

## Biographies:

Tim Grady is Senior Lecturer in History at the University of Chester. He is the author of *The German-Jewish Soldiers of the First World War in History and Memory* (2011) and is currently writing a new history of German Jews during the Great War.

Neil Gregor is Professor of Modern European History at the University of Southampton. He is the author of *Daimler-Benz in the Third Reich* (1998), *Haunted City: Nuremberg and the Nazi Past* (2009) and *How to Read Hitler* (2<sup>nd</sup> edn., 2014); he is co-editor of *German History*, the journal of the German History Society.

Mike Nixon graduated with a First Class degree in History from the University of Southampton in 2011 and a Masters degree in History from Birkbeck, London, in 2013; in pursuit of the latter, he completed his thesis on the history of the Fovant Badges site. He simultaneously acted as historical researcher and consultant on the Fovant Badges Society-University of Southampton collaborative project. He is about to embark upon doctoral research on C20th history.

RJ Wilson is Senior Lecturer in Modern History and Public Heritage at the University of Chichester. His work has included studies of the experience, representation and memory of the First World War. This has been published as *Landscapes of the Western Front* (2012) and *Cultural Heritage of the Great War in Britain* (2013).

## Abstracts:

Tim Grady: 'Disputed Memories, Contested Memorials: The Landscape of Loss in Interwar Germany'

Finding a way to commemorate mass death is difficult; it is even harder when the conflict ended in defeat. For German society after the First World War, this challenge proved to be almost insurmountable. Even the process of erecting war memorials, which are the focus of this talk, often ended in bitter dispute. Using both local and national examples, the talk explores the main areas of contestation that divided Germans as they sought to memorialise their wartime losses.

Neil Gregor: 'Local memories, global memories: The ghosts of German history after 1945'

This talk takes the city of Nuremberg as a prism through which to open up the vexed question of how local communities should confront the ghosts of a war of imperialist aggression and racial annihilation. Nuremberg was, in some respects, unique, dealing as it had to with the legacies of the Nazi party rallies, the

Nuremberg Laws and the Nuremberg Trials. Yet in other respects it was highly typical – an average industrial town in which, beneath the apparently consensual memory culture fashioned after the war, the past was bitterly fought over. And as the city's cemetery landscapes attested, it was a city through which, as with the rest of Germany, the emotional aftershocks of mass violence also resonated profoundly. This lecture asks what such local study may suggest about local communities, war and commemoration more widely.

Michael Nixon, 'War, Commemoration, and the Hillsides of Fovant'

To the casual observer, the Fovant Badges seemingly appear as stable memorials to the Great War within a broader, and equally stable, landscape of memorialisation. In reality, however, periods of sustained maintenance have been matched by periods of relative physical neglect. The resultant changes to the landscape over the years have not been coincidental but, rather, sit within a set of historical processes which this lecture surveys. The Fovant Badges are explored as a starting point for considering how a whole range of histories - political, social, economic, and military - intersect and manifest themselves upon war memorials and, in turn, upon the local landscape, even within those countries where democracy has remained largely uninterrupted since 1918. The history of the chalk emblems is used here as a vehicle for exploring wider, even global, histories of commemoration and memorialisation over the course of the twentieth century and beyond.

RJ Wilson, 'Naming, graffiti and souvenirs: the British Army on the Western Front, 1914-1918'

British soldiers in France and Flanders during the Great War were stationed in a foreign land, exposed to the dangers of war and trained to the rhythms of military life. Whilst situated in such a strange environment, they responded by attempting to understand their role through renaming places in the trenches and behind the lines, scrawling their initials or insignia onto any available surface and collecting objects from the war. This paper examines why soldiers engaged in such activity and how it enabled individuals to endure their role in the conflict.