

- 2 Elizabeth Shields, *A Year to Remember* (Liberal Democrat Publications, Dorchester, 1995).
- 3 *Gazette and Herald*, Malton, 12 August 2009.

Baron de Forest dinner, Southport

THIS YEAR, 2010, sees the centenary anniversary of the 1910 general election and Southport Liberal Democrats are celebrating the event with the Baron de Forest dinner at the Royal Clifton Hotel.

As well as a splendid dinner, the local political historian and popular after-dinner speaker Michael Braham will be telling the story of the Southport Division election campaign in which the Liberal candidate was the Baron de Forest. It is a fascinating and entertaining tale of dirty tricks, anti-Semitism and more, in an age when the voters attended political rallies in their thousands.

Do come and join the dinner on 13th February. The Royal Clifton Hotel are offering a special discount on rooms for anyone attending the dinner. To find out more or to make a booking, please phone Rachel Howard on 01704 533 555 or Pat Sumner on 01704 576 660, or email rh@southportlibdems.com

Baron de Forest, Liberal candidate for Southport in the January 1910 election



Palmerston archives

ISSUE 64 of the *Journal of Liberal History* (autumn 2009) carried an article on the archives of third Viscount Palmerston at the University of Southampton Library. Lord Palmerston's papers, along with those of second Viscount Melbourne and the seventh Earl of Shaftesbury – all of which form part of the Broadlands Archives – have now been put up for sale by the Trustees of the Broadlands Archives. The collection has been offered to the University, with the expectation that if the negotiations fail the material may well be broken up and sold at auction.

Beyond the Palmerston material and its links to Liberalism, the archive contains a whole range of materials of the first rank – including, for example, the papers of Lord and Lady Mountbatten, effectively the foundation archive for the states of India and Pakistan. It is immensely important and the University has a determined campaign under way to make sure that it continues to remain available in its entirety to the public and researchers.

The net price is £2.85 million and the University is undertaking a major fund-raising campaign to assure the future of this immensely important collection. The University is publicising the sale and the fund-raising campaign as widely as possible and would very much appreciate any support readers of the *Journal* can give. Further information on the situation can be found at <http://www.southampton.ac.uk/archives/Broadlands/index.html>.

Gladstone lecture given at Liverpool

ON 27 October 2009, David Alton (Lord Alton of Liverpool) delivered a Roscoe Lecture at Liverpool John Moores University on 'Gladstone – son of Liverpool, scourge of tyrants', marking the 200th anniversary of Gladstone's birth. The lecture series is named after William Roscoe (1753–1831), a historian, campaigner against slavery and native of Liverpool. A podcast of the lecture can be downloaded from <http://www.ljmu.ac.uk/roscoe/97603.htm>.

LETTERS

Liberals in Schism (1)

My active research does not stretch beyond 1921, and finished over thirty years ago. Nevertheless, as a Walthamstow resident, I have kept an eye on all references to Sir John Simon, our most eminent Liberal MP (he left us in 1918). Might I use Dr Baines' review of Dr Dutton's *Liberals in Schism* (*Journal* 64, autumn 2009) to comment on the events of 1931–32? Sir John Simon's summer 1931 resignation of the Liberal whip was a manoeuvre designed to replace MacDonald with Baldwin as Prime Minister, though MacDonald forming a National Government trumped that.

The dissolution of October 1931 occurred with Lloyd George in hospital, and Sir Herbert

Samuel as Acting Leader / Deputy Leader. The quite astonishing number of the existing Liberal MPs who applied for the Simonite whip rather than the Samuelite one is in my view best explained by a desire to avoid Conservative opposition at the subsequent general election. The results bear this out: 35 Simonites elected on 3.7 per cent of the national vote, 33 Samuelites on 6.5 per cent.

I would therefore suggest that the positions taken in 1931 and an eye on the election after had as much to do with who went where in 1932 as the degree of tolerance of government intervention during an economic crisis.

Dr Peter Hatton

Liberals in Schism (2)

I much enjoyed Malcolm Baines' review of David Dutton's *Liberals in Schism* (*Journal* 64, autumn 2009) and would like to add a footnote from the perspective of the National Liberal Club.

The Club's name, of course, did little to clarify the situation, and both Liberals and Liberal Nationals remained active members for much of the period discussed by Professor Dutton. (The 'National' part of the Club's name derives from Gladstone's intention that it should be the home for Liberals throughout the country rather than a traditional London Club.)

However, by February 1948 the divorce between the Liberal Nationals and the Liberal Party was symbolised by Sir John Simon's resignation from the NLC after protests from some members following his appearance on a Conservative by-election platform three months earlier when he had spoken against the Liberal candidate. Although Simon's action was hardly new (and the Club's minute books reveal the unhappiness of members after the 1945 election), his position as a Vice-President and trustee of a Club whose object was 'to further the interests of the Liberal cause' were increasingly incongruous with his actions.

Viscount Runciman, that other first-generation Liberal National with impeccable Liberal roots had resigned from the Club two months earlier. Nevertheless, a portrait of Simon as Chancellor of the Exchequer still hangs in the NLC Smoking Room today.

Paul Hunt

Campbell-Bannerman

Thank you for including my article about the unveiling of the bust of Jeremy Thorpe at the House of Commons in *Journal* 64 (autumn 2009). Readers of the *Journal* might also like to know that the

Thorpe event was preceded by the unveiling of three busts of former Prime Ministers, including one of Henry Campbell-Bannerman, Liberal Prime Minister from 1905 to 1908.

The sculpture of Campbell-Bannerman was commissioned from Martin Jenkins who worked from a number of sources including a statue by Paul Raphael Montfort outside Stirling Castle and an over-life-size bust in Westminster Abbey, again by Montfort, as well as from a selection of photographs. Help in researching the likenesses of Campbell-Bannerman was given by Colin Mair, Rector of the High School of Glasgow, where there is a plaque commemorating their illustrious former pupil, and by Liberal Democrat History Group member Dr Sandy Waugh, the author of the recent publication *A Scottish Liberal Perspective: A Centenary Commemoration for Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman*, who was invited to the unveiling but unfortunately could not be present.

Graham Lippiatt

The Mills and their world

It should perhaps be better known that James Mill (father of John Stuart Mill, subject of Michael Levin's article in *Journal* 64, autumn 2009) was born in 1773 at Northwater-bridge in Angus near to the estate of Fettercairn (or Middleton) in Kincardineshire which had been purchased by Sir John Stuart before serving as MP for Kincardineshire in 1797–1806. Sir John and his wife were early patrons of James Mill who was tutor to their daughter and heiress in 1790–94, both locally and in Edinburgh.

It is said that James and Williamina Stuart would have married but that they were not allowed to forget the social facts. However, the lady, who attracted many other suitors including (Sir) Walter Scott, eventually married Sir William Forbes

of the banking family. Nevertheless, when James left for London in 1802 he did so in the company of Sir John and when James' son John was born in 1806 he was given the middle name of Stuart in recognition of such early patronage and support.

John Stuart Mill was 'Liberal' MP for Westminster from the 1865 general election until, having refused to attend to any constituency business, he was defeated at the 1868 general election by the future Tory Cabinet Minister, W.H. Smith (of stationery fame).

In early 1871 John had an exchange of words with Henry Campbell MP (later Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman) anent the Parliamentary grant to Princess Louise on her marriage to the future 9th Duke of Argyll (Liberal MP for Argyll 1868–78 and Liberal Unionist MP for Manchester South 1895–1900). In later years the Campbell-Bannermans were great friends of the Princess who sent a wreath for Sir Henry's funeral in April 1908.

In 1872 (the year before his death) John Stuart Mill was 'secular' godfather to Bertram Russell, grandson of Lord John Russell (1st Earl Russell) and father of Conrad Russell (5th Earl Russell) who was a Liberal/Liberal Democrat member of the House of Lords from 1987 until his death.

Dr Alexander (Sandy) Waugh

Richard Holme

It was no surprise to read David Steel's warm appreciation of Richard Holme in the summer edition of the *Journal*. Richard worked closely with successive leaders of the party and his advice was clearly influential on many occasions.

Indeed, Richard had that rare thing, a 'big idea': close cross-party working relationships leading to a large increase in the number of Liberals elected. I forget in what order his initiatives came but I recall the Lib-Lab Pact, the Radical Action Movement

(RAM), the SDP-Liberal Alliance and the discussions between the Lib Dems and Blair around the 1997 election. There may be more, but it's quite a list.

As well as having in common cross-party working, unfortunately they also had in common something of a failure to deliver a satisfactory outcome, i.e. the desired increase in the number of Liberals elected. That has been achieved now, but more by using 'The Local Road to Liberalism' (the title of an early 1980s motion passed by the then Liberal Assembly).

All right, it's taken a long time, and it's been a very hard grind, but it, even in his lifetime, Richard failed to achieve the big leap forward he sought, it's surely even more foolish to believe, as some apparently do, that it's going to happen after his death. Richard was undoubtedly a very capable thinker and a persuasive mover and shaker; if he couldn't achieve it, what hope for others? We simple have to persevere with what works, and that is building local bases up and down the country through community campaigning. After all, we are the masters of it!

Trevor Jones

Correction

One set of dates was unfortunately omitted from Sandy Waugh's letter about 'Gladstone, St Deiniol's and the Church' in *Journal* 64 (autumn 2009). The second sentence of the third paragraph should have read (bold text omitted in original):

'Another of the Prime Minister's son's, the Rev. Stephen Gladstone (1844–1920), **who was Rector of Hawarden in 1872–1904**, inherited the Hawarden Estate in 1916 and his descendants also inherited the Gladstone Baronetcy and Fasque House and Estate in Kincardineshire in 1945 after the deaths of all the Prime Minister's elder brothers and their sons.'