



NEWSLETTER

Working for Archives

March 2016

Series 4, Number 1

Welcome

to the first Newsletter of the re-launched BRA which will be issued three times a year in March, July and November, fitting around the publication schedule for *Archives*. You will continue to find news about the BRA, its events and activities but there will also be a round-up of information of general interest to members. So if you have any news to share, events to promote, exhibitions to publicise please send details to the Newsletter editor: janet@janetfoster.net by 30th June for Newsletter no. 2. It would also be helpful to hear from members about what you would like to see in the Newsletter.

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Onwards and Upwards

Julia Sheppard, Chair

'Onwards and Upwards' was my school motto. Maybe it rubbed off on me. Anyway - I am delighted to be able to write here not only of our continued existence following the EGM last November, but of the steps now being taken to effectively re-launch the British Records Association. It was gratifying to receive so many communications from members and others, in the profession and outside, who wanted to see an independent BRA continue. They made clear their belief in our ability to change and survive. I have been greatly encouraged by the many letters of support and offers of help as well as the number of new members who have joined the Association since November.

Changes are now being implemented. They will not all happen overnight and certainly there is much to be done, but there is a determination to ensure that the BRA is not only viable but more effective. Our aims and objectives are set out in the Constitution, starting with the statement that we 'promote for the public benefit the preservation, understanding, accessibility and study of our recorded heritage'.

Prior to the AGM I had been Acting Chair after the resignation of Anthony Smith and am now Chair. Penny Baker was elected Vice Chair and Chair of the Records Preservation Section. Eldon Allison, a qualified accountant, is now our Hon Treasurer replacing Kiru Raguranam. John Davies, known to many BRA members, is again our Hon Secretary, a post which had been vacant for some time. Ruth Paley was re-elected Editor of *Archives* and Nat

Alcock, RPS Chair from 2014, is now General Editor. Thanks were expressed to all for their work and especially to Anthony Smith for his total commitment and many hours labour on behalf of the Association: as RPS Chair 2006-2014 and Chair of Council 2012-2015.

These are some of the things we are doing:

We have already produced a double issue of *Archives* and plan to publish two more issues this year. It is our intention to redesign our peer reviewed journal to give it a modern look and feel.

We also plan to move to e-publications, with a hard copy journal for those who still wish to receive it in that form.

We are working to assist and promote records preservation, in conjunction with The National Archives (TNA) and others, in this time of stringency for all.

We are working with partners to deliver all our objectives: informal discussions have already taken place and continue with the Institute of Historical Research, Royal Historical Society, Scottish Records Association and Information and Records Management Society among others.

We are improving communications with members, beginning with a new series of our Newsletter. We will add more content and redesign our web site, to include more links to events and information.

A new membership drive and encouraging use of Gift Aid will also be undertaken, in fact subscriptions will include a gift aid form this year and members are encouraged to complete and return them as this will bring in much needed extra funding.

A major shift is the reshaping of our functions in promoting the preservation of archives. A recent report on the RPS made clear that retaining an office in central London with all its related costs was no longer feasible or even necessary for the RPS: guidance can be given without taking on this additional burden. The BRA office will be given up in late summer this year and, with the appointment of an Hon Secretary, the office manager will work fewer hours and from home. The BRA can and will contribute to discussions and jointly assist others with our advice and expertise, participating in joint collaborations.

In a new departure we have combined the Bond Lecture and AGM and this will be separate from the Annual Conference. Visits to archives are planned and the first will be to Eton College archives. See separate notices about these events and keep an eye on our web site for any announcements. It will help greatly if we can send notices via email so please inform us if you now have an email or have changed your email address.

Last but by no means least we are looking into the governance of the BRA and a revision of its Constitution to clarify and bring it up to date to ensure that we are a body that can respond quickly and authoritatively to archival issues.

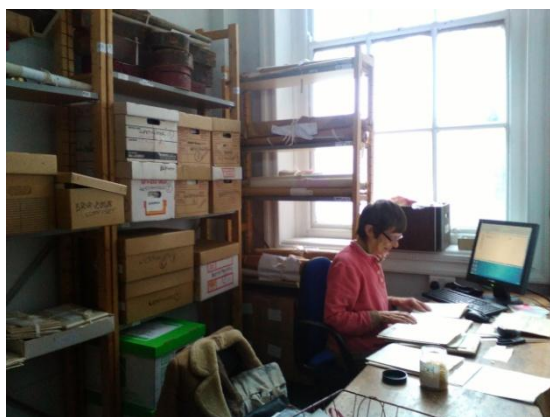
We now have a team working hard to help make these fundamental changes. Officers and Council are doing their utmost to re-launch the BRA, but most importantly YOU as members can help. Your involvement, suggestions and any offers of assistance are invaluable. For example - managing an event, suggesting and offering places to hold meetings and events, help with IT, web, social media and outreach or simply by expressing availability to be called on. All offers will be most welcome. Please contact me or any other officers via info@britishrecordsassociation.org.uk.

RPS takes a new direction

Penny Baker, Chair, Records Preservation Section

After the decisive vote by BRA members in November 2015 to remain an independent organisation, the RPS is being re-launched as a major player in records preservation. This involves a re-think of the role the RPS plays in delivering the BRA mission 'to promote for the public benefit the preservation, understanding, accessibility and study of our recorded heritage'.

From 2008, when external funding for its records preservation activities was withdrawn, the RPS has tried to continue in its traditional role, taking in records from solicitors and others and distributing them to appropriate local repositories, using only volunteers. This has become increasingly impractical, and annual despatches over the last few years have reduced to single figures, while deposits by solicitors have been sporadic and unsolicited. Richard Olney, long-term BRA member and former secretary, worked through the backlog of deposits and in 2012 when I took over as volunteer archivist, we started producing computer lists and began to make some despatches, mainly within London. This all ground to a halt when the office manager was diverted exclusively to administrative duties, and the future of the RPS became increasingly uncertain during negotiations with the ARA.



In addition, since 2008, the cost of renting central London premises has been entirely at BRA members' expense, and this has prevented us doing other vital educational work such as producing the journal, publications and funding training days. Running the BRA no longer requires a physical office; in fact it is an unnecessary administrative and financial burden. So, the London office is closing towards the end of this year, and with the help of three dedicated volunteers, Alison Cassidy, Clare Cowling and Katharine Bligh, we are busy despatching the remaining 75 metres of records.

But records preservation still remains a core function of the BRA and is being developed through partnerships with other bodies and active contribution to the development of a wider network for records rescue, led by The National Archives (TNA). The RPS participated in TNA's consultative meeting *Collections Rescue Strategy: Protecting Vulnerable Archives* in February where discussions explored the issues to be addressed in the development of an effective UK-wide strategy, in particular digital preservation and building capacity beyond the professional community, among owners and non-professional custodians. TNA will be developing this strategy over the next year and the BRA will be included in both discussions and implementation.

The RPS is working closely with the Legal Records at Risk (LRAR) project and we will be developing a network of local partners to help with active records rescue initiatives. Using funds released by not having a physical office, the RPS will 'further the object of the better preservation of records and of making them more accessible for research', in the form of help with cataloguing, training days or outreach projects. A Council sub-group is developing future plans for the RPS and would welcome suggestions and offers of help from BRA members. Please email me at rps@britishrecordsassociation.org.uk for further information.

BRA ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 2015

"In a League of their own': Archives of the History of British Sport and Physical Recreation"

Stephen Freeth

Held at Swedenborg House and, like all BRA conferences, this one was excellent – informative, varied, amusing, and focused on the archives, and what they tell us. It was full of unusual and unexpected details. It was a pleasure to be there.

Before the proceedings began, **Julia Sheppard**, BRA Chair, gave a brief report about how the EGM, held the previous week, had voted for the BRA to remain independent, by a substantial majority.

Eleanor Hoare, Eton College Archivist, spoke about *"Sport at Eton since the 15th Century"*. Before the 19th century, the Eton College archives are essentially concerned with the estates and income, not with sport, though the statutes of 1452 stipulate "No jumping, wrestling, or throwing of balls", and "No hawks". From the 1860s, the *College Chronicle* reports sporting events. Rugby has never been popular. On the other hand, the Wall Game has been played since 1849 or earlier. The rules are borderline unintelligible. No goal has been scored since 1909. Eton is very keen on Rowing, whose principal day each year, with a procession of boats, is 4 June, the birthday of George III. The uniforms and boat names are all derived from Nelson's Navy. The *Monarch* is the only such boat with ten oars, not eight! The House Debating Books give insights into attitudes to sports.

Mark Blandford-Baker, Magdalen College Oxford, spoke about *"An Oxford College Boat Club's Archives, and its Oarsmen"*. Rowing Clubs (for the public) and Boat Clubs (for universities and colleges) generally have good records. MCBC's are unusual in being catalogued, too! He has written a 150th anniversary history of the MCBC. MCBC was officially founded (entirely by undergraduates) in 1859. For the early years there are President's notes, and there are Captains' and Secretaries' log books from 1887. There are also old photographs, programmes; dinner menus; and the oars, rudders and prows of winning boats (displayed in the Old Kitchen). An illuminated scroll records MCBC winning everything in sight at Henley in 1907! The speaker was worried about record-keeping today. Nobody wants to write things down.

Karen Davies, Archivist, University of Bedfordshire, spoke about *"Bedford Physical Training College: The Female Tradition"*. The archives of Bedford Physical Training College extend from 1903 to 1976. They comprise syllabuses and exam papers; responses to Government consultations; photographs (the girls were all middle-class, with Box Brownies!); oral history; and artefacts and uniforms. The College was founded by Margaret Stansfeld (1860-1951), to teach girls to teach PE. It was located at 37 Lansdowne Road, Bedford, a house she had purchased. The qualification awarded in the early years was the Ling Diploma, and from at least 1943 the London University Diploma in PE. The College produced lots of Internationals, especially in lacrosse, but also in hockey. There were also Dance (revived Greek Dance) and Gymnastics. Men were admitted from the 1950s. The qualification became BEd, University of London (1968), and BEd, University of Cambridge (1971). In 1976 the College merged with Bedford Training College.

Alex Jackson, National Football Museum, spoke about *"The Collections and Archives of the National Football Museum"*. The Museum was established in 1997, and reopened in 2012 in Manchester, funded largely by Manchester City Council, with 140,000 objects, and over a million visitors in its first two years. It is the only sporting collection with Designated status. The written archives include FA minute books from 1863 onwards; Football League player registrations and transfer lists; Club collections, e.g. Preston North End; and Littlewoods Pools. There are some notable photos, such as from the 1936 Olympics. These show English players with the German team. The Germans have matching pullovers with eagles and swastikas!

Karl Magee, University Archivist, University of Stirling, spoke about "*Celebrating Scotland's Contribution to the Commonwealth Games*".



Stirling University Archives holds the archives of Commonwealth Games Scotland, responsible for the Scottish team. They run from the first Commonwealth Games in 1930 onwards. The bulk of the material relates to the 1970 and 1986 Games, both held in Edinburgh. The archives were "used" during the 2014 Glasgow Games for an exhibition of memorabilia, jointly with Glasgow Museum, plus talks and tours. This exhibition later became a touring exhibition, and has led to new accessions,

including the personal collections of Sir Tim Heatley, diver and three-time Gold Medallist.

Robert Clegg, Heritage Quay, University of Huddersfield, spoke about "*The Rugby Football League Archives at Heritage Quay*". Heritage Quay was established by the University of Huddersfield. In 2014 a new building opened with HLF funding. It has eight "themes", including Sport. The largest component is the Rugby League material, both of local clubs and of the Rugby Football League (the game's governing body). The RFL was founded in Huddersfield in 1895. Twenty-one clubs broke away from the RFU in a dispute about whether players could be paid. They felt that working men in the north needed the money, even if players in the south did not. The RFL has always retained its links to the north of England and the archives include minute books; accounts; competition records; player registrations 1906-78, which generate lots of family history interest, because it remains a local sport; year books, programmes and photos; and famous players' shirts and boots. Users of the archives are passionate and very knowledgeable about the game and its history, and help with events.

Nat Alcock, General Editor, BRA, spoke about "*The Archives of Halford Bowls Club*". The Bowls Club at Halford, Warwickshire, possesses three minute & memorandum books, 1786-1877. What do these tell us?

Members: lots of clergy; a baronet; 4 sons of peers; 29 esquires including 2 MPs. In other words, a roll-call of the local gentry.

Bowls: we are not told much! The Green was repaired in 1844; there was an iron roller in 1832. Matches were sometimes held for specific prizes, e.g. a piece of venison.

Dining: there was lots of it! There was a Wine Fund from 1827 onwards, and 227 bottles in the cellar in 1845.

Kent Sjöblom, Head of the Society of Finnish Archivists, spoke about "*The ICA Section on Sports*". The Section has a Chairman (himself), and two Secretaries, one English and one French. The Section was inaugurated provisionally in 2004, made permanent in 2008 and has 42 members. It is about, not of, Sports Archives, there are few institutions specifically devoted to Sports Archives. The Section issues a brochure; holds seminars (Paris/Roubaix 2005; Turin 2007; Helsinki 2010); organises sessions at ICA Congresses; and published a special issue of *Comma*, the ICA journal (2009:2). He would like to widen the membership. For example, there is little participation from the Caribbean.

The Maurice Bond Memorial Lecture

An entertaining Maurice Bond Lecture was given by **Fiona Skillen** of Glasgow Caledonian University, the Chair of the British Society for Sports History. Her title was, "*Researching Women's Sports History*". The Society was founded in 1982, and publishes a journal, *Sport in History*, containing around 20 articles per year. Its c200 members are mostly academics.

Women in Sport is a peripheral topic to a fringe subject! There have only been 12 articles so far in *Sport in History* on Women in Sport. There are many gaps in our knowledge, and the relevant scholars are mostly male. There are only 40 women members of the Society,

although this represents more than 600% increase on the six when it started. On the plus side, Women's Football is starting to attract sponsorship and research. Fiona's own research has been on "How did Ordinary Women Fit Sport into their Lives in the period 1919-39?" For this she examined the following areas, all within Scotland: schools; organisations; workplaces; council provision; and media representation. The first problem was finding sources. Participation by women in sport was hard to trace – e.g. in diaries and letters. Other challenges included unsorted papers; absence of research facilities; poor labelling; the random nature of survivals; getting people to open up for oral history interviews; and last but not least, being taken seriously as having a serious research topic!

In particular, she used minute books; membership lists, here the use of "Mrs" and "Miss" was helpful; newspapers for local politics, e.g. disputes about the sexes sharing pitches; competition results; magazines; cartoons, for attitudes, the *Daily Mail* was particularly noted; and advertisements using women's sport to sell a range of products from cars to cigarettes. She also carried out personal interviews. Her interviewees ranged in age from 75 to 98! For one interviewee, hockey was only a small part of her social life. After the match, they all went for a meal, or to the pictures. Another played tennis to meet boys. But later, her husband would look after the children so that she could keep playing.

A more detailed account of the 2015 Conference will be available on the BRA website soon

Annual Conference, Tuesday November 29th, Linnean Society



"Keeping the memory green": records of small gardens'

Held jointly this year with The Gardens Trust, the 2016 Annual Conference of the BRA will take place at the Linnean Society, Piccadilly. More details will be available soon on the BRA website.

Upcoming Events

Visit to Eton College Archives, Tuesday 21 June 11.30

Following the fascinating talk at the BRA Conference last November given by Eleanor Hoare, Eton College Archivist, and reported above, the BRA has arranged a visit to the College.



Eton College was founded by King Henry VI in 1440 for the education of 70 King's Scholars. In addition to the King's Scholars housed in 'College', there are now over 1200 'Oppidan' boys at the school in 24 other boarding houses, making Eton the largest boarding school for boys in the UK. The College Archives are a rich record of Eton's history, and include the founding charters and statutes, accounts from the 1440s to the present and records of the College's estates, as well as those of King's Scholars from 1660 and of all schoolboys from 1791.

On display in the 18th century College Library, will be a selection of treasures from the archives, Eleanor will give an introduction to the collections and the documents on display, as well as answer questions. Then, if time permits, there will be a chance to see some of the College itself. This is a members-only event and space is limited so a maximum of 30 may attend. The cost will be £12 per person, payable by cash or cheques on the day. Please email info@britishrecordsassociation to book your place. Closing date is June 10th, but the sooner you book the better.

It should be noted that there is no step free access to the Library. There is a lift which cuts out the vast majority of the steps, but there will still be two or three steps to negotiate.

Image reproduced by permission of the Provost and Fellows of Eton College.

Bond Lecture and AGM, Thursday October 27th, Institute of Historical Research, Senate House

The lecture will be given by Caroline Shenton, preceded by the AGM and followed by a drinks reception.

Caroline is an archivist, historian and author, she was Director of the Parliamentary Archives until 2014. Her first popular history book, *The Day Parliament Burned Down*, an hour-by-hour account, was published in 2012, and won the inaugural Political Book of the Year Award in 2013. It was also Book of the Year for *The Daily Telegraph*, *New Statesman*, *Daily Mail* and *Herald Scotland*. She has recently completed a sequel *The New Palace of Westminster* which will be published by Oxford University Press. The title of the lecture will be on the BRA website soon.

Legal Records at Risk project

Clare Cowling

What is the Legal Records at Risk project?

The project, based at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of London, commenced in September 2015 with the following objectives:

1. To broaden the concept of "legal" records from their traditional definition as court records or deeds to the records of private sector institutions specialized to law including: arbitration, mediation and conciliation services; barristers; solicitors; insolvency practitioners; legal executives; licensed conveyancers; multi-disciplinary practices; notaries; patent attorneys; pro bono legal services; scribes; trade mark attorneys and providers of ancillary services such as law publishers and legal stationers.
2. To raise awareness of researchers in all disciplines of the importance of private sector institutions specialised to law in the development of the United Kingdom's legal, business and social framework and of the need to preserve records of value not only to demonstrate these changes in our legal history but for other research fields such as sociology, biography, economics, geography, local history, class, race and gender.
3. To assist the information owners of private sector legal records to recognize the value of their records and unlock the potential of the records for both internal business reference and external research use.

What categories of legal records are at risk?

The project is investigating the findings of previous studies, including the BRA report on Records at Risk (2011), that significant private sector records are at risk of becoming lost or inaccessible through globalization, digital obsolescence, physical neglect, lack of interest on the part of information owners and reduced archive resources to preserve and provide access to the records. Modern legal records, since 1900, are particularly vulnerable due to recent developments which are transforming the nature, organisation, regulation and economics of legal services.

There are upward of 100 "business" archives in the UK, dominated by banking, the alcohol trade and retail but few professionally managed "legal" archives. Unless systematic efforts are made towards collecting private sector legal records, modern legal research will continue to be weighted towards the study of court records. Thereby producing a lopsided picture of the development of the UK's legal framework and of the legal practitioner's role as an integral part of UK business.

How can BRA members help?

We need champions from within the legal and research communities, especially to foster collaboration with those involved in the practice of law. Without input from providers of legal services and those who wish to use their records we can achieve very little.

The project is being led by Clare Cowling, an experienced archivist and records manager. You can contact her at clare.cowling@sas.ac.uk.

Experiencing Archives

The BRA exists not just for archivists but for anyone interested in archives whether they are historians, owners, researchers, genealogists, volunteers or just curious. This new section of the Newsletter will have brief articles from this wider community about their experiences with archives. To begin, one young historian reflects on her first encounter with archiving.

The Historian's Perspective

Alice White

To experience the archiving process in action was invaluable as it opened my eyes to the practicalities of preserving the historical record. When I first arrived I was rather shocked that as well as designated piles "Archive" and "Review for Archive", there was also a pile for "Destruction". The idea of destroying documents seemed to go completely against everything I had been taught as a historian. I was inclined to ask "Are you sure?" every time a box was marked with a "D". As I observed the archivists at work, though, I soon realised that knowing what *not* to keep is as important as knowing what is definitely valuable. There simply wasn't the funding or space to keep everything, so part of the decision was based on everyday practicalities, but even with unlimited funding and space, some of the items required disposal.

Many of the unexamined records were simply the entire contents of desk drawers that weren't valuable enough for the owner to retain, which had been transferred wholesale to boxes and stored "just in case". The archivists are thorough, and painstakingly comb through this detritus for any hidden gems, scribblings on scrap-paper that might one day prove to be revelatory. But, as with many businesses, multiple copies of meeting minutes had been circulated and filed, most not even annotated (archivists check). Similarly, printed final copies of manuscripts resided in boxes, but had also been published with identical wording (again, they check!). Old manuals for computer software cluttered many of the boxes; whilst this may be very exciting for historians of computing, it is unlikely they would ever think to look for them in this archive as copies are held in more obvious locations elsewhere.

I have explained my changed views to other historians. Many of them remain horrified that "history" is being thrown away, and until they have seen the diligent care and attention that dedicated archivists devote to each item when considering whether to mark it with an "A", "R" or "D", they will probably steadfastly retain this view, but I would like to think that I have been converted from an indiscriminate historical hoarder to at least somewhat of a considerate but firm archivist.

Alice White has recently completed a PhD at the University of Kent which examines the work of Army psychiatrists during the Second World War.

New On-line Catalogues

The BRA plans to have details of new on-line archive catalogues as a regular Newsletter section. This issue features the Corporate Archives at Transport for London (TfL). Please send in details of any other new catalogues.

TfL Corporate Archives



The TfL Corporate Archives is responsible for safeguarding the corporate memory of Transport for London and its predecessor companies. The Archives collects and preserves both modern and historic records from the business and holds over one hundred thousand items dating from the 17th century to the present day.

The Archives collects records which document the principal business functions and actions of Transport for London, its predecessor and subsidiary companies, and their interactions with London's citizens and with the physical and social environment. The new on-line catalogue can be found here: <http://www.tflcorporatearchivescatalogue.co.uk>

Image reproduced by kind permission of TfL Corporate Archives

Archive blogs

Archives are increasing their on-line presence and one of the ways is to publish a blog based on a particular collection or to highlight events on a particular day. Here are a few that have come to the Newsletter editor's attention, are there any you would like to include?

Westminster School has begun serialising its Town Boy Ledgers - a near continuous record of school life at the heart of the capital spanning over 100 years. The Ledgers were kept by the pupil elected 'Prince of the Town Boys' and provide a vivid account of school boy experiences written exclusively for the benefit of future generations of pupils. They provide a rarely recorded perspective upon education at the time, as well as fascinating references to local and national events. Today's entry concerns a pupil who died as a result of overeating: <http://townboyledger.westminster.org.uk/?p=186>

The Children's Society has a regular blog based on its Hidden Lives Revealed Children in Care 1881-1981 project. The most recent post, about the Society's work with runaway children can be found here: <http://www.hiddenlives.org.uk/blog/2016/02/helping-young-runaways-since-1881/>

The Royal Voluntary Service maintains a Heritage Bulletin Blog which combines news about the archive activities and projects with extracts from the records: <http://www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk/about-us/our-history/archive-and-heritage-collection/heritage-bulletin-blog>

The Tavistock Institute of Human Relations has recently placed its archive with the Wellcome Library where it is being catalogued. As part of the project the Institute has started a blog "The Artistry of the Archive" to document the emergence of the archive: <http://www.tavinstitute.org/news/tihr-archive-the-artistry-of-the-archive/>

News Round-up

Business Archives Council

In support of the National Strategy for Business Archives, the Business Archives Council (BAC) is delighted to announce that it is once again offering a **£3000 cataloguing grant for business collections** (opens 1st April 2016).

Additionally, in an effort to continue supporting an under-represented area of business archives, and to compliment wider initiatives for archiving the arts by The National Archives and the Campaign for Voluntary Sector Archives, the BAC will again be offering a **£3000 cataloguing grant specifically for cataloguing business archives related to the arts** (opens 28th April 2016).

For more information on both grants (criteria and application forms) visit the BAC's website: www.businessarchivescouncil.org.uk

School Archivists Group

The School Archivists Group (SAG) is a self-help group started in 1998 to support anyone with responsibility for looking after school records whether professionals, teachers, school staff or volunteers. Membership is free and more than 145 independent schools are now represented. The regular Annual Conference will this year be held at St Paul's Girls' School, Hammersmith, on Monday 4th July. More information about the Group and an application form can be found here: http://www.arops.org.uk/j/images/sag_leaflet.pdf

The National Archives

TNA recently announced acceptance by the government of the following collections of papers in lieu of tax:

Durham estate papers (12th to 20th centuries) of the Vane-Tempest-Stewart family, Marquesses of Londonderry

The family and estate papers of the Ward family Earls of Dudley (12th to 20th centuries)

The family and estate papers of the Fitzroy Somerset family, Barons Raglan (19th and 20th centuries)

Allocation of the collections to appropriate interested repositories is now being considered.

Index to Digitised Online British and Irish Newspapers

Richard Heaton has been updating his index to digitised newspapers. The index aims to give an indication (where possible) of the range of dates covered by a title and the number of issues included in a collection.

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~dutilleul/BritishandIrishNews.html>

Obituary: Janette Harley

Janette was born in Cheltenham on the 7th October 1951, the youngest of three children having older twin brothers. At about the age of 9 she had a chance conversation with a family acquaintance on the subject of archives and from that moment on she was determined to become an archivist. After gaining A levels at Portsmouth Girls High School she went on to study classics at UCL and then to Aberystwyth for a Diploma in Archive Administration. Her first job was at Berkshire Records Office in Reading, and subsequent employment included records management positions with BP and the National Trust. She told family members that the BRA was a significant help during her early years working in archives and she remained a member throughout her life.

Janette also developed a keen interest in archaeology, participating in a dig on Hadrian's Wall at Halsteads, to which she travelled on her MV Augusta motorbike. Another passion was sailing, despite suffering seasickness, and she was at one time Secretary of the London Branch of the Sail Training Association. In 2000 Janette moved to New Alresford to support her mother and took a post with the NHS in Winchester administering patient record transfers and, subsequently, dental practitioner registrations. As her health deteriorated she took early retirement and died on the 22nd October 2015. She is survived by her mother and a brother, the other brother having pre-deceased her.

A full obituary will be published in the next issue of *Archives*.

Introducing the new Officers

Julia Sheppard, BRA Chair



I joined the BRA many years ago at the suggestion of John Post and after an article I wrote on French archives was published in *Archives*. The Association always seemed to me to have interesting members and conferences and discuss matters that appealed to me. Working in the Liddell Hart Centre for Military Archives at Kings College London and then at the Wellcome Institute (now Trust), as well as the research for *British Archives: A Guide to Archives in the UK* (co-edited with Janet Foster), led me to place a great importance on the value of archives for research, the need for archivists to engage with those using and holding records, and the importance of surveying and preserving archives: all aims of the BRA. So, after my retirement in 2008 when I was encouraged to become Vice Chair, it seemed only right to play my part in assisting the BRA's work. Retirement is of course the wrong word!

Penny Baker, BRA Vice-Chair and RPS Chair



I was a member of the BRA as a newly qualified archivist at Westminster City Archives in the 1970s, encouraged to join by two colleagues, who were and still are members of the Association. Sadly, I lost touch with the Association when I moved to records management positions at BP and later at Barts NHS Trust, then the National Gallery, and for a year with the Commonwealth Secretariat in a rain-forest project in Guyana. On my return to the UK I came back into the BRA fold when Julia Sheppard was Vice-Chairman and I took over from Richard Olney as volunteer archivist in 2012. I have been urging reform of the Records Preservation Section for several years and became more closely involved when the BRA was threatened with dissolution last year. I strongly believe the BRA has a positive and viable future, as a voice for records preservation and a forum for archival research and I am pleased to play a role in its relaunch.

Neil Murphy, Reviews Editor, *Archives*



My research interests focus on the history of England and France from 1300 to 1700. Many of my publications have looked at connections between the two kingdoms, from the four years the French monarch John II spent in English captivity in the mid-fourteenth century to Henry VIII's establishment of an English colony in France in the mid-sixteenth century. As all my research projects are based on wide-ranging manuscript consultation on both sides of the Channel I was keen to become involved with *Archives*. The abundant materials held in archives of all sizes provides the building blocks with which to construct our collective historical memory and enrich our appreciation of the past. Before moving to Northumbria University in 2012, I lectured at the University of Winchester. I come from Northern

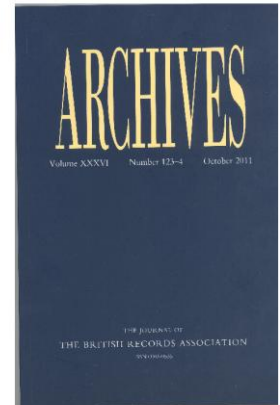
Ireland, though all my academic studies were at the University of Glasgow. Moving between these different areas has provided me with a rewarding insight into the rich collections held in archives across the UK. I am constantly seeking new ways to promote engagement with these archives amongst both academic and public audiences. Overall, I am delighted to be taking up the position as reviews editor for *Archives*.

Profiles of the other Officers will appear in the next Newsletter.

ARCHIVES

ARCHIVES is the journal of the British Records Association whose aims and objectives it seeks to promote. It focuses on the needs of archive users (both active and prospective) by providing information about the whereabouts, interpretation and historical significance of records in all media. It publishes essays, commentaries, case studies and reports on all aspects of the care, preservation, accessibility and use of archives. It especially welcomes submissions that:

- provide guidance about the use and meaning of archival resources and the linkages between them;
- provide case studies in the use of archival resources;
- provoke discussion of archival issues within the user community;
- promote scholarly analysis of the history of archives and the impact on users of record-keeping practices, past, present and future;
- report projects and discoveries;
- communicate archival trends, theories and practices to a wider audience.



ARCHIVES includes short edited documents as well as reviews of recent publications, web sites and archival exhibits (physical or virtual).

ARCHIVES is a peer refereed journal. There is no upper limit on the length of submissions but it is anticipated that very few will be longer than c.8,000 words including notes. It is published twice yearly.

Submissions must be the original work of the author(s) that have not been published previously, as a whole or in part, either in print or electronically, or is soon to be so published.

Articles sent to ARCHIVES for consideration for publication should not be submitted simultaneously to any other journal or journals for refereeing.

We are always very keen to receive submissions for inclusion in our journal 'Archives'. For further guidance on the kind of articles we are seeking, prospective contributors are invited to consult the statement on editorial policy on our website at http://www.britishrecordsassociation.org.uk/pages/editorial_policy.htm.

You are also welcome to contact our Honorary Editor Dr Ruth Paley at: editor@britishrecordsassociation.org.uk