

HARC Newsletter

Winter 2017 / Spring 2018

There's an inevitable looking back / looking forward that goes on at this time of year. And as 2018 sees the sixtieth anniversary of Herefordshire Archive Service, you can expect to hear much more about past, present and future as the year unfolds.

As to the present, we have our programme of courses and craft workshops planned. Details of the former are attached. Details of the latter will appear in our regular mini mailings, and of course on our Facebook page. Speaking of which, have you been following our Advent Calendar on Facebook? Each day, we've shared an image or two – some treasures from the strongrooms, favourite photos, quirky bits and pieces about the building and what goes on here – do take a look. You'll have to provide your own chocolate though.....

And while we're being seasonal – did you see our winter wonderland photos on the Facebook page? Look for HARC Herefordshire if you haven't already liked and / or followed us.

And (also seasonal), we'll be closed on Friday 22nd December, the week beginning Monday 25th December, and Monday 1st January. See you again from Tuesday 2nd!

Did you know...

our Learning Room is available to hire? Reasonable rates apply – please enquire, stating the dates and times you are interested in.

01432 260750

HARCBookings@herefordshire.gov.uk

Forthcoming Events at HARC

Wassailing

Saturday 13th January 2018

5.00 – 7.00pm

Entrance for adults: £1 includes a glass of apple juice; free for children

We'll be joined by Leominster Morris and the Bushel-Bag Wassailers again this year to wassail our little orchard. Bring something to make a noise with you – we need to scare the evil spirits away from the trees! Wrap up warm too. There'll be refreshments available – confirmed so far are Rocket Kitchen Café's wood-fired pizza oven, award winning sausages from Pork and Two Veg, and apple juice from Orchard Origins – bring some money!

If you can let us know if you intend to come, that'll help us with catering.....

Investigating Family & Local History through Parish Records

Monday 15th January 2018

10.30am – 12.30pm

£9.60 – advance booking & payment essential

Find out about the records of the parish chest, the processes which created them and how they can help with your family or local history research.

Exhibitions

From 12th December, there'll be a chance to see all of the **commemorative bunting** made in memory of the Munitions Workers of Rotherwas. Usual opening hours.

There's information about our exhibitions in the HARC leaflet too, but briefly, they are:

- **Centenary of Votes for Women** – 30th January to 23rd February
- **Treasure Trees** (the Women's Land Army and foraging, an exhibition by Salt Road and New Leaf) – 27th February to 6th April
- **Past Futures – a Contemporary Response to HARC** (an exhibition by Salt Road and SHYPP) – 10th April to 18th May
- **Stories from the Wye** (part of Herefordshire Lore's River Voices project) – 22nd May to 29th June

Workshops

Fancy trying something new in the New Year? We have a load of interesting and intriguing craft workshops planned. To whet your appetite a little, how about wet slip transfer on glass, watercolour birds, two colour lino prints, making your own sketchbook, embroidery, needle felting?

Watch out for details in mini mailings and on Facebook, or (go on, yes, we'll let you!) ring or email us, and we'll divulge more information!

How to Book

Advance booking and payment for your place(s) is essential.

You can pay:

- by card online, on the telephone, or in person
- by cheque (made payable to "Herefordshire Council") sent in the post, or in person
- by cash in person

Discounts apply for Herefordshire Archive Service registered volunteers! Please ask when you reserve your place.

New Books and Merchandise

We have a wide selection of new stock to help you manage and correctly handle your own archives, be they photographs, maps, documents or books. Call in to view book cushions (with washable Bolton Twill covers); paper and map weights and snakes; OS map storage tubes; magnifying equipment; bamboo, bone and plastic paper folders; metal rules and cotton gloves. If you don't see the item(s) you're interested in when you call in, do please ask.

We also have limited edition and unique earrings, bangles, gift tags and envelopes – made from old maps.

The range of books is often changing, so do take the time to browse in our shop area.

Shop early for Christmas (2018)!

And yes, we did get Christmas cards! There are two designs available – and ok, we're a bit late telling you about it now for 2017, but we did mention them in a mini mailing, and we have some stock available if you want to get prepared nice and early for 2018.....



There are several talks coming up – either here at HARC, or featuring our expert staff – or even both!

You'll need to book for these with WEA, so please see the WEA leaflets and posters, or look at the website www.wea.org.uk/westmidlands

Online Index

Philip Bouchier writes: I am pleased to announce that the Herefordshire Archive Service (HAS) online index has finally been completed. The project began in March 2014 with the sole purpose of retro-converting all the paper finding aids for subjects and locations in Herefordshire into a machine searchable database. Dozens of volunteers were enlisted to initially data input the information into Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. Once this was completed volunteers and HAS staff data quality checked the typed information to ensure standardisation and accuracy. It was further processed by volunteers who added in machine readable dates and United Kingdom Archival Thesaurus terms to aid users in locating potentially relevant material.

Initially the online index went live in August 2015 containing only 5,000 searchable entries. Over the course of the next two years this total has ballooned to over 70,000 unique aids. Although there is no further data to ingest from the subject or location card index, this database will continue to accrue further entries as selected collections are indexed at page level.

This system offered an interim solution to online access normally facilitated through electronic archive management software. The online user interface allows individuals to search keywords, parishes, subjects and dates. The results provide a brief description of what the item(s) or collection is, along with their geographic location, associated subjects, corresponding dates and HAS reference number. Unfortunately the system is not as sophisticated as a 'Google search' and therefore it is important to remember that a search will only be successful if the words typed into the keyword field are identical to those in the database.

The success of this project could not have been achieved without the assistance of dedicated volunteers. The Archive Service is therefore eternally grateful for their contribution. In particular, I would personally like to thank Richard Smith who has been the heartbeat of the project ever since its inception.

With the recent procurement of an electronic archive management system the direction of the Archive Service for facilitation of online access is now shifting towards our catalogues. The first stage of this process has involved the migration of data from Microsoft Word catalogues into Excel spreadsheets that can then be ingested into the new system. Once this process is completed HAS will once again look towards volunteers to assist with the retro-conversion of typescript catalogues using OCR technology. I am confident that the volunteers will once again rise to the challenge and further consolidate Herefordshire Archive Service's transition into the 21st century.

And we'll take this opportunity to wish Philip well as he heads for pastures new. He'll be missed!

Volunteer Opportunities

In the New Year, we'd like to re-establish and expand the Computer Buddies project. This mainly supports people as they get used to using Ancestry and Find My Past in the searchroom. If you feel able to share your skills and experience and help people get underway with their own family history research, do please get in touch.

If you would like to get involved or know more about any of these events or opportunities, please contact:

HARC – Herefordshire Archive and Records Centre
Fir Tree Lane, Rotherwas, Hereford HR2 6LA

01432 260750
archives@herefordshire.gov.uk

www.herefordshire.gov.uk/archives
Facebook: www.facebook.com/herefordshirearchives

searchroom open to the public:
Tuesday – Friday, 9.15am – 4.45pm
Second Saturday in the month, 9.15am – 4.45pm



G36/289/1 Tea party in a garden

Discover ... Archives

Dating Photographs, 1900-1940s

Learn about the history of photography in the early 20th century and methods for dating photographs. Attendees are invited to bring their own photographs.

2:00 – 4:00pm, Saturday 10 February

Cost £9.60

Behind the Scenes Tour

A chance to access all areas in this amazing energy efficient building and see some fascinating documents.

**2:00 - 3:30pm, Tuesday 20 February,
Friday 20 April, Thursday 28 June**

Cost £6

How to Book

All booking in advance by email, telephone or post. Unless otherwise stated, full payment must be received in advance to secure your place.

Herefordshire Archive Service
Herefordshire Archive and Records Centre
Fir Tree Lane, Rotherwas, Hereford, HR2 6LA
01432 260750

archives@herefordshire.gov.uk

For updates, latest news and extra events please check our events page at:

www.herefordshire.gov.uk/archives

 [herefordshirearchives](https://www.facebook.com/herefordshirearchives)

Other details

All events are held in the Learning Room at Herefordshire Archive and Records Centre. Limited free parking is available. Accessible by buses 78X and 454. Refreshments will be provided.

To arrange a talk or behind the scenes tour of HARC please contact us for details.



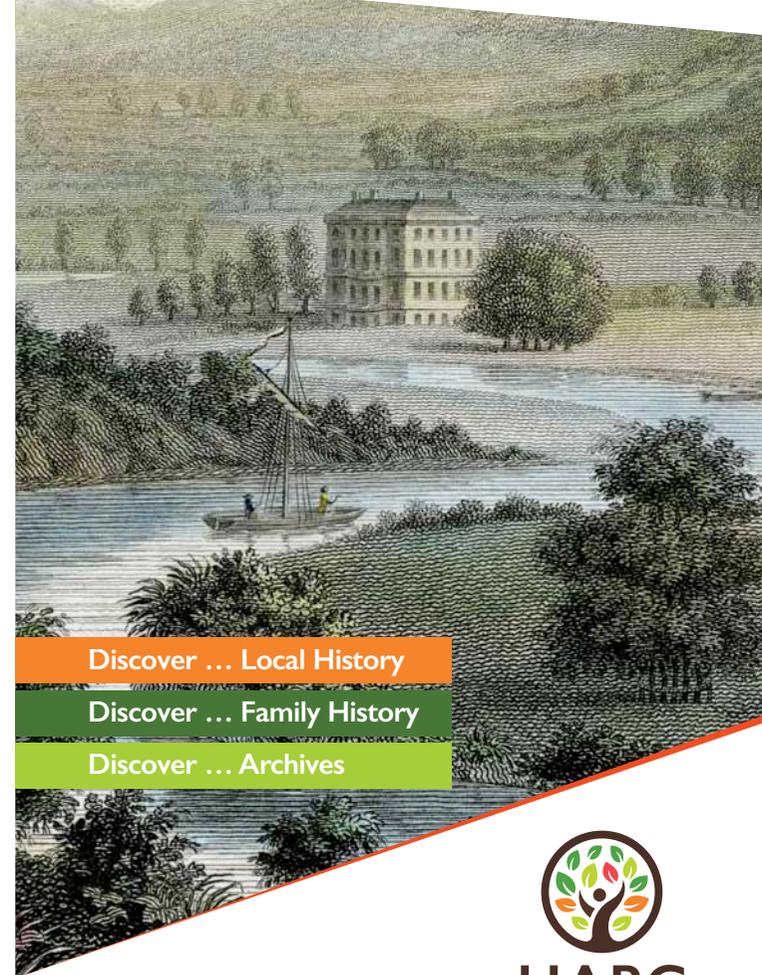
Herefordshire Archive & Records Centre is owned and managed by Herefordshire Council.



Your guide to courses

January - June 2018

Moccas Court



Discover ... Local History

Discover ... Family History

Discover ... Archives



HARC
Archive Service

www.herefordshire.gov.uk/archives

The history of your family, home and community lives at HARC. This is where Herefordshire's archives are collected, preserved and shared with you.

Our series of practical training sessions will help you make the most of these wonderful resources. Expert guides will demonstrate how you can become researchers and make your own discoveries in the archives.

Discover ... Local History



G36/253/10 Workmen renovating Brinsop Court

Researching the Historic Gardens of Herefordshire

Unlike buildings, parks and gardens by their very nature are transitory, but, nevertheless, they are frequently mentioned and described in historical records. This session will provide some guidance for researchers, not only providing evidence for the parks and gardens, but also for the people who created them.

10:30am-12:30pm, Monday 14 May
Cost £9.60

House History

This introductory course will show you the main sources available to conduct your own house history. Attendees will engage with original documents and learn how to undertake research at HARC.

10:30am – 12:30pm, Monday 4 June
Cost £9.60

Discover ... Family History

Investigating Family and Local History through Parish Records

Church registers of baptisms, marriages and burials are one of the main sources for identifying your ancestors. Parish archives can include much more than hatches, matches and dispatches. This talk will explore the breadth of information available for family and local historians in the parish collections.

10:30am - 12:30pm Monday 15 January
Cost £9.60

Getting Started with Ancestry Library Edition

Ancestry is one of the leading genealogy resources on the internet and is packed full of records to help you trace your family history, whether your ancestors came from Herefordshire or beyond. This workshop will focus on introducing you to the main sources available on the Ancestry Library Edition website.

2:00 – 4:00pm, Monday 5 March
Cost £9.60

Getting Started with Find My Past

Find My Past is one of the major genealogy websites and is freely available to use at HARC. Its resources can help you trace your ancestors whether they came from Herefordshire or beyond. This workshop will introduce you to the main sources available on the Find My Past website, such as the 1939 Register.

2:00 – 4:00pm, Monday 9 April
Cost £9.60

Exhibitions at HARC

ROF bunting

This exhibition will mark the completion of the Rotherwas ROF Front Line Duty Project by showcasing bunting that has been made in memory of the Munitions workers of Rotherwas.

12 December 2017 – 26 January 2018

Centenary of Votes for Women

In commemoration of 100 years since the enactment of the Representation of the People Act 1918, this exhibition will explore the history of women's suffrage in Herefordshire.

30 January 2018 – 23 February 2018

Treasure Trees

A New Leaf project based on the social heritage of the Women's Land Army working with orchard trees and foraging woodland in Herefordshire and Worcestershire during WW1.

27 February 2018 – 6 April 2018

Past Futures – a contemporary response to HARC

Young people from the SHYPP media project (part of Supported Housing for Young People Project) will be exhibiting work using varying mixed art forms including digital media, following research relating to past visions, ideas and realisations within Herefordshire.

10 April 2018 – 18 May 2018

Stories from the Wye

RiverVoices: Stories from the Wye project will present an exhibition focusing on the stories in, on and beside the River Wye – from bathers, ghillies, walkers, fishermen, canoeists and others.

22 May 2018 – 29 June 2018