As we reach the very end of the REF2014 cycle, this is a good time to reflect both on where we are now, and how we have got there, before we take stock of our REF results this week, and continue to prepare for our School Review in March, and beyond.

HUMS researchers continue to be very active, planning research projects, accepting invitations to speak at conferences and other research events, writing books and journal articles, and responding to funding calls. Elsewhere in this newsletter we have reports from researchers across the School, in which you can read about some of the fascinating work in which HUMS researchers are engaged. We continue to be pushed to bring in more research income, as do all areas of the University. We are achieving well in that area, as more and more of our researchers are either holding a grant or preparing to put in an application. In 2013-14 we made 35 applications for external funding, ranging from £806K to £1650. In 2012-13 we made more applications, a total of 47, and these ranged from £1.6 m to £1461. However, we were successful in more of our applications in 13-14, and thus brought in a higher figure for grant income in 13-14 than the previous year. Our contribution of indirect income to the university (from grants such as AHRC and European Research Council, which are paid on the basis of full economic costing) also went up in 13-14 relative to 12-13, and remains the highest indirect income contribution of the three Schools. This is all good news, and means that researchers are utilizing the extensive research application support that we have in RED, and in particular from Jean Pretlove and Valerie Aspin, our Research Development Managers, to enable us to put in better research proposals, that stand a better chance of being funded.

HUMS continues to respond enthusiastically to new initiatives. This term money was made available from the University Research Committee to the Faculty Research Directors. Robert Bickers made a portion of this available specifically for Early Career Researchers to bid for sums of up to £500 to put together Early Career Networks. All the applications that were received to that initiative were from HUMS researchers. Two excellent proposals were funded: Josie Gill and Andrew Blades (both English) are running a ‘Sciences and Arts’ ECR Network which will kick off with an event on February 4th, 2015, and Emily Baughan and Su Lin Lewis (both History) and Tom Scott-Smith (Politics) are running an ECR network on ‘New Perspectives on Humanitarianism’, which has already held its first reading group meeting.

Thinking beyond this week, and into the new REF cycle, I would like us, as a School, to act in an even more ‘joined up’ manner when it comes to strategic planning for the delivery of all the different parts of our research mission: publications, grant income, impact and the rest. We have seen that a more strategic approach to grant capture has yielded results, and streamlined our efforts. We need to make sure that we continue that strategic approach in individual research planning also, so that everyone is looking carefully at what grants they may be able to apply for to support research over the whole of the next cycle.

In the short term I am continuing to try to reduce the number of administrative tasks relating to research that we have to perform. Therefore I am aiming, as soon as possible, to discontinue the paper-based Annual Research Review, and use PURE instead. This will require that we all use PURE more extensively than most of us do at present, and use it to record publications, projects, grants, engagement and impact, in the planning stages, as well as recording completed publications. We will be arranging some departmentally based training sessions on the best use of PURE in the New Year to support these moves. The move to a system of continual updating of PURE, rather than a yearly ARR form, will facilitate the Impact Audits which will be brought in from September 2015, in which our Impact Officer will gather information about the current – and planned – state of our Impact efforts. Keeping PURE up to date throughout the year, with impact plans and activities as well as publications, should – we hope – avoid researchers having to respond to requests for paper-based information to support that Impact Audit in September.
In addition, to further reduce the number of paper-based administrative exercises we perform at busy times of the year, we will, from the 2015-16 cycle, no longer require the submission of a full CV at the start of the new academic year. Candidates for promotion will still require a full ‘Bristol format’ CV for that exercise, and we will all, no doubt, keep our own CVs up-to-date as publications come out and other activities happen. But we hope that it will help to protect valuable research time at the end of the summer and start of the new academic session if we can dispense with the requirement to submit paper ARR forms and CVs in October.

Finally, the draft Self Evaluation Document for the School Review has now been made available for consultation, prior to Wednesday’s Extraordinary School Meeting. Since we will naturally have to respond to the REF results and alter our Research Strategy documents in the light of those results, this particular draft will contain very little on the research section. Nonetheless I will pleased to hear, at any time, from members of the School about suggestions relating to research that we might wish to incorporate into our Self Evaluation Document, and into our updated Research Strategy documents. Feel free to email me any thoughts on the way in which we carry out and support our research, and on potential research directions and developments.

Beth Williamson
Deputy Head Research
December 2014

the interests of the Faculty and help shape the onward march of Bristol’s research endeavour. Representing the Faculty externally also helps eat up the .5FTE the role is allotted, whether it’s GW4, or bilateral initiatives such as Kyoto, Rochester, and (coming your way soon, so please n.b.): Heidelberg.

That’s just the start of the list, which expands ever on, but I’ll stop there. I do also, of course, attempt to maintain my own programme of research. While only just over four months into the role, I have in most years since late 2001 held a research portfolio at either department or school level, or supported my predecessor, Alexander Bird, as Deputy. As Peter Coates comments in his note, (see facing page) this has seen us move from last minute hand delivery of signed applications to the AHRC (as was) offices at Lewins Mead to last-minute electronic submission of bids (‘last minute’ does not seem to have changed: it would be helpful if it could). The frustrations at the failure of fantastic bids to secure funding, has been offset -- for me -- by the success of projects I’ve helped shape, or of candidates for ERC awards I have helped mock-interview.

The Penguin Archive Project decorates an entire meeting room at the AHRC’s headquarters in Swindon; last summer I encountered, by chance, in Derbyshire, the magic mirror presented, and the challenges, very much shape the work I am doing, and the rethinking that we are all doing, to help support and develop the school’s research profile and activities.

Robert Bickers
December 2014

**FRD report (continued)**

In addition, to further reduce the number of paper-based administrative exercises we perform at busy times of the year, we will, from the 2015-16 cycle, no longer require the submission of a full CV at the start of the new academic year. Candidates for promotion will still require a full ‘Bristol format’ CV for that exercise, and we will all, no doubt, keep our own CVs up-to-date as publications come out and other activities happen. But we hope that it will help to protect valuable research time at the end of the summer and start of the new academic session if we can dispense with the requirement to submit paper ARR forms and CVs in October.

Finally, the draft Self Evaluation Document for the School Review has now been made available for consultation, prior to Wednesday’s Extraordinary School Meeting. Since we will naturally have to respond to the REF results and alter our Research Strategy documents in the light of those results, this particular draft will contain very little on the research section. Nonetheless I will pleased to hear, at any time, from members of the School about suggestions relating to research that we might wish to incorporate into our Self Evaluation Document, and into our updated Research Strategy documents. Feel free to email me any thoughts on the way in which we carry out and support our research, and on potential research directions and developments.

Beth Williamson
Deputy Head Research
December 2014

the interests of the Faculty and help shape the onward march of Bristol’s research endeavour. Representing the Faculty externally also helps eat up the .5FTE the role is allotted, whether it’s GW4, or bilateral initiatives such as Kyoto, Rochester, and (coming your way soon, so please n.b.): Heidelberg.

That’s just the start of the list, which expands ever on, but I’ll stop there. I do also, of course, attempt to maintain my own programme of research. While only just over four months into the role, I have in most years since late 2001 held a research portfolio at either department or school level, or supported my predecessor, Alexander Bird, as Deputy. As Peter Coates comments in his note, (see facing page) this has seen us move from last minute hand delivery of signed applications to the AHRC (as was) offices at Lewins Mead to last-minute electronic submission of bids (‘last minute’ does not seem to have changed: it would be helpful if it could). The frustrations at the failure of fantastic bids to secure funding, has been offset -- for me -- by the success of projects I’ve helped shape, or of candidates for ERC awards I have helped mock-interview.

The Penguin Archive Project decorates an entire meeting room at the AHRC’s headquarters in Swindon; last summer I encountered, by chance, in Derbyshire, the magic mirror presented, and the challenges, very much shape the work I am doing, and the rethinking that we are all doing, to help support and develop the school’s research profile and activities.

Robert Bickers
December 2014

**FRD report**

**Role of the FRD**

I thought it might be useful to outline some of the responsibilities, and pleasures, of my role as Faculty Research Director. In brief, I have responsibility, with the Dean, for research and enterprise, and impact. Within the Faculty I work with Kate Robson-Brown, Deputy FRD, and with the three school directors, school impact directors, head of BIRTHA the Faculty’s internal team of research development managers, with the local Finance Team, and with such units as the EU team in RED, and the Research IT group. The role can reach from strategic oversight and responsibility (not least for the REF), to the micro-detail of individual bids and research plans. And then I sit on University Research Committee, chaired by the PVC Research Nishan Canagarajah, where I represent...
Head of School report

Research and research-led teaching lies at the heart of the work of the School of Humanities. It is a great pleasure to be reporting on the full range of research conducted in the School in this special Research Edition of the HUMS Newsletter.

Humanities research at Bristol is refreshingly original. I know this from the research seminars, book launches and inaugural addresses I get to attend as one of the most enjoyable parts of my job as well as the constant stream of conversation about new ideas, papers being written, research collaborations freshly forged and new research students knocking on our doors that I hear about from colleagues up and down Woodland Road. Like the city of Bristol, there is a creative and imaginative pulse to the best of our research edged on by the thrill of new discoveries which are just making their way into print. We have also been helped by the appointment of a large number of early career researchers who have brought with them an exciting range of new research proposals and networks. The next step is to build on research advances made possible by the expansion of our staff and identify ways to deepen and strengthen our research culture across traditional disciplinary frontiers.

I emphasize these elements of surprise, creativity and discovery because these qualities are essential for long-term success in humanities research. Yes, like dancers forever exercising at an intellectual barre, we need to maintain fitness and poise by applying for grants, measuring our success by external ranking and accepting the judgement of our critics as we wait for the outcome of REF2014. But we also need to get the balance right between the adrenaline of competition, which is one of the costs of research, and the core business of advancing the field of knowledge in our chosen fields.

This Newsletter showcases some of the research which is emerging right now in HUMS. I would like to single out the award to Professor Bob Fowler of the Charles J Goodwin Award of Merit of the Society of Classical Studies (formerly the American Philosophical Association). This is the profession’s highest award and underscores the ongoing strength of Bristol as a centre for excellence in classical studies. Another highlight must be the critical and popular success of Ronald Hutton’s Pagan Britain, which has been a runaway hit with readers from all parts of the intellectual spectrum. Indeed, 2014 has been a bumper year for new and re-markable books from HUMS researchers, some of which were featured in the most recent Faculty celebration of new publications.

In terms of grant success, the ever increasing competitiveness of the funding environment for pure research in the humanities provides us with challenges with regard to grant capture. But there have been some excellent results, including including Jonathan Saha’s award of an AHRC early career fellowship for an animal history of Burma, and GW4 funding to Medieval Studies under the leadership of Ian Wei and Beth Williamson. Urika Maude secured an AHRC Networking Award under the title ‘Modernism, Medicine and the Embodied Mind’ as well as convening the Faculty-wide Medical Humanities Research group. John Lyons has just been advised that he has secured funding for a three-year postdoctoral research fellowship to Jonathan Downing from the Panacea society for a history of that fascinating organisation.

Over the horizon, the HUMS is looking to build research beyond the traditional strengths of the School in its five subjects. These we continue to support. However, if we are to continue to grow, then we also need to be working in new, cross-disciplinary and emerging fields particularly in what might be called the “new” humanities: Digital Humanities, Environmental Humanities, Medical Humanities and Visual Humanities. These fields build on outstanding work already being done but envisage a more connected future with more intense collaborations with colleagues in the arts, sciences, engineering and medicine as well as the transformative possibilities opened up by the new social and digital revolution. The School has invested strongly in early career and senior appointments over the last three years. In January we look forward to the arrival of our new Professor of Medieval Literature, Helen Fulton. Humanities research is changing and we look forward with great anticipation to the role that Bristol will play in its transformation.

Hilary Carey
December 2014

Brendan Smith Inaugural Lecture: A passing glance of wonder and pity: reflections on the history of medieval Ireland.

Ireland was England’s first colony. The spread of English power and English people throughout the neighbouring island after 1170 inspired a burst of literary activity as contemporaries sought to justify or discredit this colonial venture. This lecture explores what these writings reveal, and conceal, about Ireland’s medieval past. Inaugural lecture: Tuesday 17 March 2015, 6pm Pugsley Lecture Theatre, Queen’s Building, University Walk, BS8 1TR.
Professor Peter Coates: A voice from the past

A former DHR reflects on recent activities and trends

When I received Rosanne’s e-mail inviting me to contribute to this special issue, I was at the University of Exeter, meeting with fellow investigators and other colleagues from Bath, Bristol, Cardiff and Exeter for the inaugural meeting of the GW4 ‘Environmental Humanities’ Community. This two-day workshop, funded by a GW4 Initiator Award for ‘Building Communities’, brought together researchers from the GW4 regional consortium at all stages of their careers who share an interest in questions of place, memory and sustainability – and, on the second day, also got us thinking about an application to the next pot of GW4 financial support: the Accelerator Fund. If we secure Accelerator funding, the third stage will be a large grant application to an external body. More than thirty Communities have been funded to date through this Initiator scheme, from ‘Algal Valorisation and Remediation of Acid Mine Drainage’ to ‘Dying Well After a Long Life’. Yet only a handful operate within GW4’s arts and humanities sector (Medieval Studies, led by our School’s Ian Wei and Beth Williamson, is another Community).

It’s not just about building communities, though. It’s also about building links between communities and between projects. AHRC encourages the projects it funds (especially under a particular Highlight Call or Theme) to think about inter-project links and how they might work together (hence the growing emphasis on follow-on funding). Earlier this afternoon, I attended an exploratory meeting, hosted by Robert Bickers, together with Marianna Dudley, an AHRC Early Career Researcher (ECR)/Post-Doctoral Research Assistant (PDRA) (Historical Studies) and two representatives from the Henleaze Lake Swimming Club (based at a former quarry in northwest Bristol – a venerable institution to which some of you readers may also belong). The Club marks its centenary in 2019 and it made sense to have this meeting because of Robert’s ‘Know Your Bristol On the Move’ project (part of AHRC’s ‘Connected Communities’ programme), the School’s ‘Power and the Water’ that I’m running (AHRC ‘Care for the Future’ programme) and another ‘Connected Communities’ project I’m involved with (‘Towards Hydrocitizenship’, which includes a case study of Bristol waterscapes). It sounds trite, but one project leads to another.

Another increasingly noticeable feature in today’s research environment is the arts-science crossover project. I’m currently working with Simon Hiscock, professor of botany and director of UoB’s botanic garden, on a site-specific project about the cultural and natural heritage value of hedgerows. This project, pursued in collaboration with the team that manages the Quantock Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, has recently completed its pilot phase, which was supported by funding from UoB’s Cabot Institute (which is not just for volcanologists, seismologists, hydrologists and sociologists). A key aspect of this project is ‘citizen science’, and the last meeting I attended on the village hall in Bicknoller was a training session for local volunteers. If you’d told me three years ago that one of the new skills I was due to acquire was how to conduct a hedgerow survey, I wouldn’t have believed you.

Another prominent ingredient in the makeup of collaborative, externally funded projects, in terms of personnel, is the Early Career Fellow (ECF). And the training of the next generation of research leaders is high on the agenda of some research council-led community and capacity building exercises. Care for the Future also entails care for the future career development of project researchers. That’s why the person representing ‘The Power and the Water’ project at a Franco-British workshop in mid-January at the Fondation Royaumont, Val d’Oise, won’t be me. This meeting is an unprecedented collaboration between two major national research programmes on uses, representations and legacies of the past, AHRC’s ‘Care for the Future: Thinking Forward through the Past’ Theme and France’s ‘Pasts, in the Present: History, Heritage, Memory’ laboratoire d’excellence project (Labex). The representative will be Marianna Dudley, one of the project’s ECRs, because the workshop aims to provide networking opportunities for future co-investigators (who will in due course become principal investigators) and to generate ideas for Franco-British collaborative projects beyond the lifetime of Labex. A whole spectrum of heritage organizations will also be among the participants at this workshop. Working with external partners to advance public engagement and Impact started to kick in back in 2007, when I began my stint as DHR. Over the years since, thinking and working within this research culture has become second nature to the research students and post-doctoral research assistants working on AHRC-funded projects within the School, and, I trust, enhances their employability when they apply for lectureships.

I’ll wrap up with a personal reminiscence. A few months after I took over as the School’s DHR (Robert has the distinction of serving as the first, if briefly), I also began work on the Militarized Landscapes project (2007-10). This was shortly after the old Arts and Humanities Research Board became a fully-fledged UK research council. But before it moved from Bristol to Swindon and also before the advent of Joint Electronic Submissions (aka our beloved JeS). In fact, back in March 2006, I can remember hand delivering the hard copy of the Militarized Landscapes’ application, complete with actual signatures, in a thick envelope, to the AHRC’s office down at Lewins Mead, near the Marlborough Street coach station.

Peter Coates
December 2014
School Impact Director report

While it is often dismissed or viewed with a certain suspicion by academics, ‘impact’ is in fact about disseminating the value of our research to the wider community, and about making it matter in decision making. The Arts and Humanities have always been impactful, prompting communities to question received assumptions about the most basic aspects of our lives. Impact will account for 20% of the overall quality profile in the 2014 REF, and will figure even more prominently in the 2020 Research Assessment Exercise. But we should not think of it in mere instrumental terms: caring about the significance of our research beyond the academic community should be of value to us all.

Colleagues across the School of Humanities are engaged in impact activities that have developed organically out of their cutting-edge research. Dorothy Price (History of Art), whose research expertise includes German Expressionism, will be co-curator of a major exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts in London, scheduled for Spring 2019. Expressionism: The Cult of Youth, takes a fresh look at the pivotal early twentieth-century art movement. Expressionism has often been interpreted in England either as foreshadowing the sinister political events of the 1930s or, more accurately, as a victim of the assault on modernist culture perpetrated by the National Socialists. Dorothy’s exhibition will delve back into the original spirit of Expressionism, a movement created by young artists at the dawn of a new century with an impulse for rebirth and renewal, and will demonstrate its remarkable links with early twenty-first-century culture. The exhibition will recapture the original dynamism of the movement, presenting a cross-disciplinary event that encompasses art and design, literature, film, theatre, dance and even advertising.

Victoria Bates (History) has set up a regional medical humanities network that encourages interaction between academics, medical practitioners, and other members of the public. The network was launched in May this year, with the assistance of a grant from the Wellcome Trust, and it focuses on dialogue between different medical humanities interest groups in the South West and Wales. It includes artists – both those using art to articulate health experiences and those using it to promote health with patients – as well as doctors, psychotherapists, educators and academics from a range of Arts and Social Sciences disciplines. The network seeks to promote dialogue between different interest groups in the Medical Humanities in a way that can have a real impact on patient care.

Ralph Pite (English), whose many areas of expertise include Romantic literature, ecocriticism, culture and sustainability, is currently developing an app on Romantic Bristol. It will guide users to Romantic-period sites in and around Bristol, and offer site-specific contemporary poems on various Romantic-period sites. The app will allow users, for instance, to locate Joseph Cottle’s shop on Wine Street where Wordsworth and Coleridge’s Lyrical Ballads was published in 1798, enable them to read one of the poems, and allow them to learn about the importance of the collection. It will provide access to an image of the first edition of the book, as well as including a site-specific poem by a contemporary Bristol poet.

Shane Butler (Classics) is researching John Addington Symonds (1840-1893), the Victorian Classicist, polymath and early gay-rights pioneer. The research also has a Bristol-based focus, for Clifton Hill House, now a University hall of residence, was once the Symonds family home. On 5 October, Symonds’s 174th birthday, Shane organised a party at Clifton Hill House, which included brief introductions by local experts to Symonds’ life, works, and relationship to Clifton and Bristol. Symonds figures prominently in Shane’s research into ‘Deep Classics’, which investigates the reception of Classical literature and culture across the centuries, and was also the focus of Shane’s recent inaugural lecture. The University of Bristol houses the Symonds archive, and a number of outreach and impact activities, including an art exhibition, are currently being planned.

John Lyons’s (Religion and Theology) research project, ‘Scripture, Dissent and Deaf Space’, focuses on purpose-built Deaf churches as rare examples of places of worship specifically designed around Deaf people’s visual communication. Earlier this year, one of the only remaining Deaf churches in London was threatened with closure and sale. Through BBC radio interviews and a disability-related blog, the project team were able to raise questions about how the unique site could be protected. This research-led intervention, together with a Deaf-led campaign, led to the church’s listing as a Grade II building by English Heritage. The project will now embark on further work with English Heritage to identify how the needs of different groups, such as the hearing-impaired, have been designed into the fabric of buildings.

Ulrika Maude
December 2014

Professor Bob Fowler wins the prestigious Goodwin Award of Merit

The Charles J. Goodwin Award of Merit is awarded annually by the Society for Classical Studies (formerly the American Philological Association) for an outstanding contribution to classical scholarship published by a member of the Society during the preceding three years. Last year they raised the number of awards to three a year in view of the many meritorious nominations. The Society was founded in 1869 and this prize, awarded since 1951, is the most prestigious international award specifically for Classics. The complete citation is available at http://soscilclassics.org/awards-and-fellowships/2014/goodwin-citation.

Anna Jordan, organiser of The Great HUMS bake off. Almost £300 was raised for The Cancer Society of New Zealand

Dr Ulrika Maude, Impact Director

This week at the HUMS Christmas Social: winners of the HUMS bake off to be announced. First prize: a copy of Mary Berry’s Baking Bible, personally autographed by the author!
I returned to teaching this autumn after a year spent as a University Research Fellow researching and writing my latest book *Classics in Theory: Narratology – due to be published by OUP in 2015. In the last thirty years, the tools and terms of narratology – in particular as delineated in the pioneering work of Mieke Bal, Gérard Genette, and Peter Brooks – have been taken up eagerly by Classicists and have inspired many productive ‘narratological’ readings of a broad range of texts, from epic to elegy, ancient historiography to the ancient novel. In fact, my own earlier work in this field (including her 2009 edited collection *Narratology and Latin Elegy: Fragments of Story*) has left me breathless at the new insights into the storytelling potential of Latin elegy in particular.

Although mindful that, as Mieke Bal once warned, narratology is not ‘some kind of machine into which one inserts a text at one end and expects an accurate description to roll out at the other’, Classicists have been quick to test the full potential of this still developing system of textual analysis, welcoming not only its taxonomies and precise technical vocabularies but the interpretative insights it can help to yield. As my research is helping to show, while modern narratology may not promise Classics a perfect science or grammar for literary criticism it does offer a toolkit containing a variety of intellectual instruments (sharpened by feminist, structuralist, post-colonial, histor- toricist, and formalist criticism) that are valuable in analysing different features of narrative in different sorts of ancient texts – and are thus useful in their wider critical interpretation as literary and cultural artefacts. The research and readings in my new book also demonstrate some of the unexpected ways in which modern narratology has in turn looked to classical literary works and to ancient models and theories of genre, form and story for inspiration, not only looking to Classics for ‘classical’ narratives to serve as its exempla, but also looking there for its own foundation story in the ancient poetic and philosophical works of Plato and Aristotle, and finding the nascent origins of its own techniques in the ancient Greek scholia and Latin commentaries. I myself have found presenting her work in progress to research seminar and conference audiences in London, Manchester, Bristol and Oxford during the last year has thrown up further exciting avenues for this area of research.

During my URF, and in collaboration with Professor Ronald Hutton and his Research Assistant Dr Louise Wilson, I have also been preparing the ground for my next project. Combining my research interests in narratology and classical reception, I have convened a series of workshops on The Witch. Supported by the IAS, these workshops have demonstrated that attitudes and approaches to ‘the witch’ involve the perception of classical, medieval, and early modern sources in literary forms that require interdisciplinary attention and study. Of particular interest here, is the way in which ancient Greek and Roman patterns of legislation and prosecution of cases concerning witchcraft and destructive magic shape the narratives and ‘scripts’ subsequently found in early modern witch trials. Detailed interdisciplinary study into this reception process is only now beginning to be undertaken (led by the latest research of our own Ronald Hutton) and a reception-based study of classical narratives will help to illustrate the ways in which the witch-hunts and trials of the early modern period drew especially upon Latin narratives and Roman models of the stereotypical witch, her prosecution, and punishment – models which would further shape later European, North American, and twenty-first century ‘witch trials’. The next workshop in this series will be a mini-colloquium (organised by Louise Wilson) featuring Irina Metzler from the University of Swansea discussing ‘The magus in the tower: Prehistory of an image in Tolkien’s work’ on Friday 19th December, 3pm in 1.01, 36 Tyndall’s Park Road.  

Genevieve Liveley  
December 2014