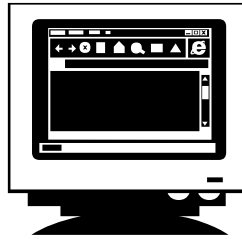


"If you need this information in large print, Braille, other language or on audio cassette please ask"

Archive Discovery Zone



Why not revisit the Archives Discovery Zone and take a look at our latest featured document and featured collection.

To celebrate the 60th anniversary of the National Health Service our new featured document is a sixteenth century medical recipe book. The page we have chosen has recipes for "A notable water for the dimness of the sighte" and "for deene and noyse in the heade". While some of the herbal ingredients are now popular again, some, such as the liver of a he-goat, might put some people off!

Now that summer has come, with its rain and squalls, it is time to turn to our national summer game – cricket. The records of Burton Cricket Club contain a number of interesting items, including fixture lists and score books. The club was fortunate enough to attract the services of one of the world's top bowlers, the Australian, Frederick Spofforth, who retired from international cricket to become a tea-dealer. He played a number of matches for the club whilst he lived in Derbyshire.

Publications

We have also recently improved the Publications section of the website, dividing it into a number of pages, to make it easier for you to find what you want. You can also now see images of the front covers of the various items on sale. Publications can be ordered by post from Staffordshire Record Office, or bought over the counter at Staffordshire Record Office, Lichfield Record Office and Stoke on Trent City Archives. If you are travelling to make a purchase please ring to ensure that the publications you want are in stock.

Introduction of Camera Permits

From 1 September 2008, we will be introducing permits for the use of cameras in any of the Archive Service reading rooms. Anyone wishing to use their own camera or a camera in a mobile phone to take photographs of documents in the care of the Archive Service will be required to purchase a permit. This decision follows consultation with the Service's user groups.

Readers can obtain a permit for a day (£4-00), five days (£15-00) or a year (£30-00). These fees apply irrespective of the number of photographs taken. A single permit can be used at any of our three Record offices.

The Archive Service made a charge for private photography until 2003. However the free use of cameras, in place for the last five years, has had a significant and increasing impact on the income which supports our budget. If this trend continues, there will ultimately be an impact on service provision and this is why we have found it necessary to re-introduce photography charges.

If you require further details, then please ask for a leaflet at any of our three Record Offices.



Lichfield Study Day

Another major activity to provide access to the Sutherland papers has been the series of study days held across the county. The last one, in May took place at the Garrick Theatre, Lichfield. Historians Professor Adrian Randall and Mr John Sutton combined with Project staff to show how the papers could be used to deepen our knowledge of the city's history.

A full report on the Project will appear in the next issue.

Writing your Family History

A four week workshop at Stoke on Trent City Archives will run in the autumn. It will be led by Stoke on Trent Libraries' writer-in-residence Nicholas Corder and David Seagrave, the Librarian at Stoke on Trent Archives. Participants will find out how to go about writing up their research in a friendly readable format.

Contact David on 01782 238420 to register your interest. Dates and times will be advertised in the Stoke on Trent Reading Room as soon as they are available

Results of 2007 Survey of Visitors to British Archives

In November 2007 you may remember being asked, on a visit to any of our three record offices, to complete a questionnaire about our services as part of the National Survey of Visitors to British Archives. The results of this survey have now been published and we would like to thank everyone who took the trouble to complete the survey form.

Improvements since the last survey

The last National Visitor Survey was in February 2006. Over the intervening 18 months, we have continued to improve the range and quality of our services for users in response to the steer from previous surveys. The changes made have included: fitting large magnification lenses to a number of microform readers across the Service; the purchase of the Indexes to Divorces, 1858-1958, available in all three reading rooms; the introduction of an in-house photography service to extend reprographics options; extending the microfiche coverage

of parish registers at Stoke on Trent City Archives; publishing the Staffordshire Police Register indexes online; and publishing fully revised versions of the Colliery Records and Manorial Records hand-lists online.

The Archive Service web site www.staffordshire.gov.uk/archives has also been regularly updated and expanded in terms of the information it contains. New features and content have been added and if you have not visited the site recently, then do take a look, especially at the Archive Discovery Zone section.

How you rated us

The table below shows composite results for the Archive Service (Staffordshire Record Office, Lichfield Record Office and Stoke on Trent City Archives) for the 2007 survey against the results for 2006. We have been really pleased to see the overall customer satisfaction at the highest level which we have ever achieved.

	% of visitors rating services very good or good in 2007	% increase / decrease on 2006 survey
Advance information	96.6 %	+ 2.2%
Web site	85.8 %	-3.9%
Opening hours	92.2%	-0.7%
Physical access to the building	93.8%	-0.8%
Visitor facilities	84.5 %	+3.2%
Catalogues, indexes leaflets	92.6 %	-3.3%
Document delivery	97.4 %	+1%
Microform facilities	94.0 %	+2.8%
Copy services	87.7 %	+2.6%
On-site IT facilities	84.9 %	-0.5%
Quality of staff's advice	99.4 %	+1.6%
Helpfulness and friendliness of staff	99.4 %	+1.1%
Service and facilities overall	98.9 %	+1.5%

What we plan to do next

This summer we will be drawing up the new Forward Plan for the Archive Service for the next three years from 2009 to 2012. So we will be looking at the areas where you thought we were less strong to see what we can do to improve. We will certainly be looking at how we promote improvements and changes more effectively so that more

people are aware of the work which goes on to make our service better.

If you have any suggestions for improvements please fill in a comments form and post it into the box at the office you are visiting. Alternatively please write to Thea Randall, County Archivist, Staffordshire Record Office, Eastgate Street, ST16 2LZ. Email: thea.randall@staffordshire.gov.uk

Sutherland Collection Website now online

The Sutherland Papers Project began in August 2006 and is now nearing completion. One of the major goals of the Project was to increase the accessibility of the papers. The way we have chosen to do this has been to create a website which is now accessible at www.sutherlandcollection.org.uk.

The website has images of documents with transcriptions, explanations and guides to the content of this vast archive. We have structured the site around seven major themes

Places

People

Progress

Estate

Power

Philanthropy

Extraordinary

We have in addition some longer articles contributed by users of the archive about their own research. The site will continue to expand over the next few months and when completed will have around 1900 pages.

There is a personal name index that has been compiled from some of the many lists of names that the Sutherland archive contains. This has been a major piece of work that we could not have completed without the help of many volunteers who have indexed, typed, transcribed and contributed articles. We are very grateful to them all.

VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY



Staffordshire

The Staffordshire Victoria County History is now working on the north-west of the county, and amongst the manuscript collections being researched SRO, D. (W.) 1788 is proving to be most rewarding. Deposited in the earlier 1950s by the owners of the Aqualate Hall estate on Forton (on the county boundary with Shropshire), the archive includes many working papers of George Boughey (d. 1788), a London lawyer whose great fortune (around £100,000) devolved on John Fenton, the great-grandson of his mentor and uncle, John Cradock of Audley and Betley (d. 1758).

It was Cradock who sent Boughey to London in 1729, and the collection contains a letter written by George only a couple of weeks after his arrival, asking his uncle for money (but to buy books: he was evidently very serious!) and commenting on his career prospects. He spent most of his life based in rooms in the Inner Temple, raking in money.

Back in Staffordshire, Cradock was making his own mark as a lawyer, and the archive is particular rich in his papers. He comes across very much as Mr Fix-It, running the affairs of the grammar school at Audley and the parish charities, although his management style was somewhat oppressive: when Richard Kelsall, the schoolmaster, wrote and asked for his salary in 1759, Cradock endorsed the letter – impertinent! He arranged for the capital left to endow charities in Audley and Talk to be invested in land, in order to secure them, but his motives may not have been entirely pure, as his actions gave him some influence in how the charities were administered.

Cradock also acted on behalf of George Tollet of Betley, when the latter was outlawed in the Isle of Man in the 1720s, and kept a detailed record of all his expenses. Indeed, a clerical neighbour distrusted his motives in looking after Tollet, branding him as 'knavish and base', and Cradock tried to trap him into making a more explicit denunciation so that he could bring a case for libel against him. Cradock seems to have hoped that Tollet's estate would fall to him as the result of a failure of heirs, and he made memoranda about how best to proceed in this eventuality.

But Cradock also had a more noble side, making improvements at his own expense to roads in Audley and doing his best in 1754 to support Theodosia Bate, whose husband John, a colliery owner in Audley, died after falling into a coal pit, leaving her with several young children. She survived financially and was still running the mine at her own death in 1768. Cradock's papers also contain a file relating to the construction of a west gallery in Audley church in 1720; the papers include a signed petition by most of the parish householders, supporting an application to the bishop to grant a faculty for the gallery.

So far, nearly half the collection has been checked, but as nearly every parcel has to be looked at in order to find what it contains, it will take a couple more weeks to complete. No doubt there will be many other documents which will greatly illuminate the history of the Audley area in the 18th century.

Nigel Tringham

New Publications

New publications from the Archive Service include prints of two of the most attractive county maps of Staffordshire.

George Bickham's Map of Staffordshire, 1754 was in a completely new style, quite different to the orthodox style of map making. It depicts an idealised and picturesque view of the 18th century Staffordshire landscape. The names of towns are placed where the mapmaker estimated them to be and the map does not attempt to be accurate. However this full coloured map is very appealing for its unusual depiction of the county. Price: £5-00 inclusive of post and packing.

John Speed's highly decorative, coloured map of Staffordshire, 1610, has also been reproduced. Speed's maps are striking for the amount of extra detail included. He cleverly used the blank areas outside the outline of the county boundary to include an illustration of the Battle of Blore Heath, 1459, as well as plans of Stafford and Lichfield with a key to the names of the streets as they were in 1610. Price: £7-50 inclusive of post and packing.

Another new publication is a reprint of A List of Families in the Archdeaconry of Stafford, 1532-1533, first published by the Staffordshire Record Society in 1976.. It contains some 51,000 names arranged in family groups within parish and townships. At the time the archdeaconry covered most of the county. The document which is held at the Lichfield Record Office is particularly interesting because it also includes names of dead family members. Price: £9-95 plus £2-00 postage.

Recent Acquisitions

Staffordshire Record Office

We are very pleased to have received the records of two sporting organisations. Cannock Bowling Green Club dates back at least to the middle of the 18th century, and its records date from 1883 and include a full set of minutes. Staffordshire Ladies County Golf Association celebrated its centenary in 2007, and has now deposited its minutes and match records. We have also received the minutes of Armitage Club and Institute, 1914-1984. This was a social and staff club connected with Armitage Shanks, the sanitary ware pottery works near Rugeley.

We are continuing to add to our recent acquisitions of school records dating from the 19th century, this time an additional collection relating to three Gnosall schools, and the records of Hassell Street Schools in Newcastle-under-Lyme.

A collection of records about Rudyard Reservoir adds to the history of climate change, by showing the daily rainfall and water levels at the reservoir for the local railway and canal companies from 1896 until the 1950s.

An unusual business-related record is a journal of a visit to the United States in 1920 by an engineer on behalf of WH Dorman. This includes rough sketches of engineering designs, as well as acting as a travel journal. Two other sets of business records relate to Burgess' Agricultural Stores in Eccleshall, and the Phoenix Tannery at Rugeley.

We have continued to receive records from Anglican parishes, including 19th century registers from Little Aston, and Rough Close mission church, the latter partially including entries from other churches.

New Online Guides to Sources

The Archive Service's Colliery Records and Manorial Records Guides to Sources have been fully revised and published on our web site. You can find these under Publications at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/archives

Staff changes

Janet Cox, who had been a part-time archives assistant since April 2006, left Lichfield Record Office in June for a well-deserved retirement. We wish her well for the future and are grateful for her enthusiastic and positive support for the service in her time here.

Comments or Suggestions...

Any comments or suggestions on the contents of Time 2 Time please send them to: Matthew Blake, Staffordshire Record Office, Eastgate Street, Stafford. ST16 2LZ
E-mail: matthew.blake@staffordshire.gov.uk

National Year of Reading

This September to mark the National Year of Reading the Archive Service is running an event based around the many letters it has in its collections. Called Hidden Voices, the project is a joint one with the Haywood Players. The Haywood Players will be bringing these letters to life by reading out chosen extracts from selected letters. These include letters from an English army officer as they were about to attack New York in the 1770's, captured letters from the German trenches at the battle of Loos (1915) and a letter from the mid 15th century, one of the earliest of its kind from Staffordshire.

Venue 1 : Staffordshire Record Office

Date : Thursday 25 September 2008

Time : 2-30 p.m.

Tickets £4-50 from Staffordshire Record Office
Booking in advance - limited availability

Venue 2 : Lichfield Cathedral Visitor Study Centre, The Close, Lichfield

Date : Tuesday 30 September 2008

Time : 7-30 p.m.

Tickets £4-50 from Staffordshire Record Office
Booking in advance - limited availability

Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Archive Service
website: <http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/archives/>

Staffordshire Record Office

Eastgate Street, Stafford ST16 2LZ
Mon, Tues, Thurs 9-5, Wed 9-8, Fri 9.30-4.30, Sat 9-4
Tel. (01785) 278373
E-mail: staffordshire.record.office@staffordshire.gov.uk
Appointments essential

William Salt Library

19 Eastgate Street, Stafford ST16 2LZ
Tues-Thurs 9-1 and 2-5, Fri 9.30-1 and 2-4.30
1st Saturday in each calendar month 9-1
Tel. (01785) 278372
E-mail: william.salt.library@staffordshire.gov.uk

Lichfield Record Office

The Friary, Lichfield WS13 6QG
Mon, Tues, Wed and Fri 9.30-5 Thurs 11.30-7
2nd Saturday in each calendar month 9.30-12.30
Tel. (01543) 510720
E-mail: lichfield.record.office@staffordshire.gov.uk
Appointments essential

Stoke on Trent City Archives

Hanley Library, Bethesda Street, Hanley,
Stoke on Trent ST1 3RS
Tues, Wed, Thurs 9-7.30 Fri 9-5 Sat 9-4
Tel. (01782) 238420
E-mail: stoke.archives@stoke.gov.uk
Appointment essential

Burton Upon Trent Family and Local History Centre

Burton Library, Riverside, High Street
Burton upon Trent DE14 1AH
Mon, Wed, Fri 9-6 Tues 10-6 Thurs 9-8 Sat 9-4.30
Tel. (01283) 239556
E-mail: burton.library@staffordshire.gov.uk
Appointments essential