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## Notes on Contributors

**Cara Dobbing** is a third-year PhD student at the University of Leicester. Her research examines the patients who were circulated in and out of the Cumberland and Westmorland Joint Lunatic Asylum from its establishment in 1862 until the beginning of the First World War. Central to her work is recounting the pauper experience of insanity in the various institutions which treated the mentally ill in this period.

**Simon Gallaher** is a PhD candidate at Christ's College, University of Cambridge. His doctoral research is entitled 'The welfare of children and childhood under the Irish Poor Law' and is supervised by Professor Eugenio Biagini and Dr Samantha Williams.

**Peter Jones** is currently a Research Assistant at the University of Durham, working on the history of public petitioning in early nineteenth century Britain. His published work focuses on pauper narratives, popular protest and parish relations in Scotland, England and Wales in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. He also has a research interest in the environmental history of Britain's sea fisheries between the twelfth and the twentieth centuries.

**Steven King** is Professor of Economic and Social History at the University of Leicester. He is a former member of the Editorial Board of *Local Population Studies*. His books include *Poverty and Welfare in England 1700–1850: a Regional Perspective* (Manchester, 2000), *Women, Welfare and Local Politics 1880–1920: 'We Might be Trusted'* (Brighton, 2005) and *Poverty, Sickness and Death in England, 1750–1850* (Bloomsbury, forthcoming). He is currently working on a project looking at the agency of poor people in the welfare systems into which their lives are inscribed, considering the period from 1800 to the present.

**Johanna Purser** was Research Grants Administrator in the Cavendish Laboratory (Physics Department) at the University of Cambridge until her retirement in 2016. Previously she studied for the Certificate, Diploma, and Advanced Diploma in Local and Regional History at the Institute of Continuing Education, University of Cambridge. Her Master of Studies dissertation in History was completed in 2016 and is the basis of her article.

**Alistair Ritch** was employed as Consultant Physician in Geriatric Medicine at City Hospital, Birmingham and Senior Clinical Lecturer at the University of Birmingham from 1978 until 2007. Following retirement, he completed an MPhil on 'Sick, aged and infirm adults in the new Birmingham Workhouse, 1852–1912', and in 2015 a PhD on 'Medical care in the workhouses in Birmingham and Wolverhampton, 1834–1914'. Currently he is an Honorary Research Fellow in the History of Medicine Unit at the University of

Birmingham. His current research interests include nineteenth and early twentieth-century institutional and poor law medical care and treatment and the history of ageing and geriatric medicine.

**Karen Rothery** completed her PhD in 2017 at the University of Hertfordshire with a thesis entitled ‘The implementation and administration of the New Poor Law in Hertfordshire *c.* 1830 to 1847’. She was elected to the Local Population Studies Society committee in 2017, having previously served as the Society’s administrator from 2009 to 2013. She is continuing her research into local poor law administration and is particularly interested in the role of women in both administration and policy development.