

ALHA



AVON LOCAL HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGY

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31 August 2022

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Magazines and books to reviews editor
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Details of events to website manager

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Other news, comments, responses to
comments, new work, and changes of contact
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Events: <http://www.alha.org.uk/events.html>

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<https://www.facebook.com/AvonLocalHistoryandArchaeology>



St Michael's Centre, Stoke Gifford

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EVENTS LIST is on the ALHA website

ALHA NEWS

ALHA LOCAL HISTORY DAY 2022 AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Following a break owing to the coronavirus, we are pleased to announce the return of the ALHA Local History Day. The date is **Saturday 22 October 2022** and the venue **the St Michaels Centre, Stoke Gifford, BS34 8PD**.

Our topic will be *A roof over your head*, and our speakers will be discussing the development and design of local homes and houses over the years.

The Local History Day will be followed by the ALHA Annual General Meeting.

The speakers are as follows:

Peter Malpass

Shapeshifters in Victorian Bristol: how the middle-class semi-detached villa escaped the tyranny of the terrace

Until the 1840s, nearly everyone in **Bristol** lived in a terraced houses of some sort, but by the 1850s the semi-detached villa was becoming popular and no more grand terraces were built after Worcester Terrace in the early 1860s. Peter Malpass will show illustrations of the narrow fronted terraced form, with its basement kitchen and railed front area, and will then show how the semidetached form evolved from the standard terraced form, initially becoming wider and then losing the basement kitchen. He will suggest that there were just three basic types of semidetached villas, although builders were skilled at creating an illusion of difference.

Stuart Burroughs

The Best for the Most with the Least: Post War Council Housing in Bath

The talk will examine how planners and local authority staff in **Bath** approached the problem of providing public housing in a heritage city, and how the need to retain the traditional fabric of the city could be reconciled – or not – with that of its resident population of modest means, and their need for good quality housing.

Caroline Gurney

Researching a house history - tips and traps.

Caroline will draw upon 11 years' experience as a house historian to offer her professional insights into the process of researching a house history and advice about the pitfalls which may be encountered.

Professor Roger H. Leech

Completing and publishing a research project: the town house in medieval and early modern Bristol.

In 2014 Roger Leech completed a long term-project looking at urban housing in **Bristol**, England's second city for much of the medieval and early modern periods. Funded initially by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England and subsequently by English Heritage, this was published in 2014. This archaeological and architectural study has been underpinned with a historical study of property holdings in the city, providing vital documentary context for the builders, owners and occupiers of houses, the results of this

being separately published by **Bristol Record Society** in a series of volumes on the topography of medieval and early modern Bristol.

Peter Insole

“Homes for Heroes” – Hillfields Estate, Bristol

The social housing at **Hillfields** was started after the First World War, and has the first Addison Act council houses built in Bristol. The design of these houses was the result of an architectural competition and went on to define the homes we see in many areas of **Bristol** from **Southmead** to **Knowle**.

Lunch will be available if pre-booked. Full details of the Local History Day and a booking form will be available shortly, will be repeated in the end of September Newsletter, and you will also be able to book via the ALHA website or Eventbrite. As usual, free places will be available to groups who wish to bring a display or items for sale.

BALH PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE: MOTOR CONTINGENT LIABILITY

Some ALHA member groups and societies, like ALHA itself, are members of the British Association for Local History. One of the benefits of membership is public liability insurance. A query has been received whether the policy covers motor contingent liability. The sort of situation imagined is where an insured group arranges a visit, and members travel to the venue in each others’ cars. If a passenger is injured through the negligent driving of a member, but for any reason the member’s own motor insurance does not cover what happens, is the driver and the driver’s group or society covered under the policy? The answer seems to be yes: the full policy wording is on the BALH website at [balh-insurance-policy-details-april-2021.pdf](#). The relevant clause is on page 112 (words with capital letters are defined in other clauses in the policy):

Motor Contingent Liability

We will indemnify You in respect of Your legal liability for accidental Bodily Injury and Damage to Property which arises from any vehicle or trailer attached thereto which is

- (1) (a) not owned by
- (b) not loaned, leased, hired or rented to You nor provided by You and
- (2) being used in connection with The Business in The Defined Territories.

We will not provide indemnity

- (1) in respect of Damage to the vehicle or trailer or goods carried in or on the vehicle or trailer
- (2) while the vehicle is being driven by
 - (a) You.
 - (b) any person who to Your knowledge or that of Your representatives does not hold a licence to drive the vehicle unless such person has held and is not disqualified from holding or obtaining such a licence
- (3) where indemnity is provided by another insurance policy.

HANDEL COSSHAM

ALHA and ALHA member **Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society** (which in spite of its name also promotes local history) are planning an event in 2024 to mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of Handel Cossham, the **Thornbury** lad who went to work in Yate, married into coal, came to own and work much of the south Gloucestershire coalfield, became a member of Parliament, applied his wealth to philanthropy, and left money to found **Kingswood's** Cossham hospital. [Image from Thornbury Roots]. The next ALHA newsletter will contain a call for speakers, a request for suggested venues and topics, and an appeal for help with organising the day or half day. In the mean time, if you are interested, please contact the treasurer, wm.evans@btopenworld.com, 0117 968 4979.



GRANTS – GORDANO CIVIC SOCIETY – LORYMER'S PARK PORTISHEAD

As reported in ALHA Newsletter 170, 31 March 2022, ALHA member **Gordano Civic Society** appealed for contributions towards the cost of restoring Lorymers Park, a small Victorian public open space in **Portishead**. The restoration is intended in part to commemorate the late Sandy Tebbutt. ALHA's committee offered a grant of £750, on condition that the rest of the money required is raised and the project proceeds. **Gordano Civic Society** having confirmed that it has obtained pledges of funding, ALHA's committee had agreed to pay the grant to enable orders to be placed for the reinstatement of metal railings and resurfacing.

ALHA BOOKLET NO.36 – DR EDWARD LONG FOX

A flyer for ALHA's latest booklet accompanies this e-update.

EVENTS AND SOURCES

BATH & BRISTOL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

As noted in ALHA Newsletter 171 of 30 June 2022, **Bath & Bristol Numismatic Society** has joined ALHA. *Christine Derrick* writes: This is a simple article to introduce ourselves, the **Bath and Bristol Numismatic Society**; we are, these days, a small group, having been out of action throughout 2020 and well into 2021 thanks to coronavirus; now slowly re-organising ourselves. Nonetheless we are now approaching 73 years of age.

Within the membership of any numismatic society, you will find people collecting a wide range of items and often being knowledgeable about their favourite topics. As well as the expected ranges of Roman, Saxon, medieval, hammered and milled coinage, you will also discover more specialised themes such as tokens, unofficial farthings, co-op checks, advertising coinage and many more that make up the field of para-numismatics (today

regularly referred to as exnumia). It is often this area that yields the unusual, the scarce and sometimes downright stubborn items that defy identification.

Relating all this to the ALHA region, there are examples of coins to be found from just about every category you can think of. Those of us who collect them are interested in their history as well as the details of each coin: the inscriptions, the names, where minted, and so on. We are not all out metal-detecting or involved in archaeological excavations, but that doesn't mean we can't enjoy the excitement of a Roman hoard discovery or the appearance of a rare specimen.

The photo shows some examples of Bath and Bristol coins and medallions; by way of their mint or relating to an event, place or trade. I am not sure how well they will show up in the newsletter since they were all scanned together; and the Bristol pieces are quite small.

Top row, left to right:

1. A sixpence of William III, dated 1697, with the letter "B" below the king's portrait (obverse)
2. Silver penny of Henry III minted in **Bristol**, by the moneyer Iacob (reverse)
3. Penny of Edward I, minted in **Bristol** (obverse)

Bottom row, left to right:

4. Coronation of Edward VII 1902, the reverse side shows Arms of Bath and Phillips Mayor
5. **Bath** Eye Infirmary medallion for the 60th anniversary of Queen Victoria's reign
6. **Bath** Temperance Association medallion for their 50th anniversary; reverse reads "Jubilee 1886; established by James Teare June 15th 1836."

The process of identification has been made easier thanks to the people who have dedicated themselves not only to years of study, but also countless long hours producing lists and books. Many will be familiar with Spinks's *Coins of England & the United Kingdom*;



regular annual publications of *Coin Year-books*; and David Sears's vast five-volume set covering Roman coinage. There are many more than these, however; numismatic publications of all kinds can be quite sought after especially if they cover unusual topics.

The photo includes items made in the **Bristol** Mint and, rather than write about that, I would refer to the article written by one of our own members, over at our website, which also includes some extra photos: www.bathandbristol-ns.org.uk/bristolmint.html

While regal coinage is of interest, it is often the locality-specific items that generate much interest and encourage the owner/finder to research more. Considering the large range of industries and societies in both **Bath and Bristol**, the collecting and learning potential is enormous.

The **Bath** items shown here are all medallions relating to some form of celebration. Firstly for Edward VII's coronation, showing the king on one side; with the reverse naming the mayor at that time, Phillips. Since I am not a Bath resident, I took the opportunity to look him up, to find that his full name was Edward England Phillips.

The next is a 60th anniversary for Queen Victoria's reign, featuring on one side a very attractive queen's portrait and "Victoria Queen and Empress" ; with the details for the **Bath** Eye Infirmary on the other side, along with its foundation year of 1811. Eagle-eyed viewers may spot some very tiny lettering at the base of the snakes' tails...and no, I have not yet managed to decipher it either; sometimes a really high-powered magnifier is required.

Finally the **Bath** Temperance Association, celebrating its own Jubilee in 1886. The medallion here includes a thin white ribbon attached.

Just these three **Bath** medals alone would offer someone a few happy hours of research and note-making.

Our society is always happy to hear from people who have found coins and other medals/medallions and metal disks that require identification. A few clear photos are all that is required; our members will then have a look and let you know. It does not matter if the items are rough or scruffy....they are a challenge!

EARTH AT RWA

Earth: digging deep in British art 1781-2022 is the latest element-themed exhibition at The Royal West of England Academy, **Bristol**, of paintings and other works from many galleries. Impressive are works by Samuel Palmer, Stanley Spencer (connection with Glenside, **Fishponds** and the Beaufort War Hospital), Graham Sutherland, Francis Towne, John Sell



Cotman, William Blake, Turner, Constable, Laura Knight, Eric Ravilious, John Piper, and John and Paul Nash.

Exhibits with local or local history connections include Samuel Jackson's luminous watercolour *The Avon gorge at sunset* (c.1825) from **Bristol** Museum and Art Gallery [Image from Bristol Culture]; Andrew

Hardwick's *Avonmouth, saltings and brown estuary* (2011); a view across **Doynton** by Richard Macdonald

dated 1952; Rodney Harris's *A delineation of strata* (2015) from University of Bristol's permanent collection; and Thomas Gainsborough's *Romantic landscape with sheep at a spring* (c.1783). Though TG is famed for, and made his money from, painting swagger portraits in **Bath** from 1759 to 1774, he claimed that what he really liked and wanted to do was to paint landscapes. **RWA Queens Road, Bristol BS8 1PX, Tuesdays to Sundays 10-5 (8pm Weds) until 11 September 2022.**

<https://www.rwa.org.uk/collections/events/products/earth-digging-deep-in-british-art-1781-2022>

BARTON HILL EXHIBITION

Revealing Barton Hill: east Bristol's best-kept secret is an exhibition, mounted by **Barton Hill** History Group, at Bristol Archives, Smeaton Road, Bristol BS1 6XN until the end of **October 2022**. Includes documents, images and artefacts.

REECE WINSTONE PHOTOGRAPHS NEW INDEX

ALHA individual member Mike Oakley has compiled a 200-page index to all the photographs in Reece Winstone's series *Bristol as it was*. Bristol Archives holds an index (NPM/B/169) to the RW photographs in that series. That index is on floppy discs, so is not accessible unless you have a floppy disc reader or an old computer with a floppy disc drive. That index is also on a CD, which requires a disc drive to read it. MO's index is more detailed and comprehensive, and is based on place and street names and other local features. It differs from the old index in a number of other respects, eg by including photograph plate numbers. The new index is in Microsoft Word, so is readily searchable. The file size is 275 KB. Allie Dillon says **Bristol Archives** will make it available on its website at <https://archives.bristol.gov.uk/records/NPM/B> when that website is next updated in **November 2022**. In the mean time MO can be contacted at mro6085@virginmedia.com.

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL EXHIBITION

All God's children is an exhibition in Bristol cathedral **until Friday 21 October 2022**, and on College Green **until Thursday 29 September 2022**, 'exploring the impact of the slave economy on cathedral life, past and present. More at <https://bristol-cathedral.co.uk/whats-on/agc>.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS

Railway work, life and death is a database of railway accidents. It is compiled by the University of Portsmouth and the National Railway Museum, York. 'It contains details of railway worker accidents investigated by the state (1900-15 and 1921-1939), applications to the Great Eastern Railway Benevolent Fund (1913-23) for assistance after an accident, and legal cases handled by the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants trade union (1901-1905). As our other project extensions take shape, we'll add more data,' it says. The site appears to be still in the course of development: a quick search for **Charfield** returned nothing. <https://www.railwayaccidents.port.ac.uk/the-accidents/>

BRISTOL & AVON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY OPEN DAY AND BOOK SALE

Geoff Gardiner, Publicity Officer of Bristol and Avon Family History Society, writes:

We occupy a room at **Bristol Archives** as our research centre where we can help the public with their family history. On this year's Heritage Open Day on **10 September 2022**, we shall be open all day along with our hosts. We will be holding a second-hand book sale at the same time. **Bristol Archives, B Bond, Smeaton Road, Bristol BS1 6XN.**

BRISLINGTON GLASS

In 2021 Cotswold Archaeology excavated at **Brislington Meadows, Bristol**, for a planning application for residential development. Britanno-

roman activity was known on part of the site.

Fieldwork confirmed the presence of an enclosure system. Recovered artefacts were broadly dateable to the 2nd to 4th centuries. A small quantity of industrial waste, including a crucible fragment, along with 72 glass beads and glass-waste, possibly indicate small-scale industrial activity on the site.

More at

<https://cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk/possible-roman-glass-working-at-brislington-meadows-bristol/>



0 20mm

PRESERVING PHOTOGRAPHS

Gloucestershire Archives offers *Hands on History*- a practical workshop on preserving family photos - led by Gloucestershire Archives Collections Care team Ann Attwood & Rachel Wales **Thursday 8 September 2022 10.30 to 3.30.** 'Discover top tips for handling photographs and preventing damage, how to identify different types, how to recognise deterioration and what to do to keep things in good condition. Understand what good storage products are and how to find what is best for you. Meet other people with similar collections and learn together with the Gloucestershire archive conservators.' It says. Spaces are limited (12).

Book via Voices Gloucester website <https://voicesgloucester.org.uk/events/hands-on-history/>

BOOKS ETC NOTICED

Andrew Swift, 'Looking back' in 213 *Bristol Magazine* (August 2022) 62-63. A short article prompted by the fuss over South Gloucestershire council's traffic management proposals for **Thornbury** High Street, but includes a summary of the waxing and waning of the town's prosperity. Illustrations include a postcard showing an early bus (in the sense of a bus shortly after motor buses were introduced). The date is not stated. The registration number is AE 736. AEs were issued between January 1904 and February 1920, some to Bristol Tramways

and Carriage Company Ltd. Boys in Eton collars are running alongside. A watching child wears a sailor suit and another wears a shift or smock. Shop signs (eg F SYMES SADDLER) might help date the photograph, corroborated by evidence on the street surface of horse-drawn traffic. As the photograph looks posed, and some of the passengers appear formally dressed, might the occasion have been the first motor bus from **Thornbury to Bristol**?

BBC, *Rewind*. To mark its centenary the BBC has put online some 30,000 recordings of broadcast programmes, of which about 250 are from or about our area:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/archive/introducing_rewind/zbwdqfr . Click on a map, and a local film clip comes up.

Jane Bradley, 'Round the Common: memories of shopping in **Oldland Common**,' **Bitton Parish History Group**, June 2022, <https://www.bittonhistory.org.uk/articles/>

Obituaries of Roy Hackett MBE, one of the organisers of the **Bristol** bus boycott 1963 that led to the Race Relations Act 1965 and thence to modern anti-discrimination legislation, in *The Guardian* 20 August 2022 and [https://www.theguardian.com/uk-](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/aug/18/roy-hackett-obituary)

[news/2022/aug/18/roy-hackett-obituary](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/aug/18/roy-hackett-obituary) ;

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/obituaries/2022/08/04/roy-hackett-civil-rights-campaigner-leading-force-behind-bristol/> ; <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-bristol-62611752>;

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/bristol-bus-boycott-activist-roy-hackett-dies-at-93-z3xnf052x> ; <https://www.bristol247.com/news-and-features/news/bristol-civil-rights-hero-roy-hackett-dies/> ; and elsewhere.

RESPONSES

Murals

John Stevens writes: Medieval wall-paintings (ALHA e-Newsletter, July 2022), which were painted on the Churches' own property rather than someone else's, were intended to impart religious truth to a largely illiterate population. They were painted over by the reformers of the sixteenth century who saw truth as coming from the Word alone and not from idolatrous representations.

Today, we are said to live in a better educated society than ever before, but many read little other than the tabloid press and take their information and learning (if any) from television or still more instant media. If the medieval murals were tailored to a pre-literate world, might not modern murals be aimed at a post-literate one?

We are told that many modern murals are opposed by 'those who disagree with the work's message'. This is the nub of the matter. *If* we are to have murals at all, who is to decide? The editor opposes works 'glorifying violence'; others may see the Belfast murals, now a tourist attraction, as an understandable (and historically interesting) self-expression of a community seeing itself as besieged by terror and intimidation and frequently disowned

by the Queen's government. Again, 'Banksy's' work is not uncontroversial; the naked man at the bottom of **Park Street**, for example, may be viewed as glamourising marital infidelity.

It is in part a matter of taste and opinion but the reality, as Maurice Cowling pointed out, is that every society has a clerisy and a set of values which you question at your peril. Until the 1530s, in England these were provided by the universal Catholic Church and, for the next four hundred years or so, by reformed religion – mainly in its Anglican form but with streams (some more, some less soothing) flowing in from Protestant Non-conformity. Today's clerisy and values are those of a post-Christian liberal elite, but there is no reason to believe that elite will be any more tolerant of deviations from its norms. If anyone doubts this, they might try raising a mural celebrating the contribution of Edward Colston to **Bristol**.

Vestry halls

A piece in ALHA e-update 30 June 2022 about the former vestry hall in Pennywell Road, **St Philips, Bristol**, asked whether there were any other vestry halls in our area.

Mick Drew writes: Was the St George's Hall in **Redfield** originally a vestry hall? It has recently been a pub, now closed, but before that it was a cinema. According to cinema history websites the first cinema opened there in 1912, but they do not say whether it was purpose-built or a conversion of an existing building. The succession of uses – cinema, other businesses and now proposed conversion to flats – and their timings is remarkably similar to what happened at Pennywell Road.

The editor replies: Ordnance Survey maps on *Know Your Place* suggest that the site was assembled by buying houses that fronted on to Church Road and Victoria Avenue, so an earlier vestry hall seems unlikely.

COMMENTARY

Re-creating the past

As mentioned in ALHA Newsletter 171 of 30 June 2022, the SS Great Britain Trust plans to build in **Albion Yard, Bristol**, a replica of IKB's ship *Great Western*. It will not be Bristol's first replica ship: thanks largely to efforts led by the **Clifton** and **Cameley** estate agent and property developer St John Hartnell, a replica of the caravel *Mathew* was built at **Redcliffe** in 1996 to mark the 500th anniversary of John Cabot's voyage to Newfoundland in 1497. The *Mathew* was not the first such replica: in 1957 a copy of the *Mayflower* sailed from Plymouth, not to commemorate the separatists' 1620 voyage to what is now Massachusetts, but as a token of thanks to Americans for helping out, eventually, in WW2. In 1973 a replica of the *Golden Hind* commemorated Francis Drake's piratical circumnavigation 1577-1580. Replicas have been made of an ancient Greek trireme and of a viking longboat. And not just of ships: there are replicas of Richard Trevithick's steam locomotives at Camborne (1801) and Blists Hill (1804). A replica of George White's boxkite (1910) dangles from the ceiling in the atrium of **Bristol** city museum. Finescale railway models are judged by how accurately they portray the original, down to the closest detail.

Replicas are one way in which we try to re-create bits of the past. Some would say that all local history consists of attempts to re-create the past, but there are differences. A history is a telling or a re-telling, not an exact re-creation, and there can be different versions of the same set of events, periods or themes. Conservation or preservation is not re-creation, because what is kept is the original, not a copy. Nor are buildings that mimic past architectural styles re-creations: victorian churches are not replicas, but copy or adapt features from medieval originals. Similarly with neoclassical architecture: houses like **Leigh Court** (Thomas Hopper, 1814) and **Dodington** (James Wyatt, 1796-1816), and the neoclassical houses of **Bath** and **Bristol** with their columns and pediments are not re-creations of the ancient Greek temples from which their features were derived.

As well as replicas of objects, re-creating the past can take other forms. The Jorvik centre in York presents an impression of life in a viking town, smells and all. Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia preserves some of the settlement's original buildings, including the gracious residence occupied by Norborne Berkeley of **Stoke Gifford** when he was governor 1768-1770, but also replicates aspects of the original town, with guides in period dress and speaking in period diction. Similar phenomena appear near **Bath's** Jane Austen museum.

Recreating gets applied not just to objects and places but to events and activities. *The Sealed Knot* is one of many re-enactment societies that stage re-runs of civil wars battles, sometimes lasting two or three days. Other groups re-enact viking and saxon events, one of the latter requiring an incoming tide. *Bristol's Brilliant Archaeology* festival at Blaise castle on 30 July 2022 included appearances - and much more - by the Company of Chivalry, <https://www.facebook.com/CompanyOfChivalry/> ; Drengskapr , <https://www.facebook.com/Drengskapr> , and Historia Normannis Wessex, <https://normannis.co.uk/wp/>

Why are re-creations and re-enactments selective? They include ships and steam locomotives, but not trows or stagecoaches; events of war but not many of peace.

Re-creation can be practically useful. At Lascaux tourists are directed to a replica of the caves and their paintings, because the number of visitors risks causing the originals to deteriorate. Museums that display artefacts and stuffed wild ex-life in a re-created context or habitat add to the exhibits' educational value and effectiveness. Two particularly impressive museums are the Musée de Cluny in Paris, a 15th century house with a large collection of medieval contents; and the Palazzo Davanzati in Florence, a reconstruction of the house of a mid 14th century merchant and banker with contents to match. As with **Bristol's Red House, Georgian House and Blaise Castle House**, re-creating a whole household's contents gives visitors a fuller impression of what wealthy life was like in those periods than would display of objects in glass cases.

Re-creation must have limits. A replica of **Bristol's** medieval docks or of a Victorian slum in **Bath** would be a fine thing, but preferably without rats, fleas, plague and cholera. Attempts by catholics to burn the occasional protestant on **St Michael's Hill, Bristol**, would not be welcome, nor would a public execution or a chimney sweeping event for small children.

Local history freedoms

Nowadays in the UK we take it for granted that we are free to express whatever views we like about the past. Where the evidence allows more than one view, we may disagree on points of fact. We may differ in how we interpret traces of the past, and in the narratives we write. If we disagree with what someone else has written, we are free, within the limits of the law and politeness, to say so.

In the 490s Theodoric the Goth had conquered Italy and was de facto western roman emperor. He was illiterate, so he had to have a secretary to do his writing for him. One document by his scribe Cassiodorus refers to an official in Ravenna whose job it was to settle disputes between doctors. At that time most medical practitioners followed the teachings of the ancient Greek doctors Galen and Hippocrates, but others put forward new theories and practised new methods. It may seem to us bizarre that anyone, especially if not medically trained and experienced, should be given power to determine disagreements between doctors. But the idea that there is only one right answer to any question had become widespread in late antiquity. The principle was applied to religious beliefs and practices. Conferences were called, not just to discuss, but to decide, abstruse points of theology that to modern eyes, even Christian ones, seem ludicrous and unrelated to the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth. The Nicene creed was the result of one such conference.

The principle led to a rule that all subjects of a monarch must adopt the monarch's religious beliefs. That doctrine persisted through and beyond medieval times. It was applied in England by Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary and Elizabeth and, according to one view, the English puritans. It pervaded the roman catholic church, was enforced in the inquisition, and was asserted in the doctrine of papal infallibility propounded, apparently in all seriousness, in 1870.

Religious belief apart, national governments have found it convenient to adopt and apply the idea that there is only one history of the past. In soviet Russia histories that contradicted the party line were suppressed or revised, in some cases more than once as power shifted from one group's interpretation of the ideology to another's. Similarly in communist China, and recently regarding Hong Kong.

Outside of religion, monarchs and others have tried to re-write history or to force others to do so. They have noted that the education of children offers an opportunity for leverage and long-term results. In 1284, after Edward I's conquest of Wales, the archbishop of Canterbury John Pecham instructed bishops in Wales to ensure that children were taught that Wales was originally inhabited by Saxons, and that the Welsh were later incomers. Of recent years the UK government has tried to dictate the content of history curricula in English schools and to prohibit the removal of public statues. In England nowadays we regard such attempts to restrict or dictate expression as unacceptable. Where views of the past are contested, as in the case of **Bristol's** Edward Colston, we accept that people may hold different views of the facts and how they should be interpreted and narrated, and that government interference to impose one politically biased history in schools is improper. Local history people must resist.

QUOTE

As a historian, I do not believe that major developments and events in the future can be pre-ordained, or are somehow inevitable. The past matters. But, in regard to countries and peoples, the past contains the seeds of many possible futures.

Linda Colley, *Acts of union and disunion*, Profile 2014.

EVENTS DIARY

Events notified to ALHA's website manager are listed on the ALHA website. If you want your event to be listed, please send details or a copy of your programme to the webmaster, contact details on page 1 top left (Please note changed e-mail address). Please notify any changes of regular venue or timing.

Because of the coronavirus, events may be cancelled at short notice. Some venues are continuing to impose restrictions or requirements. Links or directions to online events open to the public appear on ALHA's website.