

WELLCOME TRUST PROGRAMME AWARD

**DISABILITY AND INDUSTRIAL
SOCIETY: A COMPARATIVE
CULTURAL HISTORY OF BRITISH
COALFIELDS, 1780-1948**

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

1 October 2013 – 30 September 2014

1. Introduction

Disability and Industrial Society: A Comparative Cultural History of British Coalfields, 1780-1948 is funded over five years by a Wellcome Trust Programme Award of £972,501. In the application for the project, we promised to provide the Advisory Board with an Annual Report. As the project moves into its fourth year, we present the Third Annual Report for the period 1 October 2013 to 30 September 2014.

2. Staffing

Professor Anne Borsay

The project suffered a profound loss this year with the death of its Principal Investigator and Co-Director, Professor Anne Borsay. Anne became ill at the beginning of 2014 and was diagnosed with cancer in April. Unable to continue with her duties, she handed over temporary leadership of the project to her Co-Director, Professor David Turner, while she received treatment. Unfortunately, her condition deteriorated and she passed away on 25 August. Members of the project team attended her funeral in Aberystwyth and David delivered a tribute to Anne and her work on the project. He officially succeeded her as project Director and Principal Investigator in autumn 2014.

Anne's loss is a terrible blow to the project and a great personal loss to all of us who knew her and worked with her. Her death poses a number of challenges for the project. However, research on the project was well advanced at the time of Anne's death, and we believe that we are in a good position to deliver most of the outcomes that were planned.

Project Research Fellow, Dr Mike Mantin, helped to write the tribute to Anne posted on the University's website: <http://www.swansea.ac.uk/humanandhealthsciences/news-and-events/latest-news/atributetoprofessoranneborsay.php>. He also wrote a tribute on the project's web page: <http://dis-ind-soc.org.uk/en/blog.htm?id=34>. David published an obituary in the *Society for the Social History of Medicine Gazette* in November 2014 and the project team are discussing ways of commemorating Anne in our public engagement activities planned for 2014-15.

Following Anne's death we received many messages of condolence from Advisory Board members and others. We are grateful for all the support we have received.

Research Staff

The project employs two Research Fellows and a PhD student at Swansea University who were appointed for three years from 1st October 2012:

- Dr Daniel Blackie is working on the period 1780-1880 under the mentorship of Professor David Turner in the Department of History and Classics, College of Arts and Humanities;
- Dr Mike Mantin is working on the period 1880-1948, originally under the mentorship of Professor Anne Borsay in the Department of Inter-professional Studies, College of Human and Health Sciences. David Turner has mentored Mike since the onset of Anne's illness and has now become his permanent mentor; and
- Alexandra Jones (formerly Rees) is working on a thesis examining disability in coalfield literature under the supervision of Dr Kirsti Bohata, Department of English, College of Arts and Humanities.

Dan, Mike and Alex are working alongside the three research associates appointed for three years from 1 October 2011:

- Dr Ben Curtis for the South Wales Coalfield under the mentorship of Dr Steve Thompson at Aberystwyth University;
- Dr Angie Turner for the Scottish Coalfield under the mentorship of Professor Arthur McIvor; and
- Dr Victoria Brown for the North East Coalfield under the mentorship of Dr Vicky Long of Glasgow Caledonian University.

The research associates' contracts were due to end on 30 September 2014. Due to underspend in the partner institutions' budgets we were able to offer extensions to the contracts of Angie and Victoria. From 1st October 2014, Angie will be employed on a 0.4 basis, supplemented by a teaching post at Strathclyde, for 10 months and Victoria's contract will be extended on a full-time basis until 31 December 2015. An extension was offered to Ben, but he moved instead to a lecturing post at Cardiff University. We are very grateful to the research associates and their mentors for all their hard work on the project.

3. Training

The following training courses have been taken at Swansea University:

Daniel Blackie

Writing Grant Proposals, October 2013

Public Engagement for Researchers, National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement Workshop, Swansea University October 2013

Mike Mantin

Public Engagement for Researchers, National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement Workshop, Swansea University October 2013.

4. Work Programmes

The task of producing a comparative cultural history of the British coal industry is a big intellectual challenge. Our research question – How important was industrialization in shaping conceptions and experiences of disability? – requires us to address at least four key themes:

- The effects of economic development and technological change;
- The role of medical and welfare services;
- The influence of politics, trade unionism and social relations; and
- The implications of these historical factors for the literary genre of coalfield narrative.

To tackle these themes effectively, we expanded the milestones listed in the original application to include start as well as finish dates, and developed systematic work programmes for the research associates and the research fellows to cover academic outputs and public engagement as well as source collection.

Having spent their first year researching national sources, the research fellows turned their attention in their second year to writing. They drafted their first individually authored articles, began work on their second article, and produced drafts for their respective co-authored monographs on welfare and the economy. The scale of the primary source material necessitated a re-examination of the timetable and revision of the original targets, but the research fellows remain on course to deliver their outputs by the end of their tenure in September 2015.

The main task of the research associates during their third year was to locate and process primary sources in their respective coalfields relating to personal papers, oral histories, contemporary books and other, unattributed primary sources. This work is now complete. They also spent time working on article publications and grant applications which are detailed below.

An image found by Angela Turner during her research in the National Mining Museum archive won a commended award in the Strathclyde University 'Images of Research' annual competition, 2014.

The PhD student has made excellent progress in researching the literature of the three coalfields for texts which feature disability. Her work is supervised according to the University's policy for research degrees.

The same approach to work programmes will be adopted in subsequent years.

5. Website and Publicity

The operation of the project website was part of the research fellows' job description. Therefore, after their appointment, work began on design and development, with the assistance of Waters Creative in Swansea and Simon Proffitt of Green Land Design who produced the logo and banner which have become our hallmark. We are grateful to them for their help.

The website was launched early in 2013 and continues to grow (www.dis-ind-soc.org.uk). As well as showcasing the activities of the project, it is becoming a resource for the relationship between disability and industrialization, and indeed for disability history as a whole. The website has Twitter and Facebook pages which are updated regularly.

One of the most successful features of the website in 2013-14 was a series of blogs to commemorate Disability History Month (22 November to 22 December 2013). During this period 9 blog posts were published from project team members and a number of guest contributors. These included contributions from a Swansea University History student studying disability for her undergraduate dissertation, two blogs from heritage organisations (Cerebral Palsy Midlands and Leonard Cheshire Disability Archives), and several from academics from Britain and the USA. The series helped raise the public profile of the project and increase traffic to the website. For example, between 15 November and 14 December 2013 there were 1676 page viewings on the website and 424 unique visitors, compared with 915 page views and 117 unique visitors for the previous month (15 October to 14 November 2013). We plan to run a series of blogs for Disability History Month 2014.

The project now has a You Tube channel where videos and audio from project presentations and public engagement activities have been made available: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrBmtX7dYLZuLZCJP6hG_QQ

David Turner wrote an article using findings from the project for the BBC Ouch! Disability blog, 'Did disabled workers enjoy greater rights in centuries past?', published on 26 June 2014 (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/blogs-ouch-27975766>). The article received 160,000 hits on its day of publication.

A poster has been produced for the project as a whole, following the successful design of a poster for the literature PhD in 2012-13.

6. Conferences, seminars and workshops

Team members have been active in presenting at conferences, seminars and workshops – internationally, nationally and regionally.

International

- (a) Silicosis Conference (Sciences Po University, Paris, France, September 2013)

Arthur McIvor, 'Miners, Silica and Disability: the Bi-National Interplay between South Africa and the United Kingdom, c.1900-1930s'.

- (b) European Social Science History Conference (Vienna, Austria, April 2014)

Daniel Blackie, 'Disability, Work and Class in British Coalmining Communities, 1780-1880'.

Mike Mantin, 'Coalmining and the National Scheme for Disabled ex-Servicemen after World War 1'.

- (c) American Association for the History of Medicine, 87th Annual Meeting (Chicago IL, USA, May 2014)

Mike Mantin, "'Even a Day out Means that Someone Must Go Short": the Mixed Economy of Welfare for Disabled People in the British Coalfields, 1880-1948'.

- (d) Canadian Historical Association Conference (Brock University, Canada, May 2014)

Angela Turner, "'Bottom Dog Men": Compensation and Disability in the Scottish Coalfields, 1898-1939'.

- (e) DSM-5 and the Future of Psychiatric Diagnosis, Brocher Foundation Symposium (Geneva, Switzerland, July 2014)

Vicky Long, 'Diagnosing Mental Illness in the Workplace'.

National

- (a) 'Avoidance and/in the Academy', The Centre for Culture and Disability Studies International Conference on Disability, Culture and Education (Liverpool Hope University, September 2013)

Alexandra Jones, 'The Disability Paradox: Presence and Absence in British Coalfields Literature 1900-1948'

- (b) In/Dependent Wales, Association of Welsh Writing in English Conference (Gregynog Hall, April 2014)

Alexandra Jones, "'Depending on her for every little thing": Disability, Dependency and Identity in the Coalfields Literature of South Wales, North-East England and Scotland 1880-1948'.

- (c) Social History Society annual conference (Northumbria University, April 2014)

Panel: 'Disability, Life and Work in the Coalfields of Britain, 1800-c.1950' (Chair: Dr Vicky Long)

Ben Curtis, "'This is the country of premature old men": the experience of Pneumoconiosis and other chronic industrial diseases in the south Wales coalfield in the early twentieth century'.

Victoria Brown, 'Minor to Miner: the Disabling Experiences of Children and Young Adults in the Coal Mines of Britain, 1800-1900'.

Angela Turner, "'The will to get well": Rehabilitation and British Miners in Britain c.1930s-1950s'.

Vicky Long, 'Conceptualising work-related mental illness in the British Coalfields, c.1900-1950' (also delivered at Working Lives, Social Perceptions and Health, Exeter University, April 2014; Situating Medicine: New Direction, University of Warwick, June 2014).

- (d) Society for the Social History of Medicine Conference (St Anne's College, Oxford, July 2014)

Panel: 'Constructing Disability in the Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century British Coalmining Industry' (Chair: Professor David Turner)

Daniel Blackie, 'Friendly Societies and the Rhetorics of Disability in Nineteenth-Century Britain'.

Alexandra Jones, ““There ought to be some better scheme””: Disability, Medicine and the State in British Coalfields Literature of the 1930s’.

Mike Mantin, ‘They Live Again! Representations of Disability and Coalmining in 1940s Documentary Films’.

Regional

(a) Llafur: the Welsh People’s History Society, Annual Day School, Coleg Morgannwg, Nantgarw, October 2013

Ben Curtis, ‘The Price of Coal: Accidents, Injuries and Disability in the Coal Industry’.

(b) Conversazione 2013, College of Human and Health Science, Swansea University, October 2013

Alexandra Jones, Poster: Disability in Coalfields Literature: A Comparative Study of South Wales, Scotland and North East England, c.1900-1948 [**winner: First Prize in Postgraduate Research Poster Competition**]

(c) The Women’s Archive of Wales Annual Conference, October 2013

Alexandra Jones, ““Olive was what is called a good invalid””: Representations of Women and Disability in the Coalfields Literature of South Wales 1900-1948’

(d) Brave New Worlds, Swansea University Research Institute for Arts and Humanities Postgraduate Conference, Swansea University October 2013

Alexandra Jones, ““There was no health in the world””: Industrial dystopia, evolution and disability in British Coalfields Literature 1900-1950’.

(e) Department of History and Classics Research Seminar, Swansea University, November 2013

Daniel Blackie, ‘Disability and Work in the British Coal Industry, 1780-1880’.

(f) Richard Burton Postgraduate Conference, Swansea University, June 2014

Alexandra Jones, ““Lost Limbs, Twisted Spines, Gashed Faces””: Disability and the Male Body in British Coalfields Literature 1870-1910’

(g) International Paralympic Committee European Athletics Championships, Disability History Festival, Swansea University, August 2014

Daniel Blackie, ‘Disability and the Industrial Revolution in Britain’.

Mike Mantin, 'Sport and Special Education in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries'.

Conference Organisation

The project will hold an international symposium in Swansea from 6th – 8th July 2015 at which team members will discuss the themes of the research with an invited audience of academics from disability history, labour history and the history of medicine. The symposium will lead to the publication of an edited collection of essays and future collaboration that will take the work forward beyond the period of the Programme Award.

7. Publications

The following articles and book chapters were published in 2013-14:

Ben Curtis and Steven Thompson, "A Plentiful Crop of Cripples Made By All This Progress": Disability, Artificial Limbs and Working-Class Mutualism in the South Wales Coalfield, 1890-1948', *Social History of Medicine*, online; print version appeared in vol. 27:4 (November 2014), 708-27.

Ben Curtis, 'Accidents du travail et technologie minière dans le bassin houiller du Sud du pays de Galles entre 1880 et 1947', in *Des Machines et des Hommes : Émergence et mise en œuvre des innovations techniques dans les mines de charbon* (Lewarde : Centre Historique Minier, 2013), pp. 98-104 ; 200-202.

Papers from the South Wales Roadshow were published in a special section on Disability History in *Llafur: Journal of Welsh People's History*, 11:2 (2013):

David M. Turner, 'The Price of Coal: New Disability Histories', 138-41

Steven Thompson, 'The South Wales Miners' Federation as a Disability Organisation', 142-47

Ben Curtis, 'Adding Insult to Injury: the Case of Frank Eaves, a Disabled Miner', 148-53

Anne Borsay, "'Fit to Work": the Talygarn Rehabilitation Centre', 154-56

In addition, the following book chapters and articles were submitted in 2013-14:

Daniel Blackie, 'Disability and the Industrial Revolution', accepted for publication in M. Rembis et al. (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Disability History*, Oxford University Press.

Arthur McIvor and Angela Turner, 'The Body, Disability and Gender in the Scottish Coalfields, c.1820-1870' (Under consideration: *Journal of Scottish Historical Studies*)

Arthur McIvor and Angela Turner, "'Bottom dog men": Disability, Social Welfare and Advocacy in the Scottish Coalfields, 1897-1939' (Under consideration: *Scottish Historical Review*)

Arthur McIvor, 'Miners, Silica and Disability: the Bi-National Interplay between South Africa and the United Kingdom', submitted for special edition on Silicosis, *American Journal of Industrial Medicine*.

Victoria Brown and Vicky Long, 'Disabled by Medico-Industrial Politics? Miners' Nystagmus c.1913-c.1939' was submitted to *History Workshop Journal* but not accepted for publication. A version will now be sent to *Medical History*.

Mike Mantin is revising for resubmission an article, 'Coalmining, the Poor Law and the Rhetoric of Disability in the Mining Lockout of 1926' for *Labour History Review*.

8. Grant Applications

The Work Programme for 2012/13 included eight weeks in August and September for the research associates to work on grant applications in collaboration with their mentors with a view to securing funding when their contracts end on 30 September 2014. Three research proposals have emerged from this process which have been developed further during the 2013/14 session.

- Ben Curtis and Steve Thompson submitted a preliminary application to the Leverhulme Trust on the theme of 'Disability and the Labour Movement in Twentieth-Century Britain', focusing on coal, steel and the railways. The preliminary application was successful, but had to be withdrawn following the death of Anne Borsay, who was named as co-investigator. A new preliminary application that named Vicky Long as co-investigator was submitted in September 2014, but despite this being essentially the same project, it was rejected.
- Victoria Brown and Vicky Long are drafting an Investigator Award for the Wellcome Trust looking at 'Maddening Work: Understanding Work-Related Mental Disorder in Britain, 1885-1985'.

- Angela Turner and Arthur McIvor prepared a draft research funding application for 'An Oral History of Coalfield Disability since 1950' for the AHRC. However, progress was delayed by the illness and subsequent death of Anne Borsay who was proposed as co-investigator. Dr Julie Anderson (Kent) has kindly agreed to replace Anne as CI and Angela and Arthur are currently reshaping the project to reflect Julie's interests with a view to submitting in 2015. They also plan to apply for funding under the Wellcome Trust's newly announced seedcorn funding scheme.

In addition, Arthur McIvor and Angela Turner recently won a grant from the Hudson Trust for a project on 'War and Disability in Scotland, 1939-1950: a Pilot Oral History Study' (£24,708).

Mike Mantin began to scope out resources for a possible British Academy Postdoctoral project exploring the archives of the Queen Elizabeth Foundation for Disabled People, an organisation that has provided residential training for disabled people since the 1930s. David Turner began discussions with the Science Museum to take the project's work on visual impairment further via an AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Partnership on the history of the correction of visual defects in the nineteenth century. Applications will be submitted in 2014-15.

9. Public Engagement

The public engagement activities of the project are overseen by a Panel comprising the South Wales team plus four members of the Advisory Board: Steph Mastoris (National Waterfront Museum), Elwyn Williams (National Library of Wales), Elisabeth Bennett (Richard Burton Archives, Swansea University) and Sian Williams (South Wales Miners' Library, Swansea University). The panel met four times in 2013-14. We are grateful for their valuable contributions.

Roadshows

The project team are committed to holding roadshows on disability history in the three geographical areas covered by the project. Following the South Wales roadshow, held on Saturday 23 March 2013 at the National Waterfront Museum in Swansea, attention turned to events in the North East and Scotland. The two roadshows in these areas took place on the same day, 14 June 2014.

The **North East Disability History Roadshow** took place alongside the annual miners' picnic at the Woodhorn Museum, Ashington, Northumbria. The day-long event included a panel discussion from ex-miners and regional MPs and Union Representatives, a narrated PowerPoint presentation outlining the

regional findings and history of disability and sound bites from the focus group days (see Professional Workshops below). Also on the day there was the Northumbrian Language Society giving readings of local poetry and pitmatic (local dialect); a reading from the play the *Pitmen Painters* and a performance of mining ballads by Johnny Handle (an ex-miner and local celebrity within the mining community).

Mining for Memories, the Scottish Disability History Roadshow took place at the Scottish Mining Museum, Newtongrange. The day involved a mixture of talks, performances and presentations from members of the team and invited guests. One of the highlights of the day was a live reading of the Joe Corrie play *The Darkness* in which a miner has been blinded in an accident at work. The talks included a presentation by disability historian Iain Hutchison who spoke from his own personal family history of coal mining and disability. Ewan McVicar, a local songwriter, carried out a number of workshops with local school children around the themes of disability, accidents and coal mining and gave a great presentation of the children's artwork and original songs. Also performing on the day were poet Rab Wilson and local band Travelling Folk. We were struck by just how many people who presented or who attended the day had their own personal stories to tell about mining and disability. The exhibition boards and stalls, which included displays some old style prosthetic limbs as well as documents, books, photographs and a mines rescue wheelchair led to some really interesting discussions with retired miners who were able to speak of their own memories in relation to these.

The day finished with a discussion panel and question and answer session which was chaired by Nicky Wilson (General Secretary, NUM Scotland). Other speakers included Alex Bennett (NUM representative on Medical Appeals Tribunals) and Prof Ken Donaldson (Emeritus Professor of Toxicology, University of Edinburgh).

Professional Workshops

In addition to the public roadshows, the project team are committed to holding **professional workshops** that engage with health care professionals, policy makers, miners' welfare organisations and disabled service users.

The South Wales workshop, **Looking Back, Moving Forward: Chronic Illness, Disability and Patient/Professional Relationships**, was held on Wednesday 2 April 2014 at the National Waterfront Museum. The main target audiences were health and social care professionals and students, together with interested archivists and librarians. The day included an introduction to

disability history, followed by four discussion groups looking at pulmonary disease, rehabilitating disabled miners, mixed economies of welfare, and disability stories from the South Wales Coalfield. A concluding plenary discussion was led by Professor Andrew Davies (Chair, ABMU Health Board) with Rhian Davies (Chief Executive, Disability Wales) and Joy Merrell (Professor of Public Health Nursing, Swansea University).

Twenty-eight people attended the workshop in addition to the Swansea and Aberystwyth University team members. The majority of the 22 people who returned questionnaires about their experiences of the day enjoyed the event and said that the sessions had changed their perceptions of disability in history. Some found it interesting to study older methods of rehabilitation and care and saw lessons for health care professionals today, in particular on the need to take into account the views and experiences of patients. The workshop was followed up by a focus group session involving nursing students at Swansea University who had attended the event, which allowed us to record opinions of the event in more detail. The project team is grateful to Professor Joy Merrell for facilitating this event.

In Scotland, the professional workshop took the form of a **Coalfield Disability Witness Seminar**, held at Scottish Oral History Centre at the University of Strathclyde on 28th April 2014. The four witnesses invited to speak were Nicky Wilson (General Secretary, NUM Scotland), Myrette Bracken (social worker, CISWO), David McWinnie (ex-miner with pneumoconiosis and COPD) and Alex Bennett (NUM representative on Medical Appeals Tribunals). The session began with the four individual eye witness testimonies and was followed by a wider discussion which included all the seminar participants.

Each of the four witnesses spoke about their experiences of disability in the Scottish coalfields. These testimonies revealed many significant and distinctive aspects of disability in mining communities. All four speakers pointed to the high incidence and visibility of disabling injury and disease amongst miners. They also spoke about the ways in which disabled miners often continued to work post-injury. A number of testimonies highlighted the importance of community networks, organisations such as CISWO and the role of the union in supporting injured miners and their families. The testimonies however pointed to the difficulties involved in claiming compensation for disablement or disease and the ongoing issues associated with the recognition of conditions such as pneumoconiosis and COPD.

The audience included representatives from museums and archives, community groups, medicine, education and the Scottish Parliament. The resulting questions and discussions again highlighted important themes and issues to consider for our project and work beyond. For example questions were raised over concepts of identity and how appropriate a label 'disability' was in these communities. In addition there was a great deal of discussion about the importance of mental as well as physical health. In particular witnesses spoke of the high levels of trauma associated with working underground and in witnessing or being involved in serious accidents.

The seminar has been fully recorded and will be available as a resource not only for considering themes and research questions for future work but also as a teaching resource for oral and health history students.

In the North East, **focus group sessions with disabled service users**, Disability North, were held in Newcastle upon Tyne, 18-19th March 2014. These sessions included a presentation of the regional research findings for the North East, a viewing of the 1940s film *They Live Again* and then a round table discussion with the attendees (recorded) to find out their views and opinions, not only on the project but on comparisons between disability then and now. The focus group generated material which was used in the roadshow and which will feed into a session to be held with students and staff at the University of Northumbria in January 2015.

Public Lectures

The third public lecture was delivered on 21 May 2014 by **Dr Julie Anderson** (University of Kent) at University of Strathclyde: *Marks on Men: Disability, Medical Research and Coalminers 1920-1948*.

The fourth public lecture will be given by **Professor Jocelyn Dodd** (University of Leicester) on Monday 6th July 2015 at the National Waterfront Museum, Swansea (title to be confirmed).

Exhibition

The fourth public lecture will mark the official opening of a major exhibition on disability in the South Wales Coalfield, *From Pithead to Sick Bed and Beyond: The Buried History of Disability in the Coal Industry before the NHS*. The Public Engagement Panel has provided an interface between the project and the National Waterfront Museum and discussions have been ongoing about the

content and presentation of the exhibition. Dan and Mike have drafted a text of the exhibition panels and visited museums and archives to identify potential exhibits. A selection of literary texts on coalfield disability, selected by Alexandra Rees and Kirsti Bohata, will also be used in the exhibition. The exhibition will open in June 2015 and run to September, before touring to the National Library of Wales.

Disabled People's Panel

The Disabled People's Panel proved more difficult to set up than we had envisaged and attendance deteriorated during the second year. Nonetheless, members offered invaluable feedback on specific issues, in particular the website. Therefore, we have decided to disband formal meetings of the Panel and seek the advice on an *ad hoc* basis.

In 2013-14, we made contact with SAFE (Swansea Access For Everyone) who have offered to provide some advice in making the exhibition accessible. We are looking to involve the group in the design of the exhibition and in developing events for disabled groups in conjunction with it.

10. Programme Management

Throughout the year, mentors met regularly with their research associates and research fellows, and the PhD student received regular supervision. A South Wales Team meeting was also held each month, at which monthly reports from the research associates, research fellows and PhD student were received and discussed, along with scoping reports at the beginning of each new research phase.

In addition, two Full Team meetings were convened in December 2013 in Swansea to coincide with the second Advisory Board and in May 2014 in Glasgow to coincide with the third Public Lecture.

11. Advisory Board

We are grateful to all members of the Advisory Board for their inputs. The minutes of the third Board in December 2013 were considered by the South Wales Team and the Public Engagement Panel at their meetings in January 2014.

The Advisory Board made many valuable suggestions for public engagement and for influencing public policy. Project members are still looking at ways of

engaging more directly with policy makers and the team would welcome suggestions from the Advisory Board on how to develop this aspect of the work.

12. Conclusion

The loss of Anne Borsay casts a shadow over the project's progress in its third year, yet we can look back on many successes. Anne's final involvement in the project was leading the Professional Workshop held in Swansea in April 2014. As one of the event's participants wrote, the workshop 'reminded me about how ideas and ideology about disability recurs throughout history. It gave me new information about the complexity of responses to disability historically, and about the prevalence of impairment in the coal industry'. The same may be said about Anne's pioneering work on disability history. It is a tragedy that Anne did not live to see the project through to completion, but the team are determined to bring the work to a successful conclusion, guided by her inspiring example.

Professor David Turner, Principal Investigator and Director

9th December 2014.