



## **THE HISTORY OF PARLIAMENT**

**Annual Review 2021-22**

**June 2022**



## HISTORY OF PARLIAMENT TRUST

### Review of activities in the year 2021-22

#### OVERVIEW

1. As for everyone else, 2021-22 has seen a slow emergence from the COVID-19 pandemic, and a readjustment to something like normal life. Our research staff have resumed, with relief, work in archives and libraries, and the office has become fuller again, although it is evident that the pandemic has further encouraged the existing trend to working from home. Our oral history project has returned with a will, with new volunteers enthusiastically taking up the chance of extended interviews with former members of Parliament.
2. After last year's publication of *The House of Commons 1422-1461*, *The House of Lords 1604-1629*, and *The Political Lives of Post-War British MPs*, 2021-22 was quieter; but a considerable amount of effort has gone into preparing our next great work, *The House of Commons 1640-1660* for the press. *1640-1660* will be our biggest publication yet, and is a major challenge to see through to publication with our new publishers, Boydell and Brewer.

#### RESEARCH

3. Progress in each of the History's five current research projects and the oral history project is described below.

##### *The House of Commons 1461-1504*

4. This project follows on from the recently completed and published *House of Commons 1422-1461*, and covers the period of the Wars of the Roses and the establishment of Henry VII in power. There are 1325 biographies and 146 constituency articles to be completed. Project staff are Hannes Kleineke (Editor), Charles Moreton and Simon Payling. In this second full year of operation of the new project, a total of 94 articles were produced (89 biographies and five constituency articles), totalling over 120,000 words. Among the biographical articles completed in the year were:
  - *Robert Curteys (Courteys)*: Curteys came from a Lostwithiel family with longstanding traditions of parliamentary and civic service. He himself served three terms as mayor of the town between 1445 and 1460, and represented it in the Commons in 1463. Connected with the 'great' Arundells of Lanherne, the latter years of his life were marred by a protracted dispute over the estates of the Lawhire family, which drew in the Lancastrian courtier John Trevelyan and his associate Thomas Tregarthen the elder. It is possible that Curteys' decision to seek election to the Commons in 1463 was motivated by the legal proceedings between the two men, but in the event he died not long after the end of the first session.
  - *Richard Hayne*: a Salisbury citizen and merchant who represented that city, as well as Heytesbury and Poole, in four Parliaments between 1455 and 1467. He served as a customs official at Poole at the time of his return there in 1467. He was accused of the rape of a nine-year-old girl that he faced in 1473.
  - *William Joce*: A highly peripatetic merchant originally from Bristol, Joce over the course of a long career established footholds in Barnstaple, Taunton and ultimately the city of London. Active in the trade in metals, as well as other commodities, he seems to have faced

economic difficulties for much of his career and was consequently regularly embroiled in litigation in the royal courts.

- *John Hilly*: a local merchant from Gloucester which he represented in 1467, with wide-ranging business interests, being known variously as a wiredrawer, fishmonger or vintner. He became one of Gloucester's first aldermen, a new office created by Richard III's charter to the city.
- *Edmund Jenney*: a member of a distinguished East Anglian legal dynasty who were famously said in the Paston correspondence to be worthy of return to the Commons because 'they cun sey wel'. MP for Dunwich in 1478.
- *Robert Croft*: MP for Leicester in 1491, and possibly also in 1497, he had a long career among the leading men of Leicester: late in his career he got into trouble for slandering one of his fellow members of the town's ruling council and was reprimanded by the council of the queen mother.
- *Peter Curteys*: a man known to have been elected to all but three Parliaments between 1467 and 1495, and it is very probable that he was the Leicester MP in two of these three. He served in the household of four Kings, fell foul of Richard III, spent a period in the sanctuary of Westminster Abbey, and made a late and contentious marriage.
- *Richard Middleton*: MP for Northamptonshire in 1467, with an eventful career: narrowly avoiding execution in the wake of the fall of his early master, Humphrey, duke of Gloucester, he owed his subsequent marriage to a wealthy Northamptonshire widow to his support for the house of York, and was (probably) the man attainted after fighting against Henry VII at the battle of Stoke
- *Adam Hamelyn*: A substantial Bridgwater cloth merchant who served as mayor of the town in 1479-80. Elected to Parliament by his neighbours in February 1463, he may have set out to the intended meeting place of the Lords and Commons at Leicester, since he was later paid wages for a journey to that town. At the time of Buckingham's rebellion he was placed under arrest by Richard III's commissioners and forced to find sureties for his good behaviour.
- *Robert Hillersden*: Descended from a wealthy family of Devon lawyers long connected with the Courtenay earls of Devon, Hillersden gained notoriety in 1468 when he stabbed a fellow student at Lincoln's Inn. May have owed his return to the Commons of 1478 for Plympton Erle to Crown patronage.
- *Stephen Preston*: Lawyer from a family with lands on the Devon border with Dorset. Constable of Bridgwater castle for Richard, duke of York, and Cecily, duchess of York. Serjeant of the avenary of the Household of Edward IV, and owner of an extensive library. MP for Lyme Regis in 1467 and 1472.
- *John Colyns*: MP Much Wenlock 1491, a man who was not even of minor gentry rank, played a small part in the affairs of the boroughs of Much Wenlock and Bridgnorth, which lay near his home at Culmington.
- *Guy Wolston*: His father was a servant of the house of York and Wolston prospered under Edward IV, rising to become an esquire of the royal body towards the end of the reign. Although he benefited from royal patronage the chief source of his wealth was his marriages to three widows, two from London, and he invested the money they brought him in land, building a fine new manor house at Apethorpe. Like Hulcote, he failed to establish a dynasty, leaving only two daughters. MP for Northamptonshire in 1472.
- *Thomas Mytton*: MP for Shrewsbury in 1472. A rare example of one who held leading office in both borough and county, he was the dominant figure in his native borough of Shrewsbury for some 40 years, and, in the second half of that long career, he was sheriff and JP in Shropshire. His family, long one of the most important in Shrewsbury, provide the clearest example of the intermingling of that town's elite with the leading local gentry.

5. The constituency histories completed in the year included:
  - *Lyme Regis*: An impoverished Channel port in Dorset, Lyme nevertheless held its own in parliamentary terms, and – as far as the few surviving returns allow us to tell – sought to return local men where possible. The final quarter of the 15th century saw a degree of evolution in the borough's constitution, perhaps prompting the compilation of the 'book of customs' that the town possessed by 1506.
  - *Nottingham*: one striking feature of the town's representation is the extreme narrowness of the field from which its MPs were drawn. The field was only eight, the recorder and the seven aldermen, a monopoly that did not certainly break down until the 1530s.
6. The section also contributed 20 pieces to the History of Parliament's blog, including 'Edward IV's first Parliament of 1461-2'; '1421: a troubled royal Christmas'; 'Parliament and the removal of a political leader: a fifteenth-century example'; 'The Hanging of Thomas Fiennes, Lord Dacre: Henry VIII and the Abuse of the Law'; 'Charles, Lord Stourton (d.1557), and the murder of the Hartgills'; 'John of Gaunt, the murder of Friar Latimer and the Salisbury Parliament of 1384'; 'Unnatural alliances and the battle of Barnet, 14 April 1471'; 'The hunting down of Queen Margaret: the battle of Tewkesbury 4 May 1471', 'The Tomb of Thomas and Edith Babington in the church of Ashover, Derbyshire', 'The elusiveness of divorce in medieval England: the marital troubles of the last Warenne earl of Surrey (d.1347)'; 'William Catesby, Speaker in the Parliament of 1484, and the accession of Richard III'; 'Parliamentary Elections in the Reign of Henry VI'; 'The pre-industrial mining industry of Cornwall and Devon'.

#### ***The House of Commons 1640-1660, and the House of Lords 1640-1660***

7. The House of Commons 1640-1660 project covers one of the most turbulent and striking periods of parliament's history, and will consist of 1,807 biographies and 316 constituency histories, as well as a series of institutional histories of the committees that served as parliament's executive arm during the war and its aftermath. Staff of the project at 31 March 2021 were Vivienne Larminie (associate editor); Andrew Barclay, Patrick Little and David Scott (senior research fellows). Stephen Roberts, who served as director up until his retirement at 31 December 2020, was nominally editor of the section. He is continuing to contribute to the project from retirement.
8. The work of the section over the course of 2021-22 consisted largely in completing various final tasks connected with the introductory survey, compiling bibliographies, securing permission from holders of manuscript collections for citations, and ensuring the final consistency of the text. By the end of 2021-22 the House of Commons 1640-1660 project was effectively complete. In the course of the year a decision was taken to succeed it with a new project covering the House of Lords in the same period. From 1 April 2022 most of the remaining staff were formally transferred to the new project, although a number of them had been undertaking preparatory work for some months. The associate editor, Vivienne Larminie, remained into 2022-23 in order to complete the introductory survey.
9. The section made fifteen contributions to the History of Parliament's blog, among them 'Customs duties, political grievances and cross-border relations: an early Stuart perspective'; 'Exploring the roots of a regicide: Sir John Danvers, the University of Oxford and gardens'; 'Docks, diversity and the representation of Portsmouth in the civil wars and interregnum'; 'Legal expertise in the Long Parliament, 'an ancient lawyer' and civil war intimidation'; 'Religion, relief and the 'slaughtered Saints': foreign aid in the seventeenth century'; 'Immigrants and refugees at Westminster: the foreign ancestry of mid-17th century MPs'; 'Cider-making and drinking in Cromwellian

Herefordshire'; 'The good, the bad and the visually memorable: characterising the Commons 1640-1660'; 'Plots, petitions, prelates and popery: Parliament and the 'tumults' of December 1641'; 'Lies, stories, misinformation and collective memory: extracting vipers and unmasking cavaliers in the 1659 Parliament'; 'Sitting at Oxford: the convening of Charles I's 'Mongrel Parliament', January 1644'; 'Oliver the Red-Nosed Protector'; 'The Love Life of Oliver Cromwell'; 'Silence and Laughter in the Cromwellian House of Commons'

### ***The House of Commons 1832-1868***

10. This project, begun in 2009, covers the period between the first and second Reform Acts. It will result in the compilation of 2,591 biographies and 401 constituency articles. Project staff are Philip Salmon (editor), Kathryn Rix (assistant editor), Stephen Ball and Martin Spychal (research fellows). During the year the section completed 128 articles (32 from external authors) amounting in total to nearly 393,000 words. The articles completed during the year include the following:

- *John Barneby*: a Herefordshire squire, Barneby was devoted to his duties as a chairman of petty sessions. Although described as 'a rank old tory', as MP for Droitwich, 1835-7, and East Worcestershire, 1837-47, he was in fact an industrious backbench supporter of Sir Robert Peel and a reliable committee man. An advocate of improved farming methods, he joined the Protectionist opposition to Peel's bill to repeal the corn laws shortly before his death in November 1846.
- *Sir Valentine Blake*: a 'shifty and impecunious' Irish baronet, Blake represented the borough of Galway from 1813-20, and recovered the seat in 1841 as one of a growing band of landowning Repealers. Regarded by some as a 'faithful nationalist' leader of Galway's Liberal interest, he was also described as 'a desperate character' and a 'shameless and dishonest careerist'. His late conversion to repeal is said to have 'brought the party no great credit', and his subsequent behaviour at Westminster only added to his reputation for eccentricity.
- *John James Bodkin*: an indebted Galway landowner, Bodkin came from a well-established Catholic family and lived off his rents as an 'independent gentleman'. He represented his native borough, 1831-2, and county, 1835-47, as a Liberal who sometimes leant towards repeal. Described as plain, blunt and occasionally 'vulgar', he was a reliable supporter of Daniel O'Connell, but his ambitious building schemes and costly elections made him bankrupt by 1847, when he quietly retired from politics.
- *Robert Carden*: a prominent stockbroker and City alderman, Carden gained a 'reputation for forthrightness' by challenging electoral corruption at St. Albans in 1850. Thereafter he enjoyed a 'chequered' political career and was involved in bribery scandals at two Gloucester elections, the first of which he won in 1857, and the second of which he lost two years later. Meanwhile his career as a banker thrived. He returned to the Commons in 1880, when at the age of 78 he won a seat for Barnstaple.
- *John Jones*: a veteran of the unreformed Commons, Jones sat for his native county of Carmarthen from 1837-42. Having acquired a good reputation as a barrister, he was for many years chairman of the Carmarthenshire quarter sessions. The 'political star' of the Conservative party in the counties of Carmarthen, Cardigan and Pembroke, he was also 'easily the poorest' man to represent Carmarthenshire in this period. He boxed the compass in politics, and it was said that there was 'scarcely anything he would not do to obtain a seat'.
- *William Forbes Mackenzie*: a descendant of the Lairds of Kintall, Mackenzie was an ambitious Scottish landowner and advocate. Returned for his native Peeblesshire as a Conservative in 1837, he attracted local hostility for his opposition to the Maynooth grant and repeal of the corn laws. After becoming Conservative chief whip in 1852 he secured a seat for Liverpool but was unseated the following year and did not return to Parliament. He was best known for the Act to regulate public houses in Scotland, to which his name was subsequently attached.

- *Charles Schreiber*: an accomplished classical scholar, Schreiber was a passionate collector of china and with his wife, formerly Lady Charlotte Guest, created a collection that was among the world's finest. Returned for Cheltenham as a Conservative in 1865, he was an active Member of the Commons, notably in the debates on the Conservative reform bill in 1867. He retired in 1868 but was returned for Poole in 1880, only to die in harness four years later.
- *Joseph Brotherton*: a retired cotton and silk manufacturer, Brotherton was a minister in the Bible Christian church founded by William Cowherd, whose principles of vegetarianism and teetotalism he followed. As Liberal MP for Salford from 1832 until his death on an omnibus in 1857, he was noted for being one of the most diligent members of the Commons, where he was keen to limit the conduct of business after midnight. He supported a range of radical causes, including free trade, non-denominational education, factory reform and the abolition of the death penalty.
- *Ralph Anstruther Earle*: having supplied Disraeli with secret information from the Paris embassy to use against Palmerston's ministry, the ambitious Earle became Disraeli's trusted confidant and private secretary from 1858-66. He was briefly MP for Berwick-upon-Tweed in 1859, resigning as part of a compromise over an election petition, and later sat for Maldon, 1865-8. Disraeli rewarded him with the position of parliamentary secretary to the poor law board in 1866, but after they quarrelled in 1867 Earle resigned and voted against the Conservatives on reform and the Irish church.
- *George Goodman*: a Baptist wool merchant, Goodman was four times mayor of his native Leeds before becoming its Liberal MP in 1852. Said to be the most popular man in Leeds, where he was a ubiquitous presence in public life, he was known as 'Smiling George' and noted for his conciliatory manner. Initially one of the most diligent members of the Commons, his attendance dwindled as his assiduous attention to his parliamentary duties affected his health. Suffering from paralysis, he retired in 1857 and died two years later.
- *Edward Barrett Curteis*: the son of a former Tory MP for Sussex and wealthy landowner, Curteis joined his elder brother as a reformer in the Commons in 1832, sitting for the family's pocket borough of Rye as a Protectionist Whig and supporter of the East India lobby until 1837. Incensed at the defeat of the family's candidate for Rye in 1852, he later published a famous exposé of the electoral corruption that had become rife in the cinque port. (1,933 words)
- *Herbert Mascall Curteis*: nephew of the above, Curteis succeeded his father in representing Rye on the family interest from 1847-52, although his initial election was voided on petition for bribery. Best remembered today as a first-class cricketer, he spent more time hunting than in the House, but when present gave general support to the Liberals and campaigned steadily on behalf of Sussex's hop growers.
- *William Blount*: after defeat at Stafford in 1832 and 1837, Blount, a practising Catholic, was the subject of a double return at the 1839 Totnes by-election, where he came forward on 'liberal reform principles'. He controversially took his seat and appears to have sat in the Commons for several hours before the Conservative whip called for his removal. The election was later declared void on a technicality, putting an end to his political ambitions.
- *Sir James Colquhoun*: a Whig laird who represented Dumbartonshire, 1837-41, Colquhoun's incredibly poor attendance at Westminster was so notorious that it was satirised in an 1840 comedy about life in the Commons.
- *George Goschen*: a Liberal who later joined the Conservatives, Goschen sat for London from 1863 in this period. An active parliamentarian, who faced anti-Semitic abuse during his election campaigns despite being an English-born Anglican, he took charge of legislation for the abolition of religious tests at Oxford, which became known as 'Goschen's bill'. He was a surprise appointment as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster in 1866 and an active member of Gladstone's opposition front bench and first cabinet. However, he joined the Liberal Unionists in 1886 and later served under Lord Salisbury.

- *John Irving*: one of 'the most prominent men of his age in the mercantile world', Irving's fame was once on a par with the Barings and Rothschilds. His commercial transactions extended 'to every quarter of the globe' and he became the model for 'Mr. Ormsby' in Benjamin Disraeli's novels *Coningsby* and *Sybil*. Having sat for Bramber from 1806-32 as 'a steady but not bigoted Conservative', he continued to pursue his commercial and political interests as MP for County Antrim from 1837 until his death in 1845.
- *James Heywood*: a retired Unitarian banker, Heywood was a prominent figure in Manchester's public life, where he was particularly involved with educational institutions. He was elected as Liberal MP for North Lancashire in 1847, and became the leading parliamentary campaigner for university reform, notably the removal of religious tests at Oxford and Cambridge universities, which had prevented him graduating. He retired from Parliament on health grounds in 1857, but remained active in promoting educational causes, notably public libraries and university education for women.
- *Charles Neate*: a professor of political economy at Oxford University from 1857-1862, and a lifetime fellow of Oriel College from 1828, Neate managed to combine his academic career with representing the town of Oxford in 1857 and from 1863-68. An extremely active MP, described by his fellow don Thomas Mozley as a 'political hybrid', in the Commons he made over 250 speeches, including many calling for reform of the financial, legal, medical and penal systems, but also others bemoaning the decline of the Protestant establishment and the modern world of commerce arising from free trade.
- *Jasper Parrott*: one of Totnes' leading reformers in the 1820s, Parrott sat for the borough as an independently minded radical from 1832-39, despite having little property and a large family to support. Dubbed the 'prince of ultra radicalism' by local Tories, he actively supported most radical causes, including the ballot, abolition of tithes, municipal reform and tax reductions, but also upset many radicals by staunchly backing cheap beer shops. In what the Tories denounced as a 'disgraceful treaty', he resigned in favour of a Liberal nominee of the Duke of Somerset in 1839, allegedly in return for a 'profitable situation'.
- *Patrick Smollett*: Smollett spent over three decades as an Indian civil servant before he was returned as an 'independent' MP for Dunbartonshire at the 1859 election. In the Commons he established a reputation for 'peculiar speeches' with his independent critique of Indian policy and demands for land reform as a means of establishing India as a settler colony. He also provided a distinctive criticism of the 1867-8 Conservative reform legislation, which was best typified by his complaints about the 'talking potatoes' that filled the Commons.
- *John Frederick Stanford*: mocked as the 'pariah' of the 1847 Parliament, Stanford was returned as a Protectionist at the 1849 Reading by-election, when he was ridiculed by the national press for allegedly offering his hand in marriage in return for votes. He had published noteworthy pamphlets on education and colonial reform prior to entering Parliament but was regularly heckled at Westminster on account of his 'pretension'. His frequent and unconventional speeches saw him challenge lazy members, recite nursery rhymes and even threaten to indict 'the entire assembly' of Parliament. He retired in 1852 to focus on his literary endeavours, most notably *The Stanford Dictionary of Anglicised Words and Phrases*.
- *George Traill*: a Whig/Liberal MP for Orkney from 1830-35 and Caithness from 1841-69, Traill's succession to his father's large estates and flagstone quarries in 1843 meant he faced few electoral challenges during his career. This was despite his lack of recorded speeches and very poor attendance at Westminster. He was perhaps most notable for accidentally voting in the wrong division lobby over Gladstone's Irish Church resolutions in 1868.
- *Philip John Vanderbyl*: the South African born Vanderbyl was said to have been the 'first born colonist' MP 'whose parents were also born colonists'. After defeat at Great Yarmouth in 1865 he was returned at the 1866 Bridgwater by-election. A colonial merchant and former



physician, Vanderbyl sought to establish himself as a representative of the medical interest and the Cape Colony during his brief career in the reformed Commons.

- *Spencer Compton Cavendish, Lord Cavendish, afterwards Marquess of Hartington*: remembered today as the leader of the Liberal party during the interregnum in Gladstone's leadership, 1875-80, Hartington has been dubbed 'the best prime minister the country has never had'. Heir to his father the Duke of Devonshire, in later years Hartington appeared the epitome of aristocratic insouciance and grand Whiggery, an image he himself helped to foster. His earlier career, as a hard-working constituency MP for North Lancashire from 1857-68, is often overlooked, but saw him develop into a highly effective campaigner and speaker, attributes which help to justify his controversial appointment to ministerial office before the age of 30.
- *Lord Robert Arthur Talbot Gascoyne-Cecil, afterwards Viscount Cranborne*: Queen Victoria's longest-serving prime minister (as 3rd Marquess of Salisbury), Cranborne's aristocratic connections seemed impeccable, but his rise to high office was far from swift nor smooth. Until 1865 he was an impoverished younger son, forced to make ends meet by writing for money. Elected as a Tory for his family's pocket borough of Stamford in 1853, he gained prominence through a series of thinly-veiled journalistic attacks on Disraeli in 1859-60 and used his sparkling invective to become indispensable to his party in debate. Tempted into cabinet office in 1866, he won high praise as India Secretary, but within months had resigned in protest at the Conservatives' reform bill, again denouncing Disraeli, this time openly. By 1868 his destiny appeared – at any rate to himself - to be 'impotent obscurity'.

11. Among the constituency articles are:

- *Halifax*: one of the West Riding's major woollen manufacturing towns, Halifax was given two seats by the 1832 Reform Act. The Conservatives held one of the seats on only two occasions, from 1835-7, and from 1847-52, with victory in 1847 being aided by Liberal divisions on the question of voluntary versus state funded education. The borough's longest serving MP prior to 1868 was the Whig Charles Wood, a Yorkshire landowner who held ministerial office almost continuously from 1846, and represented Halifax from 1832 until 1859, when he ceded the ground to a local woollen manufacturer, Edward Akroyd, a moderate Liberal. For much of this period, the second seat was held by a more advanced Liberal, notably the local Congregational carpet manufacturer, Francis Crossley, and James Stansfeld, a Unitarian brewer who was the son of a local judge. The borough also saw Ernest Jones stand as a Chartist candidate in 1847 and 1852. Following three successive defeats in 1852, 1853 and 1857, the Conservatives did not contest the constituency again.
- *Horsham*: a former 'pocket borough' of the Catholic Howard family (Dukes of Norfolk), Horsham was reduced to a single MP by the 1832 Reform Act and vastly extended in size geographically, from less than a third to almost 18 square miles of surrounding countryside. Despite this enlargement, it could only muster 191 voters at the 1832 election, making it one of only eight English boroughs with less than 200 voters. Robert Henry Hurst, the radical son of the duke's former steward, successfully challenged the duke's nominee in 1832, aided by his family's acquisition of estates within the enlarged boundaries. He then sat almost continually until 1847, by when he had been forced into selling off property. A series of struggles between the Howards, wealthy speculators and new local proprietors, including the heir of Baron Fitzgerald, then ensued. Vast sums were spent in a series of contests that were challenged on petition. Fitzgerald's son, later a Conservative minister, eventually won the day, dominating the representation from 1852 until 1865, before Hurst's son briefly recovered his father's old seat. One Liberal MP who was unseated for treating in 1848 was alleged to have spent £1,000 on five votes in 1847, a reminder of just how venal the English electoral system remained in this period.

- *Caithness-shire*: a maritime county at the northern-most point of Scottish mainland, Caithness had formerly alternated with Buteshire in returning one Member to Parliament. With fewer than 300 electors in 1832 it was easily dominated by its Whig-Liberal lairds and was contested only twice: in 1837, when the sitting MP Sir George Sinclair defected to the Conservatives but retained his seat, and in 1852, when the long-serving MP George Traill was unsuccessfully challenged by a fellow Liberal.
- *Rye*: a 'respectable' but 'dilapidated' Sussex cinque port close to coastal marsh land, Rye became infamous for its electoral corruption during this period. The Reform Act removed one of its two MPs and greatly extended the boundaries, ending the political control previously exercised by the Lamb family. The banking family of Curteis, whose property lay within the new boundaries, effectively took over, initially returning Liberal MPs from their own ranks, except when a misunderstanding between two Curteis brothers allowed a Conservative to slip in unopposed in 1837. The rift between the brothers grew thereafter and in 1847 they ran rival campaigns, with one brother sponsoring a Liberal candidate against the other. The death of one of them, the sitting MP, and the return of his son with the other's support appeared to end these internecine rivalries, and in 1852 they effectively transferred their control of the representation to the wealthy Mackinnon family, former slave owners. A series of petitions and parliamentary inquiries into electoral corruption in 1852-3, however, led to further family feuds as well as a public scandal over voter bribery, which saw the mayor imprisoned for perjury. Despite growing pressure in Parliament for the borough's disfranchisement it survived, returning Liberal MPs from the Mackinnon family until 1868, when a greatly expanded electorate ended their control.

12. In addition, the project published 26 blogs, divided between the History of Parliament's main blog and the Victorian Commons blog, which is run by the 1832-68 team. The blogs included 'The shipping and the railway interests: Whitby's electoral politics, 1832-1868'; 'Victorian MPs and holidays'; 'The power of the (silk) purse: electioneering in nineteenth-century Macclesfield'; 'MPs and religious affiliation, 1832-68: a research guide'; 'Four prorogations and a conflagration: Parliament and its buildings in 1834'; 'Half a century at the table: John Henry Ley and the staff of the House of Commons'; 'Another of my female politicians' epistles': Harriet Grote (1792-1878), the 1835 Parliament and the failed attempt to establish a radical party ; 'She, yes, she was the only member of parliament': Harriet Grote, radical parliamentary tactics and House of Lords reform, 1835-6'; 'The radical hostess of Parliament Street: Harriet Grote (1792-1878), the 1832 election and establishing influence as a woman at Westminster'; 'Standing between two extremes': James Wentworth Buller MP and the politics of moderation'; 'From colonial council to Parliament: the career of John Dunn MP'; 'John Evelyn Denison, Speaker of the House of Commons, 1857-72'; 'Accessing Hansard online: a research guide'; 'Joseph Brotherton (1783-1857) and late hours in the Commons'; 'The politics of a coronation: reaction and reform in 1821'; 'Pubs and drink in Victorian elections'; 'Surveying the UK's parliamentary boroughs: map-making and the 1831-2 boundary commissions'.

### ***The House of Lords 1559-1601***

13. This project began after the completion of *The House of Lords 1604-1629* in 2020 and covers the upper House in the reign of Elizabeth I, complementing the volumes published back in 1983 on the House of Commons in the same period. The staff, who all worked on the Lords 1604-29 project, are Andrew Thrush (editor), Paul Hunneyball (assistant editor) and Ben Coates (Senior Research Fellow).

14. With a total of 246 biographies to be tackled, it is planned to complete the project in five years, drawing in as far as possible external contributors, and aiming at a more abbreviated style of entry than in the previous project. Over the course of the year, the team produced 61 biographies (10 from external authors) in total, containing a total of 192,000 words. The project's target is to produce 50 internal, 33 external articles a year.

15. Among the biographies completed in 2020-21 were:

- *Henry Wriothesley, 2nd earl of Southampton*: a Catholic, Southampton was twice arrested in the early 1570s because of his illicit contacts with Mary Queen of Scots's ambassador, John Leslie, bishop of Ross. Freed in 1573, he was allowed to take his place in local government the next year only to be removed from office in 1578.
- *Henry Wriothesley, 3rd earl of Southampton*: friend of Robert Devereux, 2nd earl of Essex and patron of Shakespeare, Southampton took part in the Azores expedition in 1597 and briefly commanded the cavalry in Ireland in 1599. He was condemned to death for treason in 1601 for his role in Essex's rising, but thanks to the intervention of Robert Cecil he was not executed but survived to be rehabilitated in the Jacobean period.
- *Thomas Bilson, bishop of Winchester*: A scholar first and foremost, Bilson made his name with weighty tomes in defence of the Elizabethan church settlement, hugely influential in their own time, though now largely forgotten. Warden of Winchester College for nearly two decades, he was briefly bishop of Worcester before being translated to Winchester in 1597. One of the major figures behind the King James Bible, he was briefly a privy councillor at the end of his life, but his ambition to become archbishop of Canterbury went unfulfilled.
- *Edmund Guest, bishop of Salisbury*: An early supporter of the Reformation, who remained in England under Mary I but had to go into hiding, Guest re-emerged in Elizabeth I's reign as one of Archbishop Parker's leading allies, helping to draft both the revised Prayer Book and the Thirty-Nine Articles. As bishop of Rochester, and then of Salisbury, he became an increasingly conservative voice in the Church, and his influence effectively ended with Parker's death in 1575, two years before his own.
- *Henry Howard, 2nd Viscount Howard of Bindon*: A distant cousin of Elizabeth I, Howard was mentally unstable, and completely unfit for public life. By turns eccentric, violent and even criminal, he spent most of his life heavily in debt, to the extent that his parents obtained an Act of Parliament in 1563 to prevent him from selling off the family estates. Imprisoned several times over disputes with neighbours or relatives, he so maltreated his wife and daughter that the queen eventually took the child into care.
- *Edward Russell, 3rd earl of Bedford*: Bedford inherited his earldom from his grandfather while still a child. A man of extravagant tastes but poor political judgment, he wasted his estates, and wrecked his court career by joining the 2nd earl of Essex's rebellion in 1601. Thereafter he lived mostly in retirement, and spent his final years as an invalid, following a near-fatal hunting accident in 1613.
- *Francis Russell, 2nd earl of Bedford*: A fiercely loyal supporter of Elizabeth I even before she became queen, Bedford was briefly a leading councillor at the start of her reign, though his influence diminished over time, probably due to his uncompromising character. Although very well connected at court, he spent much of his career in the provinces, protecting England's northern border against the Scots, then guarding the West Country against a possible Spanish invasion. An outspoken puritan, he was perhaps the greatest electoral patron of the period, operating chiefly in the south-west.
- *Peregrine Bertie, 13th Lord Willoughby de Eresby*: born while his Protestant parents were living in exile, Bertie owed his peerage to his mother, the dowager duchess of Suffolk and de jure Baron Willoughby. After undertaking a few diplomatic missions to Denmark, Bertie discovered a talent for soldiering, serving in the Netherlands, first under the earl of Leicester

and then as commander of the English forces. Although he distinguished himself at Bergen-op-Zoom in 1588, he fell out with the Dutch, and ended his days as governor of Berwick. Military service prevented him from often sitting in Parliament.

- *Edmund Bonner, bishop of London*: notorious for his persecution of protestants under Mary, Bonner strongly resisted in Parliament the reintroduction of protestantism in 1559 and was the first of the Catholic bishops to be deprived by Elizabeth. Imprisoned in 1560, he subsequently refused to take the oath of supremacy, claiming that the bishop who tendered it was no bishop at all, thereby raising the prospect of a test case. An alarmed Elizabeth quickly halted the legal proceedings. She also had Parliament enact, in 1566-7, legislation legitimizing her appointment of bishops.
- *Henry Cheyney, Lord Cheyney*: the great-nephew of John, Lord Cheyney, whose barony had become extinct in 1499, Cheyney inherited not one estate but two: his father's lands in north Kent (which he sold) and his mother's Toddington estate, in Bedfordshire. He rebuilt Toddington on a lavish scale, and the queen spent 10 days there in 1570. Pressure to avoid a thin upper House led Elizabeth to ennoble Cheyney ahead of the 1572 Parliament. Cheyney subsequently sat in five sessions of Parliament.
- *John de Feckenham alias Howman, abbot of Westminster*: the last man ever to serve as abbot of Westminster, Feckenham was one of the leading Catholic opponents of the restoration of the royal supremacy and Protestantism in the 1559 Parliament. Imprisoned in 1560, Feckenham, whose standing in the Catholic community at large remained high, was repeatedly pressed to conform to the new religious settlement, without success. Indeed, during the second half of the 1560s Feckenham's resistance became the focus of a vigorous propaganda war.
- *Reynold Grey, 5th earl of Kent*: although he succeeded to his family's holdings in 1562, Grey was not recognized as earl of Kent until 1571, because the crown believed that Grey's grandfather had not been capable of inheriting the title. Reynold owed his eventual restoration to the dogged determination of his mother-in-law, Katherine, dowager duchess of Suffolk, who convinced the queen that Grey would not try to recover from the crown his family's lost lands. Grey enjoyed his new title for little more than a year, during which time he sat in Parliament only once.
- *Thomas Tresham, grand prior of the order of St John of Jerusalem in England*: chosen by Queen Mary in 1557 to head the newly revived order of St John, Tresham was a devout Catholic. Though entitled to sit in the Lords as the premier English baron, he declined to attend the Lords in 1559 and died before the dissolution, when the lands of his order were seized by the crown.
- *Henry Hastings, 3rd earl of Huntingdon*: educated alongside Edward VI, who was raised a Protestant, Huntingdon seems to have concealed his Protestant convictions under Mary for the sake of self-preservation. During Elizabeth's reign he was regarded as a safe pair of Protestant hands, so much so that he briefly helped oversee the confinement of Mary queen of Scots. A regular attender of Parliament, where he promoted evangelical Protestantism, he also enjoyed considerable parliamentary patronage in his native Leicestershire.
- *Ambrose Dudley, earl of Warwick*: the elder brother of the royal favourite, Robert Dudley, earl of Leicester, Warwick commanded the army sent to Le Havre in 1562 to assist the Huguenots. Forced to surrender the following year, he returned to England, and though given joint command of the forces raised to suppress the northern rebellion in 1569, his services were not needed. Plagued by ill-health and a wound incurred at Le Havre, he was unable to participate in his brother's military campaign in the Netherlands in 1585-7 or to sit regularly in Parliament.
- *Henry Cromwell, 2nd Lord Cromwell*: grandson of Henry VIII's chief minister Thomas Cromwell, he may initially have been a crypto-Catholic. However, he subsequently converted to Protestantism, and may even have become a puritan. Cromwell's main claim to fame lies in

the fact that, as a result of a case in which he was involved, the Lords concluded that peers could not be imprisoned by Chancery.

- *John Stourton, 9th Lord Stourton*: the eldest son of a convicted murderer, Stourton attempted in 1576 to secure an act restoring him in blood, which measure ended up provoking a clash between the Lords and Commons. Stourton was a Catholic who was apprehended while trying to flee abroad in 1573, and though he subsequently conformed to the Church of England he remained a Catholic at heart.
- *Henry Clinton alias Fiennes, 2nd earl of Lincoln*: The son of a distinguished mid-Tudor lord admiral, Lincoln held only relatively minor local offices due to his incessant feuding with neighbours, oppression of his tenants, bullying of his relatives, and habitual flouting of the law, which saw him gaoled several times. Despite this behaviour, he remained on close terms with the powerful Cecil family, and as he was essentially loyal to the crown the government made little effort to rein in his personal excesses, even sending him on a minor embassy in 1596.
- *William Herbert, 3rd earl of Pembroke*: A very well-connected young aristocrat, Pembroke made a strong early impression at court, winning the queen's favour but then losing it again through an affair with one of Elizabeth's maids of honour, whom he got pregnant but refused to marry. Briefly imprisoned for this offence, he ended the reign still in relative disgrace, though his wealth and political skills would ensure that he rose to national prominence under the first two Stuart monarchs.
- *Thomas Howard, Thomas, 3rd Viscount Howard of Bindon*: A younger son of a junior branch of a famous Tudor family, Howard began life with relatively few prospects, and even served as mayor of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis. Already middle-aged when he succeeded to his peerage in 1590, he had to wait another decade to inherit the family estates in Dorset. With his cousins in the ascendant again at court, Howard finally achieved high office in 1600, albeit only at local level. However, he died childless, whereupon his viscountcy was extinguished.
- *Francis Norris, 2nd Lord Norreys*: Norris was still a baby when his father died, and he later became the 2nd earl of Lincoln's stepson. His unhappy marriage to a daughter of the 17th earl of Oxford impacted adversely on his already unstable personality, besides poisoning his relationship with his wife's powerful uncle, Sir Robert Cecil (later 1st earl of Salisbury). Unsited to life at court, and bereft of major offices, he lived mostly in retirement. Created earl of Berkshire in 1621 through a surprise twist in court politics, he committed suicide in the following year.
- *William Paulet, William, 4th marquess of Winchester*: Notably feeble-minded, and utterly dependent on his very capable wife (a niece of the powerful secretary of state, Sir Robert Cecil), Winchester was England's most senior peer in the closing years of Elizabeth I's reign, yet quite incapable of participating in public life. His prospects further constrained by his Catholic leanings and intractable debts, he rarely appeared at court, and mostly absented himself from Parliament. As one contemporary noted, Winchester was 'as sufficient a nobleman as none of them all'.
- *Somerset, Edward, 4th earl of Worcester*: One of the few Catholic peers to enjoy success at the Elizabethan court, Somerset was reputedly the finest horseman of his day, and a man of notable charm and discretion. Initially a supporter of his kinsman, the 2nd earl of Essex, he had defected to the Cecil faction by 1601, and was briefly held hostage during Essex's rebellion. Subsequently appointed master of the horse and a privy councillor by Elizabeth I, he became lord privy seal in 1616, and remained a senior government figure until his death.
- *John Still, bishop of Bath and Wells*: A distinguished Cambridge academic, master of St John's and Trinity colleges, and Lady Margaret professor of divinity, Still was noted as a staunch opponent of presbyterianism. Despite this, he was not well-liked by Archbishop Whitgift, and probably needed the backing of a former pupil, the 2nd earl of Essex, in order to become a

bishop in 1593. Once settled in Somerset, he grew rich on the profits of the lead mines on his estates, and turned down the chance of translation to Ely in 1599.

- *Edward Sutton, 5th Lord Dudley*: A well-connected but comparatively impoverished peer, Sutton spent much of his early career feuding with a Staffordshire neighbour, and also offended the queen by abandoning his aristocratic wife in favour of the daughter of a Dudley collier. Briefly imprisoned in 1597 for withholding his wife's maintenance payments, he was also accused that year of electoral corruption, after helping his brother become a Staffordshire knight of the shire. In later life he became an innovative industrialist, but died with all his property in the hands of his principal creditor.
  - *William Parr, marquess of Northampton*: Brother of Henry VIII's last queen, Catherine Parr, Northampton was restored to favour on Elizabeth's accession, having been stripped of his land and titles under Mary. Though something of a mediocrity, his seniority made him a member of the queen's inner circle of councillors. In his late fifties he married for the third time, taking as his wife a young Swedish girl on whom, Colonel Brandon-like, he doted. However, he died only months later, by which time he was so impoverished that the queen had to pay for his funeral.
  - *Robert Rich, 2nd Lord Rich*: The eldest son of a former Lord Chancellor who enriched himself on the back of the Dissolution of the Monasteries, Rich was a radical Protestant and a thorn in the side of his diocesan, Bishop Aylmer of London. He twice served abroad on special diplomatic missions – in 1572 he had to cut short his attendance in Parliament in consequence – and was briefly a volunteer in Ireland under Walter Devereux, 1st earl of Essex.
  - *Henry Wentworth, 3rd Lord Wentworth*: A second son, Wentworth succeeded unexpectedly to his father's lands, title and patent for concealed lands. Perennially short of money, he encouraged his tenants in Stepney and Hackney to exchange their copyholds for leaseholds. In so doing, he not only badly needed additional income from entry fines but also unwittingly kick-started the commercial and industrial development of East London. He sat in three Parliaments, in one of which he may have reneged on an agreement with his tenants to introduce legislation protecting their interests.
  - *Gilbert Berkeley, bishop of Bath and Wells*: the first Protestant bishop of his diocese since Edward VI's reign, Berkeley was a former monk who claimed to be related to the lords Berkeley, though his origins were actually humble and obscure. Berkeley found his diocese in disarray and struggled to repair its finances. He sat in three Parliaments, but illness prevented him from taking his seat during the final (1581) session of the 1572 Parliament.
  - *Thomas Wentworth, 2nd Lord Wentworth*: Known to posterity as the man who surrendered Calais to the French, Wentworth was cleared of all responsibility for the disaster on his return to England in 1559. A convinced Protestant, Wentworth prospered under the new queen, being granted a lucrative patent for the discovery of 'concealed' lands, and in 1582 his eldest son married one of the daughters of Elizabeth's chief ministers, Lord Burghley, with whom he had studied at Cambridge. However, the young couple died shortly thereafter, as did Wentworth himself.
16. The project is also compiling a resource which provides a framework to pull together the various sources which collectively provide evidence of the Lords' proceedings. The resource will flesh out proceedings in the Lords by integrating the sparse outline of the Lords Journal with material from elsewhere, including the Commons' Journal, D'Ewes's *Journals of all the Parliaments*, T.E. Hartley's *Proceedings in the Parliaments of Elizabeth I*, and various other printed and manuscript sources. When finished, it will result in a single, easily searchable database which gives the fullest possible picture of activities in the Lords, which will permit more effective analysis of that source material, both by us and other interested scholars, and provide an easily searchable repository of all the raw parliamentary data which underpins the biographies.

17. The project provided 12 blogs over the year, including 'England's Return to Protestantism, 1559' 'The Great Survivor: Henry Howard, Earl of Northampton, 1540-1614'; 'Three degrees of separation: alternatives to divorce in early modern England'; 'What did the Elizabethan House of Lords look like?'; 'Edward, Lord Stafford and the 1621 parliamentary protections scandal'; 'The post-Reformation campaign against Cheapside Cross'; 'Did they marry? Lady Katherine Grey and Edward Seymour, earl of Hertford'; 'What price a peerage? John Roper and the Jacobean trade in titles and offices'; 'Henry Clinton, earl of Lincoln: a peer governed by the underworld?'; 'Commemorating same-sex desire in early modern England'; 'The Murder of Sir Thomas Overbury, 1613'; 'Disability at Court in Early Modern England'.
18. In October a doctoral student, Emma Hartley, commenced work on her PhD as a collaborative doctoral project between the University of Sheffield and the History of Parliament. Her project is concerned with the bishops and parliamentary legislation between 1558 and 1642.

### **The House of Lords 1715-1790**

19. This project began in 2016 after the completion of *The History of Parliament: the House of Lords 1660-1715*. The project staff are Robin Eagles (editor), Stuart Handley and Charles Littleton. There are 928 articles to be written. 73 of them were completed in 2021-22 (five of them by external contributors), with a total of over 215,000 words; 630 articles remain to be written.

20. Among the articles completed this year were:

- *Willoughby Bertie, 3rd earl of Abingdon*: Abingdon's career was in stark contrast to that of his predecessor, who had been a major parliamentary figure. He attended the Lords infrequently, was snubbed by the city of Oxford in not being elected high steward, and struggled to maintain the family interest at Westbury. Then his family seat burned down, killing his heir. When he died, he left nine children, all of them underage.
- *Fulwar Craven, 4th Baron Craven*: Craven was associated with the Jacobite wing of the Tory party, but rarely bothered to attend the Lords. His principal interests were racing and hunting and he also made a failed attempt to create a new spa at Prestbury to rival Cheltenham.
- *George Henry Lee, 3rd earl of Lichfield*: Lichfield began his career as a prominent Jacobite but following the accession of George III fell into line as a supporter of the Court, was made a gentleman of the bedchamber and captain of the gentlemen pensioners. He was prominent in Oxford as one of the leading Tories there and was ultimately elected chancellor of the university. He was a target of John Wilkes's newspaper the North Briton, in which he was lampooned for his Jacobitism.
- *Thomas Lumley Saunderson, 3rd earl of Scarbrough*: Soldier and diplomat, Scarbrough succeeded to the peerage after his brother's suicide, having previously been denied elevation to the Lords after inheriting Lord Castleton's estates. A prominent member of the Prince of Wales's opposition grouping, he held office in the prince's household and only outlived his master by a year.
- *William Villiers, 3rd earl of Jersey*: Jersey was normally a reliable government vote in the Lords, though he was willing to rebel on specific measures. Appointed to the Prince of Wales's household, when Prince Frederick went into opposition, Jersey quit his post and was rewarded with a place in the king's bedchamber instead. His final years were dominated by ill health and an embarrassing scandal involving the musician, Ann Ford, details of which were splashed all over the press.
- *James Waldegrave, 2nd Earl Waldegrave*: Waldegrave was a particular favourite of George II, appointed to the bedchamber soon after inheriting the peerage and later made governor to the Prince of Wales. In the summer of 1757, he was briefly put at the head of a new

administration but was unable to rally enough support for it. His death from smallpox early in George III's reign was widely believed to have robbed the Court of an influential political broker. He left a series of well-known memoirs offering detailed analysis of the politics of the 1750s.

- *Francis Godolphin, 2nd earl of Godolphin*: the son of a lord treasurer and son-in-law of the duke of Marlborough, he sat in the Commons while under-age and achieved Court office under Queen Anne. He continued in Court office under George I, reached the Cabinet and served as lord privy seal. However, he spent as little time as possible in Parliament, eventually attending the House of Lords only on vital occasions. As time went on he spent increasing amounts of time at Newmarket.
- *White Kennett, bishop of Peterborough*: a talented preacher and historian, who was rewarded, eventually, for his engagement in polemic with Tory opponents, such as Bishop Atterbury of Rochester. His papers reveal a range of interventions in the Lords, particularly on matters pertaining to the Catholic threat and to trade. A difficult relationship with both Walpole and Walpole's manager of the Church, Bishop Gibson precluded his further promotion.
- *Robert Hampden Trevor, 4th Baron Trevor and Viscount Hampden*: eldest son of a second marriage, who made his way up in the world from clerk and diplomatic secretary, to ambassador, Irish revenue commissioner and postmaster-general. Having changed his name to Hampden after inheriting the family estates, he succeeded to the Trevor barony. Originally close to the duke of Newcastle, he was an opponent of the Rockingham ministry and its policy of repealing the Stamp Act and close to George Grenville. Following the death of Newcastle and Grenville, he gravitated more towards the Court and was later created Viscount Hampden.
- *Nathaniel Booth, Baron Delamer*: Delamer inherited the barony, but not the associated estate, of his cousin the 2nd earl of Warrington in 1758. He was not entirely landless, but had to rely on a government pension, which he earned by working as the chairman of committees. Between 1765 and 1770 he reported from 147 Committees of the Whole House, and was a leading chairman of select committees, with 224 reports.
- *George Keppel, 3rd earl of Albemarle*: Albemarle was a favourite of the duke of Cumberland and of George II and reached the pinnacle of his military career with the capture of Havana in 1762, in tandem with his two brothers. In 1765 he assisted Cumberland in early negotiations for the Whig ministry, and from that point was a leading member of the Rockingham Whigs, valued especially as an intermediary with the duke of Bedford, whose heir had married Albemarle's sister.
- *Evelyn Pierrepont, 2nd duke of Kingston*: Kingston succeeded as a minor and his guardians managed the estate so well that upon coming of age he was one of the richest landowners in England. He preferred a private life in Nottinghamshire than a public career and rarely attended the House. He is most famous for his marriage to the maid of honour Elizabeth Chudleigh, which three years after his death the House determined had been bigamous.
- *Henry Willoughby, 12th Baron Willoughby of Parham*: Henry Willoughby was at the heart of a celebrated peerage claim. In 1767 the House determined that Willoughby and his ancestors were the de jure Barons Willoughby of Parham. In contrast the branch of the Willoughbys which had held the title since 1680 were deemed retrospectively to have held a separate and distinct barony, also named Willoughby of Parham, created by a writ of summons issued erroneously.
- *George Anson, George*: Anson probably owed his early promotion in the Navy to his uncle, the earl of Macclesfield. He became a celebrity in his own right following his circumnavigation of the globe and made a fortune from seizing a Spanish treasure ship. He was elevated to the peerage as a reward for his defeat of the French at Cape Finisterre. Thereafter he remained active in the Navy, becoming first lord of the Admiralty and commander in chief of the fleet.



- *James Graham, duke of Montrose*: Montrose was a commanding presence in Scottish politics in rivalry with the Campbell brothers (Argyll and Ilay). At the accession of George I he appointed secretary of state, and he continued to hold a series of important offices until 1733 when he went into opposition. After 1734 he was out of chamber after failing to be re-elected a Scots representative peer, but remained an influential figure beyond Westminster.
- *Samuel Squire, bishop of St Davids*: As well as a clergyman, Squire was also a constitutional historian, who wrote on the central importance of the 'Glorious Revolution' in restoring English freedoms. He was a staunch Whig, closely associated with the duke of Newcastle, who was his principal patron. His eventual promotion to the bench in 1761 as bishop of St Davids came after many years of petitioning for promotion. He only held the post for five years before his death in 1766.
- *William Seton Hatton, 2nd Viscount Hatton*: Hatton was a rare presence in the Lords – there was an entire decade between 1732 and 1742 when he failed to turn out at all. He was more usually found worrying about his health or indulging in hunting and his greatest activity surrounded local disputes with neighbours in Northamptonshire. Although noted a 'Hanoverian Tory' he may have flirted with Jacobitism, and was certainly noted in company with some prominent Jacobites during his travels overseas.
- *Richard Lumley, 2nd earl of Scarbrough*: A friend of the earl of Chesterfield and close associate of the Prince of Wales (later George II) he was the first person to be appointed master of the horse since the duke of Somerset under Queen Anne and was lobbied by both government and opposition alike. Even after drifting towards the opposition, he remained on good terms at Court and with key members of the administration. He appears to have struggled with depression throughout his career and ultimately took his own life.
- *Spencer Compton, earl of Wilmington*: The only Whig in a family of Tories, Wilmington was very briefly Prime Minister following the fall of Walpole in 1742. Much more significant was his lengthy career at the centre of events following a significant term as Speaker of the Commons. Once close to Walpole, the two fell out following the redistribution of offices in 1721 but as a favourite of George II Wilmington remained a significant player and nearly replaced Walpole in 1727. Having missed his chance he went to the Lords, and remained an important factional leader within the ministry offering tacit support to the opposition. By the time he became caretaker premier he was in poor health and had little influence over the ministry.
- *Herbert Windsor, 2nd Viscount Windsor*: Windsor had been an MP on the family interest in Cardiff before succeeding to the peerage. Like his father he was a Tory and a consistent member of the opposition, but his attendance of the Lords was rarely particularly frequent. He died without male heirs and made an unusual stipulation in his will requiring neither of his daughters marry Scots or Irish husbands. In spite of this, his elder daughter married the earl of Bute, later promoted to a marquessate and the ultimate inheritor of Windsor's Welsh estates.
- *William Johnston, marquess of Annandale* [S]: a prominent Scottish office-holder and commissioner of the general Assembly of the Church of Scotland, he served as lord privy seal [S] following the Hanoverian Succession until his death. He supported the appeal to the king for clemency for the six condemned Jacobite peers, but supported the ministry over the septennial bill and the impeachment of Oxford.
- *Charles Bennet, 3rd earl of Tankerville*: From his succession in 1753 Tankerville constantly solicited for remunerative office, or the green ribbon of the Order of the Thistle. The duke of Newcastle only conceded so far as to provide him with £800 p.a., which was later supplemented by Tankerville's inheritance through distant kin of estates in Virginia. Tankerville was not an active member of the House and, in constant ill health, was out of England itself for much of 1758-64 and succumbed to his illness in 1767.

- *William Bentinck, 2nd duke of Portland*: In 1734 Portland married Margaret Cavendish Harley, sole heiress of the 2nd earl of Oxford. Portland was content to support his wife in her collecting activities at his seat of Bulstrode Park, while he threw himself into philanthropy in the capital. In the House he was a frequent reporter from select committees, but when he moved for the address of thanks in 1739 he confused his audience by inadvertently skipping two pages of his speech.
  - *Thomas Howard, 6th Baron Howard of Effingham*: Despite having lands in Kent and Sussex, Howard of Effingham was considered a 'necessitous' peer and was granted £800 p.a. His cousin the duke of Newcastle declined to reward him with a place at Court because he felt he was 'so low amongst us in the House of Lords that I fear it would not be a great credit to us'.
  - *Thomas Howard, 2nd earl of Effingham*: Effingham, like his father, was both a military officer and deputy earl marshal, and remained largely uninvolved in the House. He suffered embarrassing mishaps in both his roles. In 1756 he signed the orders of the Council-of-War which prevented the relief of the Minorca garrison. In September 1761 he mishandled George III's coronation so badly that he could only insist to the young king that he would handle matters better at the next coronation.
  - *Edward Henry Rich, 7th earl of Warwick and 4th earl of Holland*: Warwick inherited his title at three years old and, after the Kit-Kat Whig Joseph Addison became his step-father in 1717, great expectations were invested for the moment he would reach his majority. Despite Addison's oversight, however, Warwick had a reputation for debauchery, which was both augmented and cut short by his death at age 23 after drinking too copiously following a swim in the Thames.
  - *Edward Rich, 8th earl of Warwick and 5th earl of Holland*: In 1721 Warwick inherited only the titles, with no land, from his second cousin, and remained reliant on a pension of £800 p.a. He more than earned this, though, as between 1734 and 1757 he was the House's principal chairman of committees, and for close to 25 years chaired almost every Committee of the Whole House, and a majority of select committees, the longest tenure in this role of any lord in the period.
21. The project also contributed 18 blogs to the History's output, most of them to the 'Georgian Lords' stream of the History's blog. They included: 'Seven jobs for seven brothers'; 'Female Dukes'; 'Sir Spencer Compton, Speaker of the House of Commons 1715-1727'; 'Death of a Queen: the tragic end of Caroline of Ansbach'; 'Pretending to be a Peer? The unlikely Lord Griffin and the Convention of January 1689'; 'Comings and Goings: the other houses of Downing Street'; 'The First British Royal Consort: Prince George of Denmark, duke of Cumberland'; 'A family affair? Sir Robert Walpole and the 'Robinocracy', 1721-1742'; 'Adapting the chambers of Parliament: from the galleries of the 18th-century Lords to the division lobbies of the 19th-century Commons' (co-written with Kathryn Rix); 'Lymington from Restoration to Reform'; 'Richard Lumley, 2nd earl of Scarbrough; 'Honours in the early 18th century'; 'Behind the scenes of "the Hellfire Club"'; 'Holidays by the sea in the 18th century'; 'William Augustus, duke of Cumberland, "the real Prime Minister" and "the strangest cabinet in British history"'.
22. The project continues its support of a doctoral student, Helen Wilson, through a collaborative doctoral award in conjunction with the Open University, now in its second year. Her project concerns the BAME presence in British politics, 1750-1850.

### **Contemporary History**

23. The oral history project was begun in 2011 to record 'life story' interviews with as many former members of Parliament as possible. By the end of 2021-22, we had completed 183 interviews, of

which 180 have now been deposited with our partners in the project, the British Library. Having been unable to do so during the COVID-19 pandemic, we returned to in-person interviews of former Members of Parliament in January 2022, on the basis of protocols designed to ensure the safety of interviewer and interviewee. Between then and the end of 2021-22 our volunteers completed three interviews and began four more (most interviews consist of more than one session: some require multiple sessions).

24. The project is now managed by Emma Peplow, who returned from maternity leave in March to the new post of Head of Oral History, and Emme Ledgerwood, who covered Emma's maternity leave, and will continue to work with us as Oral History coordinator. We have renamed the project as our 'Contemporary History' project.
25. Some follow-up interviews were conducted remotely by telephone or in person as part of a collaboration with the petitioning project at Durham University (see below, para. 00). As the oral history project returns to in-person interviewing, some general questions about petitioning have been added to the Trust's schedule of questions.
26. An online training session for 12 new volunteers was delivered by the Oral History Society at the end of September. The new cohort includes a number of volunteers with previous oral history experience. There is also the promise of extending the geographical reach of the project since one is located in Leicester, one in Stockport and another in Edinburgh. We have continued our practice, developed during the period when we were unable to undertake interviews, of holding regular online seminars with our volunteers; and we have been holding one-to-one sessions with our new volunteer interviewers on using our recording equipment. We have purchased extra equipment to allow more interviews to be conducted concurrently (one recorder and seven lapel microphones).
27. A collaborative doctoral project with the University of Keele and the University of Manchester began in October 2021. Katy Tanner's PhD research, 'A manly place? The experiences of female MPs at Westminster, 1970-2010', will use the project's archive of interviews and is expected to contribute more interviews to our collection.
28. Our oral history team have contributed several articles for our blogs, including accounts of the impact of membership of parliament on the marriages of MPs; MPs' memories of childhood summer holidays; women speakers and deputy speakers; and the battles over bills concerning animal welfare.

### ***Reformation to Referendum***

29. In 2017 The History's Director, Paul Seaward, was awarded a three-year British Academy / Wolfson Foundation Research Professorship to work on a project entitled 'Reformation to Referendum', exploring the history of the English/British/United Kingdom parliament in a new way, as not simply a political body, but an institution that has been deeply interwoven into the country's life, culture and government, over the period between the Reformation in the sixteenth century and the 2016 Referendum. The period of the professorship came to an end at the end of 2020. During the three years, he has researched and planned and written a good deal of the book which will be the main result of the project. Work on the project continues, although much more slowly.

30. Some of the key themes of the research have also been developed through a series of articles on the project blog: two blogs were published during the year, on 'Lies, personalities and unparliamentary expressions'; and on 'Paid advocacy and the resolution of 1695'.

## DISSEMINATION

31. Last year were published *The History of Parliament: The House of Commons 1422-1461*, *The History of Parliament: the House of Lords 1604-1629*, and *The Political Lives of post-war British MPs*. We were able, finally, to mark the publication of the first two landmark sets in the History's main series at a reception in Speaker's House in October 2021, at which the Speaker, our former Trustee, Rt. Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP, was presented with the volumes.
32. The next publication will be *The House of Commons 1640-1660*. In November we appointed Boydell and Brewer Ltd. as our publishers, following a tender exercise which was supported by parliamentary procurement staff. Over the course of the year a system was built that automatically brings the more than two thousand documents in microsoft word that contain the biographies and constituency articles into our online Drupal database. We also started to work on extracting the XML from the database into InDesign typesetting software to provide page images for ultimate delivery to the publishers. This will be our longest publication yet, coming to nine printed volumes. Publication is planned for early in the financial year 2023-24.

### ***The History of Parliament Online***

33. Work on rebuilding the History of Parliament's website, integrating the new sections (including recent House of Lords sections) and migrating the site from various different versions of the Drupal programme into the latest, Drupal 9, has had to be put to one side while we work on the 1640-1660 publication, although much of the development work involved in the latter project will help to solve the remaining problems with the migration project. The work entails fixing a number of problems that have arisen from the site's incremental development over the last few years, and an opportunity is being taken to present the data in a more granular way that will enable it to be interrogated by researchers much more deeply than at present. The number of visitors to the website was static and usage declined slightly, with around 358,000 users and 1.16 million page views in 2021-22, compared to around 357,000 users and 1.25 million page views in 2020-21. This is similar to the picture we have seen in our social media statistics. It may suggest some post-COVID decline in usage after increases during the pandemic; or other factors may be relevant. We would expect some increase after the rebuild is complete, including the addition of the new sets, published since 2010. We will continue to monitor the website statistics closely.
34. The History also hosts a small site, [membersafter1832.historyofparliamentonline.org](https://membersafter1832.historyofparliamentonline.org), initially built as a collaboration between the History and the Parliamentary Digital Service, and the House of Commons Library. The site is based on the database created originally by Professor Michael Rush from the University of Exeter and is kept up to date by staff of the House of Commons Library. During the year, work was undertaken on adding another separate site to provide a permanent home for the database created by Sir David Beamish, the former Clerk of the Parliaments, of peerage creations since 1800. The site is now available online at <https://peerages.historyofparliamentonline.org/>.
35. In addition, the History is a founding partner of the online library of digital resources developed by the Institute of Historical Research, British History Online.

36. The History's blogging and social media activity is dealt with below, as an aspect of our programme of public engagement.

## **DEVELOPMENT**

37. The History's detailed knowledge of the history of British politics is much sought after and shared through a number of collaborations with universities in the UK and abroad. These have largely taken the form of Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) Collaborative Doctoral Awards (CDAs), although the History is also involved in projects funded by major grants from the Research Councils and other grant-giving bodies. Such projects offer the History ways of enriching, developing and promoting and extending the reach of its own work in engagement with other scholars.

### ***Collaborative doctoral awards***

38. In these, a university provides funding, supervision and support for a PhD project; the History offers a co-supervisor and the opportunity for the student to be involved in the History's activities. Universities need to bid for funding for these in partnership with an external institution through the university consortia that hold the funding. The History has participated in three successful bids for collaborative doctoral projects:

- Robin Eagles is joint supervisor with Amanda Goodrich of the Open University of a PhD Studentship on 'The Black and Mixed Ethnicity Presence in British Politics, 1750-1850', one aim of which is to create a database of BAME people who are known to have participated in politics during the period. Helen Wilson was selected for the studentship and the project began in October 2020.
- Emma Peplow is joint supervisor with Helen Parr of Keele University (a member of the History's Editorial Board) and Charlotte Wildman of Manchester University of a studentship on ' "A Manly Place"?: The experiences of female MPs at Westminster, 1970-2010'. Katy Tanner has been selected for the studentship and the project began in October 2021.
- Paul Seaward is joint supervisor with Anthony Milton of Sheffield University for a studentship on 'Bishops and the English Parliament c. 1558-1642'. The project will be carried out in conjunction with the current House of Lords 1558-1601 project and any potential successor project to the House of Commons 1640-60. Emma Hartley was selected for the studentship and the project began in October 2021.

### ***Project collaborations***

39. The History is involved in a number of collaborations as a partner institution or co-applicant. Involvement normally means participation in the projects' respective advisory boards and offering advice and occasional assistance where required. Current collaborations underway involving the History are:

- Oxford University: '*Recovering Europe's Parliamentary Culture, 1500-1700: A New Approach to Representative Institutions*', funded by the University's internal research fund, is an interdisciplinary project concerned with the intellectual, literary, archival and material cultures of parliaments across early modern Europe. It will commence in September. The principal investigator is Paulina Kewes, at Oxford University. Paul Seaward is a co-investigator, along with Steve Gunn, Tracey Sowerby, Dorota Pietrzyk-Reeves (Jagellonian University, Krakow) and Joris Oddens (REPUBLIC project, Huygens ING Institute, Royal Netherlands Academy).
- Durham University: the AHRC-funded '*Petitioning and People Power in Twentieth-Century Britain*' project, commenced in August 2020 and runs until July 2023 with Dr Richard Huzzey

as principal investigator. The History is providing assistance through its oral history collection, and undertaking further interviews.

- Newcastle University: the AHRC funded '*Eighteenth-Century Political Participation and Electoral Culture (ECPPEC)*', led by Matthew Grenby as principal investigator, started on 1 January 2020 and is ongoing. The History is contributing principally through the expertise of its eighteenth century House of Lords project.
- Exeter University and York University: the Leverhulme funded project '*Parliamentary Empire: British Democracy and Settler Colonialism, c.1867-1939*', commenced in September 2021. It is led by David Thackeray (University of Exeter) and Amanda Behm (York). The HOP is a partner institution.
- University of East Anglia and Leeds Beckett University: the AHRC follow-on bid for '*The Letters of Richard Cobden (1804-65) Online: an exploration in active citizenship*', led by Anthony Howe & Simon Morgan (UEA) and Helen Dampier (Leeds Beckett) was approved earlier this year. The History is providing support through its public engagement activities.

40. Another potential partnership is under discussion with Durham University.

41. The History continues to be a founder member institution of the network of European Parliamentary Historians, EuParl.net. Partners besides the History include the Centrum voor Parlementaire Geschiedenis at the University of Nijmegen and the Kommission für Geschichte des Parlamentarismus und der Politischen Parteien (Commission for the History of Parliamentarism and political parties), which is funded by and works closely with the German Bundestag; the Institute of Contemporary History in Prague; the University of Jyväskylä in Finland, and the Comité d'histoire parlementaire et politique in France.

### **St James's House**

42. The History's relationship with the public relations and publishing company St James's House dates back to 2013, and is based around the production of a series of books on themes to do with the history of the British parliament and parliamentary politics. The history contributes the main text, usually written partly in-house and partly by external contributors; St James's House sell to companies and organisations the opportunity to contribute text about their own activities and achievements, and the two elements are combined in a well-produced and highly illustrated volume which the company distributes widely and promotes through a launch in a central London location. The History receives from St James's House a regular fee for its collaboration, and, under the current and previous contracts, a royalty on advertising sales over a defined threshold. The History also receives copies of a paperback version of each book, without the advertising. We have been selling some of these through the parliamentary bookshop and other outlets.

43. In September 2021 we published the latest in the series, a book marking the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sir Robert Walpole's appointment as First Lord of the Treasury, commonly taken to be the origin of the position of prime minister. The text on prime ministers and political leadership was written by History of Parliament staff and others, and edited by Stephen Roberts and Paul Seaward. The book was launched at a large reception at Westminster Abbey.

44. During the year, St James's House approached us seeking a renewal of the contract we hold with them, which expires in September 2023. As part of the process, we asked St James's House to review the royalties due under our previous contracts, and agreed with them that the substantial amount due mostly from the 2021 publication would be paid in instalments over almost three

years. Negotiations for the new contract were completed in the 2022-23 financial year. The new contract offers an increased fee to the History, though without royalties.

## **ENGAGEMENT**

45. The History's programme of public and academic engagement activities, managed by our Public Engagement manager Sammy Sturgess and Public Engagement Assistant Connie Jeffery, continued to be disrupted by the COVID-19 Pandemic. As with other organisations, though, much activity has moved online, and we have been pleased with the number of people attending some of our events, including many who would even in normal times have found it difficult to do so. Our social media activity has remained strong, and the team has been busy developing a collection of videos freely available to the public for teaching and learning.
46. Sammy Sturgess left us in late 2021, and Connie Jeffery took over managing the programme as Public Engagement Officer. In early 2022 we conducted a review of the public engagement strategy agreed by the Trustees in September 2020, outlining some possible ways in which our engagement could be developed, including seeking partners to develop a parliamentary history festival and other events. We will be working further on these in the coming months and years.

### ***Academic, university and professional engagement***

47. The History has continued its regular competition for the best undergraduate dissertation on British and Irish political and parliamentary history. The 2020 prize was awarded to Henry Townsend, a student then at the University of York, for his accomplished dissertation on 'A Transatlantic Perspective on the Merchants Trading between Britain and North America and their Efforts to Influence Parliament during the British Atlantic Imperial Crisis, c.1765-1775'. Because of COVID restrictions we were unable to award the prize at a History of Parliament event, but we intend to do so when conditions allow.
48. We are involved in two teaching university courses. The History of Parliament is a partner heritage institution on the Sheffield Hallam BA course module 'Communicating History'. In January 2022 Martin Spychal and Kathryn Rix delivered a seminar on 'The History of Parliament and its Audiences', as part of the course. Martin and Kathryn will provide assessment feedback on History of Parliament-focused public engagement scenarios that form part of the students' formal module assessment. Martin has also been working with the University of Buckingham, delivering a 'Political History and Biography' lecture and seminar for 'The Historian at Work' module of its BA History course, and working with the course convener to incorporate History of Parliament blogs and articles into the module reading list. Discussions continue regarding the development of a framework for future engagement with the University of Buckingham.
49. The Parliaments, Politics and People seminar at the Institute of Historical Research is run by a number of the History's staff. Like other IHR seminars, the seminar has continued online in the 2021/22 academic year and has run a full programme. The online format has led to an expansion of the seminar's audience and reach, with the fortnightly sessions now attracting around 70 attendees and is generating extra traffic to the History of Parliament blog.
50. The History's staff continue to interact routinely with the wider academic community, principally through contributions to conferences and seminars and publication in academic history journals. Staff of the History are editors or members of the editorial board of a large number of journals concerned with British and parliamentary history, or trustees or board members of organisations that deal with these subjects, including the International Commission for the History of

Representative and Parliamentary Institutions, *Parliamentary History* and the Parliamentary History Trust, the Court Studies Society and the journal *Court Studies*, the *London Journal*, the Cromwell Association, the Victoria County History Trust, *Fifteenth Century Studies*, and many others.

### **Social Media, Videos and Podcasts**

51. We have seen a significant decline in engagement on Twitter. There was a small increase in the number of followers. At the end of March 2021 our twitter accounts, @HistParl, @TheVictCommons, and @GeorgianLords, had between them 25,725 followers. At the end of March 2022 they had 26,701. But Twitter impressions decreased from 11.6 million in 2020-21 to 7.88 million in 2021-22. The reasons for this are difficult to establish: it may be explained by people moving to other platforms, or perhaps an effect related to the pandemic. It does, however, echo the statistics from our website which may suggest other causes. We will, of course, keep an eye on this over 2022-23 and judge whether we need to alter what is now one of our principal means of engaging with a wide audience.
52. A total of 106 blogs were published on the History's three blogs in the course of the year. Most of these were written by the History's own staff, many of them within the five strands covering our various projects – the Commons in the Wars of the Roses; the First Elizabethan Age; James I to Restoration; the Georgian Lords; and the Victorian Commons. Also included are short summaries of the papers delivered to the History's Parliaments, Politics and People seminar, and a few blogs contributed by the Oxford Centre for Intellectual History's series on 'Recovering Europe's Parliamentary Culture, 1500-1700'. There were a further 23 blogs published on the Victorian Commons, the blog of the 1832-68 project, and two on the Reformation to Referendum blog, the blog of Paul Seaward's project. This is rather fewer than we published in 2020-21, partly because we increased our blog numbers during the pandemic. The three blogs between them recorded a total of 155,235 views, down from 195,842 views in 2020-21.
53. Our Youtube channel now contains 28 short films about parliamentarians and parliamentary history. Some of these were prepared through a collaboration with the School of Humanities at Royal Holloway, University of London which began in 2019-20. Staff capacity, after the departure of Sammy Sturgess, and capacity at our collaborators Royal Holloway have limited the number of videos we have been able to upload this year: we published six, including videos on Constance Markiewicz, on Margaret Wintringham, on George I's ability to speak English, and 'parliamentary leadership' videos on Sir Robert Walpole, Pitts the elder and younger, and Robert Cecil, Earl of Salisbury. We are though in discussions with Royal Holloway about further videos, and we have taken further our experiments with podcasting, with staff completing training, and with a series of podcasts now under production in 2022-23.

### **Events**

54. COVID-19 restrictions, or limited services in parliament continued to restrict our capacity to undertake events or much of the year; but we were able to hold some in-person events, and we continued to hold some well-attended online events. Our events, or those in which the History of Parliament was substantially involved, included:
  - April: The online launch of the House of Lords, 1604-1629 volumes in April (70 attendees)
  - June: An event hosted by the British Academy as part of its 'Summer Showcase' series, in which Paul Seaward and Jessica Taylor, House of Commons photographer, discussed



illustrations and photographs of the House of Commons in session (80 attendees; c. 260 views on Youtube)

- September: A Pride Month event on the Aftermath of the 1967 Sexual Offences Act in collaboration with Parliament's Visitor Services and Goldsmiths Centre for Queer History, with Dr Justin Bengry, Professor Matt Cook, Dr Jane Traies and Gregan Crawford (c. 50 attendees).
- September: Bath 250 conference in collaboration with the National Trust, University of Liverpool and Bath Assembly Rooms, in person and online.
- November: UK Parliament week online event: Paul Seaward in conversation with Chris Bryant MP on writing histories of Parliament (40 attendees)
- December: online event to mark the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the House of Lords Standing Orders and the Committee of Privileges, with House of Lords clerk Chris Johnson, Baroness McIntosh of Hudnall, David Prior from the Parliamentary Archives and Dr Andrew Thrush (49 attendees).

## VALUE REPORT

55. The 2020 Internal Audit Report on the History of Parliament Trust recommended that the Trust should 'explore ways to measure and demonstrate the academic and cultural value of its output and communicates findings to the budget holders in the two Houses on at least an annual basis'. A comprehensive report was produced in 2021 defining and assessing the 'academic and cultural value' of the History. This was designed to provide a basis for incorporating such an assessment into the History's routine reporting.

56. The 2021 report summarised the History's value as:

- One of a small number of projects that form **the key infrastructure/ecosystem** of British historical knowledge and understanding. As well as the History, they include the Dictionary of National Biography (now the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, or ODNB) and the Victoria History of the Counties of England (VCH). These are now supplemented by a growing number of smaller online database resources such as the Clergy of the Church of England, or the Legacies of British Slave ownership.
- The History goes beyond this **to provide fresh and high-quality contributions to our knowledge and interpretations of British parliamentary, political and social history**. Some of this is evident in the Introductory surveys to our publications, or the works we have published which have been closely based on our research. This contribution to the broader interpretation of political history also emerges through the History's several blogs, which constitute a large and growing resource, now often cited by other blogs, in undergraduate reading lists and in other academic work, and through works by individual researchers as academic books and journal articles.
- Beyond writing and publication, the **expertise** and background knowledge of the History's staff concerning parliament, political life, and the lives of the British political and social elite is deployed in cutting-edge engagements with academic history and other disciplines, working in partnership with scholars and universities world-wide; in the provision of advice to parliament and to other institutions and organisations; in responding to queries from the public and in regular contributions to the UK and foreign media.

57. Below we provide a series of updates on the information provided in the 2020 report on these three areas.

58. **Infrastructure:**

- Anne Curry's review of *The History of Parliament: the House of Commons 1422-1461* (*Parliamentary History*, 40, 3 (2021)) is the first to appear of the latest set of House of Commons volumes. It asserts that 'There is absolutely no doubt that in terms of comprehensiveness Dr Clark and her colleagues have produced an exceptionally valuable, indeed wholly indispensable, work. The thoroughness of this research is evident from the 23 pages listing the archival repositories which the team searched, and from which they have drawn such rich fruits. ... The careers of MPs, studied to this level of detail, can reveal so much about 'party', 'clientage', and 'connection', both locally and nationally, and as they were understood and affected the politics of their day. But the detail and thoroughness of these new biographies takes us to a new level of information as well as interpretation.
- The easy availability of our previous publications through the History of Parliament online and its value for a wide range of scholars is illustrated in numerous articles published in the recent past. There are far too many of these in publications concerned directly with British politics to list: but among articles which range a little more widely in which the History is cited are, for example: Thomas Kittel, 'Early modern merchant's marks in medieval English Manuscripts' *Renaissance Studies*, 34, 2 (2020); Mark Goldie and Charles-Edouard de Levillain, 'François-Paul de Lisola and English Opposition to Louis XIV', *Historical Journal*, 63, 3 (2020); Nicholas Robbins, 'Atmospheric Regulation in the Panorama', *Grey Room* [journal on aesthetics] 83 (2021);' Newton Key, 'Madam de Bedamore Through the Keyhole: Scandal, Local Knowledge, and Things Unpublished in Late-Stuart England', *Midland History* 46,1 (2021); Karen Auman, '“Give their Service for Nothing”: Bubbles, Corruption, and their Effect on the Founding of Georgia', *Eighteenth Century Studies* 84, 1 (2020); and even "“The Most Formidable Teeth”: Gardening, Collecting, and Violence in Nineteenth Century South-West Western Australia', *Tamkang Review*, 51, 1 (2020). Many more cases could be cited from articles published in 2020 and 2021.
- The History's routine practice of providing draft articles on request to scholars in advance of publication is illustrated in the article by John Gaisford on 'John Ashe, clothier-politician, of Freshford in Somerset (1597–1659)' in *Agricultural History Review* 70, 1, published in June 2022, which makes use of an article on the subject written by Andrew Barclay for the House of Commons 1640-60 section which had been provided to him in draft.
- We are now starting to see our oral history interviews, made available at the British Library, used more frequently in academic and other work, including obituaries written for *The Guardian* (Frank Judd, April 2021, by Julia Langdon), *The Times*, and *The Independent*.

#### 59. Interpretation:

- Professor Anne Curry's review of *The History of Parliament: the House of Commons 1422-1461* (*Parliamentary History*, 40, 3 (2021)) also refers to the History's work in interpreting the past, as well as collecting information about it: 'The "Introductory Survey" is a major contribution to the political history of 15th-century England, giving parliament its true significance as a discrete institution as well as a collection of individuals. This first volume, already fully indexed, surely deserves to be published separately. The set of volumes as a whole is an exceptional scholarly achievement. Wedgwood would surely be proud, as also Roskell, that the torch has been borne forwards so effectively by Dr Clark and her colleagues. In concluding this review, it is both a duty and a delight to thank the History of Parliament Trust and the two houses of parliament for their continuing support of this vital research on past members of parliament.'

- Comments provided in response to our blogs also indicate how our work is seen as providing unusual and valuable perspectives on the periods they cover: @JonParyHis (the Cambridge Historian Professor Jon Parry) tweeted about a Victorian Commons blog on Benjamin Rotch 'Lovely piece: so much going on here'. Such comments can also show how the work is valuable for a variety of audiences: a secondary school Head of History tweeted in January 'The content you put out is just so useful for teachers like me. Please do keep it coming!'; @RaMaelorPolitics (Maelor School, Wrexham) tweeted about our Victorian Commons blog that 'this is an excellent blog about the politics of the 19<sup>th</sup> century'; @markcraill, a writer and researcher on Chartism, who has written *Tracing your Labour Movement Ancestors*, praised an 'excellent and fascinating article' on the blog about secret voting and Harriet Grote; Wentworth Woodhouse, the Yorkshire stately home, welcomed a blog provided concerning the Fitzwilliam family who lived in the house 'our followers will love this information'. One PhD student tweeted about our Georgian Lords blog 'that the work you are doing is amazing. Being a PhD student in 18th century intellectual and political history I find your articles and posts not only greatly interesting and informative but also quite enjoyable! Keep up the good work!' The Georgian Lords twitter account is now even cited on a wikipedia article on eighteenth century socialite and politician Elizabeth Germain. Paul Seaward's blog on budget day was picked up by *The Times* diary in October 2021.

60. **Expertise:** Our engagement activities with universities is described above, under 'Development' and 'Engagement'.

- We answer a large number of routine inquiries from the media, parliamentary organisations, film producers, scholars and members of the public about the subjects of our research and the history of parliament more generally. Over 2021-22 these have included inquiries from the curator's office in the Houses of Parliament on Indian political philosopher and activist Rammohun Roy and his visit to England in 1830-33, from the Parliamentary Archives about Queens and parliament, the ballot act, and many other individual issues.
- History staff have contributed a wide variety of blogs to other, external blogsites: Andrew Thrush has written on the Parliamentary Archives blog; Hannes Kleineke for the Devon and Cornwall Record Society. They take part in external conferences, and have lectured to external audiences: Vivienne Larminie gave a paper at 'Présidence(s) des institutions parlementaires et représentatives (XVe -XXIe siècles)';
- Media appearances have included Paul Seaward talking to BBCR4 Today in Parliament in April on 'Lying in Parliament', and in November to BBC Radio London about the history of the Palace of Westminster; Kathryn Rix's interview on Times Radio in November (Matt Chorley's show), on MPs who fought and died in the First World War was included in The Times Radio daily podcast; Philip Salmon spoke to the Politics Home podcast series about the history of Hansard; Robin Eagles' blogs on Downing Street, its houses and occupants provoked wide interest from the media and others, leading to interviews on BBC Radio Bristol, and comments on the blogs from several including Rhodri Lewis (BBC R4); Charles Littleton contributed an interview to a BBC Reel History segment on 'The 300-year-old fake news that shook royalty' (concerning the 'warming pan baby' allegations surrounding the birth of James Francis Edward Stuart in 1688). Robin Eagles and Stuart Handley have appeared on Iain Dale's podcast in relation to his recent book on *The Prime Ministers*, to which both have contributed.

## **GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE TRUST**

61. Dame Clare Moriarty, the former Permanent Secretary at the Department for Exiting the EU and Chief Executive of Citizens' Advice, took over from Sir Graham Hart at the beginning of the year as Trustee and Treasurer. During the year, the Trustees took a decision to convert the Trust into a Charitable Incorporated Organization under the Charities Act 2013. The process, which involves a review of the charity's objectives and membership, is underway and it is hoped to complete it in the course of the current financial year or next year. There were no changes to the Editorial Board.
62. The administrative team consists of the Director, Paul Seaward, along with the Administrator, Adam Tucker, and Finance Manager, Jonathan Comber. During the year Trustees agreed to appoint a part-time Deputy Director post as one of a package of staff structure and development changes. The new post will be held by one of the existing senior management team, and is expected to be a commitment of one day a week. Early in the 2022-23 financial year Dr Philip Salmon, editor of the 1832-1868 project, was appointed to the post. The other measures included changes in staff progression and development, including provision for a limited scheme to allow staff to devote some time to the completion work of their own that is related to and provides benefit to one of the History's projects.
63. The Trust occupies a building at 18 Bloomsbury Square, London, owned by the Bedford Estates, on a 10-year lease agreed in 2015. Early in the 2021-22 financial year a new tenant moved in to the top floor of the building, vacated by a previous tenant in 2020-21. As COVID-19 restrictions have lifted and working conditions have returned to something closer to normal, it is becoming clear that the pre-existing trend towards working from home has become more marked. With our current lease ending in 2025 we will be considering over the next couple of years how to respond to this change.