

University of Cambridge,
Department of
**Anglo-Saxon,
Norse & Celtic**



NEWSLETTER 2009

Welcome to our third newsletter which aims to keep ASNCs past and present in touch with the Department and with one another. A recent issue of the University's Staff Newsletter included a double-page spread about ASNC, describing the Department as 'unique in its intensively cross-cultural approach to understanding just who we think we are.' We're sure that you will agree that ASNCs have always had a clear idea of who they are and what they are here for. In this *our* newsletter, along with news of the year's activities, we are pleased to bring you

brief personal profiles of two ASNCs from the era before the two-part Tripos, in which they reflect on their careers since leaving Cambridge and the extent to which having been an ASNC made a difference.



ASNCs celebrating the year's heaviest snowfall in style, with a snow long-ship on the ASNC terrace. (Photo: V. Lever)

We are always delighted to hear your news, and you can be sure of a very warm welcome at 9 West Road should you happen to be in Cambridge and would like to look in on us, especially if you have yet to see our still relatively new home.

Teaching of Scandinavian History

The Department is very grateful to Mr Jan Petter Roed for his generous donations in support of the teaching of Medieval Scandinavian History. His donations have helped us establish a full-time four-year post which with further fundraising we hope to make permanent; this follows a change to a University Statute (recently confirmed by Her Majesty in Council), which releases the accumulated reserves of a trust fund to part-fund the post of Lecturer in Medieval Scandinavian History in perpetuity. This will ensure the continuation of a vital paper for undergraduates as well as the opportunity to foster MPhil and PhD-level work in this area.

From the Head of Department

The past year has been another very successful one for the Department. In the national Research Assessment Exercise, which took into account publications between 2001 and 2007, our research was rated in the very highest terms with 'scores' of 45% category 4* (world-leading research), 30% 3* (internationally excellent research) and 20% 2* (nationally excellent research). Because of the multidisciplinary nature of the Department's research, parts of our submission were considered by the English panel, the History panel and the Classics panel, as well as by the Celtic Studies panel which was responsible for the assessment overall since we had the largest single cluster of researchers in that area. As well as being ranked first in the Celtic Studies field, the Department was also among the highest-ranked Departments and Faculties of the University (as it happens, outperforming both English and History in the league tables and even marginally outperforming Classics!). The quality of the research environment and the esteem in which members of the Department are held formed part of the assessment, along with the published research of the staff of the Department, post-doctoral research fellows and research associates.



The investment we have made in the research culture of the Department continues to be rewarded in national postdoctoral competitions, with another Leverhulme Early-Career Fellowship awarded for 2009-12 (to Elizabeth Boyle) and another British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship for 2010-2012 (to Jonathan Grove). Our PhD graduates continue to be highly competitive in the quest for Junior Research Fellowship awards within Cambridge, with Rory Naismith's JRF at Clare College (2009-2011) bringing the number of ASNC JRFs next year to six, quite outstanding relative to the size of the Department.

The beginning of the new academic year brought a number of other important changes to the Department. Elizabeth Ashman Rowe took up her appointment as Lecturer in Medieval Scandinavian History (see Staff News for a profile of Elizabeth), bringing to eight the number of full-time University Teaching Officers in the Department. We also introduced an Induction Course for first-year undergraduates, an intensive three-day course held before lectures began, which included language workshops, orientation tours of the University and Faculty Libraries, mini-supervisions, and a picnic, all of which were provided with the sterling support of graduate-student volunteers. We also introduced assessment for all six first-year papers, increasing the number of Preliminary examinations to four and introducing two Preliminary Assessment Tests at the end of Lent term for the other two papers. Feedback on the Induction Course has been extremely positive and the new assessment model has been successful in better supporting student learning as well as providing a broad base of knowledge on which students can build paper choices in their second and third years.

In the last academic year the Department has also hosted or been instrumental in supporting a number of interdisciplinary conferences: 'Between the Islands: Interaction with Vikings in Ireland and Britain in the Early Medieval Period' (in March); 'Fíannaigeacht Studies: Twenty Years A-Growing' (in April) and 'Multilingualism from Alexander to Charlemagne: cross-cultural themes and perspectives' (in May). Alumni are always welcome to register for departmental conferences and to come to our guest lectures and events (bookmark the diary page of our newly-designed webpage: www.asnc.cam.ac.uk/diary). Get back in touch with your inner-ASNC!

Judy Quinn

Student News

ASNC Society: Recent Activities

The ASNC Society had another great year in 2008-9. Apart from the usual pub activities on a Friday night there are a number of other events to note. First, there was a wonderful day trip to Norwich in Michaelmas term which saw a visit to the Castle Museum to see the impressive Anglo-Saxon coin display. There was also a well-attended guest speaker event: Haki Antonsson (formerly of the Department, now at UCL) spoke on the past, present, and future of Scandinavian History. To add to this there was a fantastic dinner at Emmanuel in Lent which celebrated the Society's achievements to the accompaniment of good food, wine, raucous banter and, at times, music, thanks to **Hannah Dyson** (Pembroke, 2005) and **Shem Jarrod** (Pembroke, 2007).

On a more prosaic but no less important note the Society has also introduced a membership scheme to help keep track of members and give people the chance to show off their loyalty through wonderfully-decorated membership cards, designed by **Rebecca Jarosz** (Corpus, 2006). Lastly we have also ensured that officers help to run the Society by organising a rota for the Monday ASNC Lunch at 1.

This is only a summary of the year but we think it helps to showcase how enjoyable it has been: the Society continues to complement teaching in the department successfully. We would like to thank all members of the Committee, especially Rebecca Jarosz, for their help and support. We would also like to add how grateful we are to Drs Richard Dance and Rosalind Love for attending the dinner (and Professor Simon Keynes for attempting to attend even though sadly prevented at the last minute). Without Victoria Lever we don't know how we could have had meetings, held ASNCc lunch or printed off *Gesta* - thank you for being so patient! Finally best wishes to Albert Fenton, Cathy Flavelle and the rest of the new committee.

Chris Milliken (Christ's, 2006) and **Alice Hicklin** (Trinity, 2006)
ASNC Society Presidents, 2007-8



'I want to drink the horn. I ought to have the horn, hold the horn. My name is horn... All my friends and relations had horns...' [with apologies to Ælfric Bata and his classroom colloquy!]. Dr Dance regards the mead-horn with a view to drinking from it, a now traditional ceremony at the annual ASNC Society dinner.

Student News continued...

ASNC continues to make its mark in the world of sport, since the Cambridge Blue Boat was again coxed in 2009 by **Rebecca Dowbiggin** (Emmanuel, 2001) who also found time on dry land to submit her PhD dissertation the following month. Our prowess extends beyond the river, with a half-blue on the golf links for **Paddy Croft** (Trinity, 2006).

Congratulations go to **Debbie Potts** (Magdalene, 2007), who has been awarded a scholarship by the Icelandic Ministry of Education to study in Iceland for 8 months. Since the last newsletter several PhD students have completed their dissertations: **Ben Snook** (Girton, 2001), **Helen Foxhall Forbes** (Trinity, 2001), **Peter Chetwynd** (Corpus, 2000), **Jean Rumball** (Corpus, 2003), **Fiona Salisbury** (New Hall, and Queens' 1998) and **Denis Casey** (Trinity Hall, 2005). Congratulations to them all, as also to **Rory Naismith** (Trinity 2002), who has been elected to a Junior Research Fellowship at Clare College.

CCASNC 2009

The Tenth Cambridge Colloquium in Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Celtic, with the theme 'Hidden Depths', was held on Saturday 7 March 2009 in 9 West Road. The keynote speaker, Michael Winterbottom was taken ill a few days before the Colloquium and another rather more familiar Michael, that is Michael Lapidge, kindly and heroically stepped into the breach with a wonderful paper rethinking the textual transmission of Bede's *Historia Ecclesiastica*. The day's other papers offered the usual wide variety of disciplines and cultures, bringing speakers from Cork, Oxford and as far afield as Toronto, together with a good crop of the Department's own graduates (and one undergraduate), **Natalia Petrovskaja** (Peterhouse, 2004), **Paul Gazzoli** (St Catherine's, 2005), **Jennie Doolan** (Downing, 2005), **Sophie Rixon** (Trinity, 2003), and **Eystein Thanisch** (Caius, 2006).

Modern ASNC Languages

The Modern Irish language classes, begun in 2006 thanks to a most generous initial grant from the Irish government, and taught by Dr Kaarina Hollo at all levels from beginners to advanced speakers, have kept up in their popularity. In celebration of this ongoing fruitful relationship, the Department took great pleasure in hosting, in October 2008, a highly enjoyable and spirited reading (along with flute music) of selections from his translation of *Táin Bó Cúailnge* by Professor Ciarán Carson, in the presence of Mr Ciarán Byrne, the cultural attaché of the Irish Embassy. We have recent news that the Irish government has generously offered further funding for the next three years (2009-12), so that classes can continue as a valuable resource for all members of the University.

The Icelandic government has likewise shown steady generosity in providing funds for courses in Modern Icelandic in the Department for a number of years. They are being taught by **Vicky Cribb** (Newnham, 1984), who embarked upon a PhD (on *Sturlunga saga*) in the Department in October 2008, after several years working as a free-lance translator of Icelandic.

Staff News

2008-9 has seen some changes to the faces around the ASNC tea-point. **Jonny Grove** (Trinity, 1990) reached the end of his half-time contract teaching Scandinavian History of the Viking Age, and in September 2008 a number of his past and present students gathered to bid him a fond farewell. We are delighted to announce that he has since been awarded a prestigious three-year British Academy Postdoctoral Research Fellowship, to begin in January 2010, back in the ASNC fold, working on the cult of St Knud. Meanwhile **Elizabeth Ashman Rowe** (PhD Cornell University, 1989; *photo right*) took up her appointment as full-time Lecturer in Scandinavian History. She comes to us from Boston, USA, where she had a research affiliation with Harvard University with funding for a project on the medieval annals of Iceland. She is enthusiastic about her new position, saying, ‘ASNC’s multidisciplinary approach suits my own work perfectly. My research brings together the study of history, literature and manuscripts with the goal of explaining why particular stories were written down at particular moments of Scandinavian history. Similarly, my teaching brings together history, archaeology and source-criticism. So many of the Icelandic sagas are about the Viking Age, but they can’t be assessed as historical sources until they are understood as products of the Middle Ages. And archaeological finds are much like manuscripts – they are material objects that are important sources of evidence, but they are not self-explanatory and must be interpreted.’ Elizabeth also values ASNC’s lively mix of senior members, visitors, and enthusiastic students.



During **Rosalind Love**’s year of research leave in 2008-9 (*see Research Projects*), **Helen Foxhall Forbes** has been taking care of Insular Latin teaching: it is excellent news that Helen has won a Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship at Leicester University from October 2009. **Máire Ní Mhaonaigh** has spent two terms on leave in Bonn with a Humboldt Fellowship: her work was recently profiled in the University’s *Research Horizons* magazine (www.research-horizons.cam.ac.uk); in October 2009 she will don the harness of Head of Department. **Fiona Edmonds** was awarded a CRASSH fellowship to take a term’s leave in Michaelmas 2008. **Simon Keynes** has given a number of public lectures during the last year, notably in Aberdeen where he caught up with **David Dumville**, whose 60th birthday he helped to celebrate fittingly with a symposium. **Judy Quinn** was recently invited to lecture in Zürich to the Schweizerische Gesellschaft für skandinavische Studien. News about **Paul Russell**’s current research project can be found overleaf. **Richard Dance** has been in demand as a speaker in locations east, at Prague in April, and later this year in Warsaw; but he is finding time inbetweenwhiles to get married this coming summer, and we offer him and the bride-to-be, Dr Sarah Meer, a Senior Lecturer in the English Faculty, warmest congratulations.

Details of all staff publications and research can be found on the ASNC website (<http://www.asnc.cam.ac.uk/people/senior/index.htm>).

Current Research Projects in the Department

The Early Irish Glossaries Project, a three-year AHRC-funded project based in the Department, comes to an end this summer. **Paul Russell** has been the Principal Investigator

with **Sharon Arbuthnot** and **Pádraic Moran** as the research assistants. Its

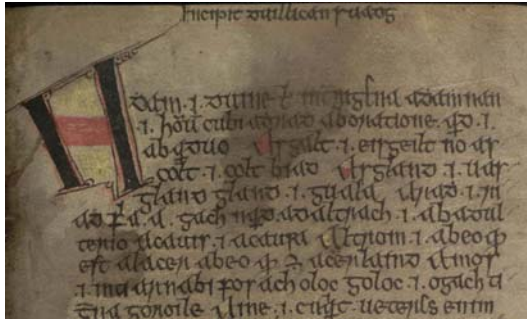
aim has been to produce new versions of the three major early medieval glossaries known as *Sanas Cormaic* ('Cormac's Glossary'), O'Mulconry's Glossary and *Dúil Dromma Cetta* ('the Collection of Druim Cett'). New editions were badly needed: the last editions of *Sanas Cormaic* and O'Mulconry's Glossary were produced in the 19th century, while *Dúil Dromma Cetta* has yet to be fully edited. These

collections, the earliest of which dates

back to the eighth century, are far more than just lists of words. The alphabetically-listed headwords are followed by entries ranging from single-word definitions to detailed explanations sometimes several pages long, replete with anecdotes and stories, offering a fascinating insight into the literature and culture of early medieval Ireland. Early in the project, a fully-searchable database of the headwords was put up online at <http://www.asnc.cam.ac.uk/irishglossaries/>; it allows the user not only to make concordances but also to search for headwords which have been linked to the relevant entry in the online version of the Dictionary of the Irish Language. Part of the project has involved putting the texts of the various manuscript versions online as part of the database and so the new version, which will be launched in the next few weeks, will also contain the text of entries as well as headwords. This will be a vital tool to be used alongside the new printed editions of the glossaries.

As we go to press there is good news that **Pádraic** has been awarded a two-year Postdoctoral Fellowship in Galway to work on the 9000+ glosses in the St-Gall Priscian manuscript.

Boethius in Early Medieval Europe is a five-year project funded by the Leverhulme Trust, run jointly with the Faculty of English in Oxford (under the leadership there of Malcolm Godden, assisted by Rohini Jayatilaka), and focusing on the vast and complex body of mainly Latin glossing and commentary which attached itself to the text of Boethius's *Consolation of Philosophy*. This material sheds remarkable light on how the *Consolation* was read after its rediscovery (supposedly by Alcuin), in the eighth century, and at the same time demonstrates very vividly how the activity of glossing served to transmit not only grammatical and philological learning, but also ideas from Greek philosophy, classical mythology and its Christian interpretation, and much more. The Trust's grant has enabled the third member of the project team, **Rosalind Love** (St John's, 1984), to take a year's leave in 2008-9, to work on editing and translating this material, as well as spending quality time with some of the manuscripts of the *Consolation* preserved in Cambridge. (Project website: <http://www.english.ox.ac.uk/boethius/index.html>)



The beginning of *Sanas Cormaic* from the Book of Uí Mhaine, p. 177a (by permission of the Royal Irish Academy)

Other Research in the Department

Alderik Blom (Peterhouse, 2002), **Emily Lethbridge** (Emmanuel 1998), and **Geraldine Parsons** (Trinity, 1998), all currently hold research fellowships at Girton, Emmanuel, and Trinity respectively, although Geraldine has already begun a full-time post in the Department of Celtic and Gaelic at the University of Glasgow (Glasgow is letting her escape back to Trinity for one last year from this July!). Emily has spent two spells in Iceland, first on a farm milking cows (that kick!), and then as the recipient of a Snorri Sturluson Fellowship from the Sigurður Nordal Institute enabling her to work on the manuscripts at the Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies in Reykjavík. **Peter Stokes** (Corpus, 2001) is reaching the end of a Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship, while **Lizzie Boyle** (Corpus, 2002) is just about to begin one (she is also to be congratulated on winning the annual essay prize of the Society for the Study of Medieval Languages and Literatures for her essay, ‘Neoplatonism in medieval Ireland: the evidence of *Scéla na esérg?*’, to be published in the journal *Medium Aevum*). **David Woodman** (Trinity, 2000) took up a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship, and a non-stipendiary Fellowship at Robinson, in 2008. Team ASNC is boosted also by two current holders of Junior Research Fellowships who have come to us from the ‘other’ place, namely **Roy Flechner** at Trinity and **Mark Williams** at Peterhouse, both of whom have a Celtic focus in their research.

Departmental Events 2008–9

The year’s calendar has been extremely busy, not only with the customary run of events such as our three annual named lectures and the Clemoes Reading Prize, and a rich diet of lectures from guest speakers, but also conferences hosted by the Department.

A wide range of guest lecturers this year included two familiar faces from days gone by, **Mary Garrison** (Corpus, 1986), now a member of the History Faculty at the University of York, and **Andy Orchard** (Queens’, 1983), currently Provost and Vice Chancellor of that other Trinity College, in Toronto.

The **E.C. Quiggin lecture** was delivered by Uáitéar Mac Gearailt, from St Patrick’s College, Drumcondra, Dublin (‘The date of the Middle Irish version of *Táin Bó Cúailnge*’); and the **H.M. Chadwick lecture** by **Richard Sharpe** (Trinity, 1973), Professor of Diplomatic at Oxford (‘The earls of York and Bamburgh’). The **Kathleen Hughes lecture** for 2009 was given by Colmán Etchingham from the National University of Ireland, Maynooth (‘The Irish monastic town: is this a valid concept?’).

The 2009 **Clemones Reading Prize** had seven individual entries and one group entry, reading passages in Old English, Old Norse, Latin and Gothic. The winner was **Moa Hoijer** (Hughes Hall, 2008), who read from the Old Norse text *Völundarkviða in forna*. A special recognition prize was awarded to **Joseph Taylor** (Corpus Christi, 2008), who performed a musical adaptation of *Cadmon’s Hymn*, and caused some members of the audience to wonder whether Bob Dylan had somehow strolled into 9 West Road.

Departmental Events continued...



The **Cambridge Festival of Ideas in Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences**, taking its cue from the popular annual Science Festival, was held for the first time in October 2008. There were countless free events across the University and ASNC's family-orientated afternoon, 'Vikings, Celts, and Anglo-Saxons: Busting the Myths', rated among the most popular, receiving over 200 visitors who were able to join in with making herbal remedies, decorated shields, Viking ship mobiles, rune-pendants, as well as being treated to poetry-readings, and a display of Viking armoury – and even real bloodshed! – provided by **Phil Howard** (Robinson, 2003, *photo left*). The Department's contribution to the next Festival of Ideas will be an afternoon lecture by Roy Flechner ('Missionaries' Tales') and another family-activity afternoon with a Celtic theme.

In April the Department hosted a conference entitled '**Between the Islands**', which investigated relations between Ireland, Britain and the Scandinavian countries in the early medieval period. The arrival of Vikings off the coast of Ireland and Britain in the late eighth and early ninth centuries ensured that these diverse cultures began to interact, the nature of their contact changing substantially over the long and complex period of their shared history. The conference drew Insular and Norse strands together and examined where they intersect, as well as remain apart, taking an interdisciplinary approach to the investigation of cultural interaction. Scholars of various disciplines (archaeological, historical, literary, linguistic, onomastic and numismatic) sought to shed light on their specialist interests, but also to engage with those working in related fields. To maximise this dialogue each speaker's paper was pre-circulated so that the days of conference itself could be dedicated mainly to discussion, a format relatively unfamiliar to scholars working in medieval studies: it was regarded as a success both by all participants because the resulting debate was generally of very high quality. The conference was attended by staff and students from ASNC, from other departments in the University, and numerous international institutions. It also generated a great deal of interest within the media, leading to ASNC staff being interviewed on various radio stations, including RTÉ, BBC Wales and Radio 5 Live. There was also widespread coverage in many major daily and weekend newspapers, including an editorial in the Guardian, and an abundance of colourful headlines resulted...

The Vikings: it wasn't all raping and pillaging

The Independent 13 March 2009

Those nice Vikings did a lot for us, and it was not pillaging

The Times 13 March 2009

Spotlight on the cuddly side of the Vikings

The Guardian 13 March 2009

Image accompanying an article in **The Week**, 18 April 2009, with caption 'Vikings: became part of mainstream society.'



Alumni News

Now gradually establishing itself as a regular fixture, the **ASNC alumni reunion** took place on Saturday 27th September 2008 in 9 West Road. The numbers attending, from a great



variety of eras, meant we filled the foyer of the Faculty Building with our event, though there were guided tours up to the 'ASNC' corridor. Musical accompaniment to the evening was provided by **Harriet Earis** (Trinity, 1998, *photo left*), and there was a slide-show of stunning photographs of Scandinavian landscapes by **James Appleton** (Girton, 2004). Some sets of old snaps from ASNC in the early 90s were also passed around, to much hilarity. Alumni from a great variety of eras attended. The next reunion will be on Saturday 26 September (drinks in ASNC from 5 until 7.30 p.m.), as usual coinciding with the University Alumni weekend. We are calling out especially to ASNCs from the early 80s and the early 90s, and hoping to revive a few memories with more old photos, and back numbers of *Gesta*. But needless to say all alumni, new and old, will

be heartily welcome. Details of this event can be found on the ASNC website (<http://www.asnc.cam.ac.uk/alumni/events.htm>).

News on recent alumni includes the marriage of **Rachel Hilditch** (Sidney Sussex, 2004) to Mr Francis Young in April 2009: their wedding cake was a numismatic spectacular (*photo right*). The official photographer was Jimmie Appleton, fast establishing a reputation for his work (check out his pictures on <http://photo.net/photos/anhaga>), alongside becoming Tough Guy No. 1 for 2009. Not to be outdone, **Debbie Scanlan** (Newnham, 2005) has also recently set up a photography company with a friend.



In June **Bert Hamilton** (Fitzwilliam, 1996) married Mr David Norman (*see photo*), with **Dan Starkey** (Trinity Hall, 1996), **Adrian Joyce** (Emma, 1993), **Ollie Watts** (Girton, 1996), **Charlie Farquharson-Roberts** (Emmanuel, 1996) and **Andy Orchard** among the ASNCs in attendance. No doubt the wedding in Grantchester church this coming July of **Emma Connolly** and **Matthew Baker** (both Trinity, 1996) will be something of an ASNC reunion too.

Alumni Profiles

Tom Shakespeare (Pembroke, 1984)

In 1986, I left behind the law codes of King Athelstan and Gesta ASNCorum to complete a Part Two in SPS. I graduated with a First and printer's ink under my nails, as I had already started a year at Cambridge Free Press, printing posters and leaflets for sundry right-on causes. From there, I moved to The Works Theatre co-operative, forgotten now, except for alumni like Tim Firth, Lee Hall, Tom Hollander, Sam Mendes and Jim Knight MP. Me? I rejected fame and fortune in favour of a PhD on the sociology of disability, and shortly afterwards moved to Tyneside to build an academic career at Sunderland, Leeds and now Newcastle University. Eight books later, I have an international reputation for disability research: this and my interest in genetics has launched me onto BBC Question Time and the Today Programme, among other fleeting media moments. My ASNC roots still show, however, whenever I am invited to lecture in the Nordic countries: Reykjavik, Trondheim, Oslo, Aarhus, Sweden, I've toured them all, touting my medieval credentials and keeping quiet about my shameful failure to learn Old Norse. Now I am consulting at the World Health Organization: few opportunities to use my Old English in Geneva, except when I visit the grave of Jorge Luis Borges and haltingly translate the quotation from the Battle of Maldon: and ne forhtedon na.



(photo: Brenda Mason)

Rob Douglas (Churchill, 1967)

I arrived in Cambridge to study History for Part I. Although I enjoyed it, I wanted a change for Part II and was attracted to ASNC, which at that time you could only study for one part of the Tripos. The Department was tiny with just a handful of students: only three of us studying the same combination of papers in my year. This small size had many attractions, not least the smaller groups at the lectures, which were much more interactive, and more personal supervisions with the likes of Peter Clemoes, Ray Page and Peter Hunter-Blair. I graduated in 1971 with a 2:1 with little idea of what career to follow. Initially, on the suggestion of the Careers Service, who seemed doubtful that a degree in ASNC would open many doors, I took a course in Archives Administration at the University of Liverpool and worked as an Archivist. After three years, however, I decided that I needed to try my hand at something else, took the Civil Service exams, and found myself, to my surprise, being trained as an HM Inspector of Taxes. I followed many other colleagues into the private sector, in my case, Royal Dutch Shell, where I spent ten years in the tax department, before ending up as Head of International Taxation based in the Hague. I was then offered the chance to move into general management and held a series



Alumni Profiles continued....

of fascinating senior roles overseeing Shell's operation in East Asia, Chief Executive in Belgium, and in Italy. I left Shell of my own choice in 1999 and since then have built a portfolio of activities, based on consultancy work and non-executive roles in the public and private sector. I chaired the Surrey Learning and Skills Council and was Deputy Chairman of the South East England Development Agency. I even chaired a small oil company, Icen Oil and Gas. I am now on the Board of the Higher Education Funding Council for England, A governor of CILT, the National Centre for Languages, and on an advisory Board at the Department of Business and Enterprise. In 2005 I was made a CBE and am currently a High Sheriff in Nomination for Surrey 2010/11.

I feel I have had, and am still having, a very varied and interesting career. I am often asked about my degree in ASNC and I always say that it was an excellent preparation for what followed. Why? At one level, there is the curiosity value – at most job interviews, introductions at conferences etc, my degree is a topic of conversation. It still means that one stands out. And I am delighted to have the chance to become a High Sheriff, a role introduced by the Anglo-Saxon kings. But most importantly my degree studies taught me the ability to integrate separate strands of information into a single picture or story line. (*you can read a fuller version of Rob's profile on the ASNC website*).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2009– 10

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| Ireland, India, London:
The Tripartite Life of
Whitley Stokes (1830-1909) | 18-19 September, ASNC Dept (for information about this conference and how to register, see www.asnc.cam.ac.uk/diary/whitleystokes.htm) |
| ASNC Alumni Reunion
(part of the Cambridge University Alumni Weekend, 25–27 September 2009) | Saturday 26 September 2009, ASNC Dept |
| Festival of Ideas | 1 October–1 November 2009; ASNC events 24 October (family afternoon) and 28 October (lecture) both in 9 West Road. |
| Quiggin lecture | Thursday 3 December 2009, 9 West Rd (Dr Carole Hough) |
| Chadwick lecture | Thursday 17 March 2010, 9 West Road (Prof Joseph Nagy) |
| Kathleen Hughes lecture | 26 April, 2010, Hughes Hall (Prof. Marie-Therese Flanagan) |

From the Alumni, Outreach & Fundraising Committee

Your kind donations both large and small have enabled ASNC to establish a well-equipped and welcoming working environment at 9 West Road, and we are immensely grateful. The Department is very fortunate to have been able to make the four-year full-time appointment for Scandinavian history mentioned earlier in the newsletter, but it still remains a major task to secure the long-term future of teaching in the subject thereafter. Another pressing need is to find a way to fund continued teaching in Palaeography: these are large goals towards which we are working with the help of the University Development Office. And we also hope to build up funds in order to help ASNC students with the increasing cost of studying in Cambridge, by providing travel-grants, book-grants, and dissertation prizes, as well as to establish bursaries for postgraduate students in ASNC.

If you would like to contribute in any way to ASNC's continuing development, there are various ways to do so.

- By donating online through the University Development Office website, at <http://www.alumni.cam.ac.uk/giving/> (in Step 1 you can specify ASNC as the destination for your gift)
- By sending a cheque payable to the *University of Cambridge* directly to the Cambridge University Development Office, 1 Quayside, Bridge Street, Cambridge, CB5 8AB, UK (NB this includes cheques in dollars or euros)

Should you wish to make a regular donation, a form to set this up can be obtained from the Departmental Secretary (contact details below).

We aim to produce an ASNC newsletter on a regular basis, but as postage costs increase, we hope to move towards using the Departmental website and email as the primary means of communicating with you about future events and ASNC news. If you are willing to receive occasional email notifications from us (exclusively about ASNC events), we would be grateful for a note of your email address and permission for us to use it. We are always delighted to hear any information about changes of address or other news (particularly news that you would like to have reported in future newsletters), which can be posted to the Departmental Secretary, Victoria Lever, at the Department of ASNC, 9 West Road, Cambridge, CB3 9DP (telephone 01223 335079), or emailed to asnc@hermes.cam.ac.uk. You can also update your personal details by contacting the Cambridge University Development Office directly at the address above or by email to enquiries@foundation.cam.ac.uk.



The ASNC
Common room

(photo: James
Appleton)