In April 2011 the Department of Social Policy hosted an event to celebrate the publication of two new books on voluntary action history and to mark twenty years since the formation of the Voluntary Action History Society in 1991. An afternoon panel session chaired by former LSE academic Colin Rochester included papers by Bernard Harris (University of Southampton) and Melanie Oppenheimer (University of New England, Australia). Both presenters reflected on the vibrant state of the field of voluntary action history across the world, with Melanie Oppenheimer calling for increased international networking and conferences.

During an evening drinks reception Nicholas Deakin launched the two new books *Understanding the Roots of Voluntary Action* (Sussex Academic Press) and *Beveridge and Voluntary Action in Britain and the Wider British World* (Manchester University Press). Justin Davis Smith, Chief Executive of Volunteering England and one of the founding members of VAHS, then reminisced about the progress of the society and Peter Grant, the society’s current Chair, proposed a toast.

The event also marked the transfer of the Volunteering England collection to the LSE archive and featured a small exhibition ‘Sixty Years of Volunteering History’ curated by Georgina Brewis (Institute of Education) and Anjelica Finnegan (University of Southampton) presenting original materials from the archive, including papers from the Beveridge Collection. A short film, Student Volunteering: A Short History - featuring archival footage and animated sequences - was screened for the first time. Click here to view
Photos taken by Anna Aapola

For further information about the event, including the papers presented at the seminar, please view the VAHS web pages: click here