesting a nexus between work, environment and cancer. Consequently, it could be considered as one of the first papers to introduce the concept of “occupational and environmental disease”.

Despite these considerations, some historians believe that Wagner’s discoveries had been anticipated by the works of a German pathologist, Hans Wilfrid Wedler who had described pleural tumours in two asbestos workers in 1943. Actually, this work had not been taken into consideration within the scientific community of that time, due to the political affiliation of the Nazi

physician. Indeed, the German studies conducted in 1940s on the relationship between cancer and asbestos were believed to be less realistic since they sounded like a tactic to offset the lack of asbestos in Germany, due to the embargo established by the Allies. Moreover, the lack of experimental and epidemiological evidence in Wedler’s works had played a central role in delaying a consensus. So, only Wagner, analyzing a considerable number of mesothelioma cases, could definitely clarify the existence of the relationship between this cancer and asbestos. In addition, the South African physician first identified two fundamental principles of the epidemiology of pleural tumours (latency and individual susceptibility), reporting much of what we still know about malignant mesotheliomas.

Visiting this summer is **Eric Hansen** of the University of Rochester School of Medicine in the United States. Hansen is working on the **history of physician organizations and their role in supporting/opposing the creation of universal health care.** Funded through a Medical Humanities grant from Rochester, he will spend half the year in the U.K. and half the year in Canada to analyze the public positions and private debates taking place within the relevant medical associations during the respective periods when universal health coverage was created in both countries.

PhD Students Associated with the History Centre: Current Projects

Nadja van Ginneken *The roles of non-specialist health workers in mental health care provision in India.*

Supervisors: Prof Vikram Patel;
Prof Virginia Berridge

This 3 year PhD project is a joint collaboration between the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Sangath, Goa (India). It is funded by the Wellcome Trust, UK.

Project rationale and outline

In light of a huge treatment gap and scarcity of mental health personnel, non-mental health specialists are likely to be important to reduce this treatment gap. This project proposes to explore what roles non-specialist health workers (NSHWs) (ie primary level doctors, nurses, lay health workers other generalist paraprofessionals who are not specialised in mental health) can have in mental health care provision in India. Describing programmatic achievements and failures and understanding roles of NSHWs within mental healthcare are essential for informing policy makers and for recommending effective, acceptable and sustainable measures for scaling up community mental health services in India and other low-and-middle-income countries (LMICs).

This project proposes to:

1. Systematically review the effectiveness of NSHW-delivered interventions (EPOC Cochrane review)
2. Explore the history and development of NSHWs' roles in mental healthcare provision in India through oral history interviews with 10-15 prior policy makers and coordinators. These will be compared with existing written historical primary and secondary sources.
3. Describe NSHWs current roles in Karnataka state through in-depth ethnographic case studies in two primary healthcare sites which incorporate mental health. These will involve observation of clinical work and about 15 interviews with NSHWs and specialists per site.
4. Approximately 40 in-depth interviews in further sites around India, conducted either side of the case-studies, will broaden the scope of analysis to other projects and contribute to more generalisable conclusions on the acceptability and feasibility of scaling up emerging models of task-shifting mental health to NSHWs.

The above findings will be triangulated to answer the primary research questions about the effectiveness of NSHW-delivered mental health care interventions in LMIC and the contextual factors

which determine the scalability of such interventions within routine health care programmes in India.

This project will be executed in Bangalore, South India, and involves working in close collaboration with India-based government institutions and non-governmental organisations.

Jenny Walke *'Psychiatric Patients and Their Treatment at Bethlem Royal Hospital, 1930-1983'*.

Supervisor: Martin Gorsky

My research uses a case study of Bethlem Royal Hospital to explore institutional care for the mentally ill in mid-twentieth century Britain. Bethlem is Britain's oldest and arguably foremost mental hospital, a centre of psychiatric innovation notable for its early acceptance of voluntary, predominantly middle-class, patients. The study highlights implications of legislative frameworks, changing definitions of mental illness and scientific developments within psychiatry. Admission register data provide a unique glimpse into prevailing theories of mental illness causation, and the changing character of the hospital and its patients from 1930 to 1983. Preliminary analyses of the demographic and clinical composition of admissions challenge existing historiography, and can inform wider debates on psychiatric epidemiology, policy and practice.

Gareth Millward *Disability in the Welfare State: Defining, Defending and Dividing Disability*,

Supervisor: Martin Gorsky

I am currently working on welfare state policies towards the disabled in Britain from 1965-1995. I am investigating the state's definitions of disability, particularly within the context of social security. The project will use government sources, written records and oral testimonies to uncover the construction and administration of disability as a legal category in Britain. This will ask important questions about how the policy making process includes or excludes the disabled, how the disabled are treated as recipients of welfare, and to what extent policies are designed to integrate or segregate the disabled from perceived "normal" society.