Environment and Climate Crisis Special Interest Group of the Oral History Society

Chair's Report, presented to AGM, 4.11.2026

This has been an eventful year for the ECC-SIG. It began at last year's AGM with a presentation by Nina Laurie, of the School of Geography and Sustainable Development University of St Andrews,*'El Niño' a phenomenon with opportunities? Inspiring the next generation of Peruvian chroniclers through education.* This was followed by a series of further presentations through the year, as noted in the Secretary's Report.

The world map of environmental/ climate crisis oral history has continued to grow, now reaching 113 projects, although – despite best efforts - it is still heavily slanted towards work in countries where English is the dominant language.

Last September the Chair of the SIG delivered a keynote speech at the conference of the International Oral History Association in Krakow, Poland, entitled *Oral History and Climate Change: Testimonies of Weirding,* further raising awareness of this this field of work. It was well received, and a revised version of the speech was included in the Special Issue of the Oral History Journal, *Voices of the Earth in times of crisis.* The SIG also made a significant contribution to the planning of the Special Issue, particularly in identifying contributors.

At the OHS Festival in Nottingham, Rachel Pirie, Radhika Deonalli, Rib Davis and Lyndsie Bourgon ran a workshop, *Climate in the everyday.* This was an exploration of participant's experiences of climate change in their day-to-day lives, through a number of mini-interviews.

With the initial projects of the International Oral History of the Transition Movement now complete, efforts are continuing to expand the project. This will involve participants from a number of different countries, and a solution to various problems around funding. Participants from France, the United States and UK will continue to discuss ways forward.

The Chair has put himself forward for re-election for the year 2026-27 but will not be standing for election the following year.