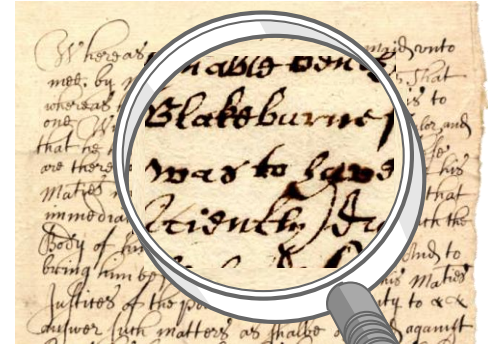


News from the Archives

Newsletter of Lancashire Archives



75th Treasure has been chosen!

Our public has spoken, and the First World War centenary commemorations must have had an impact on the voting; attracting 66% of the votes cast, the clear winner for our 75th treasure was the diary of Charles Atkin:

War diary of Charles Cecil Atkin at Gallipoli, 1915 (DDX 3116/1/3)

In the trenches of the First World War the pockets of the average soldier couldn't hold much by way of personal effects, and a small diary and purple pencil were the most direct means of recording experiences that most of the educated volunteers knew were extraordinary.

Charles Cecil Atkin enlisted at Manchester on 8 February 1915, and his training as a plumber meant that he was posted as a sapper with the Divisional Engineers of the Royal Naval Division. His diary records his 2-week voyage to the Dardanelles, via Gibraltar, Malta and Alexandria. The

experiences he mentions of his time in the Gallipoli campaign include building bridges and blasting trenches, and he was himself under shellfire on a number of occasions. He survived Gallipoli and also a subsequent tour of duty in France with the Royal Engineers.

For us, this diary is especially poignant in that it was deposited at our anniversary open weekend in 2015 – which was also exactly a hundred years since the first landings at Gallipoli, commemorated now as Anzac Day.

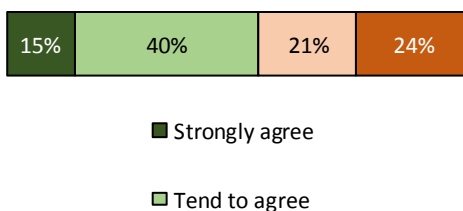


Handing over of the diary at our 75th Anniversary weekend in 2015

Opening Hours Consultation: The Results

I am very grateful to everyone who responded to the opening hours consultation in February. 62% respondents had visited Lancashire Archives during the last 6 months while 10% had never visited at all. There were 184 responses in total including 127 written comments, some of which provided very positive feedback on our service and the importance of providing a good quality archive service.

In answer to the question: 'how strongly do you agree or disagree with the proposed changes to the Archive Service's opening times?' 55% agreed and 45% disagreed as shown in the chart below:



The comments on opening can be categorised as follows:

- General agreement with proposed times – 15%
- Objection to the proposals – 2%
- Would prefer to keep the current times – 6%
- Would prefer to keep late opening- 44%
- Would prefer a later start and finish (10-5) – 16%

- Opening hours after work should be longer – 6%
- Would support closing one day a week – 9%
- Should stay open on Monday – 1%
- Pleased to be keeping weekend opening – 7%

The strength of support for late night opening was surprising in view of the actual use made of this facility. In the last 12 months we have seen an average of 6 people in the searchroom at 6pm with a minimum of 3 (same as the number of staff on duty) and a maximum of 13.

Other comments recognised the budget pressures on Lancashire County Council (9%), suggested we looked at generating income (4%) - we are doing - said that the cuts did not go far enough (4%) or simply objected to the proposals (2%).

In the light of the responses I have consulted archive staff and will this month be presenting revised proposals for changes to our opening hours to County Councillor Marcus Johnstone. If he approves them I anticipate that the new hours will start from 4 July. Full details in the June newsletter.

Jacquie Crosby, Archives Service Manager

Who Do You Think You Are, Live at the NEC

Lindy King has been a researcher at Lancashire Archives for some time. She's been the driving force behind setting up the Goosnargh and Whittingham heritage group, whom she recently brought in for a visit. When she mentioned that she was off to a "Who Do You Think You Are – Live" event we asked her to be our special correspondent. We have been involved in several editions of the popular TV

programme, and we still notice a slight increase in visitors when a new series is broadcast. Lindy reports:

"7-9 April saw WDYTIA Live at the NEC, Birmingham, for the second year. Relocation from London's Olympia meant easier access to those of us from the north west and Friday meant an early start to make the most of the day.



"The NEC complex covers a wide area but WDYTIA was well-signposted. Eateries as well as spaces for eating one's own food are available, toilets are easily found and parking is combined with shuttle buses to take you right to the door. Disabled parking is also available, and trains run right into the complex.



"Dozens of stalls, from large organisations such as Ancestry, Find My Past and Family Search, together with smaller companies and local groups could have meant that moving around would be difficult. WDYTIA had organised matters so that movement was not a problem – even for wheelchairs, of which there were several.

"A range of Workshops are held in 4 'rooms', which can be booked in advance or on the day. I even managed to swap my workshop on the day. Each day has a keynote speaker (ours was Tony Robinson) who are always popular. There are also free talks on a 'first come first served' basis as well as plenty of experts on a wide variety of topics relating to Family History and Genealogy. Stalls sell everything from books and archival equipment to portable scanners. There is plenty of free literature and goodies and many stalls offer 'Show Discounts /Special Offers'.



"If you have an interest in Family History/Genealogy then this is the place to go. Next year's show will again be at the NEC in April."

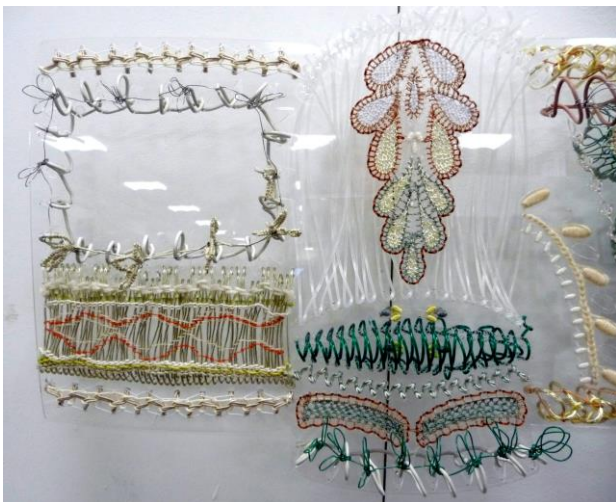
<http://www.whodoyouthinkyouarelive.com/>

Horrockses: History, Art, Archives and fashion

Back in March Lancashire Archives celebrated the county's industrial history, specifically relating to a Preston manufacturing firm. We ran a day school on all things Horrockses, thanks to funding from The Textile Society: www.textilesociety.org.uk.



The day involved print-making workshops as well as talks on the history of Horrockses, Crewdson & Co. and Horrockses Fashions label. There were also exhibitions of Horrockses archives, which archivist Keri Nicholson recently worked on, and art-work by Helen Draper inspired by Helmshore Mill, work by Bella Leonard inspired by the Gawthorpe Textile Collection and textile art created by our very own volunteer artist in residence, Fiona Rainford, inspired by the Horrockses pattern design books (DDHS).



It was a brilliant day, enjoyed by all and oversubscribed! It has a continuing life through the blog one attendee wrote about the event:

<https://festivalofpattern.wordpress.com/2016/04/07/light-hearted-clothes-horrockses-post-war-ready-to-wear/>

The Friends of Lancashire Archives (FLA) were also there to launch their fund-raising bid to continue work on improving access to the Horrockses collection:

www.flarchives.co.uk.



Our next Saturday opening is 14 May 2016

Afternoon Talk

The talk, **The Preston Lock Out**, by Dr Robert Poole, will now be on **Wed 15 June** at 12.30pm and NOT on 11 May as previously advertised.

Lancashire Archives will be closed on bank holiday Monday 2 and 30 May

**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