
EDITORIAL

This issue of *LPS* includes another fascinating range of papers and research notes from a diverse array of authors. In our first article Sara Horrell and Deborah Oxley employ Eden's *The state of the poor* (1797) to analyse variations in diet at the local level, allocating a nutritional score to each, and finding substantial variations which they proceed to relate to local and regional economic and social variables. Loss of common land had a decidedly negative impact, while women's work was beneficial, but only if these women worked at home. Marion Hardy offers a detailed analysis of the relationship between migration in Devon and the Newfoundland fisheries and trading area between 1600 and 1850. A wide variety of sources is employed to examine intra-county movement, both temporary and permanent migration, the social class of migrants and the impact this had upon the local population of Devon. Our third article, by Connor and Hinde, builds upon Andy Hinde's discussion of the methods for identifying and measuring 'crisis mortality', published in *LPS* 84 (2010) as a sources and methods item. Their concern here is to compare market towns with rural parishes in their hinterlands, and to discover whether or not the towns experienced more frequent and severe crises, and also to compare background levels of mortality between them. They conclude that the majority of the counties show that the market towns could be considered as having more severe crises than the respective rural villages, while in some counties (but not others) background mortality was also higher in the towns. Far from all towns, of course, were 'urban graveyards', as your editor has been insisting for some considerable time, but a tendency for more concentrated centres of population on major trade routes holding regular markets to exhibit a greater frequency of mortality crises is perhaps to be expected.

In this issue we also feature two research notes: Ross McDermott revisits the issue of burial location in relation to Earls Colne while Christine Jones explores evidence for the population of the island of Samson in the Scillies. We are also pleased to publish a report by Sue Hawkins on the development of a new electronic resource: the Historic Hospital Admissions Registers Project (HHARP). This issue is rounded off by our regular Autumn feature, the review of recent periodical literature, compiled by Jonathan Healey, Andrew Hinde and Rebecca Oakes, the length of which suggests that the field of local population studies, broadly defined, remains in a very healthy condition indeed.

LPSS conferences

This issue carries a report on the LPSS Spring conference, 'Regional development in industrialising Britain, c.1670–1860', which was held in Welwyn Garden City last April. Unfortunately this venue is no longer available to us. Our Autumn conference, 'New

research in local population studies', will already have been held at Oxford Brookes University by the time this issue of *LPS* goes to press, and we are now planning for Spring 2013. The theme is 'Urban mortality', with no limitation on period, and we are now looking for speakers. If you have a suitable paper, please contact Nigel Goose in the first instance (n.goose@herts.ac.uk). This conference will be held at the Friends Meeting House, Euston Road, London, on Saturday 13 April.

LPSS publications projects

The New Poor Law and English society, 1834–1909: local and regional perspectives remains on our agenda, but progress had been slow due to the editors' other commitments. *Famine, diet and nutrition in England, c. 1500–1950* is also very slowly taking shape.

Editorial matters

We continue to explore the issue of a possible new editor for the journal, but at the present time no conclusion to that process has been reached, and I will continue in this role until a new editor is appointed. My thanks once again go to Viv Williams and Cambrian Typesetters for laying out this issue, and to our printer, Halstan.

Nigel Goose
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