

# HISTORY BULLETIN

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### THINKING OXBRIDGE

Make use of podcasts to develop new areas of knowledge:

**America: Empire of Liberty** including good episodes on Cuba (IB). Extend GCSE knowledge. Get a background to the presidential election—it will affect us all!

**A History of Ideas:** nearly a hundred short episodes by experts— *on everything*. Try Alice Taylor on Habeas Corpus and how ideas of justice have changed over time or Kate Barker on whether Adam Smith really did think the best markets were totally free.

**The Crusades: A Time watch Guide:** Dr Thomas Asbridge on how TV's spin on the Crusades has changed over 60 years—a relevant introduction to historiography. *Now on Clickview.*

**Essay Prizes** - there is no better way to show you are a good applicant!

#### Vellacott:

<https://www.pet.cam.ac.uk/sites/www.pet.cam.ac.uk/files/Vellacott%2016.pdf>

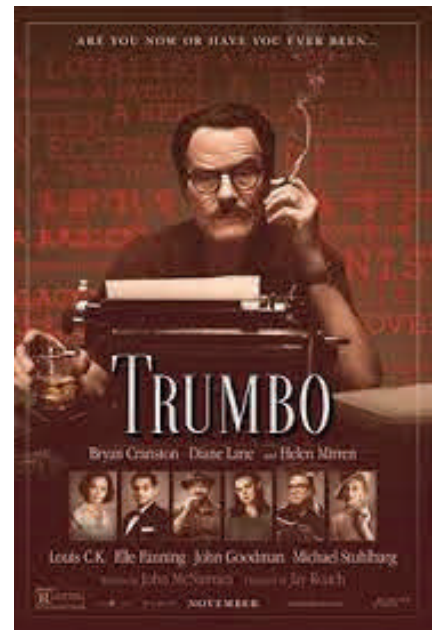
**Newnham History Prize** (Girls only year 12)

<http://www.newn.cam.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/History-Info-Questions-2016-Dec-2015.pdf>

## WELCOME TO THE HISTORY BULLETIN

This is the first issue of the Department's newsletter. The aim is to give you a fairly regular update about history-related events which you might otherwise miss - new films, TV programmes, books, exhibitions and so on.

The Bulletin is aimed at anyone who is interested in History at Haileybury—of any age but we will try to indicate which age groups might be especially interested in particular events. The Bulletin will include things which linked to the courses we teach but also other areas of History—so you can branch out. If you hear of something which you think other people might be interested in then please email Ms Galbraith and get it in the next bulletin!



## WITCH HUNT IN HOLLYWOOD

In 1947 Dalton Trumbo was Hollywood's top screen writer until he was jailed and black-listed for his political beliefs as the Communist witch hunts hit America. Helen Mirren and Bryan Cranston (Breaking Bad) star about how Trumbo scratched a living using assumed names to carry on working. When his work won two Oscars the 'front' writers were put in the ridiculous position of accept-

ing his rewards. The film has had mixed reviews but if you are interested in the '50s or American paranoia, go see Trumbo and make up your own mind. **Trump and the Politics of Paranoia** (Radio 4, 25th January) is available as a podcast—a brilliant survey of how irrational fear became a major part of American politics. Put Trump in perspective.

## THE NEW DAD'S ARMY FILM

Due out in February and stuffed full of famous actors, there is a debate about whether a re-make can ever match the originals (still on TV most weeks.) There is another debate about why the British are so obsessed with looking back at the Sec-

ond World War. What can we learn about ourselves through depictions like Dad's Army—about class and national stereotypes? You can watch this film on several different levels.



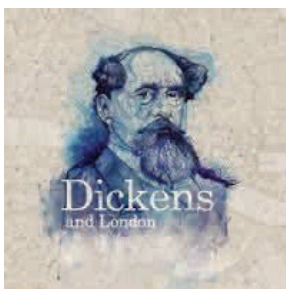
Michael Wood's series on the History of China is now on Clickview.

## A glut of Russian history!

### The Girl who Forgave the Nazis

**Eva Kor survived the Holocaust and later publicly forgave Ex-Auschwitz SS guard, Oskar Groening.**

Was she right to do so?  
Documentary now on Clickview



There has been a surge in Russian history in early 2016—good news for those doing the IB. The BBC backed up the controversial adaptation of **War and Peace** with a three part series fronted by **Lucy Worsley**; **Empire of the Tsars: Romanov Russia**. With plenty of opportunities for Lucy to dress up in costumes, the series gives an entertaining overview of three centuries of Russian history. The programmes are easy to watch and a great introduction to Russian history—all available on **Clickview**.

Meanwhile, the brilliantly named **Simon Sebag-Montefiore** has just published a blockbuster history of the Romanovs which is coming to the **library**. The reviews suggest there is unlikely to be a 'racier account' (The Independent) of the three-hundred year dynasty - the end of which (1917) will be commemorated next year. Full of stories of sex, violence, wealth and madness.

One way of getting into history is through fiction. Booker-prize winning **Julian Barnes** has just published **The Noise of Time** about the composer Shostakovich, forced to compromise his work under the threat of Stalinist purges. Stalin didn't like an opera—not a comfortable position for an artist to be in! This is 'biographical fiction'. Can fiction be good history? Some historians can't stand it—what issues do fictionalised accounts present for serious historians?

**Other historical fiction you might like:** **Hilary Mantel's** multi-award winning books on Cromwell—**Wolf Hall** and **Bring up the Bodies** (also serialized by the BBC—brilliantly). The weirdly titled **HHhH** by **Laurent Binet** about the assassination of Nazi Heydrich.

## WHAT'S ON .... EXHIBITION GUIDE

**Samuel Pepys: Plague, Fire and Revolution** at the **National Maritime Museum**. The Bridget Jones of his day, Pepys lived through the execution of Charles 1 through to the restoration of 1688. His gossip about London, music and women is one of the best ways to understand the seventeenth century. *On until 28th March.*

**Churchill's Scientists** at the **Science Museum**. Many of the war-winning scientific breakthroughs were under the direct intervention of Churchill. The Science Museum celebrates 50 years after WSC's death. *Only on until 1st March.*

**Dickensian** was a big hit at Christmas. The **Dickens Museum** in London has a special exhibition *until April 2016* as well as a huge range of activities and events—especially at half term. Brilliant if you are interested in literature or history. Dickens was a campaigner for social reform—so this even links to **Public Health** in iGCSE!