



## *The Society for the Study of French History*

AGM,  
1.15 p.m., Monday 4 July 2016  
Mitre Lecture Theatre, University of Chichester, West Sussex

### **Minutes**

The AGM was chaired by Máire Cross (Newcastle). Copies of all submitted reports by officers of the Society were circulated or otherwise made available for consultation (requested printing had not however taken place beforehand, and reports were displayed on an overhead projector, with the express note that they were freely available for inspection on request). These are reproduced below.

1. Minutes of previous committee meeting

The minutes of the last AGM held in School III, St Salvator's Quad, St Andrews on Monday 29 June 2015 were made available.

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Committee Membership

MC noted that Stephen Tyre and Daniel Callwood were resigning from their posts. She thanked both for their service. Special mention was made of Stephen Tyre's long service to the society, and the meeting noted thanks.

4. Report from the President (see appendix 1)

The President, Máire Cross (MC), reported that it had been a good year for the Society. In particular, she drew attention to the fabulous turnout for the Douglas Johnson Lecture in January 2016 delivered by Sian Reynolds.

5. Report from the Secretary (see appendix 2)

The Secretary reported on grant expenditure. AS invited David Hopkin to announce the recipient of the Ralph Gibson Prize Award (2016), Daniel Callwood. AS asked the

meeting to consider applying to fill the vacant posts on the committee, and to publicise this with colleagues.

6. Report from the Treasurer (see appendix 3)

Karine Varley presented on the society's finances. She noted particular thanks to OUP for their great work in helping grow the society's revenue. The Treasurer explained the Charity Commission audit that the society is now required to complete. Dave Andress asked a question about spending the balance in the account to try and reduce the society's holdings. AS and MC invited the meeting to apply and propose schemes to help achieve this.

7. Report from Postgraduate representatives (see appendix 4)

Daniel Callwood reported to the meeting on the activities of the postgraduate representatives. They mentioned that the next postgraduate study day is tentatively planned to take place in Oxford, though this would be confirmed after the appointment of new postgraduate representatives to work alongside Will Clement.

8. Report from the editors of *French History & Society News* (see appendices 5 & 6)

Tim Baycroft presented a report on behalf of the editors. He appealed for suggestions for virtual editions for the journal, and encouraged the meeting to consider submitting copy to the journal. He also asked for volunteers for book reviews.

Jessica Wardhaugh updated the meeting on the Society News section of the journal. She noted that after discussion with OUP funding reports could be added to the society web page going forward.

9. Report on Website and Social Media Matters (see appendix 7)

Will Pooley presented an update on the society's web presence. He drew attention to the strong performance of the French History Network blog hosted by the Society, and asked the meeting to note thanks to Alison Carroll and Ludivine Broch for their work as editors of the blog.

10. Report from the Membership Secretary (see appendix 8)

AS presented the report received from Claire Eldridge, and minuted thanks for her work in the role.

11. Report from Conference Officer (see appendix 9)

AS presented the report received from Linda Briggs, and minuted thanks for her work in the role.

12. Suggestions for New Activities

The President encouraged suggestions for new activities that the society could support to be sent to the committee.

13. Douglas Johnson Annual Lecture 2017

The President confirmed that the speaker for the 2017 lecture will be Colin Jones, and for 2018 that it will be Malcolm Crook. MC asked to be sent any suggestions for speakers for 2019.

14. Date of the next AGM

The President confirmed that the next AGM will take place at the Society conference at the University of Strathclyde, 26-27 June 2017. The next committee meeting will take place on 18 January 2017, to coincide with the annual lecture.

15. AOB

AS presented the proposal from the IHR Modern French History Seminar Series convenors (see appendix 10). This recommendation was passed.

Will Pooley again encouraged the meeting to suggest other projects the society could support.

## Report from President for committee and AGM meetings at Annual Conference, Chichester 3-5 July 2016

The society has had another very successful year in terms of meetings and journal activities. The journal is in good shape and income has risen, all good for the society.

For the second year running we held the annual Douglas Johnson Memorial Lecture in the French Institute. The mediatheque was filled to over-capacity (100) for the second year running with regular members including the committee, students and the general public interested in events that the *Institut* runs in the audience. Therefore, although there is some administrative constraint the experience has been very satisfactory on both sides. I have asked for the same facility for 2017 when Professor Colin Jones is due to speak on an aspect of 18 century history and for our 2017 back-up and speaker for 2018, Professor Malcolm Crook on history of voting. We can seek out a person for 2019 who can be a back-up for 2018.

In January 2016 I was one of the first forty signatories of the letter organised by Andrew Knapp and sent to the press and published in *Le Monde*. On behalf of the SSFH on Tuesday 24 May 2016, together with around sixty leading independent scholar historians and university academics, I attended a reception at 11 Downing Street, hosted by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, as part of a non-party political event aiming to making a positive case for EU membership from a historian's perspective. The gathering was held for an invited audience of many of the country's most celebrated historians and included a short address by George Osborne, followed by four short position statements from leading British Historians, namely Niall Fergusson, Chris Clark, Linda Colley, and Sir Keith Thomas. The audience was more than overwhelmingly white and there were five women.

<http://historiansforbritainineurope.org/#home>

When asked for a few thoughts on the referendum result my reply to Mme Catherine Robert 29 June 2016 I wrote:

Dear Catherine

There have been requests from various quarters to ask for views of the result of the referendum: it is such an unknown terrain that one minute my feeling is that there is going to be a seismic shift or the next minute I think it is a mere tremor in political landscape of Europe. To say there is bewilderment is an understatement. But it is bewilderment about the future because no one seems to have a plan B. Therefore my impression is that (as President of a learned society SSFH ) it is better to say as little as possible if we can only speculate. Anxiety in the first instance is related to what we had and still have as members of the EU and will no longer have in the future. So what may be under immediate or long term threat is the freedom of movement of people across Europe for work and access to research funding and collaborative opportunities. The matter is out of our hands but as individuals it makes better sense to speak collectively.

Her response : Il est urgent d'attendre!

The committee has been active in meetings this year, particularly the jointly organised postgraduate event that took place in Queen Mary College London. That even is very important for identifying new postgraduate representatives willing to serve for one or two years according to their circumstances. Our society secretary is also pro-active with IHR and as social media news generator. We need to think about a possible work overload there and maybe rewrite the job description of secretary position. There could be beneficial results of skilling up future officers if there were a possibility of offloading and allocating some tasks to ordinary members; this might ensure quality and continuity. Speaking of delegating tasks, we would also like to ask for help from OUP with redesigning our logo, more of which anon.

Finally my personal thanks go to Catherine Robert in the French Institute for her tremendous support for the society, to the committee and Trustees for their work in keeping the society on the road and above all to the members of the society who have come forward as conference organisers, to those in St Andrew's who ran a hugely successful conference in 2015, to the current organisers here in

Chichester for 2016 and to the future conference organisers in the University of Strathclyde where we will be in 2017.

MFC

Newcastle 29 June 2016

Secretary's Report  
July 2016

**1. Ralph Gibson Prize Award (2016)**

TBA at Committee Meeting. I would like to thank the prize panel of Kevin Passmore, Sandy Wilkinson and David Hopkin for their time and efforts in looking at all of the entries.

**2. Other Funding Awards (Grants Awarded since July 2015)**

**March Applications**

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*Conference Bursary*

Idir Ouahes (Exeter)

*20<sup>th</sup> C Inter-war imperial competition between France and America* 300

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*Conference Grant*

Tim Baycroft (Sheffield)

*"Clash of Cultures"? Confrontation, Collusion and Cooperation in Wartime since 1870*

University of Sheffield 496

Charlotte Faucher (QMUL) & Laure Humbert (Manchester)

*Beyond De Gaulle and beyond London: New approaches to the history of the Free French and the Resistance*

University of London in Paris 500

Martin Christ (Oxford)

*Sharing Space in the Early Modern World (1450-1750)*

University of Oxford 490

Simon Parsons (RHUL)

*The Crusades in France and Occitania – Roots, Impact, and Cultural Signification of the Crusading Movement in Medieval Texts*

IHR, London 500

**March Total** 2,286.00

*Research Grant*

Jasmine Calver (Northumbria)

Women and anti-Fascism in 1930s France 800

Will Clement (Oxford)

19<sup>th</sup> Century French Urban History 1,000

Edwin Goi (St Andrews)

Political Pamphlets in 17<sup>th</sup> Century France 1,000

Camille Jacob (Portsmouth)

English and French Language Teaching in Algeria since Independence 1,000

James De Montille (Cambridge)

Elite 'French-Indian families in Mauritius 1790-1865 1,000

Louise Moschetta (Cambridge)

Indentured labour in French Guiana 1838-1916 1,000

Cherie Prosser (Sheffield)

French and British poster propaganda, 1914-1918 1,000

Philippa Read (Leeds) 900

Female heroism in First World War France Nigel Ritchie (QMUL)	
The formation of a revolutionary journalist: Jean-Paul Marat (1770–1790) Kelsey Suggitt (Portsmouth)	1,000
French attempts to unite the Saharan territories of North and West Africa (1957-1962) Dieunedort Wandji (Portsmouth)	950
Security issues arising in/from former French colonies of central Africa Andrew Waterman (Portsmouth)	1,000
European trade union confederations and GATT negotiations	1,000
<i>Visiting Scholar</i>	
Laura O'Brien (Northumbria) hosting Dominique Kalifa (Sorbonne)	1,065.21
<i>Ralph Gibson Bursary</i>	
TBA	3,000
<b>Summer Total</b>	<b>15,715.21</b>

I would like to thank the Trustees for their efforts in looking at the entries and providing useful feedback and commentary to allow me to pass this on to applicants.

### 3. Upcoming Deadlines for Society Funding Schemes

Assuming the current deadlines remain acceptable, I would propose to essentially maintain them for the upcoming year. This would make the deadlines:

Research Grant Competition: Friday 24 March 2017  
 Conference Grants: Friday 2 September 2016, Friday 3 March 2017  
 Conference Bursaries: Friday 2 September 2016, Friday 3 March 2017  
 Postgraduate Panels: Friday 2 September 2016, Friday 3 March 2017  
 Ralph Gibson Bursary (Board of Assessors): Friday 21 April 2017  
 Undergraduate Dissertation Prize (Board of Assessors): Friday 29 July 2016 (Next date Friday 28 July 2017)  
 Visiting Scholars: Friday 24 March 2017

Could I please ask the committee to approve these dates, and if approved, the Web Editor to update them on the website accordingly. After this, I will notify the IHR grants team, and also contact the RHS to publicise the dates of our competitions.

### 4. Undergraduate Dissertation Prize

Winner:

Alexander Harries of St John's College, Oxford, for a dissertation entitled 'Faire le bordel: The Regulation of Urban Prostitution in Morocco'

Judge comments:

*One of the very few dissertations to work with previously untapped primary sources and to use this material to construct an argument without the advantage of a large body of secondary literature available. This is a harder task and shows very good historical skills which I feel should be recognised. The argument is independent and the approach to the sources is consistently analytical. The topic is ambitious and the original contribution to knowledge very clear.*

*Original, cogently written and utterly impressive in its use of primary material. I think we need to recognise this achievement which shows real independence and a unique approach to an under-researched topic.*

*Impressive use of primary sources that are not used in the existing literature*

The runner-up was named as:

Harriet Morgan, Durham, for a dissertation entitled 'The Search for a New Left Wing Politics: Europe and the French Socialist Party 1971-1994'.

Judge comments:

*Convincingly argued and also very engaging dissertation. Gives a clear sense of the different perspectives and agendas at play during this period. This material is drawn together in an effective and sophisticated way. Three moments seem well chosen with the chronological gaps between them skilfully bridged so the reader is given a clear sense of the entire era. Good use of primary sources – treated analytically and very well contextualised. A less innovative primary source base than Faire le bordel, but perhaps does more and a better job with the material available.*

I would like to minute thanks to the Prize committee of Stephen Tyre (St Andrews), Claire Eldridge (Southampton) and Noelle Plack (Newman). I would ask the committee to note that Stephen Tyre has resigned as chair of the panel due to time constraints and that Noelle Plack has kindly agreed to take over as chair. We are in need of another member of the panel, and it would be particularly useful if we were able to recruit a medievalist. I would like to ask the committee for recommendations.

## 5. Other activities

I presented a paper on 'Threats and Opportunities for Learned Societies' at the Oxford Journals Day on 6 April, having been asked to contribute by OUP. I stayed for the day with Clare Morton, taking in all of the discussions about the new OUP Journals Silverchair platform. I am happy to provide the powerpoint that I used on the day for the presentation, if anyone would like to take a look.

Andrew Smith, July 2016.



		2013	2014	2015	2016
Income					
Membership subscriptions		£501.50	£478.00	£413.00	396.00
OUP profit-share		£23,951.00	£24,624.00	£27,172.00	28,205.00
Returned bursaries		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00
INVAC interest		£286.70	£336.00	£0.00	
Conference income (publishers etc)		£0.00	£0.00	£74.08	0.00
		£24,719.20	£25,438.00	£27,659.08	£28,601.00
Expenditure					
Prizes		£2,300.00	£6,000.00	£6,600.00	400.00
Research/Conference Bursaries		£10,037.27	£16,189.57	£10,008.00	10,950.00
Conference Grants		£5,844.00	£2,645.00	£4,218.00	1,990.00
Conference Support (incl. Douglas Johnson Lecture)		£3,428.15	£2,828.45	£2,796.01	2,192.70
French History expenses (incl. annual prize)		£1,562.00	£5,571.54	£1,803.64	361.02
Committee expenses		£1,065.94	£1,491.38	£1,583.75	828.30
Audit fee		£0.00	£0.00	£100.00	0
Bank charge		£0.00	£0.00	£70.00	0
Publication support (incl web site)		£61.70	£0.00	£523.40	0
Total		£24,299.06	£34,725.94	£27,702.80	£16,722.02
Assets as at 31.12.15	£				
INVAC	45136.19				
Cash in bank	16011.53 61147.72				
<b>Expenditure key:</b>					
CB = conference bursaries, panel award scheme etc					
CE = committee expenses (travel, annual conference registration)					
CG = conference grants					
CS = conference support: PG Study Day, annual conference, Douglas Johnson lecture					
DP = prizes (Ralph Gibson, undergraduate dissertation etc)					
FH = French History journal expenses (editorial board meetings, translation costs, annual prize)					
RB = research bursaries					

The income from the OUP profit share continues to rise annually, with expenditure last year broadly in line with income, not eating into the Society's reserves. The issue as ever is whether to continue to spend at the current rate, based on an assumption of continuing stable income from OUP.

### **SSFH July 2016, PG Report**

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of March 2016, the Society for the Study of French History held the annual Postgraduate Study Day with the Association for the Study of Modern and Contemporary France at Queen Mary, University of London.

This year's theme was 'Patrimoine', and postgraduate students from all over the UK (and some from France) came to listen to their peers give papers on their research. Professional development sessions opened the day with Professor Penny Roberts giving advice on how to get published in an academic journal, and Dr Will Pooley giving a session on academics and social media. This was followed by a joint session on the Archives Nationales by one of their archivists in the 'justice' section, Emeline Rotolo, and Dr Charlotte Faucher on her national and departmental archive experience. Unfortunately, after a last-minute cancellation due to a rail strike Teresa Vernon, head of French collections at the British Library, was unable to attend, although she has expressed a keen interest in speaking at the event in 2017.

The keynote for the day was given after lunch by Dr Tom Stammers (Durham) on 'Heritage, the State and the Hexagon: Royalist Exceptions and Republican Rules'. It was widely agreed that this was an excellent keynote, especially in the way in which Dr Stammers set up the theme to be explored by the panels during the rest of the afternoon. The first parallel session was on 'France and the World Wars' and 'Patrimoine in literature and the media', followed by another parallel session on 'Architecture and identity' and 'Postcolonial patrimoine'. The day closed with 'flash presentations' (5 minutes in length) from a number of researchers who were beginning their research, or at Masters stage. This format was new and worked well, as it allowed for greater participation in the day for those who would not otherwise have been able to give a longer paper.

Since the study day, PG reps have been collaborating with those responsible for the French History blog to post content and round-up posts of panels from the study day. This will hopefully increase the reach of the study day to those who could not attend, and help to promote the event for next year.

The day had a total of 37 attendees. All those giving papers had the opportunity to have their travel reimbursed (including the 3 who travelled from France). The total cost for the day was £1567.96 split between the two societies.

The PG reps would like to thank those members of the committee who gave their time to contribute to the day, and particularly Karine Varley for organising reimbursements. The ASMCF's help and financial support was invaluable. We would also like to thank Queen Mary's school of history for contributing to the costs of running the day by waiving the room hire fees and generously providing a wine reception.

*French History*

Editors' interim report for SSFH, July 2016

The journal has continued to bring in significant profit to the society and we are very grateful for our relationship with OUP which has continued, under Clare Morton's leadership, to be well managed and profitable as OUP develops its portfolio of journals and their promotion around the world.

In recent years our journal has grown in terms of the space we have available to publish both articles and book reviews. Last December we published seven articles to make up for a slight 'underspend' across the 2015, both in terms of slightly fewer book reviews ready for publication and because the editors have been stricter about word length and published – within special issues – quite a few articles that were closer to 8-9000 words in length rather than 10,000+ (our normal limit is supposed to be 10,000 including notes, but we have the flexibility to go over this where necessary). This underlines the importance of colleagues offering their collegial support in writing book reviews and bringing new opportunities in this area to Tim's attention.

This means we have for a while eaten into a cushion which Penny and I had built up, of articles already published online but waiting for print publication. We are now trying to rebuild this cushion once more. To this end, we are continuing, as we always have done, to solicit high-quality, well-prepared manuscripts from around the world. We would be really grateful for the support of our colleagues in the Society for promoting the journal, but also emphasizing the leading role it has in the field, and the importance for newer scholars of seeking advice from colleagues as they draft articles for submission.

Additionally, we would like to open a call for new proposals for special issues. Penny is developing an issue on the History of Emotions; I'm going to explore with French colleagues whether there is someone who could lead an issue on the huge changes to the French state that ensued from the First World War – an area where there is a lot of work going on at the moment. We would really value experienced scholars who understand how to shape a theme and bring together 5 authors to address that theme coming forward from around the world to offer new projects for special issues. Issues like this take a long time to bring to completion so we need more plans in train as of now.

We will have a full publishers' report in the autumn which we will comment on and forward to the next committee meeting of the society in January 2017.

Julian Wright, Penny Roberts and Tim Baycroft

**Society News, 2015-16**

The Society News section of the journal continues to report on the widening selection of grants that the SSFH now offers. We have the first Ralph Gibson bursary reports this year, as well as the first report on the annual Douglas Johnson lecture. I am still in negotiation with OUP about whether we can obtain permission to reproduce some of these news items, particularly the research reports, in the Society News section of the website. (The e-mail exchange has been going on for some months now, but I hope to have a definitive answer soon!) As ever, please let me know of any other material you would like to see included in this section of the journal and website.

Dr Jessica Wardhaugh, July 2016

## Social Media and Web Editor' Report

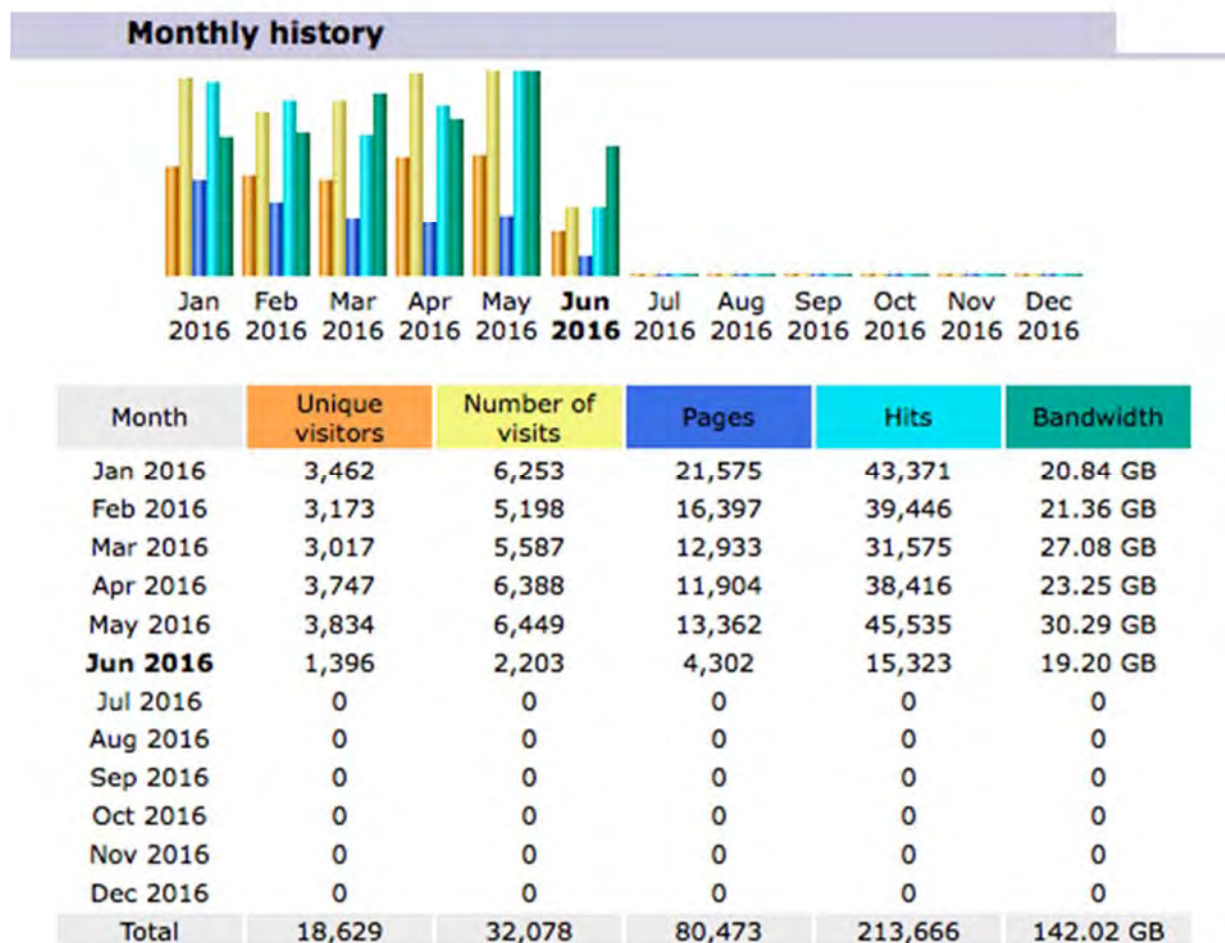
### Website and Blog

There is very little change in terms of the website.

The one thing I want to highlight again is that I am willing and able to get lots of different things up on the website (and the social media) and am actively soliciting information about events and other things that could be of interest to our members.

We continue to host the site with 34sp.com and have had no difficulties. At present, we pay £6.95 per month for hosting. For ease, Andrew Smith continues to pay this personally and then claim for reimbursement.

Below is a chart detailing the traffic for the first half of 2016:



As you can see from the figures above, there is a sustained, high-level of traffic to the site, much of which continues to be down to the outstanding work of the blog's managing editors Ludivine Broch (Westminster) and Alison Carrol (Brunel) along with special features edited by other researchers, such as Charlotte Faucher (QMUL), Andrew Smith (UCL), and Ellen Crabtree (Newcastle). Pytting the numbers below in context, we are seeing over twice as much traffic to the blog as to the rest of the website as a whole.

Pages-URL					
Total: 81 different pages-url					
	Viewed	Average size	Entry	Exit	
/blog/	2,048	10.25 KB	1,307	1,288	
/	532	4.38 KB	414	323	
/blog/wp-admin/admin-ajax.php	330	205 Bytes	2	5	
/conference.htm	207	4.04 KB	124	101	
/french_revolution.htm	86	3.73 KB	72	70	
/conferences/2016SSFH16v2march31.docx	70	50.28 KB	8	37	
/grants.htm	46	3.80 KB	13	19	
/prizes.htm	38	1.95 KB	1	6	
/people.htm	35	6.98 KB	13	11	
/history.htm	34	5.31 KB	12	15	
/blog/wp-content/themes/graphy/genericons/font/genericons-regula...	33	14.58 KB		29	
/contact.htm	32	2.38 KB	4	12	
/membership.htm	32	2.43 KB	5	11	
/index.htm	29	4.31 KB	6	4	
/forms/French%20Revolution%20Essay%20Competition%202016	29	382.25 KB	20	23	
/dissertation_winners.htm	29	10.70 KB	22	22	
/publications.htm	29	2.65 KB	2	8	
/blog/wp-admin/load-scripts.php	28	63.75 KB			
/dissertation.htm	28	3.87 KB	16	16	
/about.htm	28	3.50 KB	1	4	
/resources.htm	28	1.88 KB	2	7	
/lectures.htm	28	1.75 KB	1	3	
/douglas_johnson.htm	28	5.37 KB	14	15	
/links.htm	25	4.73 KB	11	14	
/ralphgibson.htm	24	5.33 KB	8	12	

The only notable change with the website is that I have now set up a 'News' section, as we discussed at the last meeting. Since the discussion about whether we could use the same information that was being included in the journal stalled, I haven't yet put anything into this section. I am open to suggestions, and perhaps we could decide on some clear guidelines for things people should be submitting or I should be looking for.

I'd like to thank Andrew Smith for continuing to provide support with the website.

### Social Media

The SSFH Twitter handle @FrenchHistoryUK has almost 1,700 followers. The Twitter analytics suggest our tweets are being seen by about 500 people a day. 44% of the audience are within the UK, 22% are in France, and 15% in the United States, suggesting that the Twitter account is doing a good job of reaching beyond the Society's base in the UK to wider audiences.

The call for papers for the Annual Conference in Chichester received a lot of interaction, and my impression is that we are reaching a lot of students and researchers this way.

The Facebook page now has 951 likes, which represents a very small growth in numbers, and (even more than Twitter) it is worth noting that is unlikely that all of the likes it generates are real. Clearly, the Facebook group still serves a purpose reaching people who don't use Twitter, and it requires very little work, so there is no reason to get rid of it.

Finally, I would like to appeal again: if anyone has anything that they would like to promote through the social media accounts, I would encourage them to get in touch. The most popular accounts on Twitter and pages on Facebook are regularly updated with calls for papers and links to blogs, articles, and new books. While I try to do some of this, it can be quite time-consuming to look for materials to promote, so the more you send to me, the more active the social media accounts can be.

Will Pooley 15.06.2015



**SSFH Membership Secretary Report, June 2016**

Membership has fallen slightly since January, but remains healthy at 150.

The OUP subscription page is now the only port of call for those wishing to join the Society. OUP sends out lists of new members on a quarterly basis at which point people can be sent a welcome message and a copy of the annual newsletter.

As per the discussions at the January meeting, we are looking into adding an 'unwaged' rate for subscribers.

Also as per discussions in January, I am in the process of contacting people who have standing orders set up that no longer correspond to the current membership rates and asking them to a) cancel the existing order and b) re-subscribe at the current rates. It is proving rather difficult to identify people and to obtain contact details, not least because we often only have an initial and a surname to go off.

Below is the list of people I have not been able to find contact details for. If anyone can help please let me know, even just a first name and last known employing institution that would be a start.

Amanda Sackur – last employed at London Met.  
Michael Jones  
William Smith  
R Collins  
G Wiggleswick  
Avner Ben-Amos – last employed at Uni of Tel Aviv  
PMH Bell  
L Miller  
PRR Mansell  
TA & MA Morris  
RK Fisher

**Conference Officer Report**

Linda Briggs (Manchester)

30 June 2016

This has been an unusual year for the role of Conference Officer. My predecessor, Joanna Warson, stepped down from the Committee late last year. She left with our best wishes and our thanks for all the work she had done during her tenure. I was elected to the position at the Committee Meeting on 13 January, by which point much of the significant organisation of this year's conference (such as venue and dates) had already been discussed and delivered.

By the time the second Call For Papers closed in early March, the CFP had been well circulated on email networks and social media. This attracted a strong field of speakers and the committee produced what we hope delegates will agree was a full and interesting programme. The remaining organisation and communication, in which the Conference Officer has a clear role, was taken up Andrew Smith. As Secretary of the Society and one of the conference organisers, Andrew was well positioned to liaise between Chichester and the Society. This was far from ideal for all involved, but my late election and a lack of regular communication from the lead organiser meant that my involvement in this conference was limited. This will not be the case with future conferences.

Our next annual conference will be at the University of Strathclyde, for which provisional dates (26-27 June) and themes ('France at War') have been discussed. The earlier timing is due to the fact that we propose to tie outreach activities in Scottish schools to the conference, which have different term dates from schools in England. We hope to see many colleagues, old and new, at this next conference.

Proposal regarding funding of IHR Modern French History Seminar Series

The Modern French History Seminar Series at the IHR in London has greatly expanded its panel of convenors to include many younger scholars. This has helped in securing a broader range of speakers and also in diversifying the activities which the seminar is able to undertake.

The current convenors of the seminar are:

Iain Stewart (UCL)  
 Rob Priest (RHUL)  
 Daniel Lee (Sheffield)  
 Ludivine Broch (Westminster)  
 Alison Carrol (Brunel)  
 Andrew Smith (UCL)  
 Charlotte Faucher (QM)  
 Julian Jackson (QM)  
 Colin Jones (QM)

The convenors have sought to secure funding from their own institutions, and have been successful in balancing the varying commitments of departments and their changing priorities. The seminar funding is currently:

£250 from Royal Holloway  
 £250 from UCL  
 £150 from QM  
 £150 from IHR  
 £200 from SSFH

Funding is used to support the costs involved in inviting speakers from further afield, to pay for transport, and to provide the speakers with a meal afterwards.

When the SSFH agreed to fund the seminar previously, the Committee asked that the series try to make some overtures to those beyond London. I joined as one of the convenors at the same time as I also became a contributing editor to the French History Network Blog, which I built and integrated into the website, and which is run by Alison Carrol and Ludivine Broch. To help connect the enterprises I agreed to write up summaries for all of the seminars to feature on the blog, under the category 'French History at the IHR'. I produce a summary of c1k words for each paper, and try to record them (subject to speaker's agreement) to make them available to a broader public, again hosting the recordings on the site. This has provided a lot of international traffic to the blog, firmly associating the seminar series with the Society, and drawing attention to our website.

We would like to ask the committee to consider:

1. That funding be provided as a lump sum in order to simplify claims (via cheque paid into the IHR trust which handles funding for the seminars). This would replace the current system of organising and sending individual claims to be reimbursed individually up to the agreed funding amount.
2. Agreeing to provide an additional annual sum specifically designed to support bringing a speaker from France. Each year, one of the seminars would be designated as the SSFH sponsored seminar, and a researcher from France would be supported to visit. The seminar would be written up for the blog and a podcast made of the seminar as a condition of funding. Funds would help pay for accommodation, which is currently a difficult prospect and this has limited who can be invited. The proposed sum is £250 to cover the cost of travel and accommodation.

Andrew Smith, July 2016