

# HNS CONFERENCE 12

THE GLOBAL EVENT OF THE YEAR

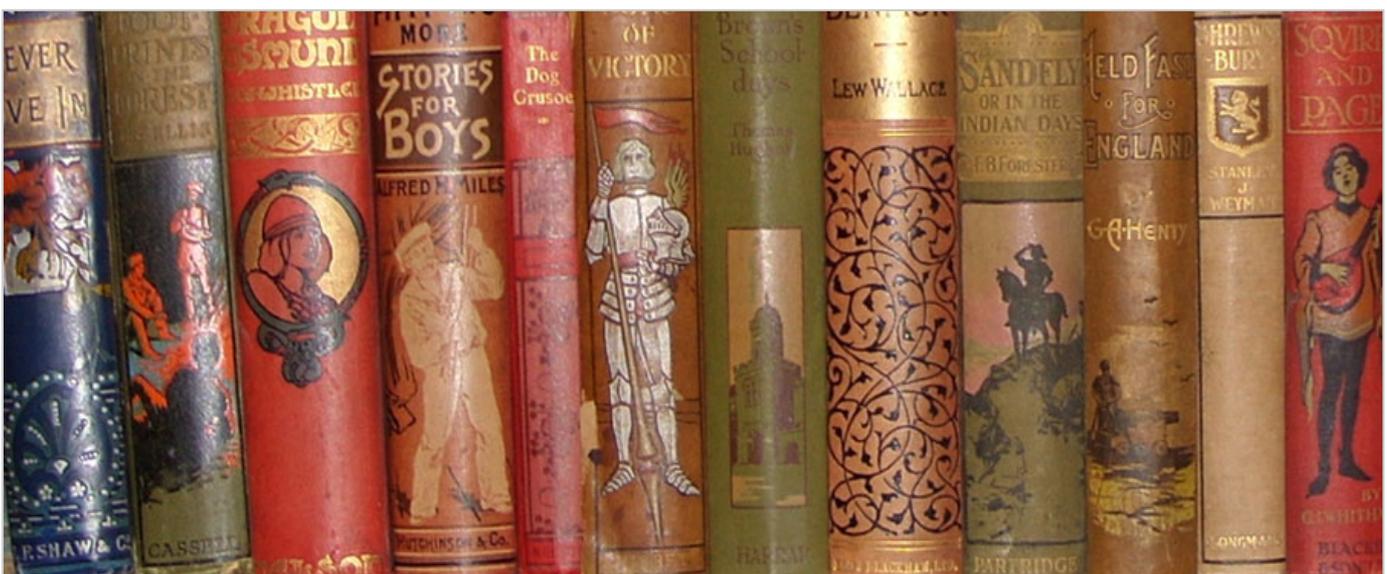
FOR READERS & WRITERS OF HISTORICAL FICTION

28-30 September, 2012

University of Westminster

309 Regent Street, London W1B 2UW

## CONFERENCE GUIDE



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PROGRAMME

TIME	EVENT	ROOM
<b>Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September -Evening</b>		
6.30 - 7.30 pm	<b>Pre-registration</b>	The Old Cinema Foyer
6.45 - 8.30 pm	<b>Wine and Canapés Reception</b> (with finger buffet)  Welcome address: <b>Richard Lee (HNS),            CW Gortner &amp; Elizabeth Chadwick</b>	Fyvie Hall
<i>Delegates may choose to join the HNSLondon12 Committee and continue networking at Aqua afterwards (and then make their own arrangements for dinner)</i>		
<b>Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September - Day</b>		
<i>Featuring members of the Napoleonic Association, 3rd (East Kent) Regiment of Foot</i>		
9.00 - 9.30	<b>Saturday Registration</b>  Tea/coffee/juice/croissants/pastries ( to be consumed in Foyer and Gallery of Old Gymnasium)	The Old Cinema Foyer  Served in Fyvie Hall
9.30 - 9.40	<b>Welcome - Richard Lee</b>	The Old Cinema
9.40 - 10.25	<b>Main Panel Session 1</b> (with Q & A)  <b>What Sells HF?</b> From title to jacket: the ever-improving package  <b>Matt Bates, Jade Chandler, Diana Gabaldon,            David Headley, Simon Taylor, Susan Watt</b>	The Old Cinema
10.25 - 11.15	<b>Opening address:</b>	The Old Cinema

	<b>Philippa Gregory</b>	
11.15 - 11.50	<b>Booksigning/selling</b> Tea/coffee/biscuits <i>(to be consumed in Foyer and Gallery of Old Gymnasium)</i>	Gallery of Old Gymnasium  Served in Fyvie Hall
11.50 - 12.50	<b>Pitch Sessions with agents and editors</b> <i>(Details on page 26 )</i>	Designated Classroom
11.50 - 12.50	<b>Optional Workshops/Talks</b> <i>(Details on page 21-23 )</i>	Classrooms
12.50 - 2.05	<b>Lunch</b> Sandwiches/wraps/ crisps/fruit platter/juice <i>(to be consumed in Foyer and Gallery of Old Gymnasium)</i>  <b>Booksigning/selling</b>	Served in Fyvie Hall  Gallery of Old Gymnasium
2.05 - 2.25	<b>Presentation of HNS Short Story Award</b>  <b>Gillian Green &amp; Jonathan Pegg</b>	The Old Cinema
2.25 - 3.10	<b>Main Panel Session 2</b> (with Q&A)  <b>The Lying Art</b> <i>Tensions and issues at the fact/fiction interface</i>  <b>Elizabeth Chadwick, Emma Darwin, Barbara Ewing, Daisy Goodwin, Ian Mortimer, Harry Sidebottom</b>	The Old Cinema
3.10 - 3.25	Comfort Break	
3.25 - 4.25	<b>Pitch Sessions with agents and editors</b> <i>(Details on page 27 )</i>	Designated Classroom
3.25 - 4.10	<b>Main Panel Session 3</b> (with Q& A)  <b>Brawn v Heart</b> <i>Story and gender in HF: confronting action with romance</i>	The Old Cinema

	<b>Angus Donald, Shana Drehs, CW Gortner, Gillian Green, Karen Harper, Doug Jackson</b>	
4.10 - 4.25	<b>Booksigning/selling</b> Tea/coffee/muffins/biscuits <i>(to be consumed in Foyer and Gallery of Old Gymnasium)</i>	Gallery of Old Gymnasium  Served in Fyvie Hall
4.25 - 5.25	<b>Final address for Saturday Day Conference</b>  <b>Margaret George</b>	The Old Cinema
5.25 - 5.30	<b>Close of Saturday Day Conference</b> Richard Lee	The Old Cinema
5.30 - 6.30	<b>Booksigning/selling</b>	Gallery of Old Gymnasium
<b>Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September - Evening</b>		
7.30 - 8.00	<b>Banquet Greeting</b>	The Old Cinema Foyer
7.40 - 11.00	<b>Banquet with minstrels and jesters</b> <i>(3 course dinner with wine + coffee/tea and petit fours)</i>  Welcome - Richard Lee  After dinner speech: <b>Bernard Cornwell</b>  Costume pageant  <b>Saturday Night Sex Scene Readings</b>  with Bernard Cornwell, Diana Gabaldon, Gillian Bagwell and friends	The Old Gymnasium
<b>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September - Day</b> <i>Featuring members of the Napoleonic Association, 3rd (East Kent) Regiment of Foot</i>		
9.30 - 9.55	<b>Sunday Registration</b>	The Old Cinema Foyer

	Tea/coffee/juice/biscuits (to be consumed in Foyer and Gallery of Old Gymnasium)	Served in Fyvie Hall
9.55 - 10.00	<b>Welcome - Richard Lee</b>	The Old Cinema
10.00 - 10.45	<b>Main Panel Session 4</b> (with Q&A)  <b>The Many Faces of HF</b> <i>What does the genre embrace and where is it going?</i>  <b>Vanora Bennett, Carole Blake, Rory Clements, Sarah Dunant, Heather Lazare, Cathy Rentzenbrink</b>	The Old Cinema
10.45 - 11.15	<b>Booksigning/selling</b>  <b>Tea/coffee/cookies</b> <i>(to be consumed in Foyer and Gallery of Old Gymnasium)</i>	Gallery of Old Gymnasium  Served in Fyvie Hall
11.15 - 12.15	<b>Pitch Sessions</b> <i>(Details on Page 27 )</i>	Designated Classroom
11.15 - 12.15	<b>Optional Workshops/ Talks</b> <i>(Details on Page 23 -25 )</i>	Classrooms
12.15 - 1.10	<b>Concluding address</b>  <b>Lindsey Davis</b>	The Old Cinema
1.10 - 1.15	<b>Thanks and wrap up - Richard Lee</b>	The Old Cinema
1.15 - 2.15	<b>Lunch</b> Sandwiches/wraps/crisps/fruit platter/juice <i>(to be consumed in Foyer and Gallery of Old Gymnasium)</i>  <b>Booksigning/selling</b>	Served in Fyvie Hall  Gallery of Old Gymnasium

# WHO'S WHO

## GUESTS OF HONOUR



**BERNARD CORNWELL**

Bernard Cornwell is almost as well-known as a fabulously entertaining speaker as he is as the creator of *Sharpe*! He has 20 *Sharpe* adventures behind him, plus a series about *the American Civil War*, the *Starbuck* novels; an enormously successful *trilogy about King Arthur*, *The Warlord Chronicles*; the *Hundred Years War set Grail Quest series*; and his current series about *King Alfred*. <http://www.bernardcornwell.net/>



**LINDSEY DAVIS**

Lindsey Davis's familiar detective, Marcus Didius Falco, is given a break in her latest novel, *Master and God*, so that she can explore other rich characters and themes from Roman history. Awarded the CWA Diamond Dagger in 2011 (the last time this award is to be given), and recipient also of the prestigious *Premio Colosseo* for 'enhancing the image of Rome', Lindsey is a *Sunday Times* bestselling author and doyenne of Roman historical fiction. She lives in London and is currently *Chair of the Society of Authors*.

<http://www.lindseydavis.co.uk>



**MARGARET GEORGE**

Margaret George's first novel, *The Autobiography of Henry VIII*, was published in 1986, and is now in its 33rd printing. A *London Times* and *New York Times* bestseller, it was - and still is - the only novel to tell Henry VIII's story from his point of view. Following that were *Mary Queen of Scotland and the Isles* (1992), *The Memoirs of Cleopatra* (1997), which was made into an ABC-TV miniseries, *Mary Called Magdalene* (2003), *Helen of Troy* (2006) and this year's *Elizabeth I*, which focuses on the later years of the queen. All were bestsellers. She has also written a children's book about turtles, *Lucille Lost* (2006).

Margaret now lives in Wisconsin, but grew up in places all over the world, including Taiwan in the 1940s, Israel in the 1950s, and Berlin at the height of the Cold War.

[www.margaretgeorge.com](http://www.margaretgeorge.com)



**PHILIPPA GREGORY**

Philippa Gregory was an established historian and writer when she discovered her interest in the Tudor period and wrote the novel *The Other Boleyn Girl* which was made into a TV drama, and a major film. Now, six novels later, she is looking at the family that preceded the Tudors: the magnificent Plantagenets, a family of complex rivalries, loves, and hatreds.

Her love for history and commitment to historical accuracy are the hallmarks of her writing. She also reviews for the *Washington Post*, the *LA Times*, and for UK newspapers, and is a regular broadcaster on television, radio, and webcasts from her website, <http://www.philippagregory.com>.

## BOOKSELLERS, PUBLISHERS AND AGENTS



### MATT BATES

Matt Bates is the Fiction Buyer for WH Smith Travel. He has worked for the company since he was 16 as a Saturday boy on the News Department (but always to be found in the Book Department!). In 1998 he became Non Fiction Buyer for the WHS Travel business before moving to manage Fiction in 2004. He has been named as one of the 1000 most influential Londoners in the Evening Standard, and in 2006 was delighted to be a judge for the *Romantic Novel of the Year Award*.



### CAROLE BLAKE

Carole Blake has worked in publishing for 49 years. She started in a secretarial position and rose to become the first-ever Rights Manager for *Michael Joseph*. She was headhunted to start *W H Allen's* first rights department, then approached to become Marketing Director of *Sphere*. After 14 years in publishing, she started her own literary agency which merged to become *Blake Friedmann* in 1983; Carole heads the book division. It was chosen as one of only twelve British agencies commended by the Society of Authors in their first survey of literary agents. Carole is a past President of the *Association of Authors' Agents*, past Chairman of the *Society of Bookmen*, and she was Chairman of *The Book Trade Charity* (BTBS) for several years and is now President. She is a member of the advisory board for the post graduate publishing courses run by both *City University* and *UCLA*. Her book, *From Pitch to Publication* (Macmillan), is a bestseller now in its 12th UK printing. Carole's clients include Elizabeth Chadwick, Anne de Courcy, Barbara Erskine, Ann Granger, Peter James, Beryl Matthews, Lawrence Norfolk, Joseph O'Connor, Sheila O'Flanagan, Tess Stimson, and Julian Stockwin. [www.blakefriedmann.co.uk](http://www.blakefriedmann.co.uk)



### CATHERINE BURKE

Catherine Burke is Associate Publisher for fiction at Sphere, the commercial imprint of Little, Brown Book Group. Sphere publishes a number of bestselling and award-winning historical fiction authors including Elizabeth Chadwick, Susanna Gregory, Angus Donald and Cynthia Harrod-Eagles. Catherine is delighted to be part of the Historical Novel Society Conference and is actively looking to publish sensational new historical fiction authors on the Sphere list. [www.littlebrown.co.uk](http://www.littlebrown.co.uk)



### STEPHANIE CABOT

Half French, half American, Stephanie was educated in Europe and in the US where she majored in History at Harvard. Her agenting career began in London and spent nine years at the William Morris - London, the last five as Managing Director where she built a list of international bestselling and prize-winning authors. She moved back to the States in 2005, joined The Gernert Company, and is now selectively adding writers from a variety of genres, including commercial and literary fiction, latte lit, and non-fiction. She is especially interested in writers who tell original stories with strong narratives and create distinctive characters. She spends her weekends working on a family dairy farm with her husband and four children. [www.thegernertco.com](http://www.thegernertco.com)



### JADE CHANDLER

Jade Chandler is Commissioning Editor for Fiction at Sphere, the commercial imprint of Little, Brown Book Group. Sphere publishes a number of bestselling and award-winning historical fiction authors including Elizabeth Chadwick, Susanna Gregory, Angus Donald and Cynthia Harrod-Eagles. Jade is delighted to be part of the Historical Novel Society Conference and is actively looking for new historical fiction authors to add to the Sphere list, particularly those writing historical crime and thriller novels. [www.littlebrown.co.uk/About/Imprints/Sphere](http://www.littlebrown.co.uk/About/Imprints/Sphere)



## SHANA DREHS

Shana Drehs is Editorial Manager for the Landmark (fiction) imprint of Sourcebooks, Inc. She started her career at Crown/Random House, where she acquired/edited four New York Times bestsellers. At Sourcebooks, as a publisher of historical novelists as diverse as Elizabeth Chadwick, Georgette Heyer, Helen Hollick, Sarah Bower, and Amanda Grange, Shana is acquiring a broad range of historical fiction in addition to non-fiction. She's looking for authors who are passionate about their career arcs and about writing and promoting their work, a hook that sells the book in 2-3 sentences and differentiates it from the competition, an intriguing time period the reader can escape to, a hero or heroine the reader can identify with, and story that illuminates the past in a new and entertaining way. [www.sourcebooks.com](http://www.sourcebooks.com)



## SCOTT EAGAN

Scott Eagan draws on his extensive background in education, writing and literature to assist the writers at Greyhaus Literary Agency. In 2003 he opened the agency with two goals in mind - to promote the romance and women's fiction genres, and to see improvement of writing in general. Located in the Puget Sound region of Washington State, the agency believes that remaining small and focused provides their writers with better assistance on the road to publishing and certainly long after that first book reaches the shelf. Scott has a BA in English/Literature, a MA in Creative Writing and a MA in Literacy. Scott is also a writer (done mostly as a hobby), is an active member of the *Romance Writers of America*, and continues to be active in community work including serving on the National Alumni Board for the *University of Puget Sound*. [www.greyhausagency.com](http://www.greyhausagency.com)



## GILLIAN GREEN

Gillian Green is the Editorial Director for commercial fiction at Ebury Press, part of the Random House group. Ebury Press Fiction is a boutique fiction list which publishes around 20 titles a year across a range of genres including historical, women's fiction, crime and thrillers and accessible literary fiction. 2012 sees a number of historical fiction debuts from Ebury, including *The Midwife of Venice*, by Roberta Rich, *The Bone Thief*, by historian V.M. Whitworth, and *Mistress of the Sea*, by Jenny Barden. [www.eburypublishing.co.uk](http://www.eburypublishing.co.uk)



## DAVID HEADLEY

David Headley studied theology in London and Durham before co-founding Goldsboro Books, an independent bookseller based in central London. He has spent the last 14 years developing the company and building good relationships with the UK's major publishing houses. He created the UK's largest collectors' book club and is influential in selling large quantities of hardback fiction in the UK. In 2008 David created D. H. H. Literary Agency which enables him to concentrate on discovering new talent in fiction writing. He is only looking to represent fiction writers currently. In his spare time he enjoys travelling. He likes material that is different, unconventional, and something that may challenge as well as a good commercial read. [www.dhhliteraryagency.com](http://www.dhhliteraryagency.com)



## JANE JUDD

Jane Judd was an editor with Hutchinson for 10 years before setting up her own agency in 1986. She has always had an eclectic list of non-fiction and fiction writers, from cookery, sports and film to literary and commercial fiction. Nowadays, the emphasis is on self-help, health, biography, popular history and narrative non-fiction, general and historical fiction and literary fiction. Jane regularly visits New York and the London and Frankfurt Book Fairs and has conducted one-to-ones at writers' festivals such as York, Winchester and Frome. [www.janejudd.com](http://www.janejudd.com)



### HEATHER LAZARE

Senior Editor, Heather Lazare, joined Touchstone, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, in 2011 after six years in publishing working at the Crown Publishing Group and prior to that, the Sandra Dijkstra Literary Agency. Heather has acquired and edited a range of historical fiction from award-winning, New York Times bestselling, and international bestselling authors including: Nancy Bilyeau, Kimberley Freeman, Julia Gregson, Karleen Koen, Michelle Moran, and Anne Easter Smith. Heather has also reissued many novels from the grande dame of historical fiction, Jean Plaidy. She loves to read about little-known historical women and while she does adore tales of the English royalty, she is particularly interested in stories set in the Middle East, China, Russia, Italy, and France, where she spent two years teaching English in Aix-en-Provence. [www.simonandschuster.com](http://www.simonandschuster.com)



### LAURA MACDOUGALL

A love of the ancient world from an early age led to Laura reading Classics at university. She now works in the Fiction Editorial department at Hodder & Stoughton which has long been the home of bestselling historical fiction, from Anya Seton to Robyn Young. Laura is actively looking for high-quality historical fiction from any period. [www.hodder.co.uk](http://www.hodder.co.uk)



### KATE NASH

Kate Allan is the pen name of Kate Nash who is a literary agent. She will consider historical fiction from any period and is particularly interested to see adventure fiction, military settings, historical women's fiction and romance. She also works in publishing as a director at indie publisher *Myrmidon Books*, is festival director at the *Writers Workshop Festival of Writing* and chief romantic at the *Festival of Romance*. As Kate Allan she is the author of seven novels. [www.kateallan.com](http://www.kateallan.com)



### JONATHAN PEGG

Jonathan Pegg established his eponymous literary agency in 2008, having previously been a senior agent at Curtis Brown. He represents literary fiction (e.g. Tom McCarthy, Mike Stocks), quality commercial fiction (e.g. Jenny Barden, Guy Saville) and narrative non-fiction (e.g. Alex Brummer, Nick Davies, Robert Lacey). Although his portfolio of clients contains many established names he also enjoys representing debut authors. [www.jonathanpegg.com](http://www.jonathanpegg.com)



### CATHY RENTZENBRINK

After ten years of bookselling at Waterstones, Cathy has recently become the Project Director at Galaxy Quick Reads and is excited to be finding new ways of spreading a joy in books and reading. She learnt to love historical fiction as a girl by taking Jean Plaidy books out of the library and feels on a continual mission to up the number of readers who acknowledge the sheer comic genius of Georgette Heyer. Some her favourite settings include Tudor and Stuart England and France, and she also has a fondness for time slip novels, as she is often to be found day dreaming about where she would most like to go if she could time travel. She loves enthusing about history and rather envies those people whose job it is to dress up as characters from history and talk to tourists about their lives. [www.quickreads.org.uk](http://www.quickreads.org.uk)



## IAN SKILLICORN

Ian Skillicorn is an audio producer and digital publisher. He produces audiobooks and podcasts for writers and publishers, and audio stories for [www.shortstoryradio.com](http://www.shortstoryradio.com), which he founded in 2006. Among his most recent projects, Ian has produced an audiobook of stories by best-selling women's fiction writers and a special series of programmes for broadcaster Sue Cook. In 2010, Ian founded *National Short Story Week*, which aims to get more people writing, reading and listening to short stories. Already a popular and established event in the literary calendar, *National Short Story Week* is celebrated by many hundreds of libraries and schools, as well as publishers, reading and writing organisations, and countless individual writers, readers and listeners around the UK.

[www.nationalshortstoryweek.org.uk](http://www.nationalshortstoryweek.org.uk)



## ARABELLA STEIN

Arabella Stein became a Literary Agent in 2002, when she joined Abner Stein. Previously she was Paperback Publisher at Bloomsbury and Editorial Director at Fourth Estate and Macmillan. As an agency, Abner Stein largely represents American and Australian authors on behalf of their principal agents and publishers and therefore the agency has been fortunate enough to represent the widest range of historical authors from Jean Plaidy to the latest Orange Prize winner Madeline Miller, Nancy Bilyeau and Gillian Bagwell.



## SIMON TAYLOR

Simon Taylor is an Editorial Director at Transworld Publishers, part of the Random House Group. Like so many others of his generation, his life-long passion for historical fiction began with the likes of Rosemary Sutcliff, Henry Treece and Geoffrey Trease, and he knows he is exceedingly lucky to be able to publish the sort of fiction he adores as a reader, namely novels by such fantastic storytellers as Giles Kristian, Steven Pressfield and James Wilde, to name but three. Not all his shirts are as garish as the one in this photograph.

[www.booksattransworld.co.uk](http://www.booksattransworld.co.uk)



## SUSAN WATT

Susan Watt was Publishing Director of Michael Joseph and for the last twelve years has been Publishing Director of HarperCollins. She enjoys publishing history in both fiction and non-fiction and among those she has published are Tracy Chevalier, Bernard Cornwell, Iain Gale, Amitav Ghosh, Conn Iggulden, Boris Johnson, George MacDonald Fraser, Adam Nicolson and Jeremy Paxman. <http://www.harpercollins.co.uk>



## ED WILSON

Ed Wilson has been an agent with Johnson & Alcock since 2007, and a director of the company since 2011. He looks for books with originality and style, a strong narrative voice and compelling premise. He has a diverse and developing list covering everything from established and prize-winning authors to debutants. It includes literary and commercial fiction, children's books and YA, and the odd quirky non-fiction title. Graphic novels and poetry are not beyond the pale. Ed is especially interested in books that transcend genre, especially historical, crime and sci-fi. He's drawn to powerful stories and imaginative settings; throughout, his list is defined by great writing in whatever form it comes. You can follow his ramblings on Twitter: @literarywhore. [www.johnsonandalcock.co.uk](http://www.johnsonandalcock.co.uk)

## SPEAKERS AND WORKSHOP LEADERS



### GILLIAN BAGWELL

Gillian Bagwell grew up in California, and began her professional life as an actress, studying at the University of California Berkeley and the Drama Studio London at Berkeley, before relocating to Los Angeles to pursue a career in film and television. She moved into directing and producing theatre, founding *The Pasadena Shakespeare Company*, where she served as artistic director for nine years, producing thirty-seven critically acclaimed productions. She united her love of books, British history, and theatre in her first novel, *The Darling Strumpet*, based on the life of Nell Gwynn. Her second, *The September Queen*, is the first fictional account of the perilous and romantic odyssey of Jane Lane, an ordinary girl who risked her life helping the young Charles II escape disguised as her servant after the disastrous Battle of Worcester in 1651. Recently returned to Berkeley, Gillian is working on her third novel, about the formidable four-times widowed Tudor dynast Bess of Hardwick. [www.gillianbagwell.com](http://www.gillianbagwell.com)



### JENNY BARDEN

Jenny Barden has had a love of history and adventure ever since an encounter in infancy with a suit of armour at Tamworth Castle. Training as an artist, followed by a career as a city solicitor, did little to help displace her early dream of becoming a knight. Impelled by a fascination with the Age of Discovery, she travelled widely in South and Central America, and that inspired her debut novel, an epic romantic adventure, *Mistress of the Sea*, based on Francis Drake's first successful campaign in the Caribbean. Extracts from early drafts have been shortlisted for several national awards, and the novel is scheduled to be published in September 2012 by Ebury Press, Random House. Jenny is currently working on a sequel centred on the first Elizabethan 'lost' colony of early Virginia. She is represented by Jonathan Pegg of JPLA. [www.jennybarden.com](http://www.jennybarden.com)



### VANORA BENNETT

Author and journalist, Vanora Bennet, has written six books: four historical novels and two non-fiction books about her experiences as a journalist. Her articles have appeared in various publications in different countries. She has found that writing books is as much of a surprise, a pleasure and an adventure of the mind as it was to become a foreign correspondent. Her latest novel, *The People's Queen*, which deals with Chaucer's love life, a royal mistress turned businesswoman-on-the-make, and a fourteenth-century credit crunch, has a lot in common with our own times seven centuries later. [www.vanorabennett.com](http://www.vanorabennett.com)



### PATRICIA BRACEWELL

Patricia Bracewell holds an M.A. in Literature from the *University of California*, and she taught literature and composition before embarking upon her writing career. A lifelong fascination with British history and a chance, on-line reference to an unfamiliar English queen led to years of research, a summer course in Anglo-Saxon history at Cambridge, and the penning of her debut novel *Shadow on the Crown*. Set in 11th century England, this first book of a trilogy about Emma of Normandy will be published in 2013 by Viking/Penguin in the U.S.A. and by HarperCollins in the U.K. Patricia is a member of the California writers' organisation, *Left Coast Writers*, and the editor of their on-line column, Roadwork. She lives with her husband in Northern California. [www.PatriciaBracewell.com](http://www.PatriciaBracewell.com)



### LUCINDA BYATT

Lucinda Byatt developed a passion for all things Italian as a result of studying, working and marrying in Italy. She has worked as a translator for longer than she cares to remember, and now also teaches Italian Renaissance history at Edinburgh University. Raised on a reading diet of Cynthia Harnett, Rosemary Sutcliffe and Anya Seaton, she loved history enough to complete a doctorate. She's fascinated by the lure of historical fiction, but also unashamedly purist: solid research must underpin the flights of fancy. She's delighted to be part of the editorial team for the society's newly merged *Historical Novels Review*, which will continue to offer an intriguing range of features, coupled with its benchmark review section. [www.lucindabyatt.com](http://www.lucindabyatt.com)



## V. CAMPBELL

Born in Glasgow in 1977, Campbell attended first Gryffe High School and then Glasgow University where she read law. Campbell practiced as a solicitor for eight years before becoming a full-time writer, (though she still teaches a small number of law classes at Glasgow University). Since the publication of her debut novel, *Viking Gold*, Campbell has spoken at around 100 schools across the UK and been filmed by Education Scotland speaking to a class of 13 yr olds for their Glowvember book festival. She regularly speaks at museums, book festivals and history festivals throughout the UK - the *Jorvik Viking Museum* and the *National Museum of Scotland* being two recent highlights. She likes long road trips, procrastinating and watching TV late into the night when all normal people are asleep.  
[www.vcampbellauthor.com](http://www.vcampbellauthor.com)



## LESLIE CARROLL

Leslie Carroll is a multi-published author in three genres: women's fiction, historical nonfiction (specializing on the lives and loves of European royalty); and, under the pen names Amanda Elyot and Juliet Grey, several works of historical fiction—including the critically acclaimed trilogy on the life of Marie Antoinette. *Becoming Marie Antoinette* and *Days Of Splendor, Days Of Sorrow* have already been published; the final novel, *The Last October Sky*, will be released in September, 2013. Leslie is also a classically trained professional actress who has portrayed countless virgins, vixens, and villainesses over the course of her career, spanning the canons of Shakespeare and Shaw, Coward and Chekhov, Molière and Wilde, as well as those of many contemporary dramatists. As an author, she has taken material in the other direction—from the page to the stage—adapting *Ivanhoe*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *The Prisoner of Zenda*, and Mark Twain's *The Diaries of Adam and Eve* for the Theatre. Leslie invariably employs her background and training in one profession to infuse the work of the other, a technique that has become invaluable in her burgeoning career as an audiobook narrator.



## CHRISTOPHER M CEVASCO

Christopher M. Cevasco is an author whose historically themed fiction has appeared in *Black Static*, *The Leading Edge*, and *A Field Guide to Surreal Botany*, among many other magazines and anthologies. He is a 2006 Clarion workshop graduate and a 2007 *Taos Toolbox* graduate. He was also the editor/publisher of the award-winning *Paradox: The Magazine of Historical and Speculative Fiction*, which garnered two nominations for the *Sidewise Award for Alternate History* during its thirteen-issue run. Chris writes in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, where he lives with his wife and their two young children. He is seeking representation for two recently completed novels, an alternative history of 1066 and an historical thriller about Lady Godiva. [www.christophermcevasco.com](http://www.christophermcevasco.com)



## ELIZABETH CHADWICK

Elizabeth Chadwick wrote her first historical novel (unpublished) when she was fifteen and immediately decided that it was what she wanted to do for a career. Seventeen years later she got her wish when her novel *The Wild Hunt* was plucked from leading literary agent Carole Blake's slush pile and went on to win a *Betty Trask Award* which was presented to her by HRH Prince Charles. She has since written another 20 novels, including *The Scarlet Lion* which HNS founder Richard Lee voted one of his historical novels of the decade, and *To Defy A King* which won the *Romantic Novelists' Association's* Best Historical novel of 2011. Elizabeth is currently writing a major trilogy on Eleanor of Aquitaine. [www.elizabethchadwick.com](http://www.elizabethchadwick.com)



## RORY CLEMENTS

After a career in national newspapers, Rory Clements now lives in a seventeenth-century farmhouse in Norfolk and writes full time. When not immersing himself in the Elizabethan world, he enjoys village life and a game of tennis with friends. He is married to the artist Naomi Clements-Wright and is the author of *Martyr*, *Revenger*, *Prince* and *Traitor*.  
[www.roryclements.com](http://www.roryclements.com)



## LINDA COLLISON

Linda Collison's writing has appeared in a variety of magazines over the years, beginning in grammar school when her article about General Mordecai Gist won the Maryland Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution essay contest. Linda and her husband Bob Russell have written two guidebooks, and have sailed thousands of nautical miles aboard their sailboat, Topaz. The three weeks they served as voyage crewmembers aboard HM Bark Endeavour inspired the Patricia MacPherson Nautical Adventure Series (Fireship Press). Linda's first novel, *Star-Crossed* (Knopf; 2006), was chosen by the *New York Public Library* to be among the Books for the Teen Age - 2007. Her fiction has won awards from *Honolulu Magazine*, *Southwest Writers* and *Maui Writers Conference*. [www.lindacollison.com](http://www.lindacollison.com)



## CHRISTINA COURTENAY

Pia Fenton (writing as Christina Courtenay) is a committee member of the *Romantic Novelists' Association*, currently their Vice Chairman responsible for organising one of their awards. She has won two of the RNA's prizes - the *Elizabeth Goudge Trophy* in 2001 and the *Katie Fforde Bursary* in 2006. Pia-Christina writes historical romance and her first novel *Trade Winds* was shortlisted for the RNA's award for Best Historical. Her second novel, *The Scarlet Kimono*, won the *Best Historical Fiction award for The Big Red Read* and her third, *Highland Storms*, won the *Best Historical Romantic Novel of the year award (RoNA)* this year. [www.christinacourtenay.com](http://www.christinacourtenay.com)



## EMMA DARWIN

Emma Darwin grew up in London, with interludes in Manhattan and Brussels. Her debut novel *The Mathematics of Love* was published in 2006 and *The Times* called it, "that rare thing, a book that works on every conceivable level". It was shortlisted for many awards including the *Commonwealth Writers Best First Book*, and has been widely translated. Her bestselling second novel, *A Secret Alchemy*, was described by the *Daily Mail* as "powerful and utterly convincing". Emma is an associate lecturer in Creative Writing with the *Open University* and has a PhD in Creative Writing from Goldsmiths, in which she explored the writing and reading of historical fiction. Her third novel is in the works. [www.emmadarwin.com](http://www.emmadarwin.com)



## J D DAVIES

J D Davies is the author of 'The journals of Matthew Quinton', an acclaimed series of naval historical fiction set in the Restoration period. The first two books, *Gentleman Captain* and *The Mountain of Gold*, have been published in the UK, USA and Germany; the third, *The Blast That Tears the Skies*, was published in the UK in April 2012. A further three titles have been commissioned. David is also a prominent historian of the period who won the prestigious Samuel Pepys prize for Pepys's Navy. He is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, author of *Blood of Kings: the Stuarts, the Ruthvens and the Gowrie Conspiracy*, and is currently working on a naval history of his native Wales. [www.jddavies.com](http://www.jddavies.com)



## RICHARD DENNING

Richard is married with two children and works as a GP in the West Midlands. He has always been fascinated by historical settings as well as horror and fantasy. In 2010 he set up Mercia Books to self-publish his novels written primarily for young adults and is receiving a widening and enthusiastic readership. His writing includes: *The Northern Crown series* (Set in Anglo Saxon Northumbria), *The Praesidium Series* (Historical Fantasy in the 17th century), *The Hourglass Institute Series* (Time Travel adventures). Other than writing, his main interests are games of all types. He is the designer of a board game based on the Great Fire of London. He also runs the UKs largest table top hobby games convention, UK Games Expo every May in Birmingham. [www.richarddenning.co.uk](http://www.richarddenning.co.uk)



### ANGUS DONALD

Angus Donald was born in China in 1965 and educated at Marlborough College and Edinburgh University. He has worked as a fruit-picker in Greece, a waiter in New York and as an anthropologist studying magic and witchcraft in Indonesia. For the past 20 years, he has been a journalist in Hong Kong, India, Afghanistan and London. Angus is the bestselling author of *The Outlaw Chronicles*, a new series of books about the legendary hero Robin Hood. The first three books in the series, *Outlaw* (2009), *Holy Warrior* (2010) and *King's Man* (2011) are published in the UK by Sphere, and the fourth book of the *Chronicles*, *Warlord*, will be released in July 2012. [www.angus-donald.com](http://www.angus-donald.com)



### SARAH DUNANT

Sarah Dunant studied history at Cambridge. She has written eleven novels, three screen plays and edited two books of essays. She worked for many years with the BBC in radio and television, producing and presenting arts documentaries and magazine programmes, most notably *The Late Show* on BBC 2 television (1989-1996) and *Night Waves* (Radio 3 1996-2004). She reviews for many British newspapers including *The Times*, *The Observer* and *The Guardian*, and sits on the editorial board of *The Royal Academy's art magazine*. She was a vice patron founder of the *Orange Prize for Woman's Fiction*. She has taught at Goldsmith College at University of London and teaches at Washington University, St Louis (Renaissance studies). Her most recent novels *The Birth of Venus* (Florence 1490's) and *In the Company of the Courtesan* (Venice 1530's) and *Sacred Hearts*, (Convent, Ferrara 1570) have been international bestsellers translated into thirty languages. *Sacred Hearts* was short listed for the first ever Walter Scott prize for Historical Fiction (June 2010). [www.sarahdunant.com](http://www.sarahdunant.com)



### BARBARA ERSKINE

Barbara was lucky enough to have a childhood idyllically suited to developing, in its passion for family story and legend, a life-long love of genealogy and history. She went on from studying history at university to working as a research assistant and editor at several publishers specialising in history and art books, while establishing her writing career in the background. In 1986 her first novel, *Lady of Hay*, was published. That was succeeded at two-year intervals by another ten novels and three collections of short stories, all revealing her love of history, her fascination with the supernatural and the anomalies of time and the certainty that one way or another, the past will return to haunt us. *Lady of Hay* celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2011 with a new edition complete with a short sequel, and has been published in more than 30 languages. Her latest novel, *River of Destiny*, will be published in July 2012. [www.barbara-erskine.co.uk](http://www.barbara-erskine.co.uk)



### BARBARA EWING

While at University, New Zealand-born Barbara Ewing was sent on a Government Scholarship to the *Royal Academy of Dramatic Art* in London, where she won the gold medal for the best student and later played Agnes Fairchild in the TV award-winning *Brass*. She is now the author of a number of acclaimed novels of which *A Dangerous Vine* was long-listed for the *Orange Prize*, and *The Mesmerist* was chosen by the Westminster Libraries in central London as their '*Read of the Year*'. Her books have been translated into German, French, Italian, Spanish, Swedish, Dutch, Greek, Turkish, Polish, Serbo-Croat and Russian. [www.barbaraewing.com](http://www.barbaraewing.com)



### CHARLIE FARROW

Charlie Farrow is a marketing professional. She was amongst the first cohort of marketers in the UK to be awarded Chartered status. She has worked with big brands and small businesses, both agency and client-side. She currently specialises in helping writers bring their work to market, providing a full range of literary, technical and marketing services - editing, cover art, e-book production, marketing strategy, advertising and promotional materials both on and off-line, video and social media. In the parallel universe that she occupies the rest of the time, she has a fondness for herbs, myth, history and folklore. She is an artist and has been gestating her 14th century time-slip novel for quite some considerable time. Twitter: @charlifarrow1 <http://www.cfamarketing.co.uk>



### JEAN FULLERTON

Jean, born within the sound of Bow Bells, still lives in the East End of London. A qualified district nurse and university lecturer, she started writing in 2002. Her debut novel, *No Cure for Love*, won the *Harry Bowling* prize, leading to a two-book deal with Orion. Her second novel, *A Glimpse at Happiness*, was shortlisted for the 2010 *Romantic Novel of the Year* and won the *Big Red Read*. Her third, *Perhaps Tomorrow*, won the 2011 *Festival of Romance's best Historical Read*, and her fourth, *Hold on to Hope*, has just been released. Her latest novel, *Call Nurse Millie*, tells the stories of the District Nurses of the *St George's and St Dunstan's Nursing Association* working in the bombed-out and deprived post-war East End of London. Jean, an official Women's Institute speaker, regular contributor to library events, book festivals and author panels, also teaches creative writing workshops at *London South Bank University* and has appeared at numerous writing conferences. [www.jeanfullerton.com](http://www.jeanfullerton.com)



### DIANA GABALDON

Diana Gabaldon is the *New York Times* bestselling author of the wildly popular *Outlander* novels—*Outlander*, *Dragonfly in Amber*, *Voyager*, *Drums of Autumn*, *The Fiery Cross*, *A Breath of Snow and Ashes* (for which she won a *Quill Award* and the *Corine International Book Prize*), and *An Echo in the Bone*—as well as one work of nonfiction, *The Outlandish Companion*; the *Outlander* graphic novel *The Exile*; and the bestselling series featuring Lord John Grey, a character she introduced in her *Outlander* series. She lives in Scottsdale, Arizona. [www.dianagabaldon.com](http://www.dianagabaldon.com)



### DAISY GOODWIN

Daisy Goodwin, a Harkness scholar who attended Columbia Film School after gaining a degree in History at Cambridge University, began her TV career at the BBC as an arts producer. At Television Centre, she made films about literary figures, and devised *Bookworm* and *The Nations Favourite Poems* initiative. Whilst at the BBC she also devised the hugely successful shows *Looking Good* and *Home Front*. The mother of two children, Daisy also finds time to dream up and edit poetry anthologies, including the bestseller *101 Poems That Could Save Your Life*. Daisy made her debut as a presenter in the BBC2 production of *Essential Poems (To Fall In Love With)* followed by *Essential Byron* and *Essential Poems for Britain*. Her debut novel, *My Last Duchess* (Headline Review) or *The American Heiress* (St Martin's Press), is the story of Cora Cash, an American heiress who marries an English duke at the end of the nineteenth century. [www.daisygoodwin.co.uk](http://www.daisygoodwin.co.uk)



### C.W. GORTNER

Half Spanish by birth, C.W. Gortner was raised in southern Spain, where he developed a lifelong fascination with history. After holding various jobs in the fashion industry, he earned a MFA in Writing with an emphasis in Renaissance Studies from the New College of California. Internationally acclaimed for his emotional insight into his characters and attention to detail, he travels extensively to research his books. His historical novels include *The Last Queen*, *The Confessions of Catherine de Medici*, and *The Tudor Secret* which is the first book in his new suspense series, '*The Elizabeth 1 Spymaster Chronicles*'. C.W.Gortner's books have sold in fourteen countries to date. He lives in Northern California. [www.cwgortner.com](http://www.cwgortner.com)



## LIZ HARRIS

Liz Harris, born and raised in London, has since lived in USA, Berkshire, Cheshire and Oxfordshire. She has degrees in Law and in English. An interest in foreign travel and in different cultures led to her debut historical novel, *The Road Back*, published by Choc Lit in September, 2012. She has also written a number of short stories and is published by *DC Thompson*. Whilst resident in the north west of England, she was a regular contributor to local newspapers on matters relating to education. A member of the Historical Novel Society, she is also an active member of the RNA, has been the convener of the Oxford Branch of the RNA for the past six years, and ran the *Romantic Novel of the Year Award 2011*. [www.lizharrisauthor.com](http://www.lizharrisauthor.com)



## KAREN HARPER

New York Times and USA Today bestselling author, Karen Harper is a former college English instructor (*The Ohio State University*) and high school literature and writing teacher. A lifelong Ohioan, Karen and her husband Don divide their time between the Midwest and the southeast, both locations she has used in her books. Besides her American settings, Karen loves the British Isles, where her Scottish and English roots run deep. Karen has studied the Elizabethan period for many years and wrote her master's thesis about All's Well That Ends Well. She has also authored a nine-book historical mystery series set within this period. Karen's books have been published in many foreign languages and she won the *Mary Higgins Clark Award* for 2005. Karen is published by *Ebury Press* in the UK, her most recent titles being *The Queen's Governess*, *Shakespeare's Mistress* and *The Queen's Confidante*, soon to be released.

[www.karenharperauthor.com](http://www.karenharperauthor.com)



## HELEN HART

Helen Hart has been a published author since 1999. Represented by London literary agency *Pollinger Ltd*, she has written a number of novels under pseudonyms for *Scholastic*, *Oxford University Press*, *HarperCollins*, *Virgin Books* and a range of overseas publishers. One of her Young Adult novels, written as Maya Snow, was shortlisted for the *Solihull Children's Book Award 2010*. Helen is one of the founding partners of publishing consultancy *SilverWood Books* which helps writers get their work into print - whether that's by offering editorial appraisals and advice on submitting work to literary agents, or by helping authors self-publish to a high standard. She is the co-founder of the successful 'Get Published Masterclass' in Bristol and was a judge for the *Bristol Short Story Prize* in 2010 and 2011. She recently self-published a swashbuckling pirate adventure for young teens, *The Black Banner*.

[www.silverwoodbooks.co.uk](http://www.silverwoodbooks.co.uk)



## ELIZABETH HAWKSLEY

Elizabeth Hawksley has published thirteen historical novels, with *Frost Fair* being short-listed for the *Elizabeth Goudge Award*. She originally worked in theatre and her plays have been performed at the *Royal Court Theatre Upstairs*, the *Oxford Playhouse* and the *Edinburgh Festival*. She lectures and takes workshops in numerous venues. This year, she has been tutoring at the *Writers and Artists' Weekend*, Fishguard; at the *Writers' Holiday in Caerleon*, and at Dillington House, Somerset, amongst other things. Elizabeth is also a reader for a well-known authors' advisory service. She has been a publishers' reader; and reviews for the *HNS*. She has a BA Hons degree from the University of Sussex, and a MA, with distinction, from *Birkbeck College*. [www.elizabethhawksley.com](http://www.elizabethhawksley.com)



## CATHY HELMS

Cathy grew up with a healthy interest in anything related to the Arthurian legends - thus the inspiration for naming her design business '*Avalon Graphics*'. She has always been fascinated with British history, the Dark Ages in particular. She regularly attends local Renaissance Festivals in North Carolina where she resides, and will be traveling to the UK for the first time in 2012. Cathy offers an array of design services and has particularly geared *Avalon Graphics* to suit self-published authors and small businesses in need of quality design while on a tight budget. She provide full book jacket layouts, marketing materials such as flyers, postcards, bookmarks, web graphics, book trailers for YouTube and portfolio websites for her clients including: Susan Higginbotham (website), Sun Jester and *Lumina Music* (website), Richard Denning / *Mercia Publications* (website, book covers, book trailers), Helen Hollick (website, book covers, book trailers, marketing material), *SilverWood Books* (book covers). [www.avalongraphics.org](http://www.avalongraphics.org)



### HELEN HOLLICK

Helen is published in the UK and the US with her books about King Arthur and the 1066 Battle of Hastings, officially making the USA Today best seller list with her novel *Forever Queen*. She also writes a series of historical adventure seafaring books inspired by her love of the Golden Age of Piracy. As a firm supporter of independent authors, publishers and bookstores, she has recently taken on the role of UK Editor for the *HNS Online Review* for self-published historical fiction produced in the UK. Helen lives on the outskirts of NE London with her husband, adult daughter and a variety of pets, including a dog, cat, and two horses. [www.helenhollick.net](http://www.helenhollick.net)



### DOUGLAS JACKSON

Doug Jackson took a lifelong fascination for history in general and Romans in particular and turned that into his critically acclaimed first novel, *Caligula*, which was followed by *Claudius*, an epic retelling of the invasion of Britain. His new series, featuring the tribune Gaius Valerius Verrens, begins with *Hero of Rome*, soon to be followed by *Defender of Rome* and *Avenger of Rome*. Impeccable research and believable characters combine to put flesh and blood on the dry bones of the past and breathe new life into them. [www.douglas-jackson.net](http://www.douglas-jackson.net)



### SARAH JOHNSON

Sarah Johnson is Book Review Editor for the *Historical Novels Review*. She has been treasurer/registration coordinator for four of the past HNS conferences in North America and is eagerly anticipating the next UK conference! A reference librarian and professor at *Eastern Illinois University*, she has been reading and collecting historical novels for many years. Her reviews have appeared in *Booklist*, *NoveList*, *Bookmarks Magazine* and the *Globe & Mail* (Toronto), among others. In 2012, she won the *American Library Association's Louis Shores Award* for excellence in book reviewing. Her most recent book is *Historical Fiction II: A Guide to the Genre*. [www.readingthepast.com](http://www.readingthepast.com)



### BARBARA KYLE

Barbara Kyle is the author of the acclaimed Tudor-era “*Thornleigh*” novels published by *Kensington Books*, New York, including *The Queen's Gamble*, *The Queen's Captive*, *The King's Daughter* and *The Queen's Lady*, and of contemporary thrillers. Over 400,000 copies of her books have been sold. The *Thornleigh* saga follows a family through three tumultuous Tudor reigns. *The Queen's Gamble* was an Editor's Choice of the *Historical Novels Review* (November 2011). *Constable & Robinson* will publish all four “*Thornleigh*” novels in the UK beginning with *The Queen's Lady* in October 2012. Barbara recently signed a 3-book deal with Kensington to continue the series, so readers have many more adventures of the *Thornleighs* to look forward to. Barbara has taught writers at the *University of Toronto School of Continuing Studies* and is known for her dynamic workshops for many writers' organizations. Before becoming an author Barbara enjoyed a twenty-year acting career in television, film, and stage productions in Canada and the U.S. [www.barbarakyle.com](http://www.barbarakyle.com)



### RICHARD LEE

Richard Lee founded the *Historical Novel Society* in 1997 after trying to join it, only to find it didn't exist. The society has since developed in many unforeseen ways, following the enthusiasms of the active membership, with Richard trying to keep as light a hand on the tiller as possible. It is with bemusement but great pride that he regards the society's robust health fifteen years on. Richard has been involved with the organisation of many HNS conferences, co-hosted the *Cambridge History Festivals*, and ran author talks for two years at English Heritage's flagship Kirby Hall re-enactment event. He has been a judge of the *CWA's Ellis Peters Historical Dagger*, the *RNA's Elizabeth Goudge Trophy* and the *RNA's Pure Passion Awards*. Richard studied English at Merton College, Oxford, and has worked for many years bookselling with *W.H. Smith* and *Waterstone's*. One day he will finish his novel of the Crusades. [www.historicalnovelsociety.org](http://www.historicalnovelsociety.org) Twitter: @histnovel



### LOIS LEVEEN

Award-winning researcher and author Lois Leveen dwells in the spaces where literature and history meet. Her first novel, *The Secrets of Mary Bowser* (Hodder & Stoughton), is based on the true story of a free black woman who became a spy for the Union Army during the American Civil War - by pretending to be a slave to the family of Confederate President Jefferson Davis. Leveen is a regular contributor to *Disunion*, the *New York Times* on-going coverage of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, and her poetry, short humour pieces, and scholarly essays have appeared in magazines, anthologies, and on National Public Radio. A former university professor, she frequently gives talks on history and literature at schools, museums, and libraries. [www.loisleveen.com](http://www.loisleveen.com)



### CLAUDIA H. LONG

Claudia spent her childhood in Mexico City, and fell in love with Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz as an undergraduate. She wrote under a pen name for years, but *Josefina's Sin* (Atria/Simon & Schuster 2011) is her first main-stream published novel under her own name, and provides readers with a rare glimpse into the often-ignored world of the Mexican court. *Josefina's Sin* has garnered rave reviews from *Publisher's Weekly* (*A superb debut...*) and many others, who have called the book "lyrical", "poetic", "sensually spicy", and a few not-so-raves: "soft core pornographic", "lascivious" and "too much sex". Claudia lives in California with her family. [www.claudiahlong.com](http://www.claudiahlong.com)



### DR IAN MORTIMER

Dr Ian Mortimer is the author of *The Time Traveller's Guide to Medieval England* (a *Sunday Times* bestseller), and *The Time Traveller's Guide to Elizabethan England*, plus six other history books and many peer-reviewed articles on English history. He is arguably the most innovative historian writing today, experimenting with new literary forms, historical meanings, and new ways of testing the veracity of historical evidence. He is a Fellow of the *Royal Historical Society* and was awarded the *Alexander Prize* (2004) for his work on the social history of medicine in seventeenth-century England. In June 2011, the University of Exeter awarded him a higher doctorate (D.Litt.) by examination, on the strength of his historical work. He also writes historical fiction under his middle names (James Forrester): to date he has published two novels of a trilogy set in the 1560s, *Sacred Treason* and *The Roots of Betrayal*. He lives with his wife and three children on the edge of Dartmoor, in Devon. [www.ianmortimer.com](http://www.ianmortimer.com)



### MARGARET MUIR

Though born in Yorkshire, Margaret now lives in the band of the Roaring Forties - an area renowned for its wild, westerly winds on the island of Tasmania. After graduating with a BA (Writing) in 2004, her first novel was published in London in 2005. Competing as a writer in a mainly male-dominated sub-genre is a challenge, but Margaret's work is well respected by readers of classic maritime fiction set during the Napoleonic era. Now, with five historical novels to her credit, she is writing a sequel to her age-of-sail nautical adventure, *Floating Gold*. [www.margaretmuirauthor.com](http://www.margaretmuirauthor.com)



### JUSTIN NEVILLE

Justin is an editor by profession (in the financial sector) and is a lifelong fan of historical fiction. He is the founder and organiser of two successful book groups, including the *London Historical Fiction Book Group*. [www.meetup.com/London-Historical-Fiction-Book-Group](http://www.meetup.com/London-Historical-Fiction-Book-Group)



### SIMON SCARROW

Born in Nigeria, Simon has always been interested in writing and began his first novel once he'd finished his degree and started working in the civil service. After two years in London, he decided he was better suited to a more academic career and returned to university to do a research degree. Once finished, he became a teacher. After securing his first book deal, Simon continued teaching. Finally in 2005 he realised he could not teach while devoting so much time to writing and reluctantly gave up teaching until he had more time to devote to it. Simon now lives in Norfolk with his wife, Carolyn and two sons. The author of more than fifteen highly successful books, his latest novel, *Sword and Scimitar* will be available soon. [www.scarrow.co.uk](http://www.scarrow.co.uk)



## HARRY SIDEBOTTOM BA (Hons) MA (MPhil) DPhil (Oxon)

Harry Sidebottom was brought up in racing stables in Newmarket where his father was a trainer. He had a basket saddle on a donkey before he could walk. He was educated at various schools and universities, including *Oxford*, where he took his Doctorate in Ancient History at *Corpus Christi College*. In similar fashion he has taught at various universities including *Oxford*, where he is now Fellow and *Director of Studies in Ancient History* at *St Benet's Hall*, and Lecturer in Ancient History at *Lincoln College*. Since 2006 he has been working on the *Warrior of Rome* series of novels featuring the Anglo-Saxon nobleman turned Roman army officer Ballista and his Familia set in the Roman Empire during the so-called 'Great Crisis' of the Third Century AD. [www.harrysidebottom.co.uk](http://www.harrysidebottom.co.uk)



## RICK SPILMAN

Rick Spilman has had a fascination with ships and the sea for most of his life. His first novel, *Hell Around the Horn*, is due out this summer. Based on the voyage of a British windjammer in the particularly brutal Cape Horn winter of 1905, it is a story of survival and the human spirit in the last days of the age of the sail. Rick is the founder and host of the Old Salt Blog. An avid sailor, he has sailed as volunteer crew on the replica square-riggers "*HMS ROSE*" and "*HMS BOUNTY*." He has been published in the *Huffington Post*, *gCaptain*, *Forbes online*, and several canoeing and kayaking print magazines. He was also a nautical columnist on the *Clarion science fiction blog*. [www.oldsaltblog.com](http://www.oldsaltblog.com)



## MARY TOD

Mary Tod writes historical fiction with a focus on WW1 and WW11. Her novel, *Lies Told in Silence* is represented by Canadian literary agency, *Anne McDermid & Associates*. Mary posts frequently about writing historical fiction on [www.awriterofhistory.com](http://www.awriterofhistory.com) and on being an author-entrepreneur, [www.onewritersvoice.com](http://www.onewritersvoice.com) After researching for a blog post and find no data, she decided to conduct a survey to discover more about those who read historical fiction and those who do not - demographics, story preferences, favourite time periods, reasons for reading or not reading this genre, sources of recommendations and so on. Prior to embarking on a writing career, Mary had a successful business career working at an executive level management consulting, sales and marketing [www.awriterofhistory.com](http://www.awriterofhistory.com)



## RUSSELL WHITFIELD

Russell Whitfield was born in Shepherds Bush in 1971. Russell has had an (almost) lifelong fascination with ancient Greece and Rome, sparked by seeing the "*The Three Hundred*" Spartans on ITV in the seventies. Educated to A-Level, he did not complete college, preferring instead to seek fame and fortune in a heavy metal band. Sadly, fame and fortune were not forthcoming and a career in telesales beckoned. A series of jobs followed culminating in the heady heights of 'content editor' for a large multi-national. *Gladiatrix* was Russ's first novel, published in 2008 by Myrmidon Books. The sequel, *Roma Victrix*, continues the adventures Lysandra, the Spartan gladiatrix, and a third book is currently in development. Heavy Metal is Russ's music of choice: He is a huge fan of the Swedish band *Hysterica* and has written a song for their forthcoming album *The Art of Metal*. [www.russellwhitfield.com](http://www.russellwhitfield.com)



## V.M. WHITWORTH

V.M. Whitworth is an academic and historian. After reading English at Oxford, an MA and DPhil from the Centre for Medieval Studies in York, V.M. published *Dying and Death in Later Anglo-Saxon England*. Her first novel, *The Bone Thief*, is a historical thriller set in 900 AD, in the immediate aftermath of the death of King Alfred the Great, featuring Wulfgar of Winchester. Having worked as a lecturer, tour guide, artist's model and EFL teacher, V.M. now lives on a smallholding in Orkney with family, cats, ducks and occasional sheep, planning further adventures for Wulfgar.

[www.vmwhitworth.co.uk](http://www.vmwhitworth.co.uk)

# WORKSHOPS & TALKS

## Session 1

Saturday (11.50 - 12.50)

Room 154 (Upper 1st Floor)

### **1A. Haunted by the Past (talk)**

An exploration of the relationship between HF, fantasy and the supernatural

**Barbara Erskine & Diana Gabaldon**

Room 201 (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

### **1B. What Are Publishers Really After? (talk)**

An inside view on how mainstream UK publishers identify and select HF for their lists

**Jade Chandler & Laura Macdougall**

Room 215 (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

### **1C. Method Writing... the devil is in the detail (talk)**

How corsets and aspic can help you unlock the past

**Daisy Goodwin & Claudia H Long**

Room 252 (Upper 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

### **1D. Ships Ahoy! (talk)**

The challenges and joy of writing nautical HF

**Linda Collison, JD Davies, Helen Hollick,  
Margaret Muir & Richard Spilman**

Room 155 (Upper 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

**1E. EPublishing and marketing  
your own ebooks** (workshop)

Self-publishing your novels, your backlist and short stories as ebooks, and developing an online profile

**Charlie Farrow & Ian Skillicorn**

Room 214 (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

**1F. Reader Opinions Revealed** (workshop)

A chance for readers to be heard and writers to reflect on some startling survey results

**Justin Neville & Mary Tod  
with Emma Darwin & Harry Sidebottom**

Room 158 (Upper 1<sup>st</sup> Floor)

**1G. Making the Breakthrough** (workshop)

Case studies in finding a mainstream publisher for HF from US and UK perspectives

**Jenny Barden, Patricia Bracewell  
& Simon Scarrow**

Room 156 (Upper 1<sup>st</sup> Floor)

**1H. Killer Blows** (workshop)

Making fight scenes convincing in ages when combat was hand to hand

**Angus Donald, Doug Jackson & Russell Whitfield  
guest appearance by Bernard Cornwell**

Room 251 (Upper 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

**1I. The Fabulous Tudors** (talk)

The secrets that make the Tudor and Elizabethan

periods perennially fascinating

**CW Gortner, Karen Harper & Barbara Kyle  
with Margaret George**

Room 255 (Upper 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

**1J. HF for the YA Market (workshop)**

Captivating teens with stories from long ago

**V Campbell & Helen Hart**

## **WORKSHOPS & TALKS**

### **Session 2**

**Sunday (11.15 - 12.15)**

215 (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

**2A. The Magic of Italy (talk)**

From Ancient Rome  
to the Renaissance and beyond  
What is it about Italy that inspires so much HF?

**Lucinda Byatt & Sarah Dunant**

Room 156 (Upper 1<sup>st</sup> Floor)

**2B. Landmark Book Debate (talk)**

An opportunity for readers to share in private  
discussion and analysis of two landmark books:  
Lady of Hay and The Greatest Knight, then ask the  
authors some searching questions

**Sarah Johnson & Justin Neville  
with Elizabeth Chadwick & Barbara Erskine**

Room 155 (Upper 1<sup>st</sup> Floor)

**2C. From the Stage to the Page (workshop)**

Informing HF through knowledge

and love of theatre

**Gillian Bagwell, Barbara Ewing & Leslie Carroll**

Room 251 (Upper 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

**2D. Weaving the Loveliest of Lies** (talk)

Drawing on historical research to create great literary fiction

**Vanora Bennett & Lois Leveen**

Room 201 (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

**2E. Bringing Characters Alive** (workshop)

Top tips for writing about fictional characters in historical settings

**Jean Fullerton & Elizabeth Hawksley**

Room 252 (Upper 1<sup>st</sup> Floor)

**2F. The Thrill of the Chase!** (talk)

From dry fact to rip-roaring thriller

**Rory Clements & VM Whitworth**

Room 214 (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

**2G. Alternative History** (workshop)

Methods and issues in fictionalising history as it might have been

**Christopher M Cevasco**

Room 154 (Upper 1<sup>st</sup> Floor)

**2H. The Problems of Visiting the Past** (talk)

In fact and fiction

**Ian Mortimer (aka James Forrester)**

Room 158 (Upper 1<sup>st</sup> Floor)

**2I. Success the Indie Way** (workshop)

The advantages of being self-published in HF and how best to go that route

**Richard Denning, Helen Hart,  
Cathy Helms & Helen Hollick**

Room 255 (Upper 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

**2J. Unusual Backdrops** (talk)

From Japan to Ladakh, writing HF set in exotic locations or against the scenario of little-known events

**Christina Courtenay & Liz Harris**

## **EDITOR / AGENT PITCHES (ROOM 250)**

Pitch sessions can sometimes feel like a hybrid of *Blind Date* meets parents' evening.

For those unfamiliar with the procedure, this is how it works:

The editors /agents sit behind desks with empty seats in front of them, while the 'pitchees' wait outside the room. At a given signal (bell) the first person in each editor/agent's pitch queue (listed on the Pitch Timetable located at the registration desk and outside **room 250**) enters the room, goes to their chosen editor/agent and pitches their novel for 7 minutes. Thirty seconds before the pitch is due to finish, another bell sounds. Pitchees then wrap up their pitch and when the final bell sounds, they **leave**. Editors/agents have a couple of minutes to write up their notes before the bell sounds again and 'pitchee' No.2 on the list comes into the room to pitch.

(The same procedure applies to 'skype' computer pitches; except these pitches will be directed to a laptop screen with Scott Eagan at the other end in Washington!)

Pitches take place on the upper level of the second floor, **room 250** - immediately on the right, at the top of the stairs. **All pitchees should attend the workshop/talks and panel sessions running at the same time as their pitches and slip quietly in or out in time to get to their pitching appointment.**

Please ensure that you:

- arrive in good time, fully prepared.
- leave your seat when the final bell sounds.
- stay as quiet as possible outside the room.

# EXCURSIONS



## GREENWICH

A boat trip to Greenwich, plus Yeoman guided tour of the Old Royal Naval College, free time in the Maritime museum, and Leiths lunch plus tea/coffee.



## MUSEUM OF LONDON

Discover life in Londinium, the city beneath your feet

The Romans built the city where London now stands, bridging the Thames and constructing the roads that connected Londinium with the rest of the country. From around AD 50 to 410 - a period as long as that which separates Queen Elizabeth I from our present Queen - this was the largest city in Britannia, a vital port through which goods were imported from all over the world. . .

## BOOKSIGNING & SELLING



A wonderful opportunity to meet your favourite authors in the Gallery of the Old Gymnasium, buy their newest books from Waterstones and have them signed in person. (You're more than welcome to bring tea/coffee and food into the Gallery of the Old Gymnasium).

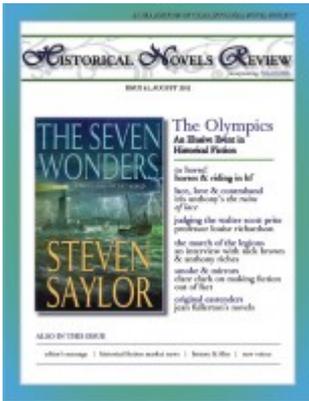


# THE HISTORICAL NOVEL SOCIETY

The Historical Novel Society, founded in 1997, promotes all aspects of historical fiction.

We provide:

- Support and opportunities for new writers,
- Information for students, booksellers, and librarians,
- A community for authors, readers, agents, and publishers.



*The Historical Novels Review*, now incorporating *Solander*, offers the best and most complete guide to the latest historical fiction in the world.

*“The Historical Novels Review is where I find out what’s happening in the historical fiction market”* Carole Blake, Blake Friedmann Agency

*“I’ve just read Solander - it’s a triumph”* Bernard Cornwell

The HNS was conceived of as something of a campaigning society, because historical fiction was in the doldrums then. Or at least that was the perception. Our magazine *Solander* aimed at trying to alter that perception amongst authors and publishers. Quickly a second magazine was conceived, the *Historical Novels Review*, because we found our members enjoyed reviewing, and publishers and authors appreciated the feedback. In time we began to realise that the sheer scale of the review magazine was the best argument you could make for the strength of the genre. We also realised that our reviews could grow to be the best and most complete guide to the genre, and that there was a unique value in that.

Over the last 15 years we have become very much an international society. We aim to review all US and UK mainstream published titles, and as many other English language books as we can. Ideally we would also love to cover foreign language titles.

We also run competitions to discover new authors, conferences bringing authors and readers together, and maintain internet groups and lists. This website is our latest project and the hub of our activities: a home, we hope, for historical fiction enthusiasts wherever you live.

We are an entirely open membership - no-one has ever had to jump through hoops to join. If you enjoy historical fiction of whatever kind and for whatever reason, you’re welcome.

We are also an open organisation in terms of who can participate in society activities - our writing, editing or social events. Obviously these things need a structure, and so we have society officials, but the way to be an official is simply to volunteer. Everything we achieve is done through the unpaid voluntary work of enthusiasts - and new people can get involved at any time.

If you love historical novels, please join us, and help us make a noise about them:

[www.historicalnovelsociety.org](http://www.historicalnovelsociety.org)

