



## Enhancement award success

The Centre is celebrating its successful bid for a Wellcome Trust enhancement award. These are hard to get and the funds will greatly enhance existing activities.

The award gives the Centre funded secretarial support, two PhD studentships, a visiting overseas fellow, financial support for conferences and seminars, history walks and the Open House exhibition, teaching support and research assistance over a five year period.

## Archives Awareness

As part of the School's activities to mark the Archives Awareness Campaign 2004, a film was shown on 28 October in the Goldsmith's Lecture Theatre.

Roads to Africa is the story of an expedition to East Africa led by Mr H S Leeson to investigate the binomics of *Anopheles funestes*, a malaria carrying mosquito in 1936.

If you couldn't make the showing, the film is available to view in the archives. Email [victoria.killick@lsh.uct.ac.za](mailto:victoria.killick@lsh.uct.ac.za) for details.

## New blood

A warm welcome to Svanaug Fjaer who joins the Centre as Visiting Research Fellow and who will be studying the relationship between research-based knowledge and policy in Norwegian drug policy from the late 1960s onwards.

Svanaug, whose work is funded by the Norwegian Research Council, has been working on alcohol and drugs research for more than ten years and has also taken part in a project about globalisation and the changes in Nordic alcohol policy. She is a member of the Norwegian Government's Expert Committee on Drugs.

Alex Mold will be working with Virginia Berridge on a three-year ESRC-funded project on drug user groups and the voluntary sector, and their impact on drug policy from the 1970s to the present.

Alex has just finished a PhD in History at the University of Birmingham on the 'British System' of heroin addiction treatment from 1965 to 1987. Before that, Alex read for a BA in History, also at the University of Birmingham.

## The health of towns

A one-day conference, Health Towns, Healthy Cities: Public Health in British Cities, 1844-2004, will be held at the School on 12 November. The event is sponsored by the Wellcome Trust and the Society for the Social History of Medicine.

The inspiration for the event was the observation by a public health academic that the historical community had failed to mark the 150th anniversary of the Health of Towns Association. Formed in 1844 in the wake of Chadwick's seminal Report on the Sanitary Condition of the Labouring Population the Association was a key advocate of environmental public health interventions in Victorian Britain.

The conference will look back on the classic phase of urban sanitary reform which followed the mid-century Public Health Acts, seek to reappraise the role of Edwin Chadwick and study the work of pioneer Medical Officers of Health and their efforts to drive down mortality rates in their cities. It will also consider the implications for health of the town planning movement and end with an appraisal of the 'Healthy Cities' initiative, begun in 1986 to implement the goals of WHO's 'Health For All 2000' programme.

## Manson case notes

Richard Knowlton, who has been working in the archive and is attached to the History Centre, has now finished his Wellcome-funded research on the Manson case notes of medical examinations for the Colonial Office.

Manson's handwriting is very difficult, but Richard has entered 3,848 examinations in a database, covering the period 1889-1904. There are still more to enter (for the period 1904-12, when Manson handed over the job) and the later years (19120-19). The examinations throw light on issues including BMI, height, health issues, alcohol consumption and STDs.

There are special groups examined, including a group of nurses going out to the concentration camps in South Africa during the Boer War. Richard Knowlton and Virginia Berridge are planning some joint surveys of the material.

## Soap work concludes

A booklet has now been published on our work around the history of soap and health, which covers issues such as soap marketing. To receive a copy, please contact Val Curtis in ITD ([val.curtis@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:val.curtis@lshtm.ac.uk))

## Archives update

There are plans to put the Ross archive catalogue online in the near future - watch this space.

The School is also planning to take part in Open House in September 2005. A Working Group is being set up to work towards this.

## Centre organises public health history walk

A free lunchtime history walk was organised by the Centre on Wednesday 27 October.

The walk, led by Ros Stanwell-Smith, a Public Health Consultant and Blue Badge Guide, explored the history of London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine's Art Deco building in Keppel Street.

Participants were able to learn about the significance of the 23 names on the frieze which decorates its exterior - they are pioneers of medicine and public health from the 1600s until the 1930s, and include a professor who rejected the germ theory - and enjoy a gentle stroll around the streets surrounding the School.

They were also invited to view the exhibition in reception, *Venturing Abroad . . . Archives on Travel, Exploration and Discovery* held at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, which was part of the School's contribution to the Archives Awareness Campaign.

## Witness seminar on public health in '80s and '90s

A Witness Seminar on Public Health in the 1980s and 1990s was held at the Wellcome Trust on Euston Road and co-organised by Virginia Berridge and Dr Niki Ellis under the auspices of the C20th History Group. Participants included John Ashton, Rod Griffiths (President of the Faculty of Public Health), Alwyn Smith (Past President), Jeff French of the Health Development Agency, Sir Donald Acheson, Nick Black, Sir Ian Chalmers, Ann Taket of South Bank University, Shirley Goodwin and Klim McPherson.

The Seminar covered the changes around community medicine in the 1980s and the impact of the 1988 Acheson Report, the rise of health promotion internationally and nationally in the 1980s; the impact of the EBM movement and health services research; and the debates on multi-disciplinary public health and its arrival on the agenda.

The event was very lively and prompted much heated debate and discussion. Younger public health trainees in the audience were amazed to discover that public health was located in local government until 1974.

A transcript and publication of the Seminar is planned.

## Foresight exercise involvement

Virginia Berridge is involved in a Foresight Brain Science, Addiction and Drugs exercise, which is reporting to a task force led by Lord Warner, Home Office Minister.

It is unusual for history to be represented in such an exercise. The aim is to develop long-term ideas about addictive substances in the future and how they will be managed.

## Temperance history

The Centre is involved in a project funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation which is looking at temperance history and the themes emerging for current and future alcohol policy.

It involves a literature review which handled by Sue Taylor and also interviews with key current policy personnel.

The project is taking place at a time of change and public debate. There is a new alcohol reduction strategy, a new Licensing Act and rising concern about alcohol and binge drinking.

## Study unit revamp

The History Study Unit has been completely reorganised this year, following a week of intensive work on source materials by Virginia Berridge and Martin Gorsky at the National Library of Medicine in Washington..

## Forthcoming seminars

*Public Health Lecture Series*  
Tuesday 2 November  
Virginia Berridge (LSHTM) - Can we learn anything from history? 5.15 pm in the Goldsmith's Lecture Theatre, Keppel Street

*History in Public Health Seminars*  
Thursday 11 November  
Preeti Patel (LSHTM) - British American Tobacco's policy influence in Kenya. 12.45 pm, Room 5, Keppel Street

Thursday 9 December  
Dr Rhodri Hayward, Wellcome Research Fellow, the Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at UCL  
How we all became hysterical: psychology and general practice in the twentieth century  
12.45 pm, Room 5, Keppel Street.

*Drug and alcohol research seminars*  
Wednesday 24 November  
Mike Trace, Former Deputy Drug Czar - Dilemmas in international drug policy. 1.00 pm, Manson Lecture Theatre, Keppel Street.  
Tuesday 30 November  
Jenny Pearce, Middlesex University - Researching the hard to reach - young women and sexual exploitation. 5.30 pm, Room LG80 (Bennett Room), Keppel Street.

Find out more about the History Centre at [www.lshtm.ac.uk/history](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/history)

## Next Management Committee Meeting

This will be in February 2005 in the Lucas Room (LG81) (date and time to be confirmed later).

A second meeting for supporters of the Centre, with an opportunity to give feedback and suggestions, will take place later in the year.

## How are we funded and managed?

Funding comes from the Wellcome Trust, the Economic and Social Research Council, the Nuffield Trust, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the Unilever Centre. We also run funded seminars, conferences and workshops.

A Management committee meets twice a year, supported by monthly meetings of a strategic group incorporating active researchers. There is a wider group for affiliated staff.