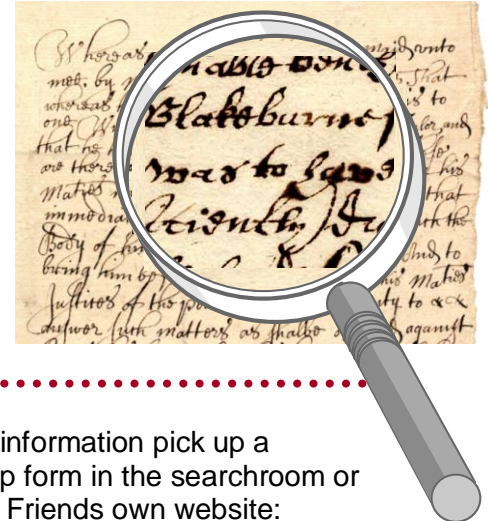


News from the Archives

Newsletter of Lancashire Archives



A Friend in need....

I know that Lancashire Archives users are concerned about how proposed changes to the archive service will affect their research. Some have kindly asked whether there is anything they can do to help in these difficult times.

One way which people can help the archive service is by joining the Friends of Lancashire Archives. This organisation, which celebrates its 30th anniversary this year, exists solely to support the archive service. The Friends were very strong advocates at the time of local government re-organisation in the 1990s, and our amazing volunteering programme started with a group of Friends who wanted to give something back to our service. Today they support us chiefly with funding. They've bought documents and helped to buy large collections, such as Townley and Hulton; they've bought equipment and funded Welcome pack folders; they've funded some of our volunteer and outreach projects; they paid for the signage to our building in 2012, and they are currently trying to raise £7,500 to finish work on the Horrockses archive.

The money is raised through subscriptions (just £10 a year), events, donations and searchroom sales. As a registered charity they can claim gift aid and are eligible for funding which Lancashire County Council can't access.

For further information pick up a membership form in the searchroom or look on the Friends own website:
www.flarchives.co.uk

All change

This month we will start to see big changes as the County Council's transformation programme affects our building and service.

- We warmly welcome Lancashire Certificate Services who move into the record office building at the end of the month and will relaunch their service from here on 4 April.
- We reluctantly say 'au revoir' to our volunteers for the next few months while we plan a new volunteer offer, which will continue to make a valuable contribution to Lancashire Archives and our users but will need much less supervision.
- And, very sadly, we say goodbye to no fewer than 8 members of staff who together have contributed over 100 years to the archive service:

Anna Watson, senior archivist, and **Mark Walmsley**, archive conservation manager, started work here on the same day - 8 August 1983.



☆ **Anna** is known to everyone through her warm and friendly personality and her Scottish accent. Her knowledge of ecclesiastical archives – especially probate records – is second to none and she was responsible for setting up, coordinating and managing the volunteer programme for over 20 years. In 2012 she was awarded an MBE for her work with our volunteers.

☆ **Mark**, already a bookbinder, began as a trainee archive conservator 33 years ago and has worked his way up the ranks to head up a strong and innovative conservation team. In 1986 he won a Churchill Fellowship to study parchment and is delighted that he now leaves another Churchill Fellow in the conservation workshop.



Steve Whelan has been with us for 23 years and has for most of this time undertaken the crucial role of ensuring that all records are properly cleaned and appropriately packaged before they are put into the strongrooms. He has also

turned his hand to a wide range of other essential tasks – what will we do now when a wheel comes off the trolley? **Chris Gannon** started to make boxes for us in 2008. Since then he has designed and made thousands of archive boxes, not just for Lancashire's archive collections, but for archives, museums and libraries throughout the UK including some very unusual bespoke items. He was nominated for a Pride award for outstanding customer service in 2014.



- ☆ **Alison Ferguson** became one of our archive assistants in February 2012 and was a friendly addition to the searchroom team. For the last twelve months she has been cheerfully and efficiently supporting our groups of volunteers. We are very sorry that she is being moved to the county council's central volunteer team.
- ☆ **Lindsey Sutton** has been with us since October, quietly and efficiently dealing with new accessions and working on the archive collections while Keri catalogued the Hulton archive. She is a first class archivist and has fitted perfectly into our team.
- ☆ **Martin Ramsbotham** has been a huge support, working in the searchroom on a casual basis for the last couple of years and being willing to do anything asked of him. At the same time he is studying for a post graduate qualification as an archivist so he has been able to provide sound advice to our visitors.

☆ **Ed Fletcher** joined us on a Workstart placement in December and has done a great job of moving 400 shelves of archives from Stack 2 to other strongrooms in order to create space for the Certificate Services registers. And he's not only moved 2782 boxes but has updated the location list so that we can find them all again.

Each one of these colleagues will be greatly missed and, whether they are retiring or going to new opportunities elsewhere, we thank them for everything they've done for Lancashire Archives and wish them all the very best in the future.

Jacque Crosby, Archive Service Manager

What a treasure

Lancashire Council Council's archive service has been celebrating 75 years since its foundation in 1940.

We identified 74 records both to represent our collections and to celebrate their diversity and historical importance. We put out a challenge to bring in something that could be our 75th "treasure". Some suggestions were:

- The Record Office building itself – an iconic 1970s Preston landmark on Bow Lane
- Our volunteers – a team of almost 80 who willingly give up their time to make records more accessible (some of them since the beginning of our volunteering programme in 1987!)
- The staff, individually and collectively
- The Friends of Lancashire Archives, a charitable body who in 2016 will celebrate 30 years of support for us in a host of different ways
- The Lancashire sound collection, relocated from Clitheroe Castle

We wanted, though, to maintain the "Treasures" focus on what we have collected over the years, so we reviewed the documents that came in

during 2015-2016. We considered business histories, employment registers from Williamsons of Lancaster, early records of a local cricket club, an oral history project from an immigrant community in east Lancashire, and all the other 200-odd deposits that have been donated, loaned or purchased during the year.

There is now a shortlist, and a public vote will decide on our 75th Treasure. If you'd like to see what our judges selected and have your say by voting for our 75th Treasure then come and see our exhibition, on display in our public Searchroom during March 2016.

Neil Sayer, Archive Access Manager

Hulton Cataloguing Project

One of the most varied sections of the Hulton archive, and also in some ways the most mysterious, is a series of newspaper cuttings, bill posters and pamphlets which were originally gathered together in a scrapbook. Unfortunately we don't know which family member was responsible for the collection, or even exactly when the items were saved, though most of the items seem to date from between the 1770s and the 1840s.

There is little obvious logic to the collection, though it has now been arranged under a number of different thematic subjects. Items range from pieces of political propaganda and satire to a baffling number of adverts for lottery tickets and cures for venereal disease. Printed accounts of the Bolton Overseers of the Poor include lists of paupers receiving relief, as well as illegitimate children, while an admission ticket for the Manchester Lying-In Hospital requests proof of marriage and place of settlement.



There are a number of playbills advertising magicians, menageries and ventriloquists, amongst the more troubling entertainments. One advert proclaims "The Shortest Person in the World!" Miss Crachami, "the celebrated Sicilian dwarf". Caroline Crachami was the first person to be medically cited with primordial dwarfism. She died in 1824, shortly after being 'exhibited', and her skeleton is now on display at the Hunterian Museum in London.

Keri Nicholson, Archivist (Collections)

Churchill Fellowship

The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust was established shortly after his death in 1965, as a national memorial and living legacy. It offers people a once in a lifetime opportunity to be funded to travel overseas to meet others in the same specialism, in order to share ideas, innovations and to revive skills that may be dying out in the UK. The prestige is lifelong and internationally recognised, and each Fellowship is unique.

Annie Starkey, one of our Trainee Archive Conservators, has been selected from just under 1,000 applicants to receive a Travelling Fellowship. It was a long process and ultimately only 150 Fellowships were awarded this year.

As an Archive conservator, Annie's job is to ensure the survival of the county's written heritage, a great proportion of which is written on paper. She is going to be spending her summer working in historic paper mills in France, the Netherlands and Italy. She will be starting from scratch, learning traditional methods of making paper, investigating materials, and she'll be creating her own watermark to commemorate the journey. She hopes that by working with the mills and the specialists there, she can develop a new type of paper to use for conservation repairs.

Much of the early paper at Lancashire Archives came from these mills so it is a chance to bring Lancashire and European expertise together again. The chance to travel and learn from experts will help her to safeguard the future of this unique material and to develop new

techniques for conservation. She will also apparently be eating great food and sampling local wine, though sadly this is not covered by her funding...

This amazing achievement is made all the more special as Annie's manager and mentor, our Conservation Manager Mark Walmsley also received a Churchill Fellowship 30 years ago to visit Russia and Eastern Europe studying parchment. Like Annie, Mark began as a trainee conservator at Lancashire Archives, and the knowledge he brought back from his travels has saved thousands of documents from decay and damage.

Mark has shared his legacy with his trainees, and when he retires in March he hopes to leave our written heritage in safe hands.

Kathryn Newman, Archivist (Access)



Afternoon Talks

Our next Wednesday afternoon talk will be:

Problem pages in teenage magazines in the 1960s and 1970s, by Dr. Melanie Tebbutt

This talk will take place between 12.30pm and 1.30pm on Wednesday 23 March 2016.

Our next Saturday opening is 12 March 2016

Easter closure

We will be closed for Easter on Friday 25 March and Monday 28 March

**ANY
COMMENTS?**

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