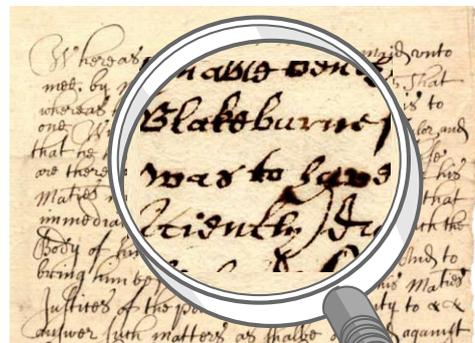


News from the Archives

Newsletter of Lancashire Archives



Archive Service update

September means the beginning of autumn and the start of a new term. The BBC are screening a new series of *Who Do You Think You Are* and, as the days get shorter, it's a good time for looking again at family history. Although a lot of research can be done online only a tiny proportion of Lancashire Archives holdings can be accessed in this way. Do come and visit – there's nothing like the real thing!

People starting their family history might like to take advantage of a workshop for beginners on Saturday 12 November. Further details are available on the Friends of Lancashire Archives website: www.flarchives.co.uk

This month there is a lot of good news to report: funding for cataloguing the wonderful Abbots stained glass archive; behind the scenes heritage tours on Saturday 10 September, and welcoming back our volunteers.

We're holding another user group meeting on **Tuesday 13 September 2016 at 2.00pm**, when I'll be giving an update on

service changes, listening to your views and giving you the opportunity to hear more about the Hulton of Hulton archive (DDHU) which has recently been catalogued.

Jacque Crosby, Archives Manager

Reading Latin at Keele

Our collections at Lancashire Archives are full of documents written in Latin, from medieval deeds to Catholic registers, but these can pose an understandable problem, both for our staff and users. Not only do we have to cope with documents written in a language which for many will be unfamiliar, but there are then the added problems of unusual letter forms and abbreviation marks to contend with.

As someone who never studied Latin at school I have always found this aspect of my job the most daunting. I did take a short Latin course as part of my archive qualification but as the focus of the module was on classical Latin and grammar I found that it offered little help when it came to tackling real documents. In an effort to try to bridge some of these gaps in my professional skills I was lucky enough to secure a bursary to attend the Latin and

Paleography summer school, held each year at Keele University.

The course has been running for 39 years, and a measure of its success is perhaps the number of repeat visitors, with one student having been to every single school. Each year there are two beginner's classes, in Latin grammar and reading medieval documents, and then additional specialist classes for those who are more confident with their Latin skills.

I chose to attend the course on reading medieval documents. Around two months before the course began I was sent scanned copies of the documents we would be studying, which included a range of deeds as well as manorial court rolls, accounts and wills. We were all expected to make an attempt to transcribe the documents in advance of the class, and so I arrived at Keele with partial translations, and a huge number of gaps.

The format of each teaching session was the same. We would move around the class with each student expected to read out a line in Latin, before working out the meaning of the document in English and being offered a translation. It was a painstakingly slow process to begin with, and certainly for myself an intimidating one as it really tested to the limits my existing knowledge and skills. However it was also amazing over the week to see the progress that students made.

I returned from the study school mentally exhausted but also full of new information, from a greatly expanded vocabulary to a better understanding of the rote phrases and formats of many of the documents in our care. Probably the greatest surprise was simply how much enjoyment I got from the course. The combination of the beautiful surroundings of Keele Hall and the many new people I met made for a brilliant week. For anyone looking to brush up on their own

Latin skills I can't recommend the course highly enough.

Keri Nicholson, Archivist

Volunteers

It has been a time of change and some upheaval in terms of our volunteering program. In the context of a shrinking budget and staff departures we have needed to think hard about how best to continue working with volunteers in a supportive and productive way. The last 27 years have shown just how much can be achieved and, whilst facing a large amount of uncertainty, we have remained determined to come up with a new, sustainable way of working with volunteers; maintaining the positives whilst having realistic aims. Back in April, we reluctantly stood down our volunteers to give ourselves breathing space in which to devise a cunning plan. By June, when most returned for an update, we explained how things were looking and since then things have continued to fall into place.

I'm delighted to report that our volunteers – who I'd like to thank for sticking with us! – will return to action on 19 September. The first "Volunteering Monday". Unfortunately we can no longer run volunteer groups on other days and are aware that this must have caused some disappointment. We have been really heartened though by everyone's flexible and supportive attitude. People are still really keen to volunteer with us and that's brilliant!

We have also been working with Lancashire OnLine Parish Clerk and The Friends of Lancashire Archives to develop new volunteer projects. These will give people the opportunity to work in the Lancashire Archives Searchroom, Tues- Fri (or at home), on indexes to a range of interesting and important archives. The OnLine Parish Clerk project, for example, has just got started and will result in an index to the

Burnley Workhouse admission registers we have. If you are interested in helping, more information is available from <http://www.lanopc.org.uk/>

Collections

Each month we bring you the highlights of this month's new catalogues. In July we processed 4 deposits of documents, all of which were selected for permanent preservation.

Wendy Simpson nee Greenhalgh, designer (DDX 3149)

While organising our Horrockses celebration event in March we were put into contact with Wendy Simpson, a former designer at the company who agreed to bring some of her work along to the event. Afterwards we were delighted when she agreed to deposit some of her designs with us. The collection includes both the original painted designs as well as in many cases samples of the finished fabric. After leaving Horrockses in the early 1960s Wendy went on to produce brochures and posters for Ribble buses, and these also form part of the collection.



Some of the other records selected include:

DDX 177 ACC12088 Photographic slides, negatives and prints likely to be preservation copies of material held within library collections

DDX 1143 Fenwick family of Burrow Hall; rental 1860-1920

DDX 3154 Withnell Brick and Terracotta Company Ltd; Business records including correspondence, manufacturing records, employee records, catalogues and other publicity material 1909-1979.

Heritage Open Day

On Saturday 10 September we will be taking part in the annual Heritage Open Day scheme in which local places with a story to tell open their doors to the public. Of course Lancashire Archives is open to the public every week and one Saturday a month but on this particular Saturday there will be the chance for a peek behind the scenes into one of our strongrooms, and also an exhibition of some of our favourite treasures from the collections. It's free and there is no need to book in advance.

Why not pick up a leaflet showing other places in and around Preston that are taking part and make a day of it?

Exhibition open 10am – 4pm

Behind the scenes tours at 11am 12am
1.30pm and 2.30pm



New Light Through Old Windows

We had some great news last week: Lancashire Archives has been awarded the Business Archives Council's cataloguing grant for 2016. The BAC is a charity which aims to promote the preservation of business records of historical importance and encourage interest in the study of business history. The £3000 grant will enable us to catalogue the archive of Abbott and Company of Lancaster, stained glass manufacturers (collection reference DDAB), which the Friends of Lancashire Archives helped purchase in 1996.

Founded in 1860 as plumbers and glaziers, initially by William Abbott, the company appears to have moved more into stained glass around 1890 under the management of his son James Hartley Abbott. The firm – one of a number in Lancaster – produced tens of thousands of pieces of both secular and ecclesiastical stained glass, many of which can still be seen in churches, hospitals, town halls, pubs and country houses, in Lancashire, across the UK and overseas. This wonderful archive comprises:

- thousands of watercolour designs – used to present an initial design to

the client and usually produced in pen and ink and watercolour

- cutline drawings – full size designs used for cutting the glass shapes
- day books – these give design number, customer name and address, description of work and are the most comprehensive record of the work undertaken by the company, including designs which may not have eventually been produced
- financial ledgers – a mix of day books, cash books and ledgers
- business correspondence

Once made more accessible, we hope these records will have a large and diverse audience, made up not just of historians, but of artists, architects, conservators and of people who will simply enjoy the beauty of stained glass as part of an exhibition or outreach activity.



David Tilsley, Archive Collections Manager

[Our next Tuesday late opening is 13 Sep until 7pm](#)

[Our next Saturday opening is 10 Sep 2016 from 10am to 4pm](#)

**ANY
COMMENTS?**

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