

## Derbyshire Record Office

Issue 5

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Winter

2011

### **‘Picture the Past’ reaches 90,000 images!**

The 'Picture the Past' project, previously based at Heanor Library, relocated to Derbyshire Record Office in July this year and has even more cause for celebration having just added their 90,000<sup>th</sup> image.

Project Manager, Nick Tomlinson says “Adding the 90,000<sup>th</sup> image has given us a tremendous sense of achievement and marks the continued efforts of everybody involved, from sourcing the images in the libraries and museums through to scanning and annotating them ready for upload to the website.”

Read more about ‘Picture the Past’ and see a selection of their festive images on pages 4 and 5.



*DCCC001328: Getting coal in Brockwell, Chesterfield during the Miners Strike in 1912*

### **Building Update**

Much work is being done on the record office site on New Street in Matlock. Many of you will be aware that the services provided by the record office have relocated as work is carried out including the renovation of the Wyvern House building (the new home for the Local Studies Library) and the construction of a purpose building storage area for our unique historical collections.

For more information see page 8.

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## One Hour Challenge

Archivists Becky Sheldon and Mark Smith, were asked to “give an hour” as part of a BBC campaign to inspire people to go online, showing just how much you can find out about your family history using the internet. The results were aired on BBC Radio Derby’s breakfast show.

For information on getting started in family history download our information sheet *Tracing Your Family’s Roots in Derbyshire* from our website <http://bit.ly/t7PLAr>

## An overview of the recent news

Derbyshire Record Office has been as busy as ever during the last few months. As well as keeping our public Search Room open we have also held a number of events.

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**Barlow Parish Day** In October record office staff were invited to take part in the Parish Open Day at St Lawrence’s Church, Barlow. Along with a display of records from the parish collection, including workhouse records, census returns and churchwardens’ accounts, archivist Karen Millhouse was on hand to answer questions relating to family history and the work of the record office. It was a very successful day and we would like to thank the people of Barlow for their warm welcome and hospitality.

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## Local History at Alfreton

In September record office staff attended a Local History Open Day at Alfreton Library. More than 130 people came to view items from our collections, get advice on family history research, and find out about all the resources available in the library, record office and Local Studies Library. Picture the Past were also there promoting their website and displaying images of the local area.



Visitors were given the chance to dress up in Victorian clothes and take away a photograph of themselves in costume. Record office staff Mark Smith and Vicky Wade were happy to volunteer!

## Adult Learners Events

In October, the record office delivered three pilot sessions for adult learners in North East Derbyshire as part of their family history course. The sessions were very well received by the tutor and students, many of whom had their first ever chance to look at and handle original documents, some up to 400 years old. The aim was to introduce the students to the range of records available at the record office, and encourage them to work out how each type of record could help them find out more about their ancestors. As well as an introduction to our services, the three sessions included original parish registers, court records, school records and electoral registers relating to the three areas where the sessions were held.

We are in the process of reviewing the education and learning services we provide, for more information about courses, including family history courses offered by the Derbyshire Adult Community Education Service, run by the County Council, please see <http://bit.ly/uFPE4j>

## Spinning a Tale

'Belper Through the Eyes of the Strutts' was the title of the talk delivered by archivist Mark Smith as part of the World Heritage Site's Discovery Days programme which ran in October. Illustrated with images from our collections, Mark examined how the development of Belper as a living and working environment is reflected in the business and personal papers of the Strutt family, cotton mill owners. Following the talk there were time for questions and the opportunity to look at original material from record office collections.

The record office will feature in next autumn's Discovery Days programme of events so be sure to check the local press and on line for further details nearer the time.

## Artist in Residence

Derby-based artist Paula Moss will be working with the record office over the next year as our Artist in Residence. Paula will work with the building design team, record office and local studies staff to create art works and a vibrant and welcoming interior to our New Street building.

Paula will also be involving our customers, as well as people who don't currently use the record office, to help develop the look and feel of the building, and encourage a wider range of people to come and use us when we re-open. Keep an eye out for your chance to have a say about our new building!



We're very pleased that this project has recently been awarded Archive Pace Setter status. The Archive Pace Setter scheme was set up by the National Council on Archives to recognise innovative projects within the archive sector.



# Picture a Christmas Past

'Picture the Past' (or to use its full name: The North East Midlands Photographic Record) is a not-for-profit project working to scan and preserve historic images from library and museum collections across the whole of Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. The images are made freely available for everyone to enjoy via their website [www.picturethepast.org.uk](http://www.picturethepast.org.uk).

'Picture the Past' have a truly diverse set of photographs in their collections and this small selection below shows just a few of their photographs based around the theme of Winter. Some of them certainly put last year's cold spell into perspective!



*DCBR000159 - Model Village School Class, Shirebrook, Christmas 1917*



*DCHP000236 - Mr and Mrs Garner's home in the snow, Peak Dale, 1963*



*NTGM010077 - Old Market Square, Nottingham, c1950s*



*DCHQ006226 - Sledging at Hall Bank, Buxton, 1940s*



*DCBM200278 - A frozen Kinder Downfall, 1930's - Can you spot the three men?*

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### **‘Picture the Past’ welcomes a new recruit**

There has recently been a change to the staffing on the project with Anna Starkey leaving the team to go to Scotland to undertake a scholarship in Conservation. After advertising for a replacement we are pleased to announce the appointment of Jamie Davis to fill her place. We wish Anna all the best and hope Jamie settles in well to his new role.



*Jamie processing a new photograph*

# News from the Local Studies Library

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Have you ever wondered what a local studies librarian typically spends their time doing? Below is a list of the sort of enquiries that they deal with on a day-to-day basis.

- ◆ A request to search local trade directories in search of a pub on the county borders in the late nineteenth century
  - ◆ Two separate TV companies wanting background information for programmes they were making for Autumn 2011
- ◆ Someone requiring information on the founder of the College for the Deaf in Derby
  - ◆ A visit from a member of the public who came in to research the navigability of the local river
- ◆ Someone interested in finding a local newspaper report of the death of a motorcyclist in 1951
  - ◆ A enquiry from an American visitor who had come in to research her family, who lived at a local manor house. She was delighted with the amount of resources available at Local Studies
- ◆ A request to trace a book containing original water colours by a Victorian artist, which the enquirer thought they saw in a Derby museum in 1995
  - ◆ A request from a local resident to print more copies of a small book which the library produced for him due to increasing demand for the publication
- ◆ A colleague from another council department enquired whether Local Studies could suggest a local book suitable for official presentations

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## Local Studies Staff

### Local Studies Librarians

Lisa Langley Fogg  
Sue Peach

### Support Assistants

Sue Hulse  
Norma Rickards

### Library Assistants

Sue Band  
Barbara Owen  
Julie Welch



# Meet the staff: Stewart Sandars

Many of our regular customers will recognise Stewart Sandars, but what you might not know about are the many varied roles Stewart undertakes to help keep the archive service running behind the scenes.

Stewart's current role is acting as the link between the staff at the record office and the contractors who are currently undertaking the extensive building work as part of the record office's extension and refurbishment. This is just one of many roles that he has undertaken in his 12 years service with the record office.

Stewart's primary role is ensuring the maintenance of the record office building on New Street and making sure that it is a safe environment to work in. This includes supervising site maintenance on this site and at our out-store at St. Mary's Gate in Derby. Alongside this Stewart also retrieves and returns documents from our out-store for the public to consult in the record office Search Room, underpinning this core public service.

Another of Stewart's more interesting roles has been collecting documents which are to be added to our collections of archives. This could be anywhere from large factories in Chesterfield to farms in Staffordshire, where he collected some unique Rolls Royce plans! In this role Stewart has been as far away as Potters Bar in London and Llandudno in North Wales.

Stewart originally began his career in the hotel and pub industry as a manager for over ten years. He then moved on to work as a self-employed builder and roofing contractor from 1984 to 2001. These varied experiences have amply prepared Stewart for the many varied duties that he has undertaken working for the record office from meeting the public to supervising building work.

One of the most satisfying aspects of Stewart's role is the people that he meets every day in the course of his work:

*It's the people I work with every day,  
and the people I meet that makes the  
job so worthwhile*

As 2012 approaches Stewart is most looking forward to seeing the ongoing building work on the record office.

In his spare time Stewart enjoys going to the gym, walking, and is an avid reader (and all of this as well as finding time to build his own home!).



# Renovating the Record Office

Many of our regular readers will know that the record office site is currently being renovated and extended. See below for more information.



Work has now started on our exciting building project at New Street. Wates Construction are carrying out the £4 million project, which will take place over 2012.

The ground is now being prepared for a new storage block – the essential job of putting in the supporting piles that will make sure the building stands firm will take until Christmas.

At the same time as building the new storage block, Wates will be carrying out a major renovation of Wyvern House, a Victorian building that joins on to the record office. Wyvern House will give us new space for public access to local studies material, new customer toilets, a snack area, where customers can take a break, and a public education / meeting room.

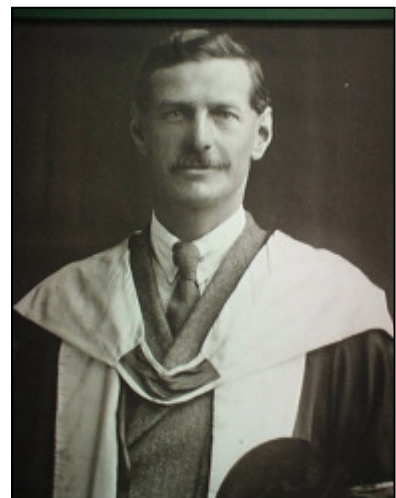
We'll keep you updated with progress on the building project in future newsletters and on our blog (<http://recordoffice.wordpress.com/>).

## **Buxton Museum and Art Gallery: Dawkins and Jackson Archive Project**

Clare Mosley, our Assistant Conservator, is currently working on archival collections held at Buxton Museum & Art Gallery. These are the archives and libraries of Prof. Sir William Boyd Dawkins (1837-1929) and Dr J. Wilfrid Jackson (1880-1978), who were geologists associated with Derbyshire, and curators at Manchester Museum.

The archives cover significant developments in both archaeology and geology from Dawkins' early work in the 1860s until Jackson's death in 1978. Their research work and scientific discoveries influenced the current understanding of the history of the planet.

Clare's role is to preserve and store the archives in suitable packaging, in an attempt to limit the need for any future conservation work and enable original documents to be handled safely by researchers. Clare will also identify any conservation needs for the documents. The outcome of the project will be that the collection is packaged to archival standards and made more accessible to researchers.



*Dr. Wilfred Jackson  
(c/o Buxton Museum  
and Art Gallery)*

# Services Offered by Derbyshire Record Office

The record office offers a number of different services for members of the public.

## Public Search Room

We have a public Search Room open from 9.30-4.45 Monday-Friday and 9.30-4.00 one Saturday per month (more information on page 11). As part of the ongoing building work at our New Street site our services are now split between the crèche building (on the County Hall complex) and the Local Studies Library. Original manuscript documents can be consulted in the crèche Search Room and material on microfilm including parish registers can be consulted at the Local Studies Library. Before making a visit please telephone us on 01629538347 or email [Record.office@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:Record.office@derbyshire.gov.uk) or for more information see our website [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/recordoffice](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/recordoffice).

## Reprographics

We have a very popular reprographics service which allows many documents at the record office to be photocopied. Other larger items (or items which you want colour copies of) can be scanned. Because of the delicate nature and size of some of the documents it is not always possible to have document scanned or photocopied, in these instances using our digital photography service might be the most appropriate option.

## Search Service

If you can't come into the record office to do your research in person then you might like to use our popular search service. This paid service involves one of the record office's professionally qualified archivists conducting research on your behalf. You can pay for up to 3 hours of archivists time and once the archivist has completed the allocated amount of work they write a formal research report summarising their findings and usually enclosing copies of any relevant records.

## Record Office Staff

### Archives and Local Studies Manager

Sarah Chubb

### Archivists

Paul Beattie  
Karen Millhouse  
Becky Sheldon  
Mark Smith

### Record Assistants

Paul Darby  
James Davis  
Helen Ellis  
Jasmin Ponsford  
Vicky Wade

### Search Room Supervisor

Anne Lawley

### Stack Room Assistants

Matthew Allen  
Alan Doxey

### Conservation

Lien Gyles  
Clare Mosley

### General Assistant

Stewart Sandars

### Secretary

June Hambleton

### Records Management

David Jenkins

# New Accessions

Derbyshire Record Office is continuously adding to its collections, from September to December we took in over 70 accessions. Below is just a small selection of the new material which has been donated to, or deposited in the record office.

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New Accessions have included a train register for New Mills South Junction Signal Box (D7576); papers relating to the Every family of Eggington including papers of Sir Henry Every in the office of High Sheriff of Nottingham (D5236).

Welcome additions to our parish collections include papers of Eggington Parish Council (D7514), confirmation and burial registers of Barlow Parish, St Lawrence (D975), and parish records for Carsington Parish (D2681) to name but a few.

Non conformist records continue to feature largely and we accepted material from Long Eaton Methodist Circuit (D1213) and individual churches including Bethel (D4161), Christ Church (D4161) and Trinity (D4583). We have also received records of Stanton By Dale Methodist Church (D4153), Oaker Side Methodist Church (D4308) and Wensley Wesleyan Methodist Church (D4304) amongst others.

We are happy to add to our business collections material relating to Sims & Sons, shovel manufacturers of New Whittington, 1939 (D7512) and business papers of the Clay Cross Co Ltd c1824-1966 (D7519).

Club, societies, charities and organisations were represented by minutes, photographs and accounts of Gladstone Youth Club, Ilkeston (D7489), records of Brailsford & District Ploughing and Hedgecutting Society c1937-2011 (D2392), a dvd of the Burma Star Association Commemoration Service at Derby Cathedral, 2011, from Amber Valley Camcorder Club (D7517), records from Longstone Local History Group (D4719) and papers of Ilkeston & District Local History Society 1906-1971 (D7491).

## **How to transfer archives to Derbyshire Record Office**

Derbyshire Record Office is the only place in the county and city of Derby which meets national standards for archives. If you have archives for transfer, first contact us either by email ([record.office@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:record.office@derbyshire.gov.uk)), by post (Derbyshire Record Office, County Hall, Matlock, DE4 3AG), or by telephone (01629 538347). Records can be transferred to the record office by *gift*, where records are donated to Derbyshire County Council to be held at the record office; by *transfer*, where records are those of a local authority or similar institution, including schools; or by *deposit*, especially for institutions and organisations who wish to retain ownership of their records but wish to transfer custody to Derbyshire Record Office.

*Many thanks to everyone who has added material to our collections.*

## Photography at the Record Office

The record office is pleased to announce that, after consulting with users, particularly through 2011's PSQG National User Survey, self-service digital photography will be available in the record office search room from April 2012.

We hope that users will find this new service useful and that it helps with your research.

For more information about using this service contact the Duty Archivist on 01629 539207 or email [Record.office@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:Record.office@derbyshire.gov.uk)



## Thinking of visiting the Record Office?

Opening Hours:  
Monday-Friday  
9.30-4.45

Saturday (one per month)  
9.30-4.00

Bank Holiday closing: see page 12 for our Christmas and New Year opening hours.

Our temporary relocation has resulted in a number of changes to the way users can access our material.

We do advise members of the public to contact us before planning a visit. For more information on these changes see our website: [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/recordoffice](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/recordoffice), or call us on 01629538347

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## Opening Closed Doors

Derbyshire Record Office is part of a project to encourage museums and archives to loan out material for display in other institutions.

'Opening Closed Doors' is a project led by Derbyshire Museums Forum supported by a grant from the Renaissance East Midlands Museum Development Network. Buxton Museum & Art Gallery, Bakewell Old House Museum, Erewash Museum and Barrow Hill Engine Shed are also taking part in the project.

This is an exciting opportunity for us to learn the processes involved in loaning items to museums, and open out our collections to new audiences. Star items from our collections should be on view possibly as early as the end of March.

For more information on this initiative please contact Sarah Chubb (Archives and Local Studies Manager) on 01629539201 or email [Sarah.chubb@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:Sarah.chubb@derbyshire.gov.uk)

# Upcoming Events & News

Derbyshire Record Office holds a number of outreach events each year. Some of our forthcoming events can be found below.

## PhD researchers wanted!

Dr. Paul Elliott, Reader in History at the University of Derby, invites proposals for doctoral study in history or historical geography. If you are a graduate with second or first class honours degree and have proposals for a thesis or would like to discuss undertaking a doctorate then please email Dr. Elliott on [p.elliott@derby.ac.uk](mailto:p.elliott@derby.ac.uk)

## “The Female Of the Derbyshire Species”

A new online exhibition is now available at <http://bit.ly/oz15DW> featuring original archives relating to Derbyshire’s women including Florence Nightingale (pictured, D2546) and Joan Waste. Find out more about women’s history in Derbyshire by visiting the record office through this fascinating exhibition.



## Christmas Opening Hours



During the festive season we will be closed on: 24th, 26th, and 27th December.

We will be open as usual on 28th, 29th, 30th and closed on 31st December and 2nd January.

**We would like to wish all our users a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

## Contact Details

Should you have any queries you would like the record office to answer, either about our services, or about this newsletter there are a number of ways to contact us.



**By post:**  
Derbyshire Record Office  
County Hall  
Matlock  
DE4 3AG



**By email:**  
[Record.office@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:Record.office@derbyshire.gov.uk)

**By fax:** 01629 536522

### Our website:

[www.derbyshire.gov.uk/recordoffice](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/recordoffice)

The current edition of this newsletter and past editions can be found on our website

### By telephone:



Searchroom:  
01629538347

Duty Archivist:  
01629539207

General Office:  
01629539202

Conservation:  
01629539204

Records Management:  
01629 539203