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20th March 2018

Melanie Jones

Historical Association

59a Kennington Park Road

London.

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Dear Melanie

Re Richard Kennett's involvement in the Bristol Historical Association

Richard has been involved with our successful re-launch of the HA branch in Bristol right from the beginning in May 2017. Richard gave Rob and me a platform to launch the idea of a Bristol HA at his highly successful CPD in May and we were able to use that to build up a network of local teachers interested in future HA events which now includes about 85 teachers. Richard also volunteered to be our schools liaison officer and used his own wide following on Twitter to help publicise our events and lent his considerable reputation among local History teachers in the West Country to our events. In addition as a member of the Twitter generation he set up our webpage and our own Twitter and Facebook page for us so that we could publicise our events; all this while having recently become a member of the Senior Leadership Team at his school.

Richard is on our branch HA committee along with Sally Thorne, Professor Ronald Hutton, Rob Pritchard our treasurer and I. He is a valuable source of ideas for both relevant events – he suggested a quiz for example for next year like the Cambridge branch and for events and speakers. He is an invaluable link to what sixth formers in particular are interested in. He and I researched the local most popular A level topics across the city and produced a table of key topics to plan lectures for. He also gave me a number of contacts for primary schools and local people working in the area like Heritage England. Although as secretary I have found a number of speakers already for 2018-19 Richard has also been really active with suggestions and using his local links to the Bristol Festival of Ideas recently got the agreement of David Olusgowa to be one of our speakers in 2019. Richard has been an invaluable member of our committee and also despite all the demands of a busy teaching career comes along to lectures on every type of History and brings his students too. His enthusiasm and energy have really helped us get started this year.

Yours sincerely

Mary Feerick

Secretary of the Bristol Historical Association