

PRESIDENT'S AGM REPORT 2016

A. EVENTS

The following highly successful events took place over the course of the last year:

1. The 2015 annual conference was held at Hull University in September on the theme of 'Myth-making'.
2. The Douglas Johnson Memorial Lecture took place on January 13th 2016 at the *Institut Français* sponsored jointly by the ASMCF and the Society for the Study of French History and was given by Prof Sian Reynolds on the subject of 'Children of Revolutionaries'.
3. The Postgraduate conference, organised jointly with the Society for the Study of French History was held at the Queen Mary College London on Saturday 5th March on the theme of '*Patrimoine*' with keynote speaker Dr Tom Stammer (University of Durham)
4. The Initiative Fund sponsored the following events between September 2015 and September 2016:
 - London Postgraduate Conference, 6 November 2015
 - Re-imagining empires, University of Portsmouth, 2 November 2015
 - Vichy and the Everyday: new perspectives on daily life under the German Occupation 1940-44, University of Warwick, 21 March 2016
 - Work stories: documenting, narrating and representing French workplaces, IMLR University of London, 15-16 April 2016

B. PEOPLE

1. We welcomed a number of new colleagues to the Executive Committee this year whilst others took on new roles and responsibilities. Dr Abigail Taylor joined the committee as an ordinary member after having served as Postgraduate representative in 2013-14. Dr Aude Campmas of Southampton University took up the post of Treasurer and we welcomed Clare Siviter to the post of Postgraduate representative. We have also been working closely with the Aston conference team – particularly Dr Brian Sudlow and Prof Jim Shields – on the executive committee and thank them and their colleagues at Aston for all the energy and commitment that they have put into the conference.
2. We say goodbye this year to our Web Officer, Dr David Lees and thank him sincerely for his tireless work for the Association and particularly for developing our presence on social media.
3. Don't forget that we have a 'People' page on the website to introduce you to our committee members each year: www.asmcf.org/people
4. The contract of the Editorial team of *Modern and Contemporary France* came to an end in February 2016. The current team of Prof Gill Allwood, Prof Martin

O'Shaughnessy and Dr Chris Reynolds was invited to re-apply for the editorial positions. The Executive committee considered their application and was delighted to re-appoint the team until February 2021 noting their excellent achievements during their first term of appointment.

5. Two new members of the Editorial board were appointed for an initial two-year term: Dr Oliver Davis (University of Warwick) and Dr Cathal Kilcline (NUI Galway).
6. Professor Gabriel Parker was appointed to the International Advisory Board of the journal after many years of exceptional service to the editorial board.

C. INITIATIVES

1. The first Visiting Scholars' Seminar Series grant was awarded to Dr Frédéric Royall and Dr Liam Murray of the University of Limerick on the subject of 'The French Social Model and the Crisis' for events to take place at the University of Limerick in 2016-17. The seminar series includes interventions from the following scholars: Dr Anne-Marie Bezzina (University of Malta); Dr Didier Chabanet (ENS Lyon); Professor Manio Cinalli (Sciences Po); Professor Pascale Dufour (University of Montréal); Professor Raymond Kuhn (QMCL); Dr Héloïse Nez (University of Tours); and Dr Sarah Waters (University of Leeds).
2. We have continued our work to invigorate our connection with sixth-form teachers within the context of the challenges that we all face in terms of encouraging young people to pursue language studies. We have produced a statement of aims regarding our Outreach activities (attached). Geoff Medland has continued to build contacts on our behalf with exam boards which have been invaluable in gaining insight into the changing A-level curriculum. In pursuit of these aims we announce / suggest the following:
 - a. The launching at this AGM of a new scheme to complement our existing provision for funding member-led research initiatives: Schools' Liaison and Outreach Funding Initiative (document attached)
 - b. Invitation to local teachers to attend panels at the Annual conference related to A-level themes. These could be scheduled in after-school time-slots offer teachers a broader understanding of the topics that they will need to teach
 - c. Use 'The Conversation' to provide discussions by ASMCF members of topics linked to the A-level syllabus, and where appropriate, linking to *M&CF* articles

Jan Windebank, President, August 2016.