

## Explore Your Archive 2016

HARC was the venue for the National Launch of this initiative on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016 – an event that saw the building buzzing with people excited about archives!

The guest list included county dignitaries, such as our Lord-Lieutenant, the Countess Darnley, and High Sheriff, Bill Jackson, as well as local mayors. The keynote speaker was Dr Ian Mortimer, known to many locally, not least as President of the county's Mortimer History Society. Dr Mortimer is also something of "A Time Traveller...." and therefore completely at home in the newest archive building in the country (and a Passivhaus one at that) with its rich history and archival holdings.

Other inclusions came from the Cathedral Archives (airing a sneak preview of its connections with Magna Carta in 2017), Huntley Film Archives, and the Bromyard and District Local History Society, looking not a day over their venerable fifty years.

But, of course, we're preaching to the converted here.....so here's a thought. Who could you pass this newsletter on to? (Once you've made a note of all the dates and information YOU need, of course).

**ARCHI'VE**  
**EXPLORED**  
**DISCOVERED**  
**FOUND**  
**DETECTED**  
**CONNECTED**  
**ENGAGED**  
**UNEARTHED**  
**LEARNED**  
**IMAGINED**  
**CREATED**  
**UNLOCKED**  
**OPENED**  
**REVEALED**  
**CELEBRATED**



We now have a Facebook page  
[www.facebook.com/herefordshirearchives](http://www.facebook.com/herefordshirearchives)  
– so please like and follow us!



And we have a new logo.....

**Did you know....you can research your family tree on Ancestry and Find My Past at HARC for free? (And to help you get started – see below..... along with what else you might Discover ... )**

## Forthcoming Events at HARC

**Wassail: HARC's Orchard, with Leominster Morris**  
Saturday 14 January  
5pm – 6.30pm  
free (charges for soup etc)

## Discover ... Local History

### House History

Fascinated by the past life of your home? This **four session course** will show you the main sources available at Herefordshire Archive and Records Centre (HARC). These will range from maps and medieval manorial court rolls to 20<sup>th</sup> century planning applications.

Monday 30 January

Monday 6 February

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February

10:30am – 12.00pm

£30 per person for the course (£10 minimum deposit required at time of booking)

### Digital Methods for Studying your Local Countryside and its History

David Lovelace, landscape historian, will show how to use free software and online resources with mobile phones, GPS devices and digital cameras. The talk will include field recording, mapping, LIDAR, data handling, digital image processing and presentation.

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

10:30am-12:00 noon

£8 per person

## Discover ... Family History

### 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.

*Please note: participants should already be familiar with using computers and the internet.*

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March

10:30-12:30

£8 per person

### 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.

*Please note: participants should already be familiar with using computers and the internet.*

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March

10:30-12:30

£8 per person

### 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 kept in the parish collections.

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April  
10:30am-12:30pm  
£8 per person

### **Researching Criminal and Police Ancestors in the Victorian Period**

Finding a criminal ancestor can add drama to your family history. This session will investigate the records that show both sides of the law in Victorian Herefordshire.

Monday 12 June  
10:30am-12:30pm  
£8 per person

### **Discover ... Preservation of Documents**

#### **Protect your Books: a workshop making dust jackets, book covers and lightweight book cartons**

In this workshop you'll get a chance to try different materials and styles of book covers, from the simplest dust jackets and school exercise book covers through to adhesive-free styles suitable for long term archive standard storage.

Tuesday 4 April  
10:30am-3:00pm  
£30.00 per person – materials supplied (£10 minimum deposit required at time of booking)

### **Discover ... Archives**

#### **An Introduction to the Archive Service and the Collections at HARC**

This session will look at the work of the Archive Service and feature examples from the main collections.

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May  
7:30-9pm  
£8 per person

#### **Behind the Scenes Tour**

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

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February, Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April, Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June  
2pm -3:30pm  
£5 per person

**If you'd like to arrange a talk or behind the scenes tour of HARC please contact us for details.**

#### **How to Book**

All bookings in advance by email, telephone, post or in person.

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](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/archives)  
and our Facebook page:  
[www.facebook.com/herefordshirearchives](http://www.facebook.com/herefordshirearchives)

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

## Exhibitions

**The First Shell** (Rotherwas Munitions Factory)  
until Friday 27 January  
usual opening hours  
free

**Folk Lore & Fairy Tales**  
Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March  
usual opening hours  
free

**Spun Gold – the Rich History of Wool in Herefordshire**  
Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May  
usual opening hours  
free

## New Books and Merchandise

**2B or not 2B** – Ah, pencils. An essential item in the tool kit of any visitor to the Archive. OK, they're not "new" merchandise (though they are new pencils!), nor are they 2B, rather HB - but we have a choice of colours, and they are only 30p each – who else could you treat to one, besides yourself?

The latest addition to the Victoria County History family – **Bosbury** - is now available priced £10.

Launched at HARC last September, Bill Laws' latest book, **Herefordshire's Home Front in the First World War** is available priced £10.

**Wye** by Richard Hayman (£15) explores the history of our river.

**The Tailor of Hereford** by John Harrison (priced £10) details the history of five generations of tailors and their changing worlds – those tailors being Pritchards, still serving the sartorial elegance of Hereford in King Street.

**From Memoirs to Petticoats, and all sorts of interesting things between**, being **Workers' Education Association (WEA)** Talks and Workshops at HARC... please see the WEA leaflets, posters, and website [www.wea.org.uk/westmidlands](http://www.wea.org.uk/westmidlands)

## Volunteer Opportunities

If you are interested in volunteering, here are some of the ongoing and new projects – please get in touch so we can make sure your availability coincides with the availability of equipment (such as laptops).

- Herefordshire Archive Service **indexing project** (the online index) - volunteers are required to retro-convert old index cards and catalogues onto Microsoft Excel spreadsheets to improve the online finding aids. There is also scope to index directly from certain original collections to facilitate access.
- Digitisation of the **Bustin photographic collection** – new project, starting in 2017
- Indexing calendar of **prisoner records** for the county of Herefordshire (19<sup>th</sup> century) - this project is an ideal volunteering option for those interested in crime and punishment and social history in Herefordshire. Volunteers are required to transcribe onto Microsoft Excel spreadsheets personal information about the prisoner, the crimes they committed and their punishment.
- **Probate index project**, 1540-1700 – volunteers can work from home to data input handwritten notes relating to the probate collection of Hereford Diocese 1540-1700. The completed data will be added to the online wills index on Herefordshire Archive Service's website.
- The current **preservation** projects are fully attended, but if you are interested in future developments we'd be pleased to hear from you.

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](mailto:archives@herefordshire.gov.uk)

[www.herefordshire.gov.uk/archives](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/archives)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/herefordshirearchives](http://www.facebook.com/herefordshirearchives)

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