

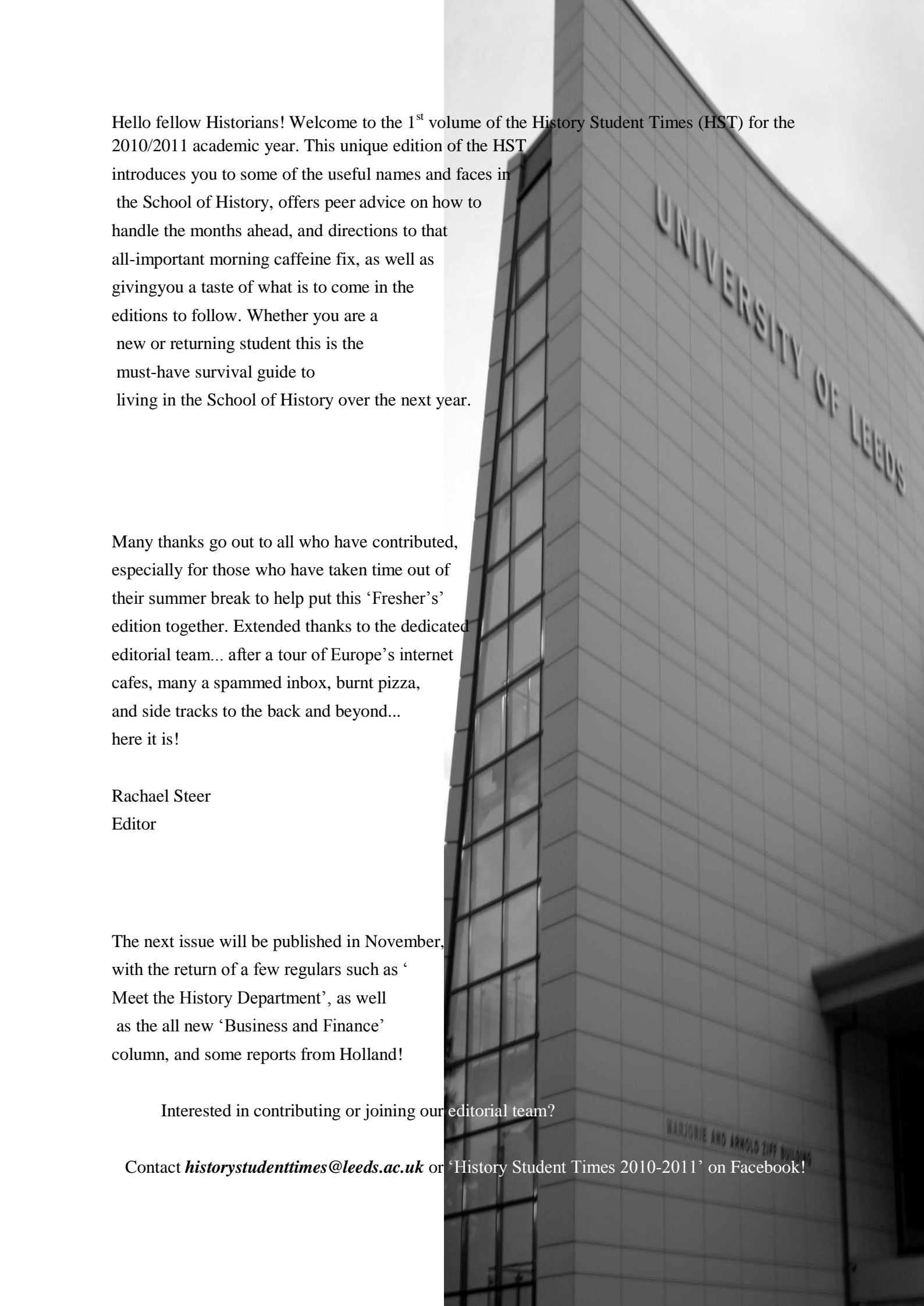


HISTORY STUDENT TIMES

FRESHERS EDITION

SEPTEMBER 2010

HST



Hello fellow Historians! Welcome to the 1st volume of the History Student Times (HST) for the 2010/2011 academic year. This unique edition of the HST introduces you to some of the useful names and faces in the School of History, offers peer advice on how to handle the months ahead, and directions to that all-important morning caffeine fix, as well as giving you a taste of what is to come in the editions to follow. Whether you are a new or returning student this is the must-have survival guide to living in the School of History over the next year.

Many thanks go out to all who have contributed, especially for those who have taken time out of their summer break to help put this 'Fresher's' edition together. Extended thanks to the dedicated editorial team... after a tour of Europe's internet cafes, many a spammed inbox, burnt pizza, and side tracks to the back and beyond... here it is!

Rachael Steer
Editor

The next issue will be published in November, with the return of a few regulars such as 'Meet the History Department', as well as the all new 'Business and Finance' column, and some reports from Holland!

Interested in contributing or joining our editorial team?

Contact historystudenttimes@leeds.ac.uk or 'History Student Times 2010-2011' on Facebook!

Welcome to the School of History!

Congratulations to you for gaining a place at Leeds. We are delighted that you have chosen history as your degree subject, either as a single honours programme, or in one of the joint honours degree schemes. We are convinced that reading and thinking about the past is an absorbing and worthwhile activity that provides purpose to life and helps us to understand who we are. It is a demanding and rewarding subject. Times are difficult and uncertain, but the past is always there!

Just as there are many subjects to study in the history syllabus, so the University offers plenty of scope for developing your talents. There is no one way to be a university student, and we hope that you find, from the various possibilities open to you, one that suits you best.

We believe that you will discover that Leeds is an exciting and interesting city for your university life. It is diverse, with an extensive range of recreational, social, and cultural activities to be enjoyed, and the wider region too is full of riches.

I expect you will find the move from college or school to university to be a big one, in all sorts of ways. The freedom you will have to pursue your own interests is both delicious and exciting. Many of our students have felt that one of their rewarding achievements is their ability to organise their lives for themselves and be much more self-sufficient than they have been in the past.

The road can occasionally be a bumpy one, and we on the staff side sometimes make mistakes, so please get in touch with us if you encounter problems or things go wrong. We want to do our best to help you fulfil your ambitions while you are here.

I wish you an interesting year!

Richard Whiting

Head of School



4 H I S T O R Y H A P P Y H I S T O R Y

Socialise! One thing which will prove most beneficial to you throughout your time here is meeting as many people as possible: students, mentors and tutors. All of these people can help you in some way, from educational help to general advice, or simply having someone to figure out your lecture notes with! Socials are the easiest way to meet others doing history, and shows everyone that you are willing to participate and have fun!

Conquer presentations! One aspect of seminars which I have found to be important are individual or group presentations, as these appear in the majority of history modules throughout your degree and are a great way to build friendships. Many people find these nerve-racking, but once you have mastered the skill of presenting to your peers, high marks can be achieved so make the most of them!

Get involved! Although university is primarily about your education, it is essential to make the most of your time by trying other things too. There are countless numbers of societies, as well as opportunities within the history department such as the intramural sports teams, the History Society and Student Times! Not only will these further your social prospects but will also help to flesh out your C.V. and show that you have varied interests.

Be adventurous! Although your first year will undoubtedly seem like a daunting prospect, I would highly recommend choosing modules outside of your comfort area in history, and even outside history altogether! First year is the perfect time to pursue any curiosity you might have about taking a module in English, Law or anything! You may not get another chance to experiment again so now is the time to experiment.

Cara Grantham 3rd Year IHP



TAKE IT FROM US...

Starting university will be one of the best experiences of your life, with unlimited numbers of social opportunities and a whole new city to explore. But it can also be one of the most challenging; with so many new things happening at once so it's important to be prepared to feel a little out of your depth sometimes.

The biggest challenge that faced me personally was the step up from Sixth Form, so here are a few things to think about to make the transition a bit easier:

A brief glance at a history student's time table can be misleading – our contact hours may be sparse, but you better believe we make up for it in the library! It's important to realise that personal study is expected as soon as teaching begins – no big deal, it just helps if you are prepared to hit the ground running and not to freak out. Initially, the work load can seem daunting, but as the term progresses you'll find a way of managing your time table which suits you, whilst picking up some sneaky time saving methods along the way!

Getting to know the library and understanding how to use it is a crucial part of this process and an essential task for your first few weeks. The library tour arranged by your peer mentors is a great way to get started, so take advantage of their insider knowledge and expertise! Also, asking a neighbour at the end of a seminar or lecture to go in search of books together can be a great way to get to know your course mates as well as getting some work done!

If you are finding anything at all difficult, however, remember your Personal Tutor is on hand to offer advice and reassurance all year round.

Rebecca Bowery, Yr 2 IHP

Preparation in your first year is everything...

When I had my 'Intro to a Seminar' the Postgraduate warned us of books that move in the libraries, cunningly kept hidden. We laughed. It was a joke, right? All I'm going to say is you do start to wonder. . . . Hidden is one thing, unavailable is

another. A good idea would be to get books for essays four or five weeks in advance. Seriously, at two weeks the relevant books have gone, and recalling will not help if the date is past your deadline. Sure, there are journals, but you can't beat a good book! Besides, you don't have to *start* your essay *per se*. . . just the notes!

Deadlines. To save yourself a queue, go to the Michael Sadler before eleven, pre-staple your work and fill in the Declaration Form(s) *before* you go to Michael Sadler. Earn a first-year average of 65 or more and a subsequent place on the Achievement List and your CV will surely stand out.

Preparing beforehand and avoiding that last minute rush will make your first year the more enjoyable. Clubs, societies, debates- you really are in for a treat! Your tutors and lecturers are bound to claim your attention, perhaps even admiration. Speaking of which, I'd recommend you not make any . . . unfavourable impressions. Make your essays count and contribute to class because you never know. . . you might be taught by the same tutor in your second year! Just a thought.

Archana Kapoor

And that doesn't change in second year...

Now that the work counts, it can be daunting! If the first year allows you to find your feet and develop new skills, the second is about building upon those foundations. It is a step up and will be challenging, but can be very rewarding.

The nature of second year modules is different to those like 'The Modern World'. In my experience, they offer a tighter focus and an opportunity to really get your teeth stuck into a theme or period of history. This does come with a need to be enthusiastic about your modules and stay on top of workloads. You will find that you have essay deadlines on the same day so it's important to be firm with yourself when it comes to time management - don't allow yourself to overrun at the expense of another module. With exams and essays, even though they 'count' this year, do still see them as a learning talk to your tutors and take on board their feedback for future exercises.

Most importantly enjoy your modules; it'll make coping with workload pressures far easier. Make the most of lectures and seminars, and, when approaching revision and essay writing, pick the areas that most appeal to you in the module. Basically, have fun with your subject! And Good Luck!

Stephanie Webb, Year 3

MEET THE INTERNS...



I am a third year undergraduate studying International History and Politics here at Leeds, and I have also been appointed the new Induction Intern for 2010-2011. The title of my internship may seem a little vague, but my fundamental role is to help make the transition for new History students as easy and enjoyable as possible. For some of the summer I was cooped up in the office producing copious amounts of photocopies and creating the brand new shiny induction website. As well as helping with the fresher's week admin, my role is to facilitate the Peer Mentoring scheme which basically involves organising and communicating with the second and third year mentors. The other important part of my internship is to collate feedback on induction and Peer Mentoring so that we can continue to improve the important first weeks at Leeds for History students.

Rebecca Viney-Wood

I am a second year History and Economics student, and am this year's Business and Finance Career Group Intern. It is my aim to spread information about careers in these areas and increase your employability. The Business and Finance sectors are important graduate employers. Here are some figures from Highfliers' *The Graduate Market in 2010*:

- The two largest graduate recruiters in 2010 are PricewaterhouseCoopers and Deloitte
- The highest salaries are those on offer at investment banks (average of £38,000)
- Accounting and banking employed 41% of all graduates in 2010.

This research also revealed that the majority of graduate employers market themselves at between 10 and 20 universities. The best news for you? Leeds is one of their Top 10 targets, coming in 8th place. This puts us above the likes of Durham and York.

To receive more information, or to take part in one of our employability skills sessions, join the Portal group, or look it up on Facebook by searching for 'Leeds History Careers Group'.

jh09twp@leeds.ac.uk



Tom Pollard

I am a second year History student. My role as undergraduate recruitment intern is mostly concerned with convincing those who wish to study history or a joint-honours degree including history that Leeds is the place to do it! This involves planning and helping out at open days and other events that promote History at Leeds as well as checking through UCAS forms, providing additions to the newsletter and generally helping the undergraduate admissions office in the School of History.

It is not all work and no play though! I enjoy playing football (for the history society team of course!) and frequenting the 'Three Horseshoes' pub quiz in Headingley (harder than it sounds...). I am looking forward to my role as an intern within the School of History because of my passion for both my subject and Leeds itself.

John Hall

I am a third year History student and I am this year's Research Intern. I shall be helping Kevin Lynch with his project to create a collaborative research module whereby students get to work with staff on their research. While a lot of my work involves an internet search engine, I will persevere to gain opinions of students who, after all, will benefit most from this project. I will be sending out questionnaires and organising focus groups. So when you see those emails asking for input, and you do have opinions or ideas about how undergraduates can be involved in research, then get involved and help shape the project! You do not have to wait for me to email either, if you do have ideas please email me at hy08bs@leeds.ac.uk



Ben Szejka



I am a third year English and History Student, and I am the editor of the History Student Times for this academic year. It is my job to co-ordinate the magazine and ensure the smooth organization of each edition. This year is going to be a busy year for the HST with four editions planned, a tight budget to play with, and a great legacy to maintain. It is my aim to get as many students involved as possible, build a strong editorial team, and make the magazine accessible to all students. I want you to use and enjoy the HST; it is your magazine, you decide what goes in it! For more information on how to get involved contact me at:

historystudenttimes@leeds.ac.uk

Rachael Steer



Hi, I'm Jenny, and I am the Leeds for Life and Alumni Intern. Before I began looking at what my role involved, I hadn't fully appreciated all the different things you can get out of Leeds for Life if you use it to its full potential. It is a brilliant way to hear about new opportunities in a huge variety of areas. It also ensures that your personal tutor has all the information they could possibly want to write a dazzling reference when you begin applying for jobs! Over the next year I want to make sure as many of you as possible understand what can be done through Leeds for Life and really encourage you to make the most of it. Alongside this I will be attempting to establish even stronger links between alumni and current students, encouraging them to make the most of the unique opportunity they have to learn and help one another.

Jenny Lloyd

My role as the International History and Politics (IHP) intern is to try and persuade prospective students to come to Leeds to do this course. They may have already decided on Leeds, and may even have considered many other courses, but my job is to entice them into the world of IHP, even potentially poaching prospective History students into this branch of the History School!

My job mainly involves marketing IHP on Open Days as this is evidently the main time that prospective students visit our university. A friendly and energetic approach to answering questions is key, as well as pointing out the main benefits and differences of IHP. Promoting Leeds as a university, and the benefits it offers, is extremely important. Any questions? I can be contacted on hy08pcf@leeds.ac.uk

Patrick Cook-Fowler



Hey, I'm James, and I'm the new Student Experience Intern. Like the title suggests the goal of this internship is to improve the overall experience of history students. My current project is to get a range of past student essay feedback forms for most modules available on the VLE. This is so that for any given module you will be able to find useful information on how to improve your essay writing. I will also be researching how to improve the workings of the School of History for its students. This will involve think tanks and questionnaires which can be refined into usable data and suggestions. I hope you all have a really good year and if you have any questions about this internship or suggestions you can contact me at hy08j2h@leeds.ac.uk

James Harrington

I am the head of the media and journalism career portal for the School of History. My job is to inform all interested students about this competitive field to help you decide if it is suited to you and, if it is, to help you improve your employability. If you are in any way interested in media and journalism as a possible future I would encourage you to sign up to this career portal which provides links to relevant websites, advertises work experience opportunities and advises you how to get 'the edge'. I warmly invite you to attend the careers fair in week four to get some general information as to employment opportunities for history students. Please sign up for the media and journalism portal, and if you have any further questions or ideas don't hesitate to contact me at jh09kar@leeds.ac.uk.



Katy Roscoe

I am working as the Law Career Intern, and within this role I will be promoting and facilitating students who are interested in working in Law. Throughout the year there will be a number of workshops which will inform and direct students through the process of becoming a qualified solicitor, barrister or para-legal. There will also be an opportunity to gain some work experience, improve your C.V. and receive vital advice from alumni currently working in a career in law. If you are interested please join the law career group or contact me directly at hy08fk@leeds.ac.uk.

Francesca Kinsella

My role is to provide information for those interested in a career in teaching, whether in Primary or Secondary schools, or even Special Educational Needs. I aim to help Leeds History students gain a place on the very competitive teacher training courses. I maintain the Portal and Facebook groups, and will be organising events, often in conjunction with the other Career group interns. These will cover ways of getting into teaching as well as key interview and C.V. writing skills. You can contact me through the Teaching Career Portal group and also through Facebook on the "History Teaching Portal Members" group.

Rachel Brown

MEET THE HISTORY SOCIETY



Hi, I'm Mark Needham and along with Rebecca Stone I am one of the co-presidents of the History Society for this year. I am going into my third year, specialising in the History of European cities for my dissertation project. I have really enjoyed my time here at Leeds and I hope that all you new Fresher's will come to feel the same way.

Being one of the president's means that I have the responsibility for all the exciting socials and talks that we have planned for this coming year, which I hope you will all attend! Everything we do in this first term will be a build-up for our huge and highly successful Christmas Ball in December, which will boast live bands, a full Christmas Dinner and of course lots of drink!

One thing that I'm particularly keen to stress is that both of us are always open to suggestions so don't hesitate to contact either of us at historysociety@leeds.ac.uk and we'll try our best to reply promptly. I really want to make the process by which the Society is run more transparent for all our members and I really want everyone to feel included and not like they have intruded into some form of clique. The History Society is the perfect place to make new life-long friends and we look forward to seeing you in the near future.

Thank you.

James Harrington



Hey I'm James, hope you all had a great summer! I am Treasurer of the History society which basically means I look after the finances. It is my job to make sure the society stays in the black by keeping a record of our income, as well as our expenditure. I try to make sure that members get the most out of their fees as well as looking to pass on any savings we make on to them such as discounts on drinks at our socials. I look forward to seeing you this year at the society and wish you all a great semester.

Jess Denton

Hi, I am Jess, a second year History student at Leeds. I am taking up the position of Secretary for the History Society and my aim for the year is to help the co-presidents and vice president in arranging bigger, better and more varied socials for historians at Leeds. Having thoroughly enjoyed my first year in the School of History, I am now looking forward to starting new modules in September focusing primarily on Modern History. Aside from History I am starting a job fundraising for the University this year and plan on joining many societies that I didn't have time to be part of last year. I am also part of the peer mentoring scheme within the school of history.

Hector Witt



I am Second year History Student and the Vice-President of the History Society. As Vice-President I will assist the other members of the History Society Committee in organising events throughout the coming year. We will organise a number of social events which will provide an opportunity for society members to meet fellow history students. As a first year History student I found that the History Society provided an excellent forum to meet other History students, which was vital given the relatively low contact time we have compared to other subjects. I hope that the History Society will be able to provide a variety of different social events for history students this year as well as offering a number of different speakers and talks which will be of interest to History students. I thoroughly enjoyed my first year at Leeds and this year I hope to carry on being a member of the Leeds University Amnesty Society, as well as working for the University fundraising team and acting as a peer mentor for first year students

Delicious dining at Leeds University

By Katy Roscoe

The area around Leeds University is bursting with a variety of culinary establishments. HST's list is here to help you choose the best cafés and fast-food joints so you can finish that essay or survive the hangover. We've also packed in the odd history fact for you to peruse over your meal. After all, as George Eliot said, "No man can be wise on an empty stomach"

For high calorie heaven you need only walk across the road from the Parkinson steps for delicious and affordable waffles. Try the waffles at Cafe D's across from the Parkinson steps. Grab with a cup of hot chocolate and snuggle into the armchairs to get through even the bleakest of days.

The modern waffle was born from a feud between bakeries and monasteries in the Middle Ages.



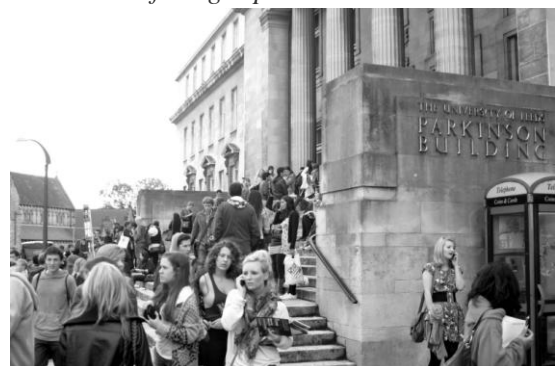
Revolutionary enterprise amongst bakers led to the creation of the communion wafer-one of the only things Catholics could eat during fasting periods. This has since evolved to become the tasty secular 'waffle' we know today! The criss-cross pattern are actually derive from the custom of branding crucifixes onto them.

Struggling with a hangover? If you can persevere through the lack of seating area and crowded wait then the bacon sandwiches and other warm snacks at Miros are certainly worth it. But if your pounding head won't get you that far, try a sausage roll in the Sausage Roll Company inside the union. Then head to the top floor of the Refectory where they serve Starbucks coffee.

Opposite is conveniently located for a healthy meal – also just across for the Parkinson steps it boasts a comparatively expensive but delicious range of sandwiches and salads. If you need to revitalise during a cram session their fresh juices pack a punch.

The first recorded sandwich was made by rabbi Hillel the elder in the first century B.C. He filled two matzohs with a mixture of chooper nuts, apples, spices and wine – the filling represents the mortar used by Jews when they were forced to build for the Egyptians.

Alternatively if you're in the mood for some grease Flames is the closest fast-food establishment. However, the legendary 90p slice from Milanos is certainly worth the walk to Hyde Park.



A pizza started as a cheaper and edible alternative to a plate. Amazingly it wasn't until the early 18th and 19th centuries, more than 200 years after their presence had been recorded in Italy, that tomatoes were added to pizzas. This was because they were widely believed to be poisonous – a 'fact' to be dispelled by the starving peasants of naples, who were the first to add tomatoes to the legendary dish.

Happy dining and a warm welcome to all our hungry freshers!

‘A Contemptible Little Army’

There has been increasing talk about exploits of ‘the few’ over the past weeks and months. The majority of this being in celebration and remembrance of the valiant defence of the British Isles by the Royal Air Force during the testing summer and autumn of 1940. The minority being a tabloid newspaper headline in the wake of the defeat of England to Germany in the World Cup. It went somewhere along the lines of that if we had John Terry and Ashley Cole to defend Britain in 1940 we would now all be speaking German.

However, there is another, much less celebrated few to which a great debt is also owed. A generation before the collapse of France, before a dark cloud descended upon continental Europe and before Britain stood alone in the summer of 1940, there was another war, a war which was supposed to end all wars.

The First World War broke out, for Britain and its Empire, on August 4th 1914. Unlike the major continental belligerents, the British Army was not a product of mass conscription. The British Army of 1914 was of a high professional standard but small in numbers, around 80,000 in total with many reservists who had been recalled on the outbreak of war. Kaiser Wilhelm II had called them ‘a contemptible little army’. However, this contemptible little army would bring the German forces to halt when they first met, at the small Belgian town of Mons.

The British Expeditionary Force (BEF) departed for France, attached itself to the left flank of the French Army and moved into Belgium, according to ‘The War Book’. Little did they know that a great hammer blow was about to fall on them in the form of Von Klucks 1st Army as the German Schlieffen Plan swung through Belgium.

On the morning of Sunday 23rd August, German cavalry scouts were spotted along the canal that ran west to east from Conde to Mons. Infantry was close behind and throughout the day attacks were made along the length of the canal. The German army was bloodily checked by the marksmanship and discipline of the 4th Royal Fusiliers and Middlesex regiment armed with the .303 Lee Enfield rifle. They were trained to fire fifteen aimed rounds a minute, but many could double this. The men in these units were not ones to dwell upon the morality of war: they were tough, bullish men and a lot of them would have relished in the excitement of battle. The rapid rifle fire tore into the ranks of the German infantry with such appalling efficiency that many Germans thought they were facing a machine gun detachment.

While the British checked initial assaults, sheer numbers threatened to over run their positions and by 3pm the British position in Mons could no longer be held as their flanks became exposed. The infamous ‘retreat from Mons’ began and would last for two weeks. The British would again check the German advance at Le Cateau and then the Marne before the onset of trench warfare spreading from the North Sea to the Swiss border.

The action at Mons cost the BEF around 1500 casualties and the Germans somewhere between 5000-8000 casualties. However, considering that the BEF had been outnumbered three to one this was a remarkable achievement. They had also held the German forces under Von Kluck at bay for 48 hours whilst the forward units recovered from the shock of the encounter and allowed the British to fall back without breaking ranks. Like the Battle of Britain, Mons would have its own legacy of fighting against the odds and maintaining order in the face of the enemy. Upon the study of this engagement, it is impossible not only be amazed by what was asked of these men, but also of how well they did it.

THE STUDENT-STAFF COMMITTEE

The Student Staff Committee is an open forum, often dominated by student's, where they can raise any issues they want to or just ask staff about things. For example, at one meeting a PhD student felt it was the appropriate forum to ask if it would be possible to update the Computers in one of the postgraduate study rooms.

Student opinion is vital in ensuring the best possible modules, assessment methods, pastoral care and overall degree satisfaction. Improvements to the peer mentoring scheme, personal tutoring system, and essay feedback were all direct results of consultation with the SSC. Not only does the SSC provides students with an insight into the decision making processes which determine the nature of their student experience, but most importantly it provides a voice for student views and feedback. Over the past academic year a variety of issues have appeared on the SSC agenda, and have led to various changes and improvements being made within the school. One major change being the structure of third year special subject modules; concerns were raised over the use of having two essays for these modules and have now been addressed by having one slightly longer essay instead.

The SSC has dealt with a real variety of issues that have concerned and impacted both the staff and the student body alike here is the School of History. It has had an inclusive role in discussions over the 'economies exercises', providing a medium through which students can be kept informed as to proceeding. Our meetings have given both the staff and the students to discuss openly their fears and concerns about the cuts and what they mean for the future of our school. Although this is still very much an ongoing issue the committee has created a strong foundation for the maintenance of good relations, trust, and communication, between all members of our community in the face of this difficult time...

Amy Kavanagh

Looking forward, this year marks a watershed in the provision of higher education in England. A review into university funding, led by Lord Browne is to report this autumn, and is widely expected to say that tuition fees should be allowed to rise. At the same time, the most severe economic crisis since the Great Depression has triggered a round of funding cuts to the higher education sector in the UK, from which the University of Leeds must accept its share. The combination of these changes means that the student experience of history students at the University of Leeds over the coming years will be undergoing a very marked change.



In such a climate, the role of the Staff-Student Committee becomes more important than ever. One of our most significant roles going forward will be in keeping students informed about the so-called Economies Exercise. The recession and increasing pressure on public expenditure mean that the University of Leeds is facing a projected shortfall of £35m by the academic year 2011-12. The Economies Exercise involves planning and executing those savings, with the Faculty of History having to contribute its portion in the process. There will be increased pressure on staff within the department, and consequently module numbers and staff-student ratios will be affected.

However, it's not all bad news. The History department remains one of the strongest within the University, and certainly within the Faculty of Arts. The staff within the department are often leaders in their respective fields, while the University as a whole still has the vision to be within the top 50 universities in the world by 2015. The Staff-Student Committee will continue to play a leading role in helping to shape the future of studying history within the University, and ensure that the student voice is heard, and not forgotten. If you are interested in learning more about the Staff-Student Committee, would like to get involved, or have any issues or concerns please search for our Facebook group 'University of Leeds History Student Staff Committee' or email historystaffstudent@leeds.ac.uk

Usmaan Amin

Sam Meiklejohn

Why did you want to become a student rep?

The SSC offers a great opportunity to have a real, genuine input into the way our degree is managed. I wanted to approach my own degree from another angle, and being a student rep helps you appreciate your studies from a slightly different perspective.

What do you hope to do with your position on the SSC?

I hope to try and represent as many different views as possible. Everyone who is enrolled in the school of history deserves to have their opinions heard and represented, and I hope that my position on the SSC allows me to gather as many views on as many issues as possible.

Which three historical figures would you invite to a dinner party?

Martin Luther King Jr, Gregory the Great, and Neville Chamberlain. I would get them to re-mark a few of my essays!

What do you think is the most pressing issue the SSC facing this year?

I think the SSC did tremendously well last year in its handling of the staff strike/spending cuts crisis and hopefully the worst of that is behind us. I would personally like to focus a bit more on a clearer mark scheme for essays. For example, a bit more clarity on the importance of originality, and more emphasis on the essential elements an essay needs to achieve the top marks. I don't dispute the current mark scheme at all, I just think students would benefit from it being publicised in a slightly different way.



Rebecca Bowery

Why did you want to become a student rep?

Initially I became a student rep in year one as a way to get to know the school and staff members better, and after witnessing the commitment to our education and well being I wanted continue to be part of that in my second year.

What do you hope to do with your position on the SSC?

To try and provide the voice of the average history student and promote IHP!

Which three historical figures would you invite to a dinner party?

Jane Austen for the conversation, Chaucer's Wife of Bath, because in my heart she really existed and Marlin Brando for obvious reasons!

What do you think is the most pressing issue the SSC facing this year?

Unfortunately the implications of cuts.



Alex Harlow

Why did you want to become a student rep?

It is hard to go to university and not have some criticisms of the course. A friend invited me to a meeting, and it made me think that rather than sitting around feeling annoyed, I should get involved, and try to improve the course.

What do you hope to do with your position on the SSC?

I want encourage second years to use the available contact with tutors as much as possible. Lecturers are experts in their fields

Which three historical figures would you invite to a dinner party?

I'd invite Giuseppe Garibaldi, Lawrence of Arabia and Machiavelli.

What do you think is the most pressing issue the SSC facing this year?

The most pressing concern for the SSC is the recession; we're all going to have to work hard to lessen the impact it has on the course.

Anne-Marie Jones



Why did you want to become a student rep?

To help make a difference in the School of History and to get to know some more teaching staff

What do you hope to do with your position on the SSC?

Help staff to understand the real problems and issues we face as a student body

What do you think is the most pressing issue the SSC facing this year?

The issue if cuts is still a raw issue

Which three historical figures would you invite to a dinner party?

It'd be Jesus, Mahatma Gandhi and Abraham Lincoln.

Rachael Steer

Why did you want to become a student rep?

I became a rep by accident at the beginning of my second year when I attended the first meeting of the year with a couple of friends. I hadn't heard much about the SSC before, went along to see what it was all about, and came out of the meeting having been elected as the Second Year History and Joint Honours representative. Having witnessed the success and importance of the SSC over the past year in providing a spring board for communication between tutors and students, I was keen to continue acting as a voice for Joint Honours History students during my final year.



What do you hope to do with your position on the SSC?

Continue to provide a voice for all Joint Honours History students

What do you think is the most pressing issue the SSC facing this year?

I'd definitely have to invite Thomas Andrews, Lt Cdr Morin Scott, and James Cook – now that really does reveal the nerdy sailor in me - still, reckon it could be an interesting combination! If I could be extra greedy you could throw Christopher Columbus in there too, just for a bit of fun.

What do you think is the most pressing issue the SSC facing this year?

Definitely the cuts and the affect that they have on the 'student experience' at Leeds.

MEET THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT

JORDAN-LEE REDDINGTON TALKS WITH OUR VERY OWN SCHOOL OF HISTORY LIBRARIAN MARTIN GILL ABOUT HIS ROLE, HISTORY, AND HIS LOCAL HIDE OUTS...



Hi martin, thanks for taking time out to have a chat to us. For those students not familiar with your role, what can you help them with as the school of histories librarian?

I'm here to help you get the most out of the library. You'll see me in teaching sessions helping you develop skills in finding and evaluation information, referencing and a whole range of other skills. I can

also help on a one to one basis with more specialist enquiries. I also provide a lot of online help, see the link in the student portal to History under the IT and Libraries tab.

If we need such help or advice where can we find you?

Probably best to email me first m.r.gill@leeds.ac.uk to make sure I'm around, but I'm based in the Arts and Social Sciences team in the Brotherton Library.

Once again this year we welcome a fresh batch of young historians to the university, what advice would you give to them to allow them to get the best out of their library?

You've got access to one of the biggest University Libraries in the country with some fantastic collections of books, journals, primary materials and online information. There is a lot to take in. Have a practice at using the library catalogue from the student portal (IT and Libraries tab) and get used to the layouts of Brotherton and Edward Boyle Libraries, you'll need to use both. Also have a look at some of our award winning self help guides at <http://skills.library.leeds.ac.uk/> If you do this early it will all make a lot more sense than trying to do it in the hours before your first deadline.

During exam periods and essay weeks the libraries resources are stretched to their limits and very often students miss out on the books they need, is there a survival guide to such chaotic periods?

Again my advice is to give yourself plenty of time. Some areas of the Library get very busy, so you may want to try different areas or times of day. Giving yourself a bit more time will also give you more chance of getting the books you need, we'll never be able to get everyone a copy of the text they need the day before a deadline, but give yourself a few more days and you can you'll have more chance of getting the books or finding alternative sources.

I'm sure most students appreciate the hard work that goes into making the library run efficiently, but how can they contribute to making this a little bit easier?

We're introducing much clearer rules on noise this year, asking everyone to be silent apart from in the group work areas. We also don't allow food or drink in the library apart from bottled water, sticking to this rule keeps the Library a much more pleasant place to work for everyone (although we are launching a food and drink zone on level 8 of the Edward Boyle Library as a pilot this year). And if you can return your books on time it does help us get limited numbers of books around the maximum numbers of people as quickly as possible.

As the history librarian your knowledge of historical periods, kings and leaders must be vast, but is there a favourite that holds a special place in your heart?

Well I think it would be the scramble for Africa in the late 19th century. A whole range of different forces came into play at the same time, with consequences for a continent that you can still see today.

After looking at hundreds of books each day are you still able to enjoy personal reading as much? Or would the sight of another book make you tear your hair out?

I count myself extremely lucky to work in such a beautiful building, and frequently borrow books from the collections to read on my commute to and from work. We are also increasingly working with digital content at work, so reading a proper book can be very refreshing.

Outside the day job do you have any interesting hobbies or passions?

With a 3 years old and a 3 month old baby at home my current favourite hobby is sleeping, which I don't seem to be doing enough of at the moment! I'm a very enthusiastic amateur cook and am looking forward to getting more time to do that soon, and we are currently about halfway through restoring a 1920's house which pretty much accounts for my time.

Cheers for the insight into your world Martin, good luck with the New Year.

