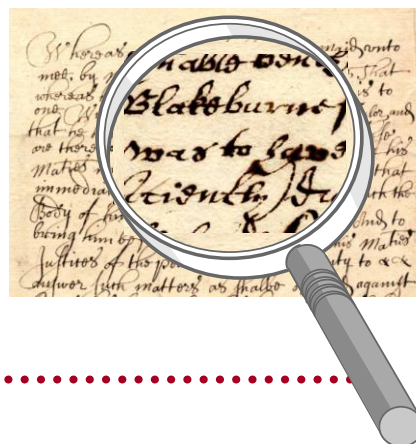




News from the Archives

Newsletter of Lancashire Archives



Archive Service update

For the second half of July we were grateful for our air-conditioned building as the temperatures outside climbed daily nearer to 30 degrees. It was good to know that not only were staff and visitors comfortable, but that the archives were also being kept cool in the climatically controlled strongrooms. We have a new exhibition in the searchroom to celebrate some of the delights of summers past – crowds of people at Blackpool station in 1916 and the Morecambe bathing beauty contests of the 1950s – whatever we may think of them now they are a part of Lancashire's rich history.

This display replaces our tribute to Glenn Swarbrick who retired in April. Covid prevented our giving him much of a send-off at that time so Mark, our archive conservator, planned another gathering for him...on the day the rains came. It was certainly an occasion to remember with fountains and a lake in the courtyard. We wish Glenn a long and happy retirement (although he does keep coming back to work on his family history in the searchroom) and we are delighted to

welcome Leanne Smith to his vacant post as conservation and audio technician.

The searchroom is getting busier and during August we'll be making plans for what our searchroom service in the future might look like, learning from our lockdown experiences and your feedback. We don't know when Lancashire County Council will allow us to increase visitor numbers, but we need to be prepared.

Jacque Crosby
Archives Service Manager



Blackpool Central Station 1916

A Liquid History

Mirador Arts and the Ribble Rivers Trust is about to submit a funding application for an ambitious and exciting 5-year arts and heritage project. *River Ribble Heritage Expo - A Liquid History* will look at the Ribble's natural, cultural, historical and social heritage, highlighting its international significance and aiming to connect diverse communities in the 21st century. Lancashire Archives has been a longstanding supporter of the project and, if the bid is successful, will no doubt have a big part to play in exploring the Ribble's heritage (post-Viking of course).

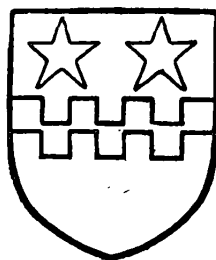
The application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund needs to demonstrate support for the project through a simple questionnaire. Please do fill it in **before midnight on Sunday 8 August**

All you need to do is click on this link: <https://forms.gle/QRzaKGb7ZESGwCKVA> and then hit submit at the end of the form.

Online Friends

The Friends of Lancashire Archives are hosting an online event from the USA. Professor Lawrence R Poos, of the Catholic University of America, will present:

Love, Hate, and the Law in Tudor Lancashire: The Three Wives of Ralph Rishton



Ralph Rishton (*circa* 1522-1573) was a member of an East Lancashire minor gentry family, who would have remained in obscurity if his matrimonial career had not left such a substantial trail in the records of courts of law. First married at the age of nine, to a wife who soon went insane while he was away at war, he bribed officials of the diocese of Chester to obtain a forged annulment in order to marry another woman he had impregnated. Within a few years he repudiated her to marry a third woman, with whose help he defrauded a cousin of a substantial inheritance. As he lay on his deathbed, a court case was pending in York to determine which (if any) of his marriages was lawful. Litigation over his property continued for more than a decade after his death.

This presentation is based upon a forthcoming book that disentangles the dozens of legal cases that the Rishtons found themselves in, in ten different courts from York and Lancaster to Chester and Westminster. The cases, especially the witness testimony recorded in them, make it possible to reconstruct their remarkable stories, and what they reveal about violence, marriage, and property during the 1500s.

The Rishton stories became a recurring chapter of local history through columns in Blackburn, Accrington, and Burnley newspapers in the early twentieth century, and this presentation will consider the role of antiquarians and the local press in forming historical memory.

A video of the talk (46.23 minutes) will be available on the Friends of Lancashire Archives [website](#) from 1 August along with details of a Q&A session with Professor Poos, on Wednesday 29 September.

Collections Care

Greetings from the depths of the Conservation workroom! You might not even know we *have* a Conservation workroom at Lancashire Archives, or perhaps you might only have caught the occasional peek – the merest hint of chunky, industrial-looking presses; rows of large, squat tables; and drawers upon shelves upon racks of papers, tissues, textiles and tools – before the doors slam shut and the glimpse is snuffed out (unfortunately, working with fragile documents dictates doors closed to draughts, and so doors closed to public).

Here are some examples of the kinds of things we deal with.



Map of Penny Street and St. Nicholas Street, Lancaster. A paper infill repair has protected and consolidated torn and fragile edges.



This register of services has suffered water damage which has dissolved the adhesive used to attach the cover (which is now peeling away) as well as causing discolouration and potential mould growth.



A bespoke box has been made on our box-making machine to house this parchment document and attached pendent seal (repaired with beeswax) This protects the seal from future bumps and scrapes, the kind of which caused the damage in the first place.

I do hope at some point soon we can return to times when visitors are able to visit, talk to and ask questions about Conservation. (I don't know what 'precedented times' are, but after living in 'unprecedented times' for the last year and a half, I long for them to return!).

The Conservation team has responsibility for ensuring the continued preservation of the documents and collections entrusted to the care of Lancashire Archives. The eternal dilemma of conservation is that handling is by far the most likely cause of damage to a document, but this very handling is often essential to view the information in the archive document itself. It's impossible to read a book without opening its cover for example!

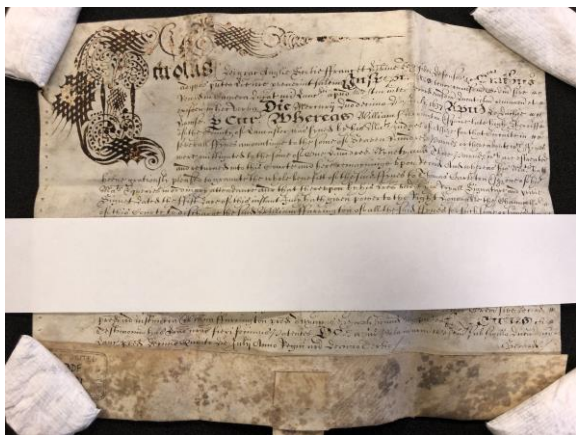
In the past, searchroom staff would offer researchers advice about how to handle documents, but this of course has been

made more difficult recently due to Covid social distancing and interaction-limiting restrictions.

So we have developed something which we hope will have value long after the pandemic has subsided: a short handling guidance booklet for our customers.

Here are the first two sections, the rest will be shared here over the next few months.

General Document Handling



Please do not let documents overhang the table edge.

Please keep documents flat, unfolded or unrolled on the table.

Please do not lean on, crease, or fold documents.

Place soft weights on corners and edges to hold a document open, avoiding fragile and damaged areas, and areas containing text and decoration.

Touch the document as little as possible. Use a paper marker instead of fingers to follow text.

Please keep multiple items in their original order.

Bound Items



Remove books from the shelf one at a time.

Do not pull books by the head (top) of the spine, pull with fingers and thumb around the middle of the spine.

Few books are designed to lie flat when opened; please do not force a binding open to look at a page.

Use book cushions to support the volume at an angle, minimising stress on the spine and binding.

Use snake weights at the outer margins of the book to hold open a page that wants to close (see photo above).

Use a paper marker instead of fingers to follow text.

Please take care when opening folded items attached inside books.

It is not all-encompassing (we know it's difficult enough when you sit down in the searchroom to get through reading all the material you *have* requested, let alone extra material you haven't!), however, I do hope you don't mind the little extra reading provided; it will go a long way to helping to ensure the preservation of these unique and irreplaceable documents long into the future.

Mark O'Neill, Liam McLaughlin and Leanne Smith

Conservation team, Lancashire Archives

Just the ticket

Before your visit please register online for a new Archives card <https://archivescard.com/>



The old CARN tickets are no longer valid.

Please upload a photograph during the online registration process and bring appropriate identification for us to check when you visit

Online Talks

We are really pleased to publish details of our online talk programme for the rest of this year.

There is no need to book – just click and join us on Zoom!

24 Aug 1-1.30pm

Oh I do like to be beside the seaside with Victoria McCann

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88056996886?pwd=UnprUVpydlIjM216aFZkZERrRkwyQT09>

Meeting ID: 880 5699 6886
Passcode: 662450

30 Sep 1-1.30pm

A Summer of Sport – celebrating Sports Heritage Day with Victoria McCann

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89267682022?pwd=ajBmQ05pSW4wd092cU1PWdI2YU9yZz09>

Meeting ID: 892 6768 2022
Passcode: 950850

29 Oct 6.30-7pm

The Witch of Woodplumpton with Kathryn Newman

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81640361254?pwd=N3JZVU80Q245MDQxMk10T3FJY2oxZz09>

Meeting ID: 816 4036 1254
Passcode: 409465

26 Nov 1-1.30pm

Not disabled, just differently abled - marking Disability History Month with Victoria McCann

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81485594746?pwd=ekxrNzgzbmV6cVVtYVB6K0VOL0xOQT09>

Meeting ID: 814 8559 4746
Passcode: 494976

14 Dec 4.30-5.30pm

Joy to the World with Victoria McCann and Kathryn Newman

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85884182038?pwd=Yi8xUk9mUURqVWV4Zld0ZEhScUNnUT09>

Meeting ID: 858 8418 2038
Passcode: 724718

Inside the box

The archive listing project, which is being funded by the Friends of Lancashire Archives, continues to make our uncatalogued collections more accessible.

Over the last few months the following collections have been listed:

DDX 1866: C Whittaker of Accrington, manufacturer of brick-making machinery, 1834-1972

HRLD: Lancaster Health Authority: additional records, 1974-1994

RDG: Garstang Rural District Council: additional records, 1934-1974

WBF: Fylde Water Board: additional records, 1884-1975

WBP: Preston and District Water Board, 1946-1974

More detailed descriptions of the records in each collection are available on the project blog, and the full catalogue descriptions have been uploaded onto our online catalogue LANCAT.

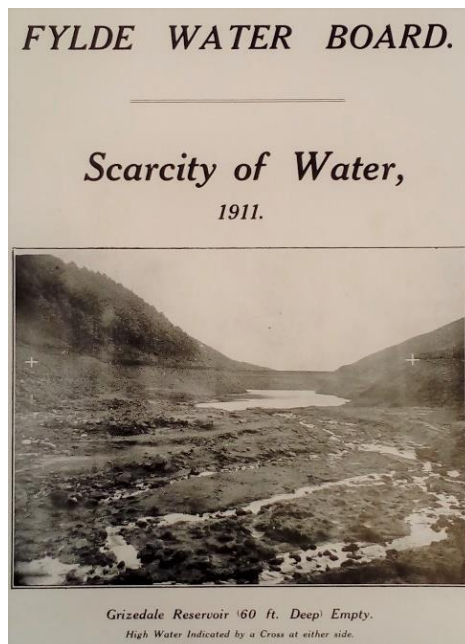
The project has now moved on to tackling the mammoth de Trafford of Trafford estate collection [ref: **DDTR**]. So far the collection has included deeds, accounts, cash books, manorial records, wage books, plans & correspondence. As the collection covers over 700 boxes it will be completed in stages, so keep an eye on the FLA Twitter feed (@flarchives) and the *Inside the Box* project blog (www.flarchives.co.uk/inside-the-box) for updates on progress.

Roz Williamson

Project Archivist



DDX 1866: Whittaker's brick making machinery at work



WBF: water shortages

**ANY
COMMENTS?**

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