



LMH

Lady Margaret Hall



The Clive Holmes Fellowship in History

Enhancing History Teaching at LMH

History at LMH

History has been integral to LMH since our foundation in 1878. As one of our largest, most prominent subjects, we have c.40 History undergraduates and a significant number of graduates and visiting students at any time.

Three distinguished historians' portraits hang in Hall: Eleanor Lodge (the first woman invited to lecture in History at Oxford, and the first to receive a DLitt), Dame Lucy Sutherland (who turned down the Regius Chair of Modern History in order to remain Principal), and Dame Frances Lannon (Fellow and Tutor 1977-2002; Principal 2002-2015). These prominent academics are just some of our eminent community of historians.

“My degree has made me a sharper thinker and a more inquisitive person; I also appreciate how inspirational and supportive my tutors have been!”

Calista Chong
BA History and Politics, 2019

Our place in the University

LMH prides itself in welcoming History Fellows with a wealth of experience who are deeply committed to inspiring and supporting our students to reach their potential. This can be recognised through the 22 LMH Firsts in History and Joint Schools from 2020-22 and the 100% completion rate of degrees over the last decade, despite growing pastoral challenges.

Despite these successes, as the 7th poorest Oxford College, we are significantly under-resourced for a subject of this size and are only able to afford two History Fellows and a temporary junior lecturer. This is in comparison to similar Colleges, like St Anne's and Somerville, who have three permanent Fellows, and the richest Colleges, like Balliol and Magdalen, who have four.

“I was immensely proud to succeed Clive Holmes – my old tutor – at LMH in 2011. The years since have taught me from experience just how heavy the administrative and pastoral obligations he shouldered are. Clive made it look easy, but the reality is one of significant strain as a result of limited resources. Gaining a more substantial third post in History at LMH would be of huge value to our students and staff, broadening the scope of what is possible and making our tutorial and pastoral arrangements more resilient.”



Grant Tapsell
Tutor and Fellow, 2011 – current

The effect of our slender History resource is that:

- **Fewer courses can be offered 'in-house' than at other Colleges**, and less choice can be provided for our students in several of the core methodology papers
- **Our two Fellows are stretched thinly** by having to do the course administration, including admissions, collections, and arranging tuition themselves, thereby:
 - reducing the pastoral and academic support time available to our students
 - reducing the time for the tutors to work on their own research
- **Our comparatively small faculty membership discourages History applicants from choosing LMH** – we are simply not one of the more 'prominent' Colleges for History.



Our Goal

We want to enhance History teaching at LMH by significantly augmenting the 'third' post in College (currently a junior temporary Lecturer) and replacing it with a more senior College Fellow for 5 years to provide additional experienced teaching and share pastoral and administrative support with our existing Fellows. This more senior Fellow would join us in 2025 when the existing junior temporary position concludes.

Funding this position would enable us to:

- **improve the quality of our teaching** by employing another senior academic with varied areas of expertise to increase the teaching we can provide in College
- **provide additional embedded capacity** for pastoral, practical and academic support
- enable our Fellows to **spend more time focusing on teaching and research**
- **increase our prominence within the History Faculty** and thereby our appeal to applicants as a first choice College
- **support and nurture the longer term aspirations** of early career academics

It would be our honour to name this position in recognition of Clive Holmes and his dedication to LMH and History more broadly over his distinguished career. We hope those who benefited from Clive's time and experience will support this campaign and enable his legacy to live on through this post.



“Clive tutored me for several terms. He was always especially supportive of those of us who found Oxford initially overwhelming. He had a wonderful sense of humour and joie de vivre that sat effortlessly alongside his incredible brain. I shall always remember him fondly – and with gratitude for the intellectual self-confidence he encouraged me to have.”

Huw Evans
BA Modern History, 1990

Dr Clive Holmes

(10 November 1943 – 25 July 2022)

Clive was Fellow and Tutor in History at LMH from 1987 to 2011. He was an historian of tremendous skill and range, a scholar who lent distinction to the College and who devoted much time and passion to LMH. He was widely respected by his peers and was elected to the Council of the Royal Historical Society in 2004.

Clive was an exceptional tutor with a boundless capacity to inspire those he taught. He was equally able to spur on the most ambitious students to greater achievements, and to support and encourage the less able to fulfil potential they did not know they possessed. Underlying the tutorial experience was an indefinable human wisdom that allowed him to 'read' students' characters and anxieties as a personal tutor of true kindness. In return, he inspired great loyalty. Many of his pupils stayed in touch with him throughout their lives and would testify to his extraordinary ability that led to him receiving an Oxford University teaching award in 2005. He valued himself primarily as a tutor and regarded living on in his pupils as the best possible legacy. As one student wrote: **'Best tutorials I have ever had and the best tutor'**, and that is how he would wish to be remembered.

“ I remember Clive fondly – particularly writing my most incisive essay at Oxford for him on Cromwell. I recall being ‘in the zone’ in that particular ‘all-nighter’ and Clive’s critique and the debate that we had around it the next day was inspiring. I am honoured to contribute to The Clive Holmes Fellowship in History to ensure that his legacy and LMH’s history of delivering exceptional teaching continues.”

Mike Baxter

BA Modern History, 1985

How you can help

The Clive Holmes History Fellowship will cost College £67,430pa for 5 years. To fund this vital position, we would be grateful for one-off and multi-year gift pledges. As a registered charity, gifts benefit from charitable tax status. Here are some illustrations of how you may like to support:

Total gift pledge (one-off or split over instalments)*

£148

£1,036

£17,983

£53,950

Benefit to College
(inc Gift Aid)

£185

£1,293

£22,479

£67,437



Your gift equals

A day
of salary

A week
of salary

A term
of salary

One year
of salary

*Tax reclaim is available for higher/top rate taxpayers

As this Fellowship will be in post for 5 years from 2025, some alumni are choosing to make a larger gift but split the payment over annual or monthly instalments.

**Donations (one-off and direct debit)
can be made online at
www.lmh.ox.ac.uk/donate**

“ I am forever grateful for the life-changing opportunity to study at LMH. To continue to offer world-class education to historians of the future, we need to ensure LMH has sufficient people in place to teach it. As one of the poorest colleges, LMH is reliant on us, its alumni, to support this vision of continued excellence.”

Dr Amanda Foreman

DPhil History 1991

Historian and Biographer



LMH

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Photographs by Ben Robinson and Sarah Lee