



LOCAL POPULATION STUDIES SOCIETY

LPSS Newsletter 52

February 2013

Contents	
Editorial	1
Notice of the 2013 AGM	2
Minutes of the 2012 AGM	2
Some thoughts on the Oxford Conference, <i>from Chris and David Rendell</i>	4
The population geography of LPSS members, <i>from Colin Pooley</i>	5
A view from the past – the debate continues, <i>from Richard Jones</i>	9
The future of Local Population Studies – The case for localism, <i>from David Thorpe</i>	9
News from the Local Population History Book Club, <i>from Peter Franklin</i>	13
New Title	13
A Review of Anthea Jones, <i>Cheltenham: a</i> <i>new history,</i> <i>from Peter Franklin</i>	17
Advance Notice, <i>from Colin Pooley</i>	19
Subscriptions	19
Forthcoming events	19
Oxford Conference Programme & Booking Form	20

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Editorial, *by Gillian Chiverton*

Last year, the fortieth anniversary of the founding of LPSS in 1972, we began to reflect on the changes in the Society and in the way in which local population studies are conducted. Our Oxford Conference looked at **New Research in Local Population Studies** and this was very well received. See *Some thoughts on the Oxford Conference* by two of our keenest members.

In this issue, Colin Pooley looks at the geographical spread of our members and the question of where there are suitable venues for conferences. We have asked members who attend conferences for their views and these will be considered as we plan ahead.

Our Spring conference and AGM will be held in London at the Friend's Meeting House on Saturday, 13th April, and we hope that this venue will be accessible to as many as wish to come. Nigel Goose has assembled an interesting conference programme and it would be wise to book early. The booking form is on the back of the Newsletter and details are also on the website www.localpopulationstudies.org.uk.

Looking ahead, the Autumn conference is to be at Lancaster University on Saturday, 16th November, 2013, and Colin Pooley has put together an exciting programme of speakers. The suggestion is, why not make a weekend of it and visit the Lake District or the Yorkshire Dales? In any case, put the date in your diary now and plan ahead.

Notice of the Society's Annual General Meeting, 2013

The Annual General Meeting of the Local Population Studies Society will be held at 12.30 p.m. on Saturday, 13th April, 2013, at Friends Meeting House, 173-77 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BJ. All members of the Society are warmly invited to attend.

Agenda

1. Chairman's Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of 2012 AGM (printed in this Newsletter, see below)
4. Matters arising
5. Secretary's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Conference Report
8. Book Club Report
9. Newsletter Editor's Report
10. *Local Population Studies* Editor's Report
11. LPS General Office Report
12. Review of LPS Editor's honorarium
13. Elections to the Committee
14. Any other business

Elections to the Committee – The Vice-Chair, Lyn Boothman, and Ordinary Officer, Graham Butler, each come to the end of their first term of office. Both are eligible for re-election. There are currently no other vacancies on the Committee. Constitutionally, anyone wishing to put themselves forward for election, or to nominate someone else, should submit a written nomination, stating the position for which they are standing and whether or not the candidate will be attending the AGM, accompanied by statements of support from five members of the Society, to the Hon. Secretary at the address below by 13th March, 2013.

Any other business – if you wish any further items to be added to the Agenda, please send them by Saturday, 31st March, to the Hon. Secretary at either the postal or email address below.

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Minutes of the Local Population Studies Society's Annual General Meeting, 2012

The Annual General Meeting of the Local Population Studies Society was held at 12.30 pm on Saturday 21st April, 2012, at Campus West, The Campus, Welwyn Garden City, Herts.

There were 27 people present.

1. **Welcome and Introduction:** Prof. Colin Pooley welcomed everyone and chaired the meeting. The agenda had been printed in Newsletter 50.
2. **Apologies:** had been received from Mary Cook and David Gatley.

3. **Minutes of the 2011 AGM:** had been printed in Newsletter 50. These were approved and there were no matters arising.
4. **Secretary's report:** the work of the Secretary with respect to the Members, the Committee, and the Charity Commission was outlined and the Chairman was thanked for his counsel and leadership. The Chairman thanked the retiring Secretary and she was presented with a gift from the Committee.
5. **Treasurer's report:** had been printed in Newsletter 50. In 2010-11 receipts exceeded payments by £310 because of an increase in subscriptions, Gift Aid and donations. Interest rates remain uniformly low. Despite an increase in publishing *Local Population Studies* there had been a reduction in General Office, Board and Committee expenditure. The Roger Schofield Research Fund had disbursed £364 in grants during the financial year. The Treasurer recommended no increase in subscriptions as the Society's reserves were sufficient to continue its activities.
6. **Conference report:** details of the conference being organised by Alysa Levene at Oxford Brookes University on 3rd November 2012 on the theme of New Research in Local Population Studies had been circulated to all those attending today and would be publicised on the website, in *Local Population Studies* and in the Newsletter. The Chairman appealed for suggestions for themes, venues and organisers for future conferences.
7. **Book Club report:** sales had been disappointing compared with the previous year, partly because it had not been possible to attend the autumn conference at UEA. However, the bookstall did attend a conference at Preston and £300 worth of orders had been received by post. Overall there was a small 'negative surplus'. Peter Franklin thanked Terry Shaw for transport, and appealed for suggestions for new stock.
8. **Newsletter Editor's report:** Gillian Chiverton presented the report, thanking Peter Franklin for his guidance and Mary Cook for arranging the layout. A number of interesting articles had been submitted for publication and it was a valuable means of keeping the membership informed of the deliberations of the Committee, particularly with regard to feedback following conferences. Gillian appealed for members to complete the Feedback Sheet issued at today's conference and requested further contributions to the Newsletter.
9. **Local Population Studies Editor's report:** the new format of the Journal had bedded down well and its academic reputation had never been higher. There was no shortage of articles and other items such as debates, methods, sources, comments, short notes and reviews of journal articles and books. There would be a need for a temporary book reviews editor in the autumn. The editorial board worked harmoniously together. Nigel Goose will have been editor for 14 years by 2013 and had given notice to the Committee that he wished to step down. From the floor there were comments that *Local Population Studies* was now an excellent publication, that it was published regularly, that it encouraged contributions from amateur researchers, and that the editorial board offered considerable assistance to new writers to enable people to publish their research. The Chairman thanked the Editor for his hard work this year and previous years, and told the members that the Committee were actively searching for a new Editor, aiming to have someone in place before Nigel Goose needs to stand down. Anyone interested in the post of Editor should get in touch with Colin Pooley.
10. **LPS General Office report:** the General Office was in much better shape than when Karen Rothery took over in 2010. There were currently 407 members, representing an increase in individual membership. There had been a decrease in membership by UK institutions,

particularly libraries and public bodies. However, there had been no cancellations from overseas institutions despite the increase in their subscription rate. Book sales of our own publications are healthy. There are no long-term debts. There had been no further difficulties with the bank account but a new bank account was being established. Karen was thanked for her willingness, ability and efficiency in getting the affairs of the Society sorted out.

11. **Review of LPS Editor's honorarium:** this had been changed in 2010. The Committee recommended that it should remain unchanged this year.
12. **Changes to the Constitution:** three proposed changes had been printed in Newsletter 50 and were merely technicalities to improve the smooth running of the Society, the first to make the job of the General Office Administrator easier, the second to improve representation of the Committee on the Editorial Board and the third to remove restrictions on roles within the Committee. Each change was approved without dissent. The new wording is recorded here:
Paragraph 5 – The subscription shall be payable by 1st May for each calendar year.
Paragraph 28 – The Editorial Board can include any of the elected Officers, by invitation of the Editor. The clause excluding the Chair from membership of the Editorial Board will remain unchanged.
Paragraph 31 – Ordinary Officers shall be assigned roles on a year-to-year basis in agreement with the Executive Officers.
13. **Elections to the Committee:** the following appointments were approved by the membership having been duly nominated and seconded.
Mary Cook – Treasurer
Gillian Chiverton – Newsletter Editor
Rowena Burgess – Secretary
Lyn Boothman – Vice-Chairman
Chris Galley – Ordinary Officer [and a member of the Editorial Board]
14. **Website:** Sam Williams and her husband, Hamish, were thanked for their work in maintaining the Society's website and suggestions for additions were invited.

Some thoughts on the Oxford Conference, from Chris and David Rendell

The LPSS Autumn Conference has become a feature of our year, coming as it does towards the end of the English school half term holidays and close to Guy Fawkes' Night. This gives us the opportunity to come south to see the grandchildren, while catching up with the latest lines of research in population studies. Population Studies and Local History events of the quality found at the LPSS conference are not readily available in the Northern Highlands.

The high quality of the speakers, and the ease with which one can network in the very sociable atmosphere, are of paramount importance when you are so physically isolated from the mainstream of current thinking. No matter how much you read around a subject, hearing about research at first hand, in our opinion, is so much more empowering. Coming away from the conferences, we have always been struck at how re-enthused we have become as new sources of information and different ways of looking at data have been opened up for us.

Of particular importance in this respect is the bookshop. Although we are regular users of Amazon, it is useful to see books which, because of cost, you would not buy simply because the title appears relevant. This autumn's prize purchase was Colin Pooley's study of mobility. While it may be available on Amazon, being able to judge its readability and relevance was of inestimable value. This has prompted us to re-evaluate some of our primary research on the movement of people

during the Second World War in the Black Isle of Ross-shire and an ongoing study of our own family histories.

We were very pleased with the Oxford venue. It was easy to find, parking was adequate, there was plenty of good quality accommodation in the immediate area and the physical attributes of the lecture room were better (we thought) than the Welwyn Centre. Lunch was well organised and the food well labelled and of good quality.

Looking back at the Conference itself, the morning lectures were of outstanding quality. Joe Day's paper on identifying regions from the 1881 Census, and the way in which he presented this information, was eye-opening and impressive as we had not seen this sort of technology in action before.

Lyn Boothman's study of a stable population in a small rural town, and the way in which she approached this, was of relevance to our own work and has given us a number of pointers as to how we can proceed; and Paul Atkinson's approach, 'drilling down' to small local communities, confirmed the validity of this sort of approach to local studies of population dynamics. We also enjoyed the papers presented by Julie Moore on 'Silk hats, counter-jumpers and the rural experience', and Graham Butler's Investigation into the Newcastle and Gateshead Bills of mortality, because of our local connections to Hertfordshire and Tyneside.

Chris and Dave Rendell
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The population geography of LPSS members, from Colin Pooley

As students and researchers of population history, we usually focus our attention on others: perhaps those in our home region in past times or those in more distant places. However, occasionally it can be useful to direct the lens more directly on ourselves. In this short piece I analyse the geographical distribution of the current membership of the Local Population Studies Society, and begin to suggest some implications of this for future LPSS policy and practice.

Most demographic research is to some extent limited by data constraints and we rarely have access to all the information about a population that we would ideally like to have. This is also true of the information that we have on LPSS members. For obvious reasons of privacy and data protection – together with the fact that such information is irrelevant for our normal activities - we know very little about the demographic characteristics of our membership; but we do have post codes and can use this address data to examine the geographical distribution of the LPSS membership. From these data we can also begin to ask questions about how well the Society is meeting the needs of LPSS members.

Figure 1 maps the distribution of current LPSS members (by postcode) and shows that, not surprisingly, our membership broadly reflects the population distribution of the United Kingdom. There is some evidence of a bias towards the South East of England but with significant clusters of members in parts of Northern England. Membership in South West England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland is relatively low, but we do have some members in most parts of the UK. Looking more closely at the distribution of members by county and unitary authority (Figure 2) further emphasises the SE dominance of our membership with (after Greater London) Hertfordshire providing by far the most members. Other counties with a substantial membership are Cambridgeshire, Oxfordshire, Essex and Kent. Demographers should always beware of raw numbers but, if these data are expressed as a proportion of the total population of the area, the dominance of the SE is further accentuated. In most English regions the proportion of population that belongs to LPSS is broadly similar and is close to the UK mean of 3.9 per million population

but, in the South East region, this rises to 9.7 per million. Membership in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland is well below the UK mean and North West England has the lowest membership rates among English regions (2.8 per million) with very few members in the large conurbations of Merseyside and Greater Manchester. In contrast, Yorkshire and Humberside has a relatively high rate of membership at 4.3 per million inhabitants.

Can we draw any implications from these data that could inform future LPSS activities? We are always keen to recruit new members but there seem to be two possible conclusions that could be drawn from the data. One would be that there are some parts of the country where LPSS has relatively few members and, thus, there may be potential to recruit new members from such areas with some targeted publicity; the alternative conclusion would be that some regions are more fruitful recruiting grounds than others and, thus, any recruitment campaigns should be focused on those areas where we already have most members. Probably the only way to resolve this dilemma is to try to recruit in both types of area and to monitor the success of such activities, but the data do suggest that, potentially, there are untapped sources of membership. However, one should be cautious about implying causality in interpreting these data. It may be that the concentration of membership in SE England is simply a reflection of the fact that our spring conferences have regularly been held in SE England and, for many years, in University of Hertfordshire premises in St Albans, and thus we have recruited locally through these events. By widening the location of conferences – which since 2007 we have done through autumn meetings in a variety of locations - we may well also be extending the geographical spread of membership.

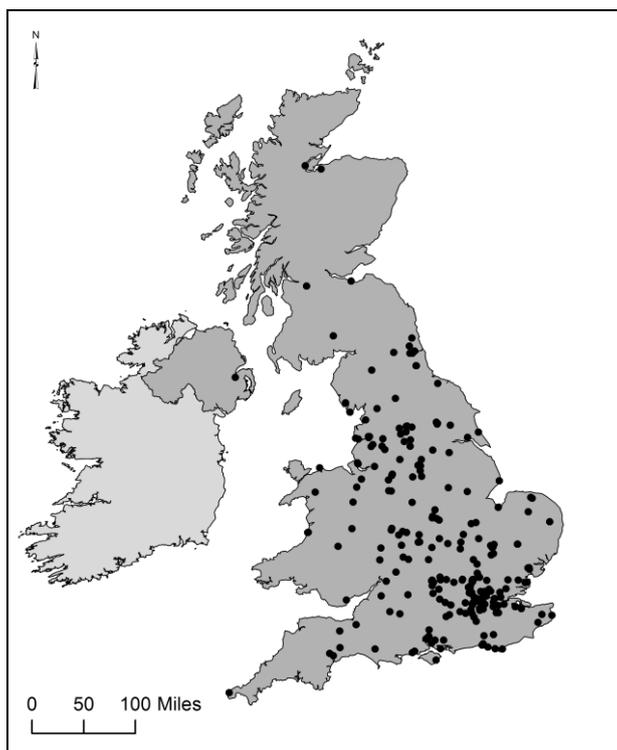


Figure 1: Distribution of LPSS members 2012

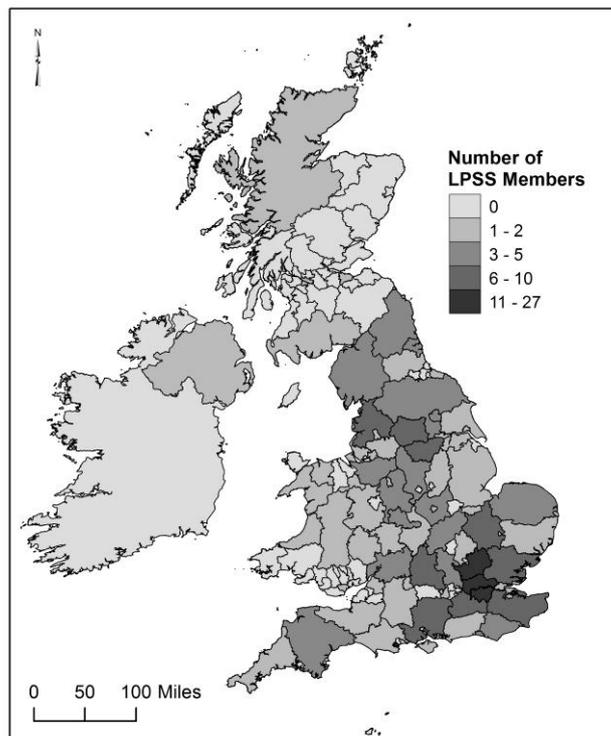


Figure 2: Distribution of LPSS members by county and unitary authority, 2012

Apart from the Journal and Newsletter, the main service that LPSS provides to members is through its conferences. The committee is always keen to organise conferences in times and places that are convenient for members, while recognising that it is never possible to suit the preferences of every individual. Table 1 provides details of all LPSS conferences since 2001 and we can use these data to assess the extent to which their location reflects the distribution of members. Feedback from recent conferences shows a high degree of satisfaction amongst those who attended, but we do not know how many members would have liked to attend but were unable to do so because the conference was not conveniently located in time or space. One long-serving member of LPSS has recently sent a detailed letter to the Committee outlining some of his concerns, including issues of timing and access.¹ He has not found our Spring conferences in St Albans and Welwyn Garden City convenient and would prefer these meetings to move around more or to be more centrally located. While the location of some autumn conferences has been more convenient, he also has concerns about the timing in November when the weather may be poor.

In moving the Spring conference to central London for 2013 we are, hopefully, meeting concerns about accessibility, though this also (inevitably) increases the cost of venue hire. We will collect feedback from this conference to see if this move meets with the approval of members. So far as I recall, none of our November meetings have been significantly affected by inclement weather and the last few years have demonstrated that difficult travelling conditions can occur at any time of the year. One advantage of a November date is that, for the most part, it avoids clashes with a number of other major events. We would welcome feedback from regular conference attendees, and from those who might like to attend more but find current arrangements inconvenient, about the location and timing of our meetings. All suggestions will be taken seriously but, with members distributed throughout the UK, not everyone can have a meeting in their own locality.

¹. Letter from Dr David Gatley, 25th November 2012
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Topic	Location	Date
Whither historical demography? The future of local population studies	St Albans	06/04/2001
Migration in local. Regional and international perspectives	St Albans	13/04/2002
Children and childhood in industrial England	St Albans	12/04/2003
War and demography in twentieth-century Britain	St Albans	17/04/2004
Ageing and the aged in pre-modern and modern Britain	St Albans	16/04/2005
Death and disease in Britain 1660-1950: urban and rural perspectives	St Albans	08/04/2006
The New Poor Law 1834-1908: regional and local perspectives	St Albans	21/04/2007
Agricultural labour and agrarian society, 1700-1970	Preston	20/10/2007
The local demography of deviance, crime, illegitimacy and prostitution in Britain, 1700-2000	St Albans	19/04/2008
Is all population history local population history?	Sheffield	15/11/2008
Household economies and household structures in Britain	St Albans	18/04/2009
Local populations and their institutions	Cambridge	21/11/2009
Famine, diet and nutrition	St Albans	17/04/2010
Occupation and life experiences	Norwich	06/11/2010
Domestic service in England, 1600-2000	Welwyn Garden City	16/04/2011
Death and disease in the community	Leicester	12/11/2011
Regional development in industrialising Britain, c1670-1860	Welwyn Garden City	21/04/2012
New research in local population studies	Oxford	03/11/2012
Urban mortality in Britain	Central London	13/04/2013
Immigrant communities in Britain	Lancaster	16/11/2013

Table 1: LPSS conferences 2001-2013

There are some parts of the UK that we have not visited (at least within my memory) for a LPSS conference: most notably Scotland and Wales. Although these are regions where we have few members, we would be interested to know if members elsewhere in Britain would attend a more distant event. One other option that we have begun to tentatively explore is to make greater use of the Internet. We have progressively developed the LPSS website (<http://www.localpopulationstudies.org.uk/index.htm>) to provide access to back issues of the journal and up-to-date information on conferences. However, we are aware that we could make much greater use of the Internet to interact with members. This could include the posting of conference presentations, a members' forum or even live web-casts of conferences. This could allow members who cannot travel to a conference to gain access to papers and even interact with those attending. Obviously, this all requires both expertise and appropriate technology, and we don't currently have spare capacity (or expertise) on the committee to fully exploit web-based activities. If there are members with time and relevant expertise who would like to get involved, we would be pleased to hear from you.

It is probably not healthy to become too introverted and to focus too much attention on ourselves, especially when there are so many other interesting research questions in historical demography to be investigated in other places and times. However, examining the geographical spread of LPSS membership does pose some questions about how we best organise our activities and provide a service to all members. Any suggestions from members will be greatly appreciated, though I cannot promise that we will be able to act on all of them.

Colin Pooley
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A view from the past – the debate continues, from Richard Jones

I'd like to contribute some more history to the *View from the Past* debate. I wrote the first article ever published in LPS, way back in 1968, a study based on the family reconstitution of a Shropshire parish. The article started life as an undergraduate prize essay. The essay had been highly commended by my teachers, two journals offered to print it and the article based on it was published virtually unchanged by the editors of LPS.

Despite all this encouragement, in retrospect the article was seriously flawed in two ways: it took far too optimistic a view of the reliability of the local parish register as a source of demographic data and much of it was statistically invalid because of the small numbers involved. In the second number of LPS, Peter Razzell pointed out the problem with small numbers and rewrote my conclusions. (Was this the closest to controversy that LPS has ever come?). I went on to do research on the reliability of parish registers and came to the conclusion that perhaps 20% or 30% of local demographic events went unrecorded even in a "good" register. I have never been quite sure whether that meant that articles such as mine should never have been written.

Over forty years later, I still read local historical studies and – dare I say it? – even LPS articles that seem to me to underestimate the difficulties of using sources not intended for statistical purposes and then take small numbers of cases to draw detailed but statistically unwarranted conclusions. Over the years, LPS has published good work on some of these issues – on estimating total populations from varied sources, for instance – but I have an impression that, despite attempts to encourage it, technical discussion and debate have never played as much of a role as they might have done.

I discovered local historical demography as a teenager and found it to be a wonderful way to get close to the realities of everyday life in the past. Later, I discovered all the perils involved in such analysis. If LPSS, between its journal, its newsletter and its website, doesn't have a role in guiding each new cohort of local historical statisticians – because that is what we are - through the historical and statistical perils of analysis, I'm not sure who else does. But what are the best – the most effective - ways of giving that guidance?

Richard Jones

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The Future of Local Population Studies - The case for localism, from David Thorpe

I should declare a prior bias, namely that my training was in population, historical and urban geography in the 1950s and I went on to lecture in urban and historical geography in the 1960s, although, since then, my involvement with academic geography has fallen away. This bias leads me naturally to want to understand what goes on where, and in what ways is one area similar to other areas, or different from them, and why. This applies as much to their population as their economic and social activities. Indeed the close relationship over time of demographic, economic and social factors is one that human geographers of my generation considered as the core of their discipline.

Edward Higgs' article, in the LPSS September 2012 Newsletter, although a most interesting account of the history of the society, seemed at first reading depressing. However, should we really pander to history students who might be frightened by numbers just when historians seem to have discovered quantitative mapping (incidentally at a time when geographers seem wary of producing such maps)?

Four particular points arose in my mind from the article. First, the positioning of the society at the nexuses of economic, social, local and family history seems to Higgs to indicate an academic problem. This seems to him to be particularly so if the society got too close to the third and fourth of these types of history. I would see this as strength; the stimulation not only of the university community but all interested in the past is important. An aim to create rigour and sensible parameters for local and family historians would be very worth while. To establish in what ways a locality or a family was similar to other areas (or families) or different from them, and why, would be central here.

Second, he makes a distinction, which is far from clear, between a *local* as opposed to a *geographical* perspective suggesting that the former may be unnecessary. I have often wondered what LPSS means by local: more of this below.

Third, he concludes that LPS/LPSS has had a proud history. He is sure it will have a great future, but he is not certain what it might be. This conclusion throws down the gauntlet to all of us. Perhaps the Committee should consider asking the members what they think.²

Fourth, perhaps of greatest concern is his reminder that increasingly our world is being divided between those with a formal university affiliation and those without. The explosion of journal literature on line means that the latter, unless able to gain some access via such institutions as the London Library, are cut off from a world of knowledge in a way that the High priests of Babylon or Egypt, with their control on information, would have envied³. More directly the Integrated Census Microdata is to be only open to those with university access to the UK Data Archive. This will cut off many local historians from essential data for setting their localities into context. Whilst access to JSTOR, etc. should be a question for public libraries, perhaps LPSS could negotiate for members without a university association to gain access to the Microdata? (Since my first draft of this paragraph, LPS Autumn 2012 arrived with the good news that a significant database, namely historic hospital admissions database is not subject to the above restrictions).

These points are, however, peripheral to the real issue which is why a local emphasis is important in our title. Steve King, as befits a Professor of Local History, at the November conference suggested that consideration should be given to the creation of models which meet, in his words, the following specification.⁴

“A model must: transcend the ‘noise’ of micro studies and reactions to exceptional events to drill down to core experiences, structures and mentalities to create a set of stable archetypes; be applicable both to the study of the poor as a group and sub-sets of the poor; be sensitive enough to allow communities to move between typologies as circumstances or mentalities change; be sensitive to exogenous variables such as changes in the law; have enough typologies of welfare regimes to allow their grouping and patterning on a physical map; provide a mechanism for the tracing of regional typologies once a critical mass of archetypes is reached, rather than focusing on the simple range of intra-regional variation in practice or sentiment; be flexible enough to accommodate differences in the nature and scale of sources between areas; and deal with welfare systems as both dependent and independent variables”.

Unfortunately, as I was unable to hear his lecture, I am not sure that I fully understand what sort of model he has in mind given his emphasis on archetypes and typologies, coupled in the same context

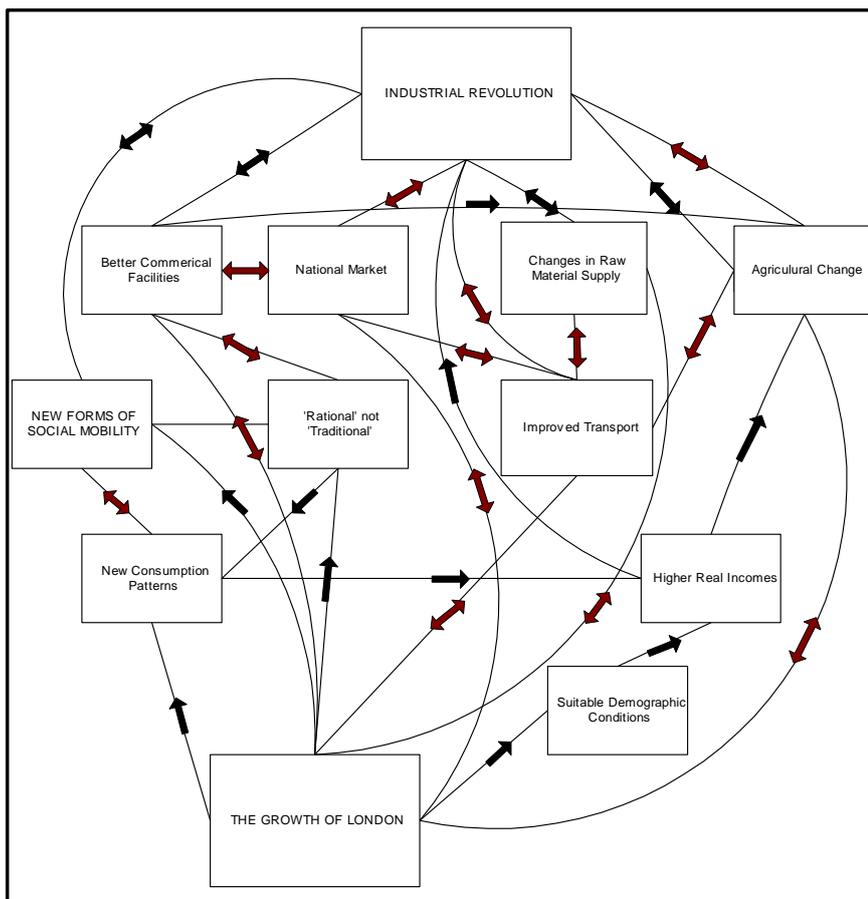
² Editor’s footnote: Please send in your thoughts!

³ Since writing this, I notice that JSTOR is to trial making some or all of its contents available to the alumnae of subscribing universities. Perhaps this is a model for UK database.

⁴ I am very grateful to Steve King for sending me the PowerPoint slides used in his talk *Local Population Studies: familiar ground and new opportunities*. The quotation is taken from one of these slides. (LPSS Autumn Conference 2012)

as exogenous variables and the prospect of dealing with welfare systems as both dependent and independent variables. However, this has led me to consider what were the most successful models in our field. Perhaps other readers of the Newsletter might like to let us know their selection of the most powerful ones.⁵

To my mind, two of the most successful models of historic population features are both from Cambridge: that lying behind *The Population History of England*⁶ and the older but still important Tony Wrigley's simple model of London's importance in changing English Society and Economy 1650-1750.⁷ The complexities of the former are well known. The simplicity of the latter might be used as an example of a good model in our field even though there is no explicit spatial dimension. Since the diagram demonstrating the model is not reproduced in the online version of the paper, I have redrawn it below:



At a local level perhaps the most discussed model is that of 'open' and 'closed' villages originated by Dennis Mills and codified in Brian Short's useful model of the causal links in each case: 20 for the former and 14 for the latter.⁸

More generally, we need as many as possible standard yardsticks against which to explore local variations. Nigel Goose used Dennis Mills' *rural norm* when considering aspects of the

⁵ Readers of the Newsletter should know that our Editor, Gillian Chiverton, is so efficient that, when I sent this article to her, a corrected version was sent back by her the same afternoon!

⁶ Wrigley, E. A. & Schofield, R. S. (1989) *The Population History of England 1541-1871* CUP

⁷ Wrigley, E. A. (1967) A simple model of London's importance in changing English Society and Economy 1650-1750, *Past and Present*, No 37, July 196, pp 44-70

⁸ Short, Brian (1992) *The English Rural Community Image and Analysis*. See also Collins, E. J. T. (Ed) (2001) *The Agrarian History of England and Wales*, Vol. VIII, 1850-1914, Part II, C.U.P., p. 1306

demography of Berkhamsted but how well established was that, in so far as it relied on 11 local studies and only 18,490 individuals.⁹

Tony Wrigley has observed, in considering the urban hierarchy and the rank size rule, that '*such norms might be thought of as stereotypes which represents only the average case ... but it should be remembered that the value of a stereotype lies as much in its ability to create a set of expectations ... any departure from the pattern will hold a special interest*'¹⁰

But what do we mean by local?¹¹

- a) Much of LPS has always been devoted to using local statistics to throw light on national themes. This tradition seems to have arisen as much from the pure convenience of data available at a local level when to establish it nationally would be prohibitive.
- b) However, should we be trying to work more with areas defined by some common characteristics in order to distinguish how their population characteristics vary, or use the latter to define such areas? We do not now seem to devote much attention to the differences between, and the definition of, the agricultural regions substantively established by Joan Thirsk or, as in Everitt's classification, champion country, wood pasture areas, the moorlands, the fenlands, the marshlands, the heathlands and the wold country-sides.
- c) Additionally, should we seek to examine areas defined by distance or by connectivity? The Leicester tradition of Everitt and Phythian-Adams, with its focus *pays* or *regions* and an emphasis on social links, is a powerful approach. It seems strange that this work seems largely only to have been followed by their students. For instance, the maps and diagrams that Alan Fox created of extra-parochial marriage partners on the Leicestershire/Kesteven border to demonstrate a marked discontinuity within a group of parishes could be usefully replicated elsewhere.¹² Such links fit well into patterns of regionalisation whether expressed as river valley provinces or areas linked by common industrial and agricultural characteristics.
- d) Meanwhile, too many studies are based on single parishes, or even groups of parishes, in isolation of their broader connections. This may not be helped by the simple way that it is now possible to produce coloured maps showing demographic ratios by parish without attempting to model any pattern of localities.
- e) At the November conference, Joe Day's work on migration using the 1881 census suggests a powerful way of calibrating models of regions by using data at sub-registration district level.¹³ It would be very worthwhile to extend this downwards to determine what sort of nested hierarchy of regions and sub-regions existed. For instance, I am told that in the South Midland registration area the data show there was greater affinity between north Oxfordshire and north Buckinghamshire than the southern sections of the two counties, similarly south

⁹ Goose, Nigel (1996) *Population, economy and family structure in Hertfordshire in 1851, Vol. 1 The Berkhamsted region*, University of Hertfordshire Press, p. 25

¹⁰ Wrigley, E. A. (2004) *Poverty, Progress and Population*, Cambridge. Chapter 9, City & Country in the Past, p. 255.

¹¹ Some of the difficulties arising here were discussed as long ago as 1991 in Schurer, Kevin, 'The Future for Local History: Boom or Recession in Richardson, R. C. *The Changing Face of English Local History*, Ashgate 2000 and *The Local Historian* 21, 1991.

¹² Fox, Alan (2009) *Lost Frontier Revealed*, University of Hertfordshire Press. See also Bysouth, Peter (2010) *Hertfordshire's Icknield Way: 19th century migration frontier and marriage obstacle* EAH Press Cambridge

¹³ Editor's note: Joe Day (University of Cambridge) *Identifying regions for local studies: new evidence from the 1881 Census* (Lecture at LPSS Oxford Conference – November 2012)

Bedfordshire was more linked to Hertfordshire than to north Bedfordshire.¹⁴ This is just what locals would expect but it is good to have quantified proof.

- f) Such dynamic links add to the most common, and often lower level, linkages of a town and its hinterland and those between towns. Here, much more needs to be done to define levels in the urban hierarchy at different periods, and in the different ways various social classes responded to them.

Thus, in conclusion, and in looking forward to an increasing role for LPSS, can I suggest that attention might be given to building more models of the Wrigley type and that suggested by King? Further, we need to clarify our thinking on spatial scales and types.

David Thorpe
thorpeda@hotmail.com

News from the Local Population History Book Club, from Peter Franklin

Oxford Conference Bookstall

On 3rd November Terry Shaw and I took the full bookstall to the Gipsy Lane Campus of Oxford Brookes University for the first ever LPSS conference there. It was nice to be back in Oxford, where the Society held several events at Rewley House in the 1990s. Thanks to everyone who helped with the stall, and particularly to Sally Tye for running things so well in the unavoidable absence of Alysa Levene, the conference organiser.

New Title

We have one new title, which is Philip Slavin's *Bread and Ale for the Brethren. The Provisioning of Norwich Cathedral Priory, 1260-1536*.

Historians now see late medieval England as a place which was becoming more commercial in many ways, with all kinds of people getting involved with markets. Many lords, both lay and ecclesiastical, began to rely on the market for their own supplies of food, but some did not follow this trend and the monks of Norwich Cathedral Priory were one group who continued to consume large quantities of grain which were grown on their own estates. This behaviour looks very old-fashioned, but Philip Slavin argues that in a world of harvest failures and volatile prices they were sensible to maintain a corn supply of their own which could be supplemented by purchases from local merchants when necessary.

His book is mainly a study of grain production and the grain market, with plenty of detailed and statistical evidence about these things, and many references to what was happening on other medieval estates. But he also shows what happened in the cathedral's own mills, bakery and brewery in order to turn the raw products into the 'bread and ale' of the title, and how other things, mainly meat and fish, were introduced to add some variety to the monastic diet. What these Norwich monks were eating makes a valuable contribution to the history of diet, and this is quite a dramatic chapter, for when the other foodstuffs are added in there were *no fewer than 7,600 calories ('kcal') of food per day* available for each monk. While some of this would have been given to servants and the poor, it is a figure which adds to the growing evidence that some medieval monks were very well fed indeed – in fact, too well fed for their own health.

¹⁴ Personal communication from Joe Day

This is number 11 in the University of Hertfordshire Press's series of Studies in Regional and Local History. Available from all good bookshops at £18-99, we are selling copies at £15-15 so giving our usual 20 per cent saving.

Roger Schofield's *Parish Register Aggregate Analyses: the Population History of England database and introductory guide* is not a new title at all, but it has now been reprinted and we have copies in stock again. We are selling them at £5-20 (including the CD-Rom), plus postage. It is another of those prices which sounds like a mistake, but isn't.

London Conference, 13th April, 2013

We regret that we cannot bring the regular bookstall to this event, but the Book Club Manager will do his best to advertise what we have available.

Ordering by Post

The Book Club keeps about 80 per cent of its listed titles in stock, and can supply any of them quickly by post. We have a Post Office in the next street! Send your order to Dr Peter Franklin, LPH Book Club, 46 Fountain Street, ACCRINGTON BB5 0QP.

Postage is extra, and is charged at actual cost. This is difficult to predict – the easiest thing to do is to send an “open cheque” with an upper limit marked in order to allow for the extra cost. If in doubt, consult your bank. Orders are usually sent by second-class post, in order to keep costs down. If you wish your order to be sent first class, please indicate this. Please make cheques payable to ‘L.P.H. Book Club’.

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This list accurate at: December 2012

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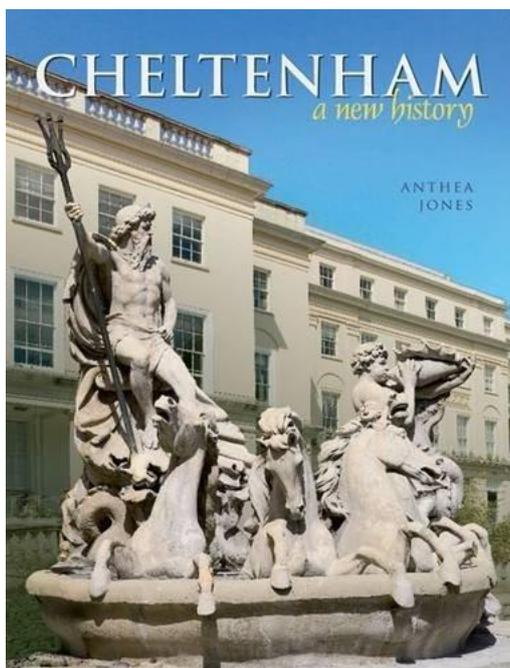
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E.A. Wrigley & R. Schofield, The Population History of England 1541-1871: A Reconstruction, (Cambridge U.P.; paperback edition 1989),	£32-00

Abbreviations used:-

F.F.H.S.	= The Federation of Family History Societies.
H.G.R.G.	= The Historical Geography Research Group.
O.P.R.	= Original Parish Registers.
U.P.	= University Press.

A Review of Anthea Jones, *Cheltenham: a new history* (Carnegie Publishing Ltd, Lancaster, 2010). x + 406pp. ISBN 978-1-85936-154-2. £24-99 (hardback)

It is a measure of the success of Cheltenham that everyone reading this has heard of the place. It has become nationally known for its Regency town and spa, its Gold Cup, and its Music Festival, to name only a few things. In fact this medieval borough has become so well known that the inhabitants of the many others in Gloucestershire must be green with envy. But that success does not make it an easy subject for the local historian, for the old problem of a period of prosperity which threatens to put everything else in the shade is very marked here and there are challenges in dealing with both the pre- and post-Regency periods, as well as in balancing the story of ordinary Cheltenham people against that of the famous names who have visited the town.



Medieval Cheltenham has suffered badly from the loss of records – the borough charter is lost, and borough business was dealt with in the court of the *manor*, few of whose records have survived. There is a detailed survey dating from the fifteenth century, but it is good to be able to back up what does survive with outside sources which cast light on the lives of local people. John Smith of Nibley's famous list of *Men and Armour for Gloucestershire in 1608* reveals that Cheltonians were practising a wide range of country trades, with many maltsters, shoemakers and tailors in particular, and also yeomen and husbandmen living in the borough, cheek by jowl with the craftsmen and traders.

For many years the town sounds like a smaller version of Tewkesbury or Cirencester, a single-street market town – granted that there were courts and alleys off the street – which catered purely for local needs. Famous visitors did come, but for purely utilitarian reasons. John Norden came to make a survey, and Gregory King came in his capacity as a herald making a visitation and stayed at the *George* inn. There were few gentlemen to be found in Cheltenham in the 1680s. Nor was there much in the way of entertainment for these early visitors - one innkeeper let a play be put on at the *Crown*, but the bailiffs soon put a stop to it. This situation, however, changed when the discovery of the spa sent the development of the town spinning off at a tangent. The spring was actually found 70 years before George III's famous visit of 1788, and it was quickly promoted by putting advertisements in the London papers and bottling the water for sale elsewhere. Cheltenham was turning into a resort long before 1788, and King George could have bought a guide-book, had he wished.

From being a smaller version of Tewkesbury or Cirencester, Cheltenham had started to compete with Bath for wealthy visitors. Bath had its Abbey, Roman remains, and a copious supply of odd-tasting warm water, but it was urban, noisy, and expensive, whereas Cheltenham offered exclusivity, quiet, and easy access to the countryside. It also cost a lot less. So attractive did Cheltenham prove that it took off in a remarkable way. In the early nineteenth century it was growing as fast as many industrial towns, and running into some of the same problems of poverty and disease. As the elegant Regency terraces went up, so the poorer parts of town expanded to accommodate the working-class population, who serviced the needs of the wealthy visitors. A health resort adorned with statues of Hygeia and Hippocrates had many districts without drains or sewers, resulting in problems which were difficult to address before the town became a modern borough with a modern local authority.

Twentieth-century Cheltenham made a much better job of adapting to changed conditions than many British towns. In the difficult times after World War One, the Council began to build plenty of housing and to try to attract modern industries, such as aircraft components, to a town which previously had very little that could be described as 'industry' at all. This policy had a good deal of success, with the result that, shortly after World War Two there were some 6,000 people in working-class occupations *besides* those catering solely for visitors' needs. As well as the arrival of many commercial companies, the post-war period saw the coming of GCHQ and UCCA, two organisations which are looked upon with suspicion in many quarters. Most new arrivals have fitted into the townscape, though the sight of the multi-storey Eagle Tower rising out of the mist must have come as a shock to many, while GCHQ lives in a large 'doughnut' of spectacularly modern design.

While these were new departures, developments such as the arts festivals - the first music festival was held in 1945 - grew naturally out of the long tradition of providing theatres and music for visitors to the spa. There had, of course, also been visitors who came to entertain, including Paganini, Liszt and Jenny Lind. A museum has been opened to commemorate Gustav Holst who was born in the town, though it is sad to read that it is "still insecure financially".

Cheltenham is not really like Bath, or Tewkesbury or Cirencester, but has a rich history all of its own, and Anthea Jones is to be congratulated on her meticulous research and the very readable account which she has produced. Her book does justice to all periods of the town's history, debunks myths which have grown up about it, and provides a well-balanced social and economic history of what life in the place was like for both local people and visitors. The large numbers of illustrations, very well chosen and reproduced, and including many recent photos, take the reader from the elegant terraces to the back-to-back housing, with the help of informative captions. Of the many humorous touches which add to the book's enjoyment, I particularly liked the reference to the 'black wagon' which used to leave for Epsom each week because the water in some of Cheltenham's wells needed pepping up!

Peter Franklin

LPSS Autumn 2013 Conference: Advance Notice

The next LPSS autumn conference will be held **on Saturday, 16th November, 2013, at Lancaster University**. The theme is '**Immigrant Communities**' and confirmed speakers (and topics) include:

- Professor Mark Ormerod (York University) on England's immigrants, 1330-1550
- Professor Don MacRaild (Northumbria University) on the Irish in nineteenth-century Britain
- Dr Wendy Ugolini (Edinburgh University) on Italians in Scotland during the Second World War
- Dr Kathy Burrell (Liverpool University) on Polish migration to Britain since c1950
- Dr Nissa Finney (Manchester University) on the changing geographies of Britain's immigrant communities since the Second World War

Full details to be provided later but please make a note of the date in your diary and, maybe, link the conference with a trip to the Lake District or Yorkshire Dales.

Forthcoming events

FACHRS Conference 2013 – Saturday, 18th May, 2013, at St John's Church Hall, Cove, Farnborough, Hants. Theme: WWI. Full details can be obtained from Angela Blaydon, 2 Elm Close Ripley, Surrey GU23 6LE. Tel: 01483-224511. Email: angela.blaydon@fachrs.org.uk or check the FACHRS website www.fachrs.com.

Subscriptions 2013

Members are reminded that subscriptions for 2013 are now due. Those members who have elected to pay by standing order will pay their subscriptions on 1st May each year and need take no further action. Standing orders can be easily set up by completing the form available from the office lbs@herts.ac.uk or via our website <http://www.localpopulationstudies.org.uk/join.html>
Current membership rates are:

	UK	Overseas
Individual	£18.00	£21.00
Student	£10.00	£13.00
Institution	£30.00	£40.00

If you wish to continue to pay by cheque, please make cheques payable to: **Local Population Studies Society** and send to Local Population Studies Society General Office, School of Humanities, University of Hertfordshire, College Lane, Hatfield, Herts AL10 9AB.

The Local Population Studies Society Spring Conference
Friends Meeting House, 173-77 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BJ
Saturday, 13th April, 2013

Urban Mortality in Britain

**Sponsored by The Economic History Society, The Centre for Regional and Local History,
University of Hertfordshire and LPSS**

9.30-10.15 Registration, tea/coffee and Danish, and welcome

10.15-12.30 *Panel One: Mortality in London*

‘The history of mortality in London, 1538-1849’ – Peter Razzell (University of Essex)

‘London and the larger English towns as epidemiological drivers before 1850’ – Richard Smith (Cambridge University)

‘“Then and there lying dead” – violent and suspicious deaths in 1760s Middlesex’ – Audrey Eccles

12.30-1.00 AGM of the Local Population Studies Society

12.45-2.00 Lunch

2.00-3.15 *Panel Two: Mortality in the Early Modern English Provinces*

‘The myth of mortality in English county towns in the early modern period: some simple arithmetic’ – Nigel Goose (University of Hertfordshire).

‘Mortality in English market towns in the early modern period’ – Andrew Hinde (University of Southampton)

3.15-3.45 Tea/coffee and cake

3.45-5.00 *Panel Three: Disease in the Provinces*

‘“Rack’d and tortur’d with the most inveterate diseases and painful distempers”? The urban poor and the Newcastle Infirmary, 1751-1850’ – Graham Butler (Newcastle University).

‘Smallpox mortality in Southampton and adjacent parishes during the eighteenth century’ – Mary South (University of Winchester)

BOOKING FORM

The conference fee is **£30 for LPSS members, £40 for non members**, inclusive of all refreshments. Please reserve places. I enclose a cheque for..... (payable to ‘Local Population Studies Society’). Please state overleaf if you have any special dietary requirements.

Name & address:

.....Post Code.....

E-mail address:Telephone:.....

Please complete and return to *Local Population Studies*, School of Humanities, University of Hertfordshire, College Lane, Hatfield, Herts. AL10 9AB, by **28 March 2013**.

Tel. 01707 285688. E-mail: lps@herts.ac.uk