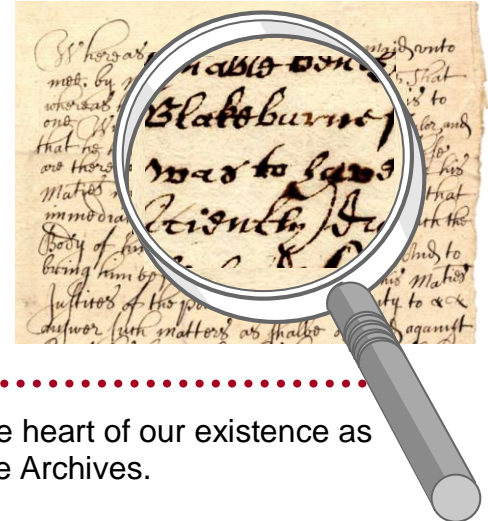


News from the Archives

Newsletter of Lancashire Archives



STOP PRESS!

A full searchroom production service will be reinstated on 1 June. It's fair to say that the suspension of production for an hour at 12.30 during the week has proved more disruptive than we'd anticipated and hasn't had the benefits we'd hoped for. After consultation with users and staff we have decided to go back to the old ways. Production will continue during the whole of the working day, Monday-Friday. The Saturday service will still include an hour over lunch when we can't produce documents. We would ask for your forbearance and understanding if we have to suspend production temporarily during busy periods while we catch up.

Peterloo, Magna Carta and democracy

History isn't always written by the victors. Take Peterloo, for instance. One record we have about this event was written by the "victors", but it doesn't necessarily support the version of events popular today. What it does provide is evidence for historians to select from, a source to analyse: as such it

goes to the heart of our existence as Lancashire Archives.

A crowd now estimated to number more than 60,000 gathered in Manchester on 16 August 1819. They were there to hear Henry Hunt, a radical speaker, as they supported a movement for political reform rooted in the fact that the one million inhabitants of Lancashire were represented in Parliament by only 2 MPs. The local yeomanry were sent in to arrest Hunt and others, and they did so with drawn sabres and much brutality. Published lists suggest around 14 demonstrators were killed or died subsequently of injuries they received. Three Special Constables were also killed. Those injured numbered in the hundreds.

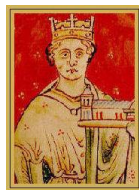
Among the treasures selected for our 75th anniversary exhibition is a letter in the Hulton collection, which we recently purchased with assistance from national funding bodies and local benefactors. This letter (our ref. DDHU 53/76) praises the local magistrates for their actions in putting an end to this working class demonstration. Lord Derby wrote, on 23 August 1819, enclosing a printed letter from Lord Sidmouth (Home Secretary) on the order of the Prince Regent expressing "to the

Magistrates ... the great satisfaction derived by his Royal Highness from their prompt, decisive, and efficient measures for the preservation of the public tranquillity" in Manchester.

But many journalists were also present at Peterloo, and their version of events is more widely accepted now, even though the immediate effect of the events in Manchester was a curtailing of civil liberties. During the year following Peterloo all the well-known radical working-class reformers were imprisoned, local newspapers were closed down, and the actions of the magistrates were officially approved and justified. New legislation suppressed radical meetings and publications. Nevertheless, the Great Reform Act of 1832 did grant some of the demonstrators' wishes, and with the creation of Manchester as a parliamentary borough, the town elected its first two MPs.

We have of course already had one of our series of Tuesday evening talks devoted to Peterloo. Our next talk is on Magna Carta, and democratic freedoms are central to both. On Tuesday 9 June from 6.30pm to 7.30pm Dr Alan Crosby will present:

"King John was not a good man": understanding Magna Carta on its 800th anniversary".

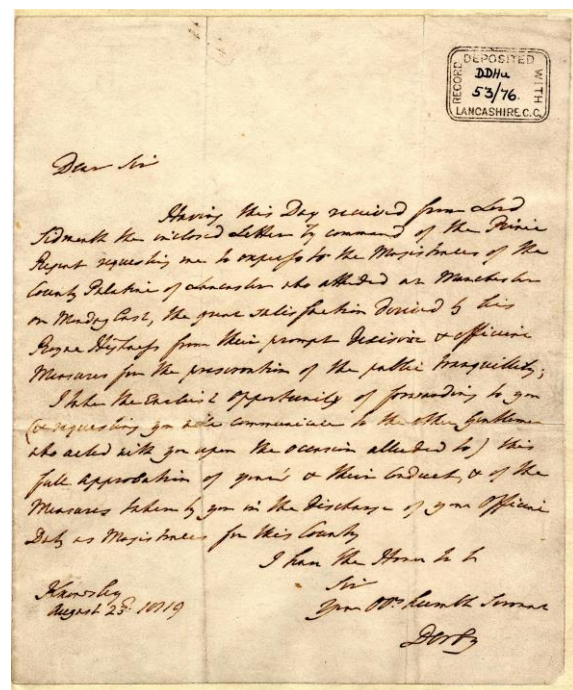


We're linking this to our support for two national campaigns relating to the themes of the road to democracy, the legal system and access to human rights:

Firstly, the **Explore Your Archive** campaign, which is coordinated by The National Archives and the Archives and Records Association (UK and Ireland). This year the main Explore Your Archive campaign will be running from 14-22 November, but a mini campaign will run in June for the anniversary of Magna Carta.

Secondly, "**2015: Parliament in the making**" also celebrates 800 years since the sealing of Magna Carta, as it paved the way for the emergence of the House of Commons and democracy as we know it today. The website (<http://www.parliament.uk/2015>) includes materials for teaching about Magna Carta and an interactive Russell Brand-bashing game (not really: but you can join the debate on why democracy matters).

Neil Sayer, Archive Access Manager



Vital Statistics

In Lancashire County Council our accounting year runs from 1 April to the end of March so we have recently been compiling a record of our achievements during 2014-15. There are some very impressive figures and we can clearly see that online usage of our catalogue and collections is increasing year by year.

Last year 5744 people visited to do their own research (20% for the first time). They used 22,545 archives and, in the national visitor survey, gave Lancashire Archives a high rating of 9.4 out of 10. 3069 people

attended archive-related events and 194 school children enjoyed learning about archives. 6334 people sent enquiries by letters, email or telephone and received helpful advice and there were 81,441 visits to our website.

Behind the scenes 214 new archive collections were accepted and processed, and 118,085 new entries were added to LANCAT - our online catalogue - bringing the total to over 1.3 million. Some of this was achieved through the work of our 77 volunteers who gave 8709 hours of their time. I am deeply grateful to them all – their contribution is equivalent to more than five full-time staff. Meanwhile, in the conservation workshop, 250 items were repaired and over 3000 parchment documents were flattened.

The most impressive figure of all is the 2,062,928 images of entries from Lancashire parish registers downloaded from the Ancestry website, demonstrating that we truly have a worldwide user base. At the end of May new Lancashire images became available on the Ancestry pages, including Quarter Sessions Petitions and some order books, so we expect to see the figure grow even more over the next 12 months. Ancestry can be used free of charge in our searchroom and in all Lancashire Libraries, but please remember that there are another 8 miles of archives for you to explore in our Bow Lane searchroom with friendly staff to answer your enquiries.

Jacque Crosby, Archives Manager

Creative Writing Workshop

Saturday 6 June, 1.30pm to 4.00pm

Following on from the success of *Not the Wipers Times*, Lancashire Archives and Preston Arts Association are joining forces

again for another creative writing project. This time, to get your creative juices flowing there will be a number of archives relating to Victorian Lancashire on display. Asylum case books, police handbills, love letters, theatrical

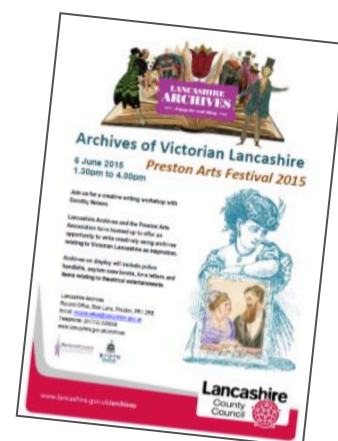
entertainments and apprenticeship indentures are just some of the archives full of stories to provide inspiration. The workshop will be led by Dorothy Nelson of the Preston Arts Association.

For more information or to book a place email Vicci McCann at: record.office@lancashire.gov.uk or telephone (01772) 533039.

Our next Saturday opening is 13 June

Remembering Mona – An LLHF Day School

The Lancashire Local History Federation is hosting a day school, *Remembering Mona*, which will be held on 27 June at Burscough Arts Centre. Dr Mona Duggan, whom this day remembers, first visited Lancashire Record Office as a schoolgirl in the 1940s. She became a well-known local historian, a President of the Lancashire Local History Federation and long-time Friend and supporter of Lancashire Archives. The topics of the speakers reflect Mona's interests: Prof. Michael Mullett *Mona Duggan and urban history*; Dr Melinda Elder *The marriage of sugar and slavery: exploring Lancaster's involvement*; Nigel Neil Lathom's *war horses: life & death at the Lathom Park First World War Remount*



Depot; David Brazendale *A view from the sea*. For more details and a booking form please contact Zoë Lawson at zoe.lawson@talktalk.net or phone 01772 865347.

Collections

Each month we bring you the highlights of this month's new acquisitions. In April we processed 11 deposits of documents, all of which were selected for permanent preservation.

Sales particulars for the Dutton Manor Estate (DDX 445)

The Dutton Manor Estate was purchased by Joseph Fenton around 1830, and remained in the family until 1919 when the death of Richard K Fenton led to the sale of the Estate by auction. The Estate included land in Ribchester, Dutton, Aighton Bailey, and Chaigley, Clayton-le-Dale and Thornley-with-Wheatley, and the various plots are described in detail in these sales particulars. The use and value of the land is given, as well as the tenant, making the sales particulars a potentially useful source for anyone with relatives living in the area. Photographs of some of the lots are also included.



HEYHURSTS FARM

Other deposits received were:

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| CR 19 | HM Coroner, Blackburn, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley - Inquest files 1999 |
| DDF | Farington of Worden, Leyland - Deeds and other papers relating to the Farington Estate 1674-1928 |
| DDX 2911 | Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Heritage impact assessment and archaeological evaluation of land adjacent to The Sheiling, Arkholme 2014-2015 |
| MLA | Lancaster Methodist Circuit - Including minutes, souvenir brochures and orders of service 1895-2013 |
| MPR 30 | Guttridge Memorial Methodist Church - Baptism registers 1905-2006; Marriage registers 1931-2009; Trustee papers |
| PR 3018 | Blacko Parish Council Minutes 1988-2007 |
| PR 3250 | Woodplumpton St Anne Marriage register 2007-2012 |
| CUHS | Dearden Gate Congregational Chapel, Haslingden - Minute book including baptism, marriage and burial records and a roll of members 1849-1930; Baptism register 1940-1996 |
| URHA | Haslingden United Reformed Chapel Minutes, scrapbooks, photographs and other church records 1814-2014 |
| URMR 6 | Lytham United Reformed Church - Marriage registers 1924-1988 |

**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