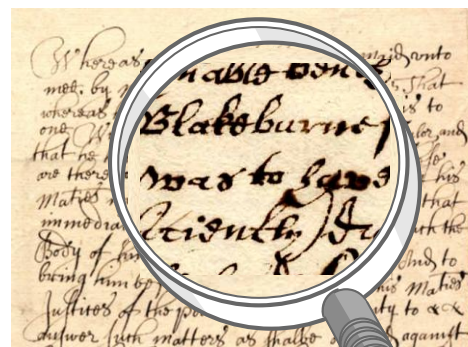


News from the Archives

Newsletter of Lancashire Archives



New Financial Year

April 1 is the beginning of the new year for Lancashire County Council when we look back on our achievements and look forward to starting a new service plan. I'll report on our achievements in the next issue when all the figures have been gathered. For the next year all the staff at Lancashire Archives remain committed to providing you with an excellent service and to ensuring that we continue to be one of the best archive services in the country. We are however starting the year with a smaller budget and fewer staff and are required to make significant savings on printing and postage in the next 12 months.

Nevertheless I'm pleased to say that *News from the Archives* will continue to provide monthly information about our service, but after this month we will be sending it out by email only. I do know that some people do not have access to email but I am sorry that we cannot continue to provide free postage and packing.

If you would like to receive the newsletter by email, please send your details to vicci.mccann@lancashire.gov.uk

Jacque Crosby, Archive Services Manager

Lancashire Reads Private Peaceful

Following a successful launch on World Book Day – Thursday 6th March - Lancashire Library's campaign to put Michael Morpurgo's much respected novel *Private Peaceful* into the hands of the people of Lancashire has begun.

The aim will be, from now until Lancashire Day in November, to celebrate the culture of reading and to enlighten and foster a real sense of community throughout the whole county by reading and sharing this poignant book amongst colleagues, friends, libraries and other Cultural Services venues, reading groups and work place settings.

It is a book for all ages, set in the First World War – a beautifully written, very human story. So buy it, borrow it from your local library, or read it in your breaks in the tea room here at Lancashire Archives.

Distance Enquiry survey

Last autumn we took part in the second national Distance Enquiry Survey. This was intended to help us find out a little more about who uses our service remotely – where they are from and why they want to

use our service – and also to ask them about the quality of our response. We do fairly regular surveys of personal visitors to our service and we were particularly interested to learn of any barriers to such visits from remote users.

The results of the survey have now been received, and on the whole we can be pleased with the service we provide for email enquiries. Although over 50 archive repositories took part in the survey we don't yet have the information to allow us to make any national comparisons. We do know that over 100 people responded to questions about our service specifically, and we are immensely grateful to them for taking the time to do so.

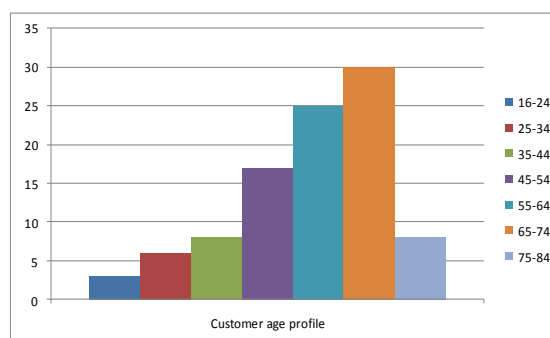
Most remote enquiries originated in the UK, though as with personal visitors we have quite a few Americans, Australians and Canadians who use our service. Many are planning to visit anyway and are seeking information in advance. Again as with personal visitors, about 70% of remote enquirers are interested in family history. Most of them came to us via our website and we were surprised to find that social media haven't had much impact so far – we assume that our toe-dipping forays into Twitter and Facebook offer a rather passive experience and haven't yet encouraged much interaction.

Some 17% of our remote users are making enquiries to save on travel costs – we assume that most of these are people asking for copies of documents, where they have identified them through our online catalogues. Most people were contacting us for the first time, though there were a small handful that have been using us for over 10 years.

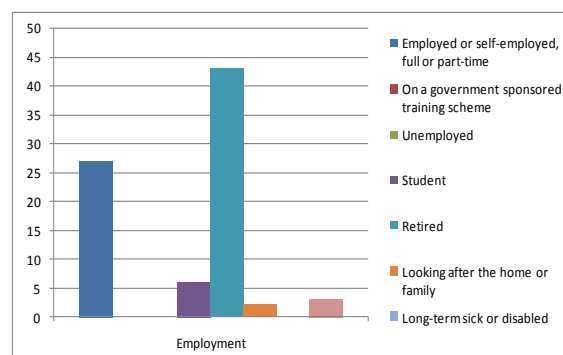
The age profile of our remote customers shows that we have a high proportion of "Silver surfers":

Whilst this was not a great surprise, we were interested to note that only 6 people

identified themselves as students, and that quite a lot of employed people used our services remotely – their employment may, of course, feed into one of the questions as to why people use the remote service rather than visiting in person!



The survey also asked about levels of satisfaction with our response, and it is pleasing to report that overall 96% thought we were "good" or "very good". The speed, clarity and quality of our response also



received high approval ratings. One thing surveys allow us to do is to identify where we can make improvements; but I'm quite content if they also allow people to praise what we do and make their appreciation known. So I hope one respondent won't mind if I quote his comment in full:

"My enquiry by e-mail was dealt with professionally and speedily. The staff were very helpful and I am extremely satisfied with their response. I would have no hesitation in recommending them. I am not sure what improvement could be made on that!"

I would encourage all users of our service – in person and remotely – to let us know

when we do things right and where you think we can improve. Our Searchroom has feedback forms dotted about, and if you can't find one when you visit, don't be shy of asking.

Neil Sayer, Archive Access Manager

QSB 1 update

I'm delighted to report there are now 40 Quarter Sessions recognizance rolls on LANCAT for the following sessions:

Jan 1774	Jul 1776	Jul 1822
Jan 1825	Jan 1831	Apr 1774
Apr 1778	Jan 1823	Jan 1826
Apr 1831	Jul 1774	Jul 1780
Apr 1823	Apr 1826	Jul 1831
Oct 1774	Oct 1780	Jul 1823
Apr 1828	Jan 1833	Jan 1775
Apr 1781	Oct 1823	Oct 1828
Jul 1833	Apr 1775	Jul 1781
Jan 1824	Apr 1829	Jan 1834
Jul 1775	Jan 1822	Apr 1824
Apr 1830	Jul 1834	Oct 1775
Apr 1822	Jul 1824	Oct 1830
Oct 1834		

That's a total of 22554 entries! You will see that some of the earlier 18th century Sessions have been completed in order to make as wide a range of material available for research as possible.

Collections

Lancashire Archives aims to collect records relating to Lancashire, Lancashire life, and the lives of Lancashire people. The Collections Team ensures that these collections are

suitably packaged to guarantee their survival and are kept safe at all times. We provide details of the documents we have received in our catalogues, in our themed guides to record sources, and in publicity.

Each month we bring you the highlights of this month's new acquisitions. In February we processed 20 new deposits of documents, all of which were selected for permanent preservation.

Geography O-level fieldwork (Ref: DDX 3024)

As part of his geography O-Level coursework Paul Dawson completed a town centre survey of Kirkham. This provides us with a complete record of every business along the main street in the year 1977, including a huge number of independent shops, from butchers and grocers to a record shop. This serves as a reminder of just how much the high street has changed over the last 40 years.



Papers of Jozef Zmudz-Florko (Ref: DDX 3026)

Jozef Zmudz-Florko was born in Lwow, then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, in 1893. While serving with the Polish Army Jozef was captured by the Soviets and taken to the notorious Kozielsk Camp in Russia, from which the vast majority of Polish Officers were taken to the Katyn Forest and massacred in 1940. However Jozef survived the camp and joined the Polish II Corps, under the command of General Anders. The Corps served in the

Middle East and Italy, playing a key role in the Battle of Monte Cassino. After the war the men were returned to Britain and demobilised, and Jozef was housed at the Oulton Park resettlement camp in Cheshire. Eventually he moved to the Preston area, where he met and married Greta Mellor, a teacher.



The vast majority of records in this collection are written in Polish, and so we have had to seek assistance from volunteers to interpret the information found within them. We have already been able to learn a great deal about Jozef, however there is still a box of material which is unlisted, largely consisting of correspondence which may perhaps add more detail to Jozef's story. Many of his diaries have also not been examined in depth. If anyone can read Polish and would like to offer assistance with additional listing of this collection then please get in touch.

Commonplace book of John Butler of Kirkham (Ref: DDX 3028)

John Butler spent much of his life in the military, joining the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment on 13 Mar 1890. He served in South Africa during the Boer War and France during the First World War. His commonplace book includes a range of different writing, from riddles, jokes and poems to biographical information. Much of the writing relates to Butler's military service, including nominal rolls of his

regiment, an account of the execution of Pt O'Hara at Yewroda Jail, an account of the death of soldiers from cholera on board the SS Nubia and a poem dedicated to the men killed in the Nagpur Disaster.

Tuesday Evening Talks

Tuesday 8 April, 6.30-7.30pm

Heather Davis, Lancashire Museums Service

God's Glaziers

Heather Davies looks at the development of stained glass across Western Europe and suggests ways in which to identify particular styles of stained glass window and how to contemplate their design, beauty and meaning.

The Life of a Trainee Archive Conservator

One of our trainee archive conservators, Alex Duggan, has started a blog. To find out more about the fascinating work that she does visit:

<http://traineearchiveconservator.wordpress.com/>

Easter Closure

We will be closed for Easter on Friday 18 April and on Monday 21 April.

Our next Saturday opening is on the 12 April 2014



**ANY
COMMENTS?**

If you have any comments on, or suggestions for this newsletter please send them to: Vicci McCann, News from the Archives, Lancashire Archives, Bow Lane, Preston, PR1 2RE. Telephone: 01772 533039. Email: vicci.mccann@lancashire.gov.uk