In the last newsletter I drew attention to the work that the Society does for the health of the historical discipline, and particularly the several strands of our publishing programme. We continue with that theme in this issue by looking at the wider range of historical societies’ publishing. But for my own part I will turn to the two issues that have preoccupied us for most of the last year; and here I have some modestly positive results to report, which I hope will mean that we have more time and energy to take up other pressing issues in the coming months.

To provide context, it is worth saying that over the last fifteen years, the period in which I have been closely involved with the Society, it has devoted more and more time to issues of public policy, and also, I think, has been taken more and more seriously by pundits and policymakers. Over this period we have contributed a good deal to public discussion of Freedom of Information and Data Protection, as they affect historical research, to the 30 (now 20) year rule governing public records, to government funding for humanities research (postgraduate and postdoctoral), and to the impact of fees on subject choice at undergraduate level. We have set up two standing committees, on Education and Research Policy, with co-opted representatives from a range of interested parties (the National Archives, the Historical Association, the university departments as represented by History UK and the early career network History Lab Plus), and chaired by two of our Vice-Presidents (currently Professors Arthur Burns and Nicola Miller, to whom we owe much of the success I have to report here). As of August we have now also taken on a new member of staff, Dr Jane Gerson, as Research and Communications Officer, whom we are delighted to welcome (though she is already an old friend, having served previously as maternity cover for our Administrative Secretary, Melanie Ransom - welcome back, Mel!). Jane’s initial task will focus on managing our ambitious new project to revamp our web presence, but over time she will take on more responsibility for research on policy issues and external relations with the media, government and other interest groups, and supporting our Hon. Director of Communications, Professor Jo Fox. This kind of effort repays every second and every penny invested in it, as can be illustrated with a quick look at those two preoccupations of recent months, the School Curriculum and Open Access. As I’m sure most people will agree, the school curriculum was overdue for refreshment.
- especially at GCSE, the weak link in the chain, where syllabi had become stereotyped and overly focused on the 20th-century. When the current Secretary of State for Education, Michael Gove, first came into office, we met with him (thanks to the good offices of our friend Lord Cormack) and pressed some key reforms on him - notably the need to make it impossible any longer to study only 20th-century history for 5 consecutive years, Years 9-13. Unfortunately the course of policy in the intervening years cannot be said to have run smooth. What to us seemed an uncoordinated and unconvincing set of changes was proposed, often without much serious discussion or consultation, then withdrawn, only to resurface rejigged after a new phase of equally mysterious internal cogitations. At every point where we had an opportunity, we engaged in lively and direct discussions with the Department for Education and its quangoes, working very closely and in impressive agreement with our colleagues in the teaching profession from the Historical Association. I’m pleased to say that the outcomes, only now just trickling out, are generally happier than at first seemed likely. A small working group with which both the HA and the RHS have been associated has been reworking the proposals for the national curriculum and GCSE into a form that commands much wider support. It may still be objected that the national curriculum is too focused on British history, but it now provides more opportunities for study of the wider world, and requires younger children to learn some modern history and older children to study some pre-modern history, instead of the unrelenting chronological progression originally prescribed that would have restricted all pre-modern history to primary school. The latest draft of the GCSE specification now being finalized indicates that in future GCSE will offer a much richer diet for 14-16 year olds, including opportunities to cover longer sweeps of history and to compare and contrast between different periods. A-Level, we felt, required (and will get) the least reform - particularly if provision at GCSE was more varied. We do regret the decision to make A-Level a linear two-year course, which will reduce students’ subject choice (probably reverting them to the traditional three subjects only, whereas the AS in Year 11 encouraged them to experiment with 4 or 5), though we are happy that at both GCSE and A-Level the examining process promises to be more regular and rigorous, with fewer retakes. Overall, we felt that our interventions were targeted, well-informed, and helped to build a consensus around some of the reforms. We think government is likely to listen to us more carefully in future. And we were very impressed at how well all kinds of historians - academics, teachers, researchers - worked together towards common goals. We hope to contribute in future to providing resources that will assist teachers in delivering some demanding new curricula. Fellows and Members will not need much further detail under the other main heading, Open Access, as I provided a lengthy update in a letter to you all in June (still available on our website, as are most of our public contributions to the policy debates). Looking back on our role in debates since last autumn, however, I can again say that our interventions have had a real impact and raised our profile for the future. The Research Councils’ Open Access policy has been revised to accommodate some of our objections and will be reviewed next year, with our active participation. The Funding Councils’ Open Access policy is still in formation - this is the part that applies to all university-employed academics. But their first draft has taken on board our concerns about international journals, licences, and early-career researchers. We will be pressing them strongly to nail down the key points.

HEFCE has asked me to join its reference group on Open Access monographs. We have been working closely with Professor Chris Wickham, the historian who has been leading on Open Access for the British Academy, and with journal editors, to monitor the effect of new policies on our journals at home and abroad. We think it has become clearer to policymakers, thanks in large part to our efforts, that academic policy can’t be made on a science model without seriously and in detail taking the distinctive needs of the arts and humanities into account. Ideally, by the time of the next newsletter in the spring, I will be able to address other matters entirely - and our entire policy team welcomes suggestions from Fellows and Members of areas that have been neglected or are likely to be the coming issues. But on these established areas of concern… so far, so good.
The Role of Record Societies

Professor Stephen Taylor
Honorary Academic Editor (BBIH)

Record societies are a distinguished part of the British historical tradition. The origins of some of the most august, such as the Chetham Society discussed below and Camden Society (absorbed into the RHS in 1897), pre-date the emergence of history as an academic discipline. The membership of these societies was dominated by clergymen, lawyers, gentry and other professionals, brought together by a commitment to make available significant historical texts.

At the beginning of the twenty-first century record societies, whether long-established or more recent creations like the Berkshire Record Society and the Church of England Record Society, continue to owe their existence to the support and enthusiasm of those outside the academy, both as subscribers and as editors of volumes.

The number of record society volumes that are edited to the highest standard by people who do not occupy university posts is eloquent testimony to the breadth and health of the historical profession in Britain and Ireland. At the same time the reliance of the societies on a subscription model for publication is a reminder that, long before current debates about open access, historians were committed to making available key texts to all who were interested at as reasonable a price as possible.

Forthcoming Events

Friday 22 November 2013 at 5.30 p.m.
Presidential Address
Professor Peter Mandler
‘Educating the Nation. I: Schools’
Venue: Gustave Tuck Lecture Theatre, UCL

Friday 7 February 2014 at 5.30 p.m.
Professor Katy Cubitt
‘Apocalyptic Thinking in England around the year 1000’
Venue: Gustave Tuck Lecture Theatre, UCL

30 April 2014
Symposium
‘The Age of Anniversaries: the Cult of Commemoration 1905-1920’
Venue: University of East Anglia

Friday 9 May 2014 at 5.30 p.m.
Dr Julia Lovell
‘The Uses of Foreigners in Communist China’
Venue: Gustave Tuck Lecture Theatre, UCL
The Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland was established in 1849 as the Kilkenny Archaeological Society. Its inception was thanks to a small group of enthusiastic Kilkenny men: Revd James Graves (1815-86), a Church of Ireland rector and an enthusiastic amateur antiquarian artist; his cousin, John G.A. Prim, editor of the Kilkenny Moderator, and collector with an interest in medieval antiquities; Robert Cane, later Lord Mayor of Kilkenny and an active Young Irelander; Philip More, a Catholic priest and friend of Prim’s; and Dean Vignoles, a Protestant clergyman of Clonmacnoise.

The aim of the Society was to ‘preserve, examine and illustrate all ancient monuments and memorials of the arts, manners and customs of the past, as connected with the antiquities, language, literature and history of Ireland’. Its ethos was non-sectarian and non-political, and its modest membership subscription was intended to be socially inclusive.

Expansion in the Society’s membership was rapid, and in 1854 it was decided to change the Society’s name to reflect this, becoming the Kilkenny and South East of Ireland Archaeological Society. Further growth and name changes ensued - to the Historical and Archaeological Society of Ireland (1868-69), then the Royal Historical and Archaeological Society of Ireland, and finally, coinciding with the move of its headquarters to Dublin in 1890, the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland.

Preservation and conservation
Established in the days before monuments enjoyed statutory protection, from the outset the Society was actively engaged in the recording of sites and monuments and in the practical repair and conservation of historic buildings. Accurate drawings and sections of monuments were undertaken and surveys of local interest were published in the Journal. Works to consolidate endangered structures were funded through members’ subscriptions. Pioneering conservation works were carried out at Clonmacnoise, Co. Offaly, Jerpoint, Co. Kilkenny, St Francis Abbey, Kilkenny and Glendalough, Co. Wicklow. When legislation was adopted to provide state care for monuments in the 1870s and 1880s, it was the unobtrusive approach taken by the Society that formed the basis for best practice in state sponsored conservation projects both in Ireland and Britain.

Kilkenny Museum
At the second meeting of the Society it was decided to establish a museum. Members were encouraged to donate objects of historical importance both for their protection, and so they might be viewed for comparison. So successful was the initiative that the museum was forced to move from its original location in the Tholsel (old market house) in Kilkenny to larger premises at William Street, then Butler House, and finally Rothe House. In 1910, the collection was transferred to Dublin Museum of Art and Industry (now the National Museum), although it still retains a small number of objects of historical interest.

The necessity to engage in conservation and collecting activities has now been covered by the state. However, the Society continues many of the activities that were initiated over 160 years ago. These include regular lectures and excursions, the publication of its journal and the provision of a rich resource of research materials, both printed and manuscript, available to its members and external readers.

Society House
The Society moved to its present location at number 63 Merrion Square in 1917. The house had been formerly occupied by the same family (the Sankeys) for almost exactly a century, and as a result had been little altered since its construction in 1790-93. It now represents the best-preserved example of a Georgian townhouse in Dublin. The interior retains all of its original fireplaces, plasterwork and joinery. Outside it has the only example of a fully restored Dublin townhouse garden - replete with edible fruit and herbs, and the grave stone of one of the Sankeys’ more treasured pets. The mews building, which formerly housed the coachman and horses, is now leased to the Irish Landmark Trust. The first floor apartments are let as self-catering
holiday accommodation, while beneath, the stalls provide a place of rest for the mounted Garda (pol-
lisce) during their lunch-break!

The RSAI in the 21st Century
Although no longer actively involved in conservation or the collection of artefacts the Society con-
tinues to host talks and lectures, organise excursions, publish its annual journal and provide a library for members. The strength of the Library’s collections lies in unique material relating to Irish antiquities. Visual collections include original sketchbooks and watercolours compiled by George Victor du Noyer, William Wakeman, James Graves, Miller and Robertson and Brian Coughlan. The Society’s collection of photographs relates primarily to the period c. 1850- c. 1950. The most significant holdings are images of field monuments and architecture, but it also includes numerous portrait images and the John Cooke ‘Darkest Dublin Collection’ - images documenting the slums of Dublin in 1913. Many of these collections are now available to view digitally in the Library reading room and the Society has recently embarked on an ambitious project to make material available through the international web portal for cultural institutions - Europeana. The Library also contains the manuscript research notes of a number of noted Irish antiquaries including Erlington Ball, Lord Walter FitzGerald, J.J. Buckley, Oliver Davis, P.J. Lynch, Liam Price and Helen Roe. Documentation relating to the Association for the Preservation of Memorials of the Dead in Ireland includes original nineteenth-century rubbings of (mainly medieval) gravestones. Significant collections of rare books and journals relating to the history and archaeology of Ireland are available for consultation in the reading room. The Society’s current collections policy focuses on related manuscript materials and on building its local history and archaeology collections.

Membership
The Society currently has about 500 active mem-
ers, comprising a mixture of amateurs and profes-
sionals who all share an interest in Ireland’s past. Membership is open to all, and together with the annually published Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries, members receive two newsletters and fortnightly e-bulletins keeping them up-to-date with relevant events around the country. Members are also free to use the Library, attend lectures and excursions and qualify for access to the JSTOR Irish collections database.

For further details on the RSAI please see: www.rsai.ie

Dr Rachel Moss
The Scottish Record Society (SRS) started life in 1897, with the publication of its first volume, *Commissariot Record of Edinburgh: Register of Testaments, 1514 to 1600*, under the name of ‘British Record Society - Scottish Section’. The British Record Society had been founded a decade earlier in the heyday of Victorian record categorisation, to publish indices of public records. It went on to concentrate on publishing predominantly English county records - its record preservation section formed the basis of the British Records Association (featured in the May newsletter of the RHS). But the SRS soon devolved to its own national status; by its second volume, it was publishing its rules and making plain its independence.

Record Societies exist to examine, convert, transcribe and analyse (mostly textual) primary historical sources. In its early days, the SRS, with particular entrée to the Lyon Office and the National Archives housed in HM Register House in Edinburgh, found great scope in the records of cities and burghs around the country. It published transcriptions of a large number of ‘Commissariots’ - records of commissary (i.e. church) courts, which dealt with marriage, legitimacy and testaments - and similar documents, covering the period from 1500 to 1800 and places from Shetland to Wigtown. These were primarily records important for the transfer of property and the social attitudes towards doing so.

There are several remarks prefacing those early volumes indicating that records were ‘awanting’; one (Protocol Book of Gavin Ros, N.P.) bemoaned the inability of notaries to keep proper notes of their cases. There were only 159 such protocol books available to the Lord Clerk Register’s department, wrote the Editors, Rev. John Anderson and Francis J. Grant, W.S.. Given the very large number of notaries practising in Scotland in the 17th and 18th centuries (see our current volumes, *Admission Register of Notaries Public in Scotland, 1700-1799*, edited by Professor John Finlay), this was a valid concern.
Though the original rules of the SRS from 1898 (reprinted here) have been superseded by a new Constitution, which is itself due for review in these changing times, they still show the flavour of the Society: we have around 100 members (but now would dearly like more!) with additional subscribers in the form of libraries and academic bodies. We undertake our own publishing, and members have received at least one volume per year since 1897. Some of these volumes are short works, but many have been substantial, both in length and in content. All have been produced to advance their subject, and not for financial reward - this is the nature of Record Societies, of which the SRS is a fine proponent.

Sir Francis J Grant, the Society’s first and most frequent Editor, was Lord Lyon King of Arms and Keeper of the Records. The Lyon Office still kindly holds our archive. Other notable editors and transcribers of volumes have included Marguerite Wood, Professor Gordon Donaldson, Dr Duncan Shaw (our President, who will be celebrating 50 years as an Office Bearer of the Society in 2014), Professor D.E.R. Watt, Dr Margaret Sanderson, H.S. Fotheringham and Dr Jean Munro. Publications, though continuing to make public Scottish primary sources available, tend to focus on areas not widely covered by public record or the internet - areas which otherwise would not be readily accessible. We are pleased to be following Dr Margaret Sanderson’s Biographical List of Early Scottish Protestants, Heretics and Other Religious Dissenters, 1407-1560, volume 33 of the New Series, with her work on Scottish Curates of the same period for our 2015 publication.

As a small and independent charity, we depend on membership for our future. We consider ourselves an august but accessible body, with membership open to all with an interest in the Society’s work, at the modest price of £20 for 2014. That original ‘One Guinea’ would be the equivalent of £110 today, so we have done our bit towards controlling inflation.

Victoria Arrowsmith-Brown
Honorary Secretary
Scottish Record Society
www.scottishrecordsociety.org.uk

(Image: extract from the Commissariot Record of Aberdeen/Register of Testaments, 1715 - 1800)
Berkshire Record Society, which celebrates its twentieth anniversary in 2013, is a comparative newcomer to the world of record publishing. Quite why it was so late on the scene is something of a mystery. The county archaeological society was founded in 1871, and Berkshire’s VCH was begun and completed by 1924. Various attempts to set up a record society had been made during the twentieth century, but none succeeded until 1991. A small group of academics and archivists, led by Professor Donald Matthew, then head of the History Department at Reading University, began a campaign that led to the formation of the Society in 1993 and the publication of its first text the following year.

Why did we bother? In comparison with the days when the first record societies were set up, access to records and copies of originals was immeasurably easier by the 1990s. Was there really a need to publish edited texts of local records? Moreover, the times were hardly propitious for setting up what was not only a scholarly venture but also, in effect, a small business. However, we believed that there continued to be a place for published texts, and the continuing health of other county societies encouraged us in this belief. There was also an element of local pride – we felt slightly ashamed that the Royal County of Berkshire was one of the few English counties without a committed record publishing programme. It was not the case that no records had been published: the Berkshire Archaeological Journal had printed short texts from time to time, and other documents had been published in the Royal Historical Society’s Camden Series and by the Oxford Historical Society, and some texts had been published privately; but this was haphazard and occasional, and, we felt, rather unsatisfactory.

From the start we recognised that the programme needed both academic and general appeal. Though the membership list today looks rather different from the list of supporters of the Berkshire VCH, it remains the case that amateur enthusiasts and local and family historians figure more largely than professional historians and academic libraries - indeed, securing library subscriptions is becoming ever more difficult. The publishing programme, both in the selection of texts and in the introductions and critical apparatus that supports them, would have to satisfy both scholarship and the needs of the general reader. We hope we have achieved this.

Our publishing programme has sought to embrace a reasonable diversity of texts, both in period and in record type. Post-medieval texts predominate, but we are committed to including medieval texts from time to time, Cecil Slade’s edition of the Reading Gild Accounts, 1357-1516 (complete with parallel translation) being a good example. We have also published calendars (selected overseers’ case papers, for example), an index (to Berkshire Archdeaconry probate records, 1480-1652) and a historical survey (of evidence for the progress of enclosure in Berkshire, 1485-1885). We have tried to mix new or relatively unfamiliar texts (corre-
spondence of the Foundling Hospital Inspectors in Berkshire, glebe terriers, probate accounts) with more traditional fare (the 1851 religious census, and the forthcoming volumes of sixteenth-century churchwardens’ accounts). And we have included regional as well as local texts (the Diocese Books of Bishop Samuel Wilberforce, published jointly with the Oxfordshire Record Society, and the minutes of the Thames Navigation Commission, 1771-1790).

Clearly our programme depends on finding willing and competent editors who are able to deliver texts to the exacting standards that a record publisher requires. In this respect we have been fortunate. At the outset Professor Matthew secured a Reading University research award that funded a research assistant to prepare two volumes. Since then we have benefitted from the work of serving and retired academics, and we have also been well-served by professional archivists and amateur historians. One of the volumes is based on a group project sponsored by the Berkshire Record Office and the Berkshire Family History Society, and another volunteer project - on eighteenth-century education in Berkshire - promises to form the basis of an additional volume in a few years time. We have also embarked on other publishing ventures: it was the Berkshire Record Society that produced both the first Berkshire Historical Atlas in 1998 and the revised and enlarged second edition that appeared last year, and we are considering other non-text-based publications in the future.

As anyone who has been involved in record publishing will confirm, it is hard work, and there are obstacles and pitfalls on the way. Texts may take some time to arrive. At our inaugural meeting, Mary Clapinson told the story of the Record Society which commissioned a volume from a young scholar at the outset of his career - and finally received it in his retirement. That hasn’t happened to us yet - but of course we haven’t been going long enough! Then there are the inevitable problems of transcription. We haven’t created a new ship of the line for the Royal Navy, which, as Paul Harvey recounts in his book Editing Historical Records, nearly happened to one society, but we have come close to perpetuating entirely fictitious individuals. It took some palaeographical endeavour to establish that the previously unknown C. V. Abbes was actually Lord Craven, and that the unusually-named Cto Basley was in reality Ste[phen] Barker. And then there is the simple matter of economics: though we have benefitted from generous grants, membership subscriptions remain the basic source of income, and the struggle to maintain membership at a sustainable level is constantly with us.

But we are proud of what we have achieved in the past twenty years, and pleased to have joined that distinguished group of organisations committed to promoting access to key sources of evidence for investigating and understanding our common past.

Peter Durrant
General Editor
Berkshire Record Society
www.berkshirerecordsociety.org.uk
The Chetham Society is the oldest historical society in North-West England, and the second most senior historical society in the North. It was founded on 23 March 1843 by a group of gentlemen of a ‘literary and historical turn’ (including James Crossley and Revd Thomas Corser) who wished to promote interest in, and access to, the rich historical source materials for the Palatine Counties of Lancashire and Cheshire. This was a time in which several learned societies were founded in Manchester as the urban elite sought to consolidate its hold on the newly emergent institutions of the city. The foundation marks a strong civic pride and confidence in Manchester as a leading city. The determination that the wealth that came from industrial production should irrigate the intellectual and cultural life of the city is a defining feature of Manchester’s development in this period. The Chetham Society is one of the monuments to this spirit. When it was founded there was a long waiting list to join, and membership was regarded as something of a badge of status. Unlike most of the other societies founded at this time, however, the Chetham Society still survives and indeed flourishes. Its clear remit to publish works on the historical materials of Lancashire and Cheshire and its success in publishing, over the last 170 years, a steady stream of valuable (and often essential) works of scholarship that make important contributions to the study of the history of Lancashire and Cheshire probably explains why, in its own words, it became ‘A Society with No Equal’ in Manchester. One must add, however, that its initial success was largely down to one man, James Crossley (1800-83), a founder member who had great influence in Manchester’s intellectual, cultural and social affairs.

The Society held its Foundation Meeting at Manchester’s historic Chetham’s Library, which was established in 1653 by the will of Humphrey Chetham (1580-1653) and is where the Society’s Annual General Meetings are still held today in the Reading Room where Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels used to meet and read. The founders adopted the name Chetham in honour of Humphrey Chetham because he - more than any other individual - was a patron, philanthropist and benefactor of learning in the region. The Chetham Society was one of the earliest antiquarian and historical societies to be established in Britain in the nineteenth-century, and appears to have been modelled, in part, on the Durham-based Surtees Society which had been founded in 1834.

The Chetham Society’s founders intended to publish ‘Remains Historical and Literary connected with the Palatine Counties and Cities of Lancaster and Chester’, namely to produce editions of important documents relating to the two counties. Whilst some literary works were published during the Society’s early years, the focus of its publishing has been largely historical. Since the 1870s, the Society’s primary emphasis has been on local and regional history, and in recent years (particularly since the inauguration of the Third Series in 1949) the scope of its publishing activities has widened to include not only editions of primary sources but also the fruits of original research in the form of monographs and postgraduate theses. In 1988, the Chetham Society formally registered with the Charity Commission (Registered Charity No. 700047), and became an educational charity with the object of the ‘education of the public through the publication of monographs and editions of documents concerned with Lancashire and Cheshire for the purpose of furthering knowledge of their history’. It continues to thrive in the digital age with one objective being online publication to match its high-quality paper output.

Council
During the Society’s history, numerous antiquaries, historians, clergymen, and other distinguished fig-
ures have been involved as officers and Council members. Former Presidents have included James Crossley, Sir Adolphus William Ward (President of the Royal Historical Society, 1899-1901) and the historians of medieval England, James Tait, E.F. Jacob, and J.S. Roskell; some of the Society’s Vice-Presidents have been Canon F.R. Raines, William Farrer, G.H. Tupling, and W.R. Ward. The Society’s Secretaries have included J.E. Bailey, C.W. Sutton and Ernest Broxap, whilst the historians Owen Ashmore, W.H. Chaloner and G.B. Hindle have served as Treasurer. Some of the Society’s former Members of Council have included the historians George Ormerod, T.F. Tout (President of the Royal Historical Society, 1925-9), C.R. Cheney and Sir F.M. Powicke (President of the Royal Historical Society, 1933-7), amongst many other notable individuals. For a more detailed account of the Society’s history, see A.G. Crosby, ‘A Society with No Equal’: The Chetham Society, 1843-1993, Chetham Society, T.S., 37 (1993); and on the contribution of James Crossley, see S.F. Collins, James Crossley: A Manchester Man of Letters, Chetham Society, T.S., 50 (2012).

Publications
The Society’s important role in making primary historical documents and original research more readily accessible is widely recognised: Chetham Society texts are used as key sources not only by students but by national, regional and local historians. Many of these texts, which range from the medieval to the contemporary modern periods, have international significance, and numerous of their editors and authors rank amongst the most distinguished scholars and historians of North-West England. In order to maintain the highest academic standards, all works submitted are subject to a blind refereeing process, and are published only after extensive discussion in the Society’s Council. Since 1843, over 275 volumes have been issued in three series: the Old Series (O.S.), comprising 116 volumes (1843-88); the New Series (N.S.), comprising 110 volumes (1883-1947); and the Third Series (T.S.), comprising over 50 volumes (published since 1949). Chetham Society publications cover an impressive and remarkable diversity of materials, subjects, and periods. Texts have ranged from diaries and journals, deeds and cartularies, and municipal records and manorial surveys, to biographies and autobiographies, histories of individual communities, and works on social, economic, industrial, and urban topics.


The Society offers an excellent means of publishing original, pioneering and innovative research, and welcomes suitable typescripts from potential authors for consideration. For more information about the Society’s publications, contact the General Editor: Professor T.J. Thornton, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Learning and Teaching, University of Huddersfield, Huddersfield, HD1 3DH. Email: T.J.THRONTON@HUD.AC.UK.

Membership
Membership is open to all on payment of (a still small) annual subscription, which entitles Members to receive newsletters, notices and a free copy of each publication produced during that year, and to purchase - at a discount price - in-print past titles in the series. In order to continue its work, the Society depends upon the support of its individual and institutional Members. Anyone who is interested in the history of the North West and wishes to help in the furthering of local historical studies is urged to join.

For more information about Membership, contact the Secretary: Dr R.E. Stansfield, Secretary, The Chetham Society, Chetham’s Library, Long Millgate, Manchester, M3 1SB. Email: CHETHAMSOCIETY@HOTMAIL.CO.UK. Chetham’s Library Website: WWW.CHETHAMS.ORG.UK.

Professor Paul J. Fouracre, President
Dr. Robert E. Stansfield, Secretary
Forthcoming Events

Friday 22 November 2013 at 5.30 p.m.

Presidential Address

Professor Peter Mandler

‘Educating the Nation. I: Schools’

Venue: Gustave Tuck Lecture Theatre, UCL

This is the first in a series of lectures that will consider the impact of mass education (at secondary and university levels) on postwar Britain. Their emphasis will be on the ‘democratic political theory’ of education - what do voters and their elected representatives want from an educational system in conditions of universal suffrage? This first lecture will focus on the instability of the allegedly ‘meritocratic’ system established by the Butler Act in 1944, which brought universal secondary education to Britain for the first time. It will assess how a democracy (in which everyone is politically equal) co-exists with a meritocracy (which is designed to accept and nurture inequality).