

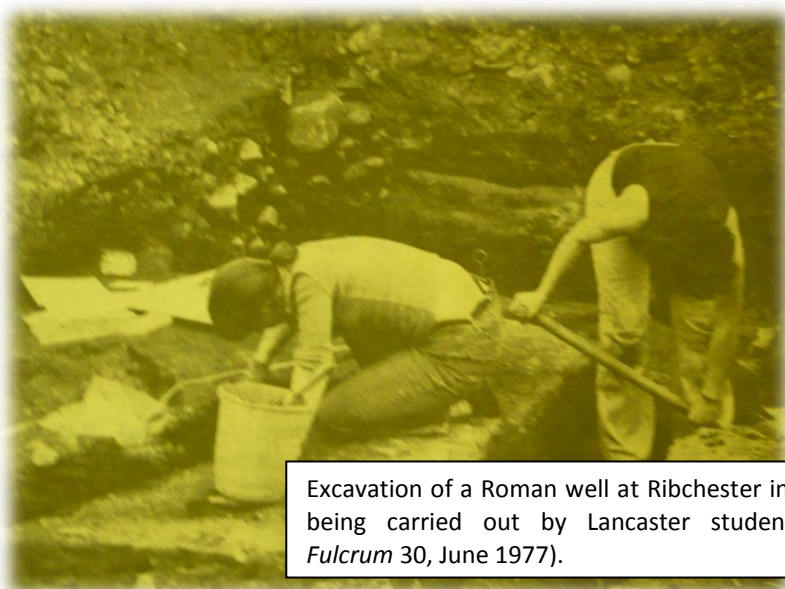
# Classics at Lancaster

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In 2013/2014, as Lancaster University was about to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Ancient History was reintroduced in the Department of History after its former Classics Department was closed in the 1980s. This not only makes Lancaster one of the few British universities which offer Classical Studies within a History curriculum, but also recognizes the importance of Classical antiquity and the increase in student interest in the subject. This article traces the early history of the former Classics Department at Lancaster and outlines recent developments in Ancient History.

Classical Studies was one of the founding subjects when Lancaster University was established in 1964. Set up in 1965, the Department of Classics flourished in the next two decades, and was one of the few fully established Classics departments in the new universities of the 1960s. The first chair of Classics was Malcolm Willcock, a specialist in Greek and Latin literature, who brought a wide range of scholarly talents into the Department. Recruits included John Creed (Aristotelian philosophy), Gerard O'Daly (Latin language and literature), Michael Osborne (Greek history and epigraphy), John Randall (Latin), John Salmon (Greek history), and David Shotter (history and archaeology of Roman Britain). From its early days Greek and Latin were taught at various levels; yet this interest in ancient languages did not prevent a range of courses being offered which could serve a wider community.

A great variety of options, covering the history, culture, literature and philosophy of ancient Greece and Rome, was offered in the Classics major degree and various combined degree schemes. Students could study Greek history from the Archaic period through the Classical to the Hellenistic period; Roman history from the rise of Rome down to the late Roman Empire; thematic topics including Greek religion, Greek philosophy, ancient political



Excavation of a Roman well at Ribchester in Lancashire being carried out by Lancaster students (source: *Fulcrum* 30, June 1977).

thought, Greek art and architecture, Greek and Roman historiography; and Greek and Latin literature ranging from Homer, Aristophanes, Greek tragedy, to Augustan poetry. Members of the Department were actively engaged in research as well as teaching. Some of the most important publications were Osborne's *Naturalization in Athens* (Brussels, 1981-3), Randall's *Learning Latin* (Liverpool, 1986), Salmon's *Wealthy Corinth* (Oxford, 1984), and Willcock's *A*

*Companion to the Iliad* (Chicago, 1976) and *The Iliad of Homer* (Basingstoke, 1978-84). After their early or mid career in Lancaster, most of these academics have become established scholars in the field. In c.1968, the University acquired the valuable personal library of Sir Frank Adcock, Professor of Ancient History at Cambridge and one of the chief editors of *Cambridge Ancient History* (first edition); part of his collection still remains in the Lancaster library today.

The Department was soon expanded to include archaeological studies, and was renamed the Department of Classics and Archaeology in 1973. Courses offered ranged from Prehistoric, Classical and Medieval Archaeology, particularly in the Mediterranean, to Roman architecture, coinage, ceramics, and practical archaeology. New academic appointments included Hugo Blake (Medieval archaeology), Simon Hillson (environmental archaeology), Henry Hurst (Roman archaeology), Roger Jacobi (early prehistory), Timothy Potter (Etruscan and Roman archaeology), and Ruth Whitehouse (later prehistory). The Department was actively involved in rescue archaeology, and the University had funded excavations both in Britain and abroad. Academic staff and students took part in fieldwork and survey projects, including excavations in medieval sites in northern Italy, an Iron Age site in southern Italy, the Punic city of Carthage in north Africa, and Roman sites in northwest England such as the Lune Valley, Watercrock, Burrow-in-Lonsdale and Lancaster itself. In 1979 the Cumbria and Lancashire Archaeological Unit was established within the Department to oversee rescue archaeology in the north-west; this later became the Lancaster University Archaeological Unit in 1986, and since 2001 Oxford Archaeology North. Lancaster is also home to the Lancaster Archaeological and Historical Society: founded in 1973, it continues today with a regular programme of public events in history and archaeology.

As a result of Margaret Thatcher's public spending cuts in the 1980s, the Department was closed on 31 July 1989. Some of its members were incorporated into the Department of History, whereas others moved on to often outstanding academic careers elsewhere, as for instance at the University of Nottingham, University College London and the British Museum.

In 2013/2014, Ancient History was reintroduced in the History Department with the creation of a permanent academic appointment in Greek history. Current courses cover Greek history from Homer to Alexander and the coming of Rome, and a specialized module on Greek religion and society will soon be offered. Within a short time Ancient History has proved to be popular with students: some are writing their dissertation in Greek history and are considering continuing with graduate work in the field; others have taken part in excavations in northern England and the summer programme at the British School at Athens. Given increasing student demand for Ancient History, digital Classics and Roman history may be introduced in future years.



One of the current Lancaster students (Tom Clements, second row first from the right) taking part in the British School at Athens undergraduate summer course

Theodora Jim

[t.jim@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:t.jim@lancaster.ac.uk)

\* I am grateful to the Lancaster University Archive and its archivist Marion McClintock for helpful information.

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# CUCD Education Committee:

## *A new phase?*

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The education committee of CUCD exists to organise events and support discussion about Higher Education teaching in Classics and Ancient History. Once upon a time the Subject Centre performed this role, with funding from central government. Now it is run on an entirely voluntary basis; there is some funding for travel and expenses generated by CUCD subscriptions from departments. For the last few years Genevieve Liveley has done an excellent job of facilitating and organising.

I am now chair of the committee, which has members from across different types of institution and different geographical areas, stages of career and areas of interest: Evelien Bracke (Swansea), Jason Crowley (MMU), Susan Deacy (Roehampton), Juliane Kerkhecker (Oxford), Alice Konig (St. Andrews), Mair Lloyd (OU, PhD student), James Robson (OU). Committee members will usually stand down after five years and there will be vacancies from 2017, so if anyone is interested in joining the committee, please do contact me. The committee now has a blog which will post regularly about events and issues at <https://cucdeducation.wordpress.com/> . If you have an idea for a blog post, get in touch!

Colleagues in Classics and Ancient History are not always enthusiastic about pedagogy, and discussing teaching methods and developments. One aim is to address issues of immediate significance that are likely to provide practical help. Another is to involve as wide a range of people as possible in these discussions. We will collaborate with existing projects such as 'Latin Language Teaching and the Student Experience' at St. Andrews, and if anyone is running such a project I would be very keen to hear from them.

Another key aim is to learn from school teachers. When almost all students arrive at university, they are used to the style of teaching from previous education, usually school: I am convinced that we can learn a great deal about their expectations and experiences by talking to school teachers. Pressure on school teachers to excel in every way means there has been a great deal of change in pedagogical approaches over recent years, and many students feel that university teaching is not keeping up. In particular, the NSS reveals that students are much less happy with feedback than with other aspects of university teaching. I intend to organise a series of themed events in which we learn from those who teach in schools and train teachers about how best to help our students.

Current plans include: a panel at CA2016 in Edinburgh on transition to university; an event at the Open University in Jan/Feb 2016 on innovative assessment; a day on Classics teaching in Wales; a one-day feedback event in May/June in Nottingham. Topics which I feel need addressing are:

- technology and learning (VLEs, MOOCs);
- transition from school to university and from one level to another within both;
- non-traditional assessment and employability;
- curriculum design.

I am happy to organise panels at CA conferences, and one day events in Nottingham and elsewhere, and to collaborate with other members of the committee. I also intend to put out a call for events annually to give any members of the subject community the chance to get involved. CUCD can support such events financially (e.g. travel expenses for speakers) and we will try to put on three or four such events each year. If you have any ideas or pressing concerns, please do get in touch!

**Helen Lovatt**

[Helen.Lovatt@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Helen.Lovatt@nottingham.ac.uk)

## Anastasia (“Ana”) Healey, 1932-2014



I offered to write this obituary as my association with Ana goes back to 1981 when she agreed to a period of a month’s work placement at the Institute of Classical Studies/Joint Library of the Hellenic and Roman Societies as part of my postgraduate Library course in Aberystwyth. After the course I obtained a post in a business/law library and became a Subject Librarian but my real interests lay in Classics and I was pleased to return to Gordon Square and take up the post of Library Assistant in 1990. Ana had already retired but I later heard that she had been very supportive of my application.

Anastasia (“Ana”) Healey was born in Grantham into an ecclesiastical family, to Marjory (nee Banks) and Kenneth Healey. Ana’s father was ordained in 1932, becoming Suffragan Bishop of Grimsby in 1958, and it was felt that she would receive a suitable education at a Church of England Boarding School. At age eight, therefore, she was sent to Abbot’s Bromley School in Staffordshire, where she was joined by her sister Hilary a few years later. During these years, Ana’s intellectual abilities became clear, as did her love of books and reading on a wide range of subjects. Friends also remember her acting ability and in particular her sensitive playing of the title role in *Androcles and the Lion*. (A small painting in her London flat shows the moment when she extracted the thorn from the lion’s paw.) Ana was also known at school for her sense of humour and fortitude.

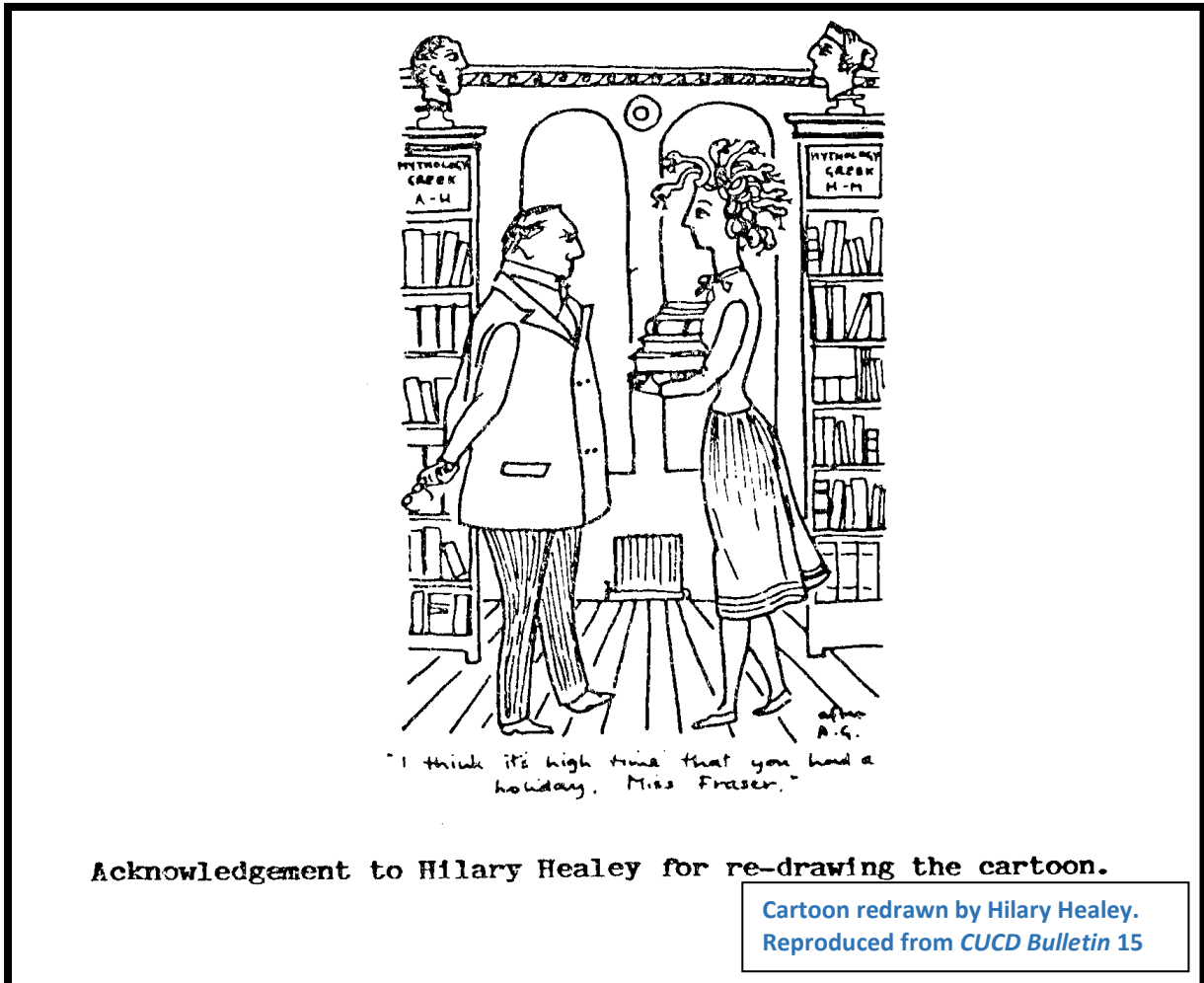
After obtaining a Classics degree at the University of London’s Bedford College in 1953, and following this with a year’s experience in the National Library (then in the British Museum), she completed her training with the Librarianship course at UCL before returning to the library in the British Museum until 1958. Subsequently, Ana’s thirty-six year career was spent entirely in the Bloomsbury area of London, at the combined Library of the Institute of Classical Studies and the Hellenic and Roman Societies, one of the world’s finest Classics Libraries.<sup>1</sup> In order to support the then Librarian, Joyce Southan, Ana was appointed as Assistant Librarian on May 1<sup>st</sup> 1958, two days after the Queen Mother had opened the building at its new premises in Gordon Square.

This post (and the timing) was perfect for Ana: when she joined the team at Gordon Square, the ICS was already building up a reputation as an international centre for Classics, with researchers attracted by the seminars, the Library on the fifth floor and, on the floor above, the well-appointed common room with

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<sup>1</sup> The background to the setting up of the Institute formed the basis of a lecture given by Professor John Barron, entitled ‘The Vision Thing: the founding of an Institute’ reprinted in *Bulletin of the Institute of Classical Studies* 43 (1999): 27-39. A recent article by Professor Brian Sparkes, ‘Classical Associations and Societies in the UK’ includes some background to the history of the Hellenic and Roman Societies. *Hyperboreus* 19 (1-2) (2013): 205-213.

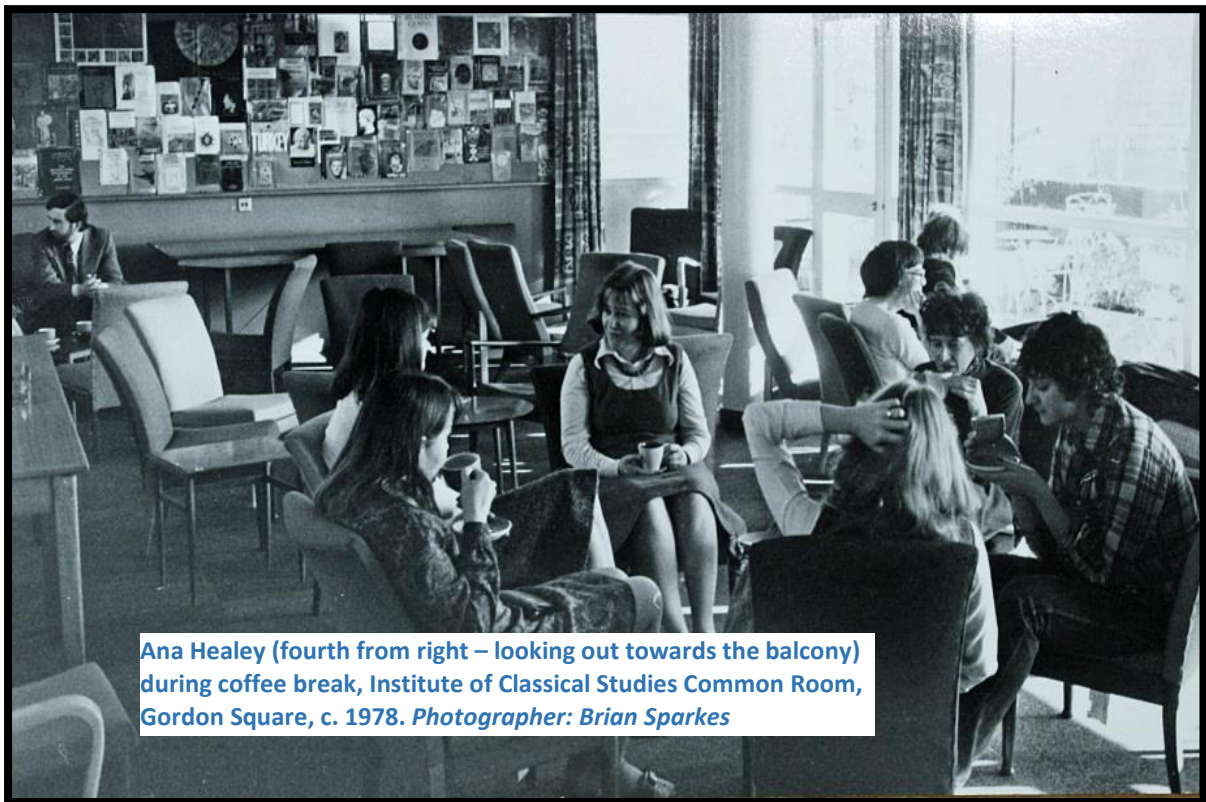
its excellent coffee and fine views from the balcony garden. Although Ana was a very private person, she fitted into the life of the Institute very well and made long lasting friendships with colleagues, administrative staff (in particular Alicia Totolos) and readers. She was highly approachable by all and treated everyone the same from the most eminent academics to the first time user. She was involved with all aspects of library work and was known for her concern for detail and accuracy. She assisted Joyce Southan in a major project which resulted in the publication of *A survey of classical periodicals: Union catalogue of periodicals relevant to classical studies in certain British libraries*.



Most will remember Ana for her remarkable memory of all the readers' names and circumstances, and for her kindness and interest in their lives and well-being. This, together with her knowledge of every book in the collection, was highly conducive to the fostering of the kind of 'club' atmosphere, seldom found in libraries, which persists even today and is largely down to Ana's influence.

Ana was delighted when her god-daughter Jenny chose to study archaeology and so Ana was able to be of some assistance with reading material, by introducing her to classical archaeologists such as Professor Nicholas Coldstream and on one occasion lending her suitable clothes to go on a "dig".

She was a woman of great integrity, and her kindness and goodness of heart shone through; yet she was not afraid to give a ticking off to anyone who committed some library misdemeanour, while at the same time remaining on good terms with them.



Ana Healey (fourth from right – looking out towards the balcony) during coffee break, Institute of Classical Studies Common Room, Gordon Square, c. 1978. Photographer: Brian Sparkes

Following Joyce Southan's unexpected death in 1971, Ana stepped into the breach as Librarian in very demanding circumstances and kept the library on course. Over the years she dealt with problems with space and staff shortages, and the ever present financial pressures. Although not noted for the tidiness of her office, Ana had the kind of organizational mind which made her very adept at marshalling facts and information from her phenomenal knowledge. Testament to this was the wonderful exhibition which she mounted for the Hellenic Society's centenary in 1979, displaying snippets about eminent scholars throughout its history and other interesting memorabilia.

Most of Ana's career was spent in a pre-computerised age so the arrival in 1986 of Dr David Packard's Ibycus computer (the first to be used outside the USA) was a major event. It was placed in the ICS Library and enabled scholars to search Classical, Biblical and Patristic literatures on CD-ROMs. This was the start of a new era for the library and further automation was not far off. Ana was pleased to be able to delegate such matters to her Deputy, Naomi Alvarez.

During and after her working life Ana took an active part in many aspects of London's cultural life such as the theatre, ballet and cinema and eating out with friends. She was a Friend of the British School of Athens, attended lectures whenever possible, and enjoyed several organized trips to Greece. She was also very knowledgeable about London's history, especially in the Marylebone area



where she lived while in the capital, and close to The Hellenic Centre in Paddington Street.

When Ana took early retirement for family reasons in 1989, characteristically she wanted to leave with the minimum of fuss. Fortunately she was given a send-off which she entirely merited at a function held on 12<sup>th</sup> December when Oxford Professor Peter Parsons delivered the [Ana Healey Lecture](#) entitled, 'Readers are requested ... the Ancient Library and its problems' followed by a reception in the common room. In addition, an [ancient Greek ode](#) in Pindaric style was composed by Stephen Instone in her honour, which praised her dutiful care for the Library collection.<sup>2</sup> Ana responded to all this with her customary humility and grace, and explained that the generous leaving gift would be spent partly on her garden at her Lincolnshire home, and partly on a first trip to Rome.

*I have been greatly assisted in this tribute by Ana's friends, family – in particular Jenny Doole, Brian Sparkes, Anne Wetherley and Elys Varney – and past and present colleagues, Colin Annis, Paul Jackson and Naomi Alvarez.*

**Sue Willetts, Institute of Classical Studies**

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<sup>2</sup> Reproduced with permission from *Bulletin of the Institute of Classical Studies* 36 (1989) and from Stephen's widow, Mrs Shelley Instone.