

# ORAL HISTORY SOCIETY

## PST&CE

Starting a conversation...

**"Where I'm coming from/  
What I'm doing"**

**April 27th, 2016**

**10:30 to 16:45**

The first conference of the Oral History Society's new  
"Psycho-Social Therapies and Care Environments" Special Interest Group

## PROGRAMME

*Start and closing times are designed to facilitate those travelling by train (closest stations with a regular service are Evesham and Cheltenham)*

*There is plenty of parking onsite. Camping available for those who would like to.*

10:30-10:45 **Welcome**, Report on last night's Inaugural General Meeting, and outline for the day

10:45-11:15 **Howard Mitchell** [Personal reflection]

11:15-11:30 Transition [I coffees and teas in group discussion areas]

11:30-12:15 **Facilitated Breakout Groups**: Introductions to one another and discussion, with tea and coffee

12:15-12:30 [Break]

12:30-13:00 **Michelle Winslow** [Personal Reflection]

13:00-13:45 **Lunch**

13:45-14:00 [Preparing space for next session; coffees and teas]

### **Simultaneous sessions: 14:00-15:15**

*Children and Young People* [Reports]

14:00-14:10 Session Chair [tbc]

14:10-14:30 **Kate Brown**

14:30-14:50 **The Early Pestalozzi Children Project**

14:50-15:15 **Discussion** and Contributions from the floor

*Reminiscence and Hospice* [Reports]

14:00-14:10 Session Chair: [tbc]

14:10-14:30 **Miranda Quinney**

14:30-14:50 TBC

14:50-15:15 **Discussion** and Contributions from the floor

*Psychiatry and Asylums* [Reports]

14:00-14:10 Session Chair: [tbc]

14:10-14:30 **Verusca Calabria**

14:30-14:50 **Tom Harrison**

14:50-15:15 **Discussion** and Contributions from the floor

15:15-15:45 Break

15:45-16:15 **Carolyn Mears** [Personal Reflection]

16:15-16:45 **Full Group Discussion**

*[Departure for some; continuing conversation for others; a relaxed evening for some]*

## **SPEAKERS/PRESENTERS**

### **Personal Reflections:**

#### ***"Where I'm Coming From/Where I am"***

#### **Howard Mitchell**

Howard Mitchell, a Chair of the Scottish Oral History Group, trained as a nurse and worked at Lennox Castle in Scotland, the largest mental deficiency hospital in Britain, before taking a degree in Scottish Ethnology at the University of Edinburgh and setting out on a career which has included community education projects, independent consultancy and production involving oral history and documentaries. He is currently involved in a national oral history project involving care leavers in Scotland.

#### **Michelle Winslow**

A trained nurse, Michelle took her PhD in 2001 with "War, resettlement, rooting and ageing: An oral history study of Polish émigrés in Britain". She is University Teacher in Adult Palliative and End of Life Care in the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Sheffield University, having moved to the School in January 2014 from the Academic Unit of Supportive Care, where she worked on numerous palliative care and end of life studies. In 2007 she established an oral history service in the Sheffield Macmillan Unit for Palliative Care, working with people in the unit to create life history recordings as personal and family records and for research. From 2012 to 2015, she established five further oral history services in the north of England and Northern Ireland with Macmillan Cancer Support and spent a year on secondment with the charity developing oral history and exploring bereavement support. She also supervises a second oral history service in Sheffield, at St Luke's Hospice. Alongside these projects she has carried out wide palliative and end of life care research, including the impact of oral history in palliative settings.

#### **Carolyn Mears**

As an educator and parent whose son survived the Columbine High School shootings in 1999, Carolyn conducted research into the impact of the tragedy on parents and families. Her dissertation, 'Experiences of Columbine Parents: Finding a Way to Tomorrow', received the Outstanding Qualitative Dissertation of the Year award from the American Educational Research Association in 2005. The book which came from this, "Interviewing for Education and Social Science Research: The Gateway Approach" (Palgrave Macmillan, 2009), introduces her innovative approach to research, using aspects of oral history and insider research to traverse the boundaries of human experience and bring to light matters of concern to education and social science researchers. This narrator-centered method, a by-product of her Columbine study, provides a means for researchers to access the often hidden human responses and perceptions about an event or situation so that others can better understand. It is a way to document life experience as well as to help those who make decisions and write policy become better informed about the true impact of their actions on the individuals involved. In 2013 she joined with parents of children caught up in the Sandy Hook School tragedy to form the Sandy Hook|Columbine Cooperative, a charity 'dedicated to making a difference for those whose lives are forever changed by traumatic experience.'

## **Paper Sessions**

### **Kate Brown**

Kate is a Bowlby Centre trained UKCP-registered attachment-based psychoanalytic psychotherapist who teaches at The Bowlby Centre in London and is a member of the Attachment Journal editorial group, as well as being former chair of the Clinical Forum at The Bowlby Centre. She started her career in therapeutic communities, working with adults with a variety of mental health difficulties, and with adolescents individually and in groups. She has since worked with young mothers, and in mainstream community psychiatric services with patients' families, as well as providing time limited therapy with former servicemen who had experienced complex trauma. She is currently using oral history and carrying out PhD research on "The History of the Cotswold Therapeutic Community – psychoanalytic perspectives on love and hate" through the Centre for Psychoanalysis at Middlesex University.

### **The Early Pestalozzi Children Project**

Spearheaded by Will Eiduks and Len Clarke, who were children at the Pestalozzi Children's Village in East Sussex in the late 1950s and early 1960s, the aim of the Early Pestalozzi Children Project (which is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund) "is to gather, preserve and relate the story of the children of the Pestalozzi Children's Village who arrived between 1959 and 1965. The Project aims to recover the European and early Tibetan children's story, as far as possible, through oral history recordings and other related research, hoping to create a legacy for the former children of 'the Village' and for their descendants." By gathering the Early Pestalozzi Children's story, the project hopes not only to demonstrate what a remarkable experience it was but also constructively present this information for the benefit of other, relevant research.

### **Verusca Calabria**

Verusca is an oral history and heritage consultant, who is currently pursuing an oral history of the Nottingham psychiatric asylums as part of a PhD research programme at Nottingham Trent University. A Trustee of the Oral History Society, as well as Regional Networker for Nottinghamshire, among her past projects, stretching back over ten years, Verusca has directed the collection and archiving of 2400 oral histories for Antony Gormley's 'One and Other' fourth-plinth participatory project; "Belonging in Brent Oral History Project: capturing the lives of Jews, Irish and West Indians that settled in Brent from 1930s to 1950s"; and "Moroccan Memories Oral History Project" (among others).

### **Tom Harrison**

Author of "Bion, Rickman, Foulkes and the Northfield Experiments: Advancing on a Different Front" published by Jessica Kingsley in 2000, Tom is a consultant psychiatrist with interests in history and complexity theory, who has worked in rehabilitation psychiatry in the UK for the past 30 years. He is currently embarked on a PhD in the History of Medicine at Birmingham University researching the Ingrebourne Centre, a psychotherapeutic community which ran within St. George's General Hospital in Hornchurch, Essex, from 1957 to 2002.

### **Miranda Quinney**

Miranda has been working with story for the last ten years. She tells, makes, and performs stories to young and old in a variety of locations – from offices to woodlands, in libraries, theatres and festivals. She is passionate about the importance of saving people's real life stories, and works with individuals and groups as a biographer and facilitator. Her work with patients, staff and carers in hospices across the UK is a daily reminder of how powerful our stories are. She has developed Sharing Stories for Wellbeing as a way to share the benefits of biographical storytelling. The programme has been evaluated by the University of Northampton's faculty for Health and Wellbeing, and was a finalist in the 2014 Dementia Care Awards. This year Miranda is collaborating with Hospice UK to promote and deliver a nationwide train-the-trainer programme, with the aim of ensuring that every UK hospice has access to a storyteller with the skills to run sharing stories workshops.

## COMMENTS ABOUT THE VENUE

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

**February 2016:** 'Fantastic time – food amazing – staff just lovely. All of us happy'

**November 2015:** 'We love it here – home from home. Vicky and Steph's cooking is so inviting and you cope so well with our awkward diets! Love the re-vamped rooms! Thank you for all your care.'

**October 2015:** 'Rooms and centre very comfortable. Such a peaceful place. Thank you so much.'

**August 2015:** 'The space at the centre and the variety of spaces led to the most harmonious and congenial and enjoyable retreat we have ever had.....We all feel refreshed and the young people agreed with me that spaces are created in your mind after such experiences of physical spaces combined with reflection and belonging.....'(Sheila Melzak, Clinical Director, The Baobab Centre for Young Survivors in Exile)

**July 2015:** 'Thankyou so much for a lovely stay. The food was delicious and the staff so friendly and welcoming. The rooms were lovely and comfortable and the grounds tranquil. An ideal place to feel nurtured on our yoga retreat.'

Barns Conference Centre  
P.E.T.T.  
Church Lane  
Toddington, near Cheltenham  
Glos. GL54 5DQ

## TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

**Conference timings have been designed to facilitate ease of travel.**

**By rail:** There are regular and convenient train services to nearby Honeybourne and Evesham stations, on the London Paddington to Worcester/Hereford line; and to Cheltenham Spa on the West Coast and London Paddington/Birmingham/NorthWest lines. Taxis can be arranged in advance, and there is a busy taxi stand at Cheltenham.

**By road:** If walking: Barns Centre is on the Isbourne Way, on Church Lane, Toddington, GL54 5DQ, about 50 yards up and on the left from the junction with the B4077.

If coming by bicycle, car, or motorcycle: Church Lane forms a T-Junction with the B4077, which runs between Tewkesbury and Stow-on-the-Wold. From the M5, take Exit 9 at Tewkesbury heading East towards Ashchurch on the A46. Cross over the Teddington Hands Roundabout onto the B4077 towards Stow-on-the-Wold. From the M5 it takes about 15 minutes to get to Church Lane, which will be on the left. There is ample parking onsite.

**By air:** The nearest major airport is Birmingham International (BHX), well-served by rail.

### ACCOMMODATION

**On-site:** Barns Centre has eleven comfortable two-bed rooms, with a small kitchen in the main accommodation building. Each pair of rooms shares a bathroom.

**Camping:** Tents are welcome on the Field by prior arrangement. There is a shower/toilet block available.

**Locally:** Barns Centre is at the foot of the Cotswolds, well served by nearby B&Bs and hotels.