



The Friends of Devon's Archives

www.foda.org.uk
Registered Charity 1107394
c/o Devon Heritage Centre, Great Moor House,
Bittern Road, Sowton Exeter EX2 7NL.

September 2015

Welcome to the Autumn 2015 Newsletter

Much has happened since our last Newsletter was issued in June 2014, not the least of which is Pete Best's resignation as acting chairman and my election to that role at the April committee meeting. We are grateful to Pete for all he has done since taking over the chairmanship, and also for his service to FoDA as its Treasurer. Third, but by no means least, we thank him also for his ongoing work with the Devon Roll of Honour project.

Over the last few months the committee has discussed the findings of the questionnaire sent out to members earlier in the year – and here may I say thank you to all those who provided a response. Obviously some changes and improvements will take longer to implement than others, but some things can be set going immediately. For example, many respondents to the questionnaire said we should aim to have a recruitment drive. I

agree absolutely – but I am sure all those who suggested this would also agree that one of the best ways to attract new members is to make it more desirable to join the Friends by having more events and projects. In addition, these benefit all members, not just new ones. Hence from now on we intend to run two conferences per year as a matter of course, rotating around the historic county. The next one will be held in The Guildhall, Exeter, on Monday 19 October 2015; further details about this are contained in this newsletter. In addition, a Spring 2016 Conference will be held in North Devon on Saturday 16 April 2016. The Autumn 2016 Conference and our AGM will be held in Plymouth on Saturday 15 October 2016.

Our intention is to produce two newsletters per year, to be mailed out to members with the mailing for the respective Spring and Autumn conferences. An electronic copy of each newsletter will be lodged on our website.

One of the questions in the questionnaire was how people would react to an increase in the subscription level, which is currently a very low £5. The overwhelming majority encouraged us to look at increasing this. The committee has discussed this and feels that increases from £5 to £10 for individuals, from £8 to £15 for families at the same address, and from £10 to £20 for institutions are in order. I hasten to add that this is not driven by an impending financial crisis. However, a number of factors mean that an increased subscription is desirable.

First, there is the simple fact that an organisation like ours can support archives more actively if it has more money in the bank. Also, we want to look at holding more events, as shown by our renewed promise to hold two conferences per year. We wish to increase the range of speakers we can ask to these events by being able to offer an honorarium as well as expenses to those who would not otherwise come. We would like to be in a position to help more often with the acquisitions of archives that are at risk of being sold privately and thus lost to public researchers. We are

planning the publication of a volume that will help people to read medieval and early modern Devon documents; we intend to sell this at an affordable price to recoup our costs but in the meantime this will entail a significant investment. Certain travel costs are now necessary, to enable representatives of the organisation to attend occasional meetings held in Taunton (as South West Heritage Trust meetings, at which FoDA needs to be represented, are sometimes held in Taunton). Last, there has been no increase of the subscription for a long time (since FoDA was established, twenty years ago) and since the majority of members seem to be in favour, now seems to be an opportune moment to establish the society on a secure financial footing and set in motion a more active agenda. Therefore I very much hope you will support this increase when it comes to the vote at the AGM.

The fact that the subscription has never previously been raised has brought to light a slight problem. Our constitution says that our AGM must be held in October. It also says that our subscription year runs from 1st October each year. This means that a decision to increase the subscription rate cannot be implemented for almost twelve months, which, when applied to an organisation of 170 subscribing members, means a loss to the organisation of £850. Therefore it is proposed at the forthcoming AGM to alter Clause 8 of our constitution, to set our subscription year to run from 1 January each year, so it coincides with the calendar year.

The committee recognises that this will cause something of a hiatus in payments, especially for those who pay by standing order. However, changing the subscription amount for a year ahead would still need standing orders to be revised. In addition, if we don't do something about this problem now, it will apply every time a future committee wants to change the subscription levels. In proposing the new date for the start of our subscription year, it is proposed to give every member a three-month 'payment holiday' prior to implementing the raised subscription level: in effect, between now and the end of 2016, everyone will get 15

months membership for their 12-month subscription. The Membership Secretary will be in touch with those who pay by standing order during this period so that, if the new rates of subscription are agreed at the AGM, payments at the appropriate rates can be set up for 1 January 2016.

An attractive new information leaflet to assist with recruitment has been prepared and is ready to be produced as soon as this year's AGM makes a decision about future subscriptions.

Those of you who have already perused the agenda for the forthcoming AGM will have noticed that, with the support of the committee, I am proposing a few other small changes to our constitution.

- Clause 6.3: it seems unnecessary that we should force committee members to retire after three years and that they should not be eligible for election again to their posts for a year. While there may occasionally be someone who does stay too long in post, or on the committee, this can be dealt with by him or her not being elected for a further term. As it is, this rule simply stops good people from contributing more than three years at a stretch and thus disrupts continuity of committee membership.
- Clause 6.4: I cannot see any good reason why only one archivist should be invited to attend committee meetings, and that that person be either from Plymouth or from Exeter, but not both. Certainly this does not accord with current practice: the committee is very grateful for the assistance of more than one professional member of staff. It is proposed that archivists from both repositories be allowed to attend in an ex-officio capacity.
- Clause 9: the necessity to make nominations to the committee and for officers 'in writing' seems a little old-fashioned in this day and age. Also the word 'honorary' in this clause is meaningless.
- The name 'Devon Heritage Services' needs updating throughout.

These changes to our constitution do not require the approval of the Charity Commission as they do not affect our purposes, and so I hope they will be adopted at the AGM.

May I take this opportunity to remind members that the Friends of Devon's Archives operates a document donor card system whereby potential donors who want to retain papers during their lifetimes but wish them to be deposited in a record office after their deaths can fill out such a form to instruct their heirs and successors accordingly. As we live in a fast-changing world, I would recommend that potential donors consider filling out such a card with reference to their electronic files as well as their letters, diaries and photographs, etc.

Finally, I hope members will find the various pieces in this newsletter interesting and informative. I am very grateful to all of those who have contributed articles. I look forward to seeing as many of you as can make it to the AGM in Exeter on 19 October.

Ian Mortimer,
Acting Chairman, FoDA

*

South West Heritage Trust Report 2015

The last year has been one of significant and positive change for the Devon Heritage Service. The South West Heritage Trust came into being on 1 November 2014, bringing together heritage services that had previously been run by Devon County Council and Somerset County Council. The new organisation has responsibility in Devon for the Archive & Local Studies Services, and in Somerset for Museums, Historic Environment and Archives & Local Studies Services. The Trust is independent and is operating as a charity. The principal funders remain Devon and Somerset County Councils, who have demonstrated an important

on-going commitment to heritage services in the two counties by entering into renewable five-year funding agreements.

This has enabled the Devon Archive & Local Studies Service to be part of an organisation which has heritage at its heart, and is unique and innovative in bringing together services across a large geographical area. An early priority has been to undertake some staff restructuring in order to increase capacity. Irene Andrews has been appointed as the Devon Archives & Local Studies Manager, and Stuart Tyler is now responsible for the public service team. Roni Perry has joined us two days a week in the searchroom, and there will soon be more new faces as we have just appointed Edward Taylor to a full-time post and Mark Trewin joins us in place of Eliza Newton, who left at the end of August.

In June we received the welcome news that our Round 2 bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Devon Remembers Heritage Project had been successful. This enables us to work with groups and individuals of all ages across the county to commemorate the centenary of the First World War in a Devon context. Unlike many centenary projects which were concentrated during 2014, this project will continue until the end of 2018 and the anniversary of the armistice. A full-time project officer and part-time project assistant have been appointed, and are due to start work in September. We look forward to meeting and working with many people throughout Devon as this project gets under way.

An issue which has been of particular importance to the Trust during this first year is the future of the North Devon Record Office. We have been in on-going discussions with Devon County Council to try and find a positive way forward which will provide a financially viable future for the service. In July Devon County Council announced that their previous plans to move staff into Barnstaple Library from the Civic Centre were not

going ahead. Further meetings, including with stakeholders, are now due to be held in September.

The Westcountry Studies Library moved into the Devon Heritage Centre in Exeter just a few months before the Trust began. There is a great deal of work to be done to improve the storage of the library and to enhance access. The library is an amazing resource for anyone wanting to discover more about Devon, and a development plan has been drawn up and is now being implemented. The top priorities are the purchase of books about Devon which have been published during the last few years and a project to create a new online catalogue to make it easier to discover the riches held in this library. It has been really good to see the new books arriving in recent weeks, and we will be putting on a small display of these in the searchroom.

A wide range of other work is also being carried out. New mobile shelving has been installed to increase capacity, and we are working to put up further shelving to meet the needs of both the archive and local studies collections. A project is underway to tackle a historic backlog of accessioning, and we are prioritising cataloguing and making more lists available on our online catalogue. I would like to thank the staff for the huge amount of work that they have done in the past year in the midst of great change.

As a new organisation the Trust has appreciated the opportunities to get to know the Friends of Devon's Archives over the past year, and we look forward to developing this relationship in the future.

Janet Tall,
Head of Archives & Local Studies, SWHT

*

South West Heritage Trust Membership Scheme

An important development – especially for all those who use the Devon Archives and Local Studies Service at Barnstaple and Exeter – is the proposal by the South West Heritage Trust to bring in a Membership scheme. Or, to be precise, two Membership schemes: one a Founder Member scheme, for donors who wish the service to thrive and are prepared to make a donation by a certain date, and the other an ongoing general Membership scheme whereby users pay a certain amount of money each year to support the Trust and benefit accordingly.

The new membership scheme will be launched in November. The Founder Member scheme – for those who wish to be in at the start – is open now. Details are available on the South West Heritage Trust website, (<http://www.swheritage.org.uk/#!foundermembership/c1gwa>).

Friends of Devon's Archives members should note that, along with the other Friends organisations and the Devon Family History Society, we are being given the option to become Founder Members at reduced rates. **A 40% reduction on the standard rate will apply to us.**

Details of the Founder Member Scheme are as follows:

- Personal Founder Members (Silver). A donation of at least £100 will secure you Founder Member status and Recognition on the Trust website. *This will be reduced to £60 for FoDA members.*
- Personal Founder Members (Gold). A donation of at least £500 will secure you Founder Member status; your name on a permanent Founders' Plaque; recognition on the Trust website. *This will be reduced to £300 for FoDA members.*
- Corporate Founder Members. A donation of at least £750 will secure you Corporate Founder Member status; the name of your organisation on a permanent Founders'

Plaque; and recognition on the Trust website. *This will be reduced to £450 for FoDA as an institution.*

All Founder Members will receive one year's free membership of the general Membership Scheme from November 2015; founder Member updates and an invitation to a celebratory event.

As we are all aware, local government services have been going through an extremely turbulent and unsettling time. FoDA's support for both of these schemes will help the SWHT as its staff "shape the future of the new organisation, grasp opportunities to develop and prosper, and make our shared heritage available to as many people as we can." Members will be given further information about the schemes at the AGM.

Ian Mortimer,
Acting Chairman, FoDA

*

Plymouth History Centre – an update.

The £24 million Plymouth History Centre project is now half way through the "detailed development stage". As such the plans are nearing completion and are likely to be unveiled in September with a view to a three month consultation period. Thereafter the final bid documents and detailed plans will be submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund in April 2016 for approval.

The plans should show for the first time the extent of the public "Study Area" where there will be access to the material currently held in the Local Studies library, computer based information (including images from the partner organisations South West Film and Television Archive and the South West Image Bank) and the archives – the "one million items from the Plymouth and West Devon Record Office". Many issues are still being worked on, including the governance model and the actual title of the new

centre, as “Plymouth History Centre” is stated to be a working title only.

What is clear is that the re-housing of the full Plymouth and West Devon archive is fundamental to the scheme, and that promised HLF funding of £12.8 million is on that basis.

For those who are new to this long running saga, it should be said that FoDA, under our former chairman Dr Todd Gray, played a key role in the campaign to press for the proper housing of the archives of the Plymouth and West Devon Record Office. The ambitious History Centre scheme does that and has all party support from Plymouth City Council. The existing Grade II museum and library building will have a major refurbishment commencing April 2019 with additional accommodation provided to the rear. The lending section of the library will move to City Centre premises that have been secured. 2020 will see the Centre opening in time to celebrate the sailing of the *Mayflower* from Plymouth on 6th September 1620.

Richard Spear,
FoDA committee member

*

New Archive Deposits at Exeter and Barnstaple

So far in 2015 the Devon Heritage Centre (Exeter) and North Devon Record Office (Barnstaple) have received around 200 new deposits. Items of particular note include:

- Plans of Axminster workhouse and Exminster mental hospital wards, c1900, 1927, 1934 (DHC acc 8944);
- Ashprington parish’s World War One Roll of Honour (DHC acc 8958);
- Accounts of the various constituent charities of Exeter Municipal Charity, late 19th-early 20th cent (DHC acc 8968);

- Minutes and accounts for the Independent Order of Rechabites Friendly Society, Chagford branch, 1903-1935 (DHC acc 9012);
- Account books for a farm in West Ogwell, before, during and after World War Two, 1933-1956 (DHC acc 9035);
- Records of Tiverton Golf Club, c1931-2007 (DHC acc 9078);
- Archaeological survey of Tavistock Canal, plans of drawings, late 20th-early 21st cent (DHC acc 9089);
- Records of Crossman family of Torquay, timber merchants and ship-owners (DHC acc 9105);
- Deeds relating to property in Devon owned by Exeter Cathedral, occupied by tenants, 17th -18th cent (DHC acc 9107);
- Oral history interviews with individuals involved in local politics Devon between 1945 and the present, conducted as part of the 'From the Grassroots' project (DHC acc 9156);
- Records of Buckfastleigh Mills (DHC acc 9158-9159);
- Plans of Lynmouth Pier, Harbour and Promenade, 1876 & 1886 (NDRO acc A773);
- Royal Air Force flight training exercise books and note books (Navigation, Bombing, Gunnery, Airfield Control and Meteorology etc.) of Flight Sergeant R H A Curtis, 1940s (NDRO acc A784);
- Photographs of the aftermath of the Lynmouth flood, 1952 (NDRO acc A791);

FODA also recently purchased a set of deeds relating to Bycott in Halberton, 1760-1847, which were being sold on Ebay, for donation to DHC (acc 9142).

Stuart Tyler, SWHT

Accessions to Plymouth and West Devon Record Office

The following is a 'selected highlights' list of accessions to PWDRO from 4 August 2014-27 July 2015:

- Newton Ferrers and Noss Mayo Parish Council: minutes and associated papers. 1971-2012 (PWDRO acc. 4048);
- Valuation Office Agency: volumes giving rateable values of domestic and commercial properties in Plymouth. Also, some registers for the South Hams and West Devon areas including: Ermington, Harford, Holbeton, Lewtrenchard, Lifton, Lydford, Marystowe, Yealmpton, Tavistock, Meavy, Walkhampton, Whitchurch, Milton Abbot, Peter Tavy, Sampford Spiney, Sheepstor, Stowford, Sydenham Damerel, Thrushelton, Newton Ferrers, Noss Mayo, Shaugh Prior (29 volumes in all). 1973-circa 1990 (PWDRO acc. 4049);
- Plymouth Air Raid Shelter plans, photographs and correspondence giving details of the air raid shelters. [NB This is an electronic record]. 1992 (PWDRO acc. 357);
- Plymouth, Air Controls Limited, Engineering Equipment Distributor: day ; customer account book. 1983-c. 1990 (PWDRO acc. 120);
- Robert Lenkiewicz of Plymouth, Artist: private notebooks, private diaries, project notebooks, miscellaneous notebooks, exhibition photograph albums (56 boxes, 22 loose volumes, 11 loose sheets). 1974-2000 [Restricted access] (PWDRO acc. 4050);
- Palace Theatre, Plymouth: programmes (48 items). 4 Dec 1939-17 Mar 1941 (PWDRO acc. 1227);
- Royal Naval Hospital, East Stonehouse: permit vouchers for the transport of medical supplies and stores for ships, merchant and naval, and shore establishments. Includes vouchers dated 8 August 1914 for the Great Western Railway to transport medical and surgical supplies for the SS Lusitania

- and SS Mauretania, also SS Empress. Apr-Dec 1914 (PWDRO acc. 627);
- City of Plymouth: alphabetical list of butchers registered within the City of Plymouth, with addresses given and number of adults and children customers. 25 Jan 1940 (PWDRO acc. 2978);
 - Society of Friends, Kingsbridge: sufferings and persecutions, 1670; Devon and Cornwall Quarterly Meeting, accounts, 1707-1782; West Devon Monthly Meeting, membership, 1820 and 1834, Elders and Overseers minutes, 1897-1909, various funds and accounts, 1903-1918, minutes, 1916-1937 and sufferings, 1793-1852, with distraints relating to sheep, pigs, chairs, etc. 1670-1937 (PWDRO acc. 4053);
 - Seamen's and Soldiers Friend Society and Bethel Union: deeds and papers relating to the site and development of the Bethel, Castle Street, The Barbican, Plymouth, 1751-1950; Elize Hele's Charity, deeds, 1833-1869; Elizabeth Fry's Trust for Princess Street Chapel, Sunday School: deeds of appointment of trustees, 1871-1923; Three Towns Working Boys Home: minute books, annual reports, accounts, correspondence, rules 1909-1915 (PWDRO acc. 840);
 - Plymouth Labour Party: minutes, correspondence, accounts, members lists and election papers for Sutton, Devonport and Drake Divisions or Constituencies and individual wards. 1920-2005 (PWDRO acc. 667);
 - Plymouth, Devon and Cornwall: black-and-white stereoscopic photographs of Maker Church exterior and part of churchyard; interior of Charles Church, Plymouth; wooden Slade Viaduct, near Ivybridge; granite bridge on Dartmoor; Millbay Railway Station, with Duke of Cornwall Hotel in the background; Eddystone Lighthouse (Smeaton's Tower) in its original position; Rose Cottage, Bickleigh; Plym Bridge; The Dewerstone; Teign Clapper Bridge, Dartmoor; clapper bridge at Postbridge, Dartmoor; Plymouth Breakwater. circa 1870s-1880s (PWDRO acc. 1139);

- Book of reference relating to a plan for the proposed tunnel from Keyham Steam Yard to Her Majesty's Dockyard, Devonport. Detail includes: numbers referring to the plan, names of owners, names of lessees, names of all occupiers of the properties, descriptions of the properties. Note: the plan is not held at PWDRO but is available to see at the Devon Heritage Centre, Exeter, reference QS/DP/232. circa 1853 (PWDRO acc. 133);
- Spear and Bond Families: deeds and papers, 1860-1906 (PWDRO acc. 143);
- 55 and 64 Tavistock Road, Stoke Village: deeds and photographs. 1863-1919 (PWDRO acc. 589);
- Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery: exhibition posters. 1960s-2000s (PWDRO acc. 169);
- Volume of copy letters written by Alan R Birdwood relating to the running of the Taftish of Gizeh and Ghezirah in Cairo. Makes reference to the purchase and housing of the animals in the zoo; the botanical gardens; experimental tree nurseries; lists of plants, vegetables and seeds ordered from Carters and Veitches of Exeter; the Zohrich, Harem and Salamlik Gardens; staff; financial matters; list of committee members and life members; patrons and governing body; erection of the Octroi buildings. Also copy letters from T Dixon Bey, Port Said; C E Dawkins; George Foaden; - Gorst. Some side notes in Egyptian. 1894-1899 (PWDRO acc. 177)

List supplied by Anne Morgan, PWDRO, edited by Ian Mortimer.

*

Volunteering for the Devon Archives and Local Studies Service

There are many opportunities at the Devon Heritage Centre for anyone who would like to volunteer to assist with the work of the county archives and local studies service.

Over recent years volunteers at the Heritage Centre have assisted staff with the transcription of documents such as tithe apportionments, shipping registers and collections of correspondence, as well as helping with Open Days and with the move of the Westcountry Studies Library to Great Moor House in 2014. Also – and this is the primary focus of our volunteer programme at the moment – volunteers have helped us to reduce our backlog of unaccessioned new collections. One volunteer, who happens to be a retired archivist has, as certain FoDA members may know, taught a series of palaeography classes which have become a regular feature of the service's programme. He has also taken on the extensive task of continuing the cataloguing of the Devon Quarter Sessions records which began in 2012 as part of the service's grant-funded *The Right to Remain Silent?* project. Other volunteers have provided us with very welcome assistance with our digitisation programme, while another has catalogued many of our collections of Women's Institute records which had not been listed in detail before.

Deborah Phillips' article elsewhere in this newsletter gives members a comprehensive appraisal of what has been happening in the conservation studio over the past year, and, as Deborah says, volunteers play a major role in the studio's work.

Volunteers come in all shapes, sizes and ages. The majority of our current volunteers are retired, but we also receive regular assistance from people who have either finished university or are studying for degrees. These people either wish to gain experience of working in archives in order to give them a better chance of

gaining a place on a postgraduate archive course, or they are simply looking for experience of working in the heritage sector to help them decide what sort of career they might like to embark upon after university.

If you are interested in volunteering for the Devon Archives and Local Studies Service, please contact Brian Carpenter, Community Learning Officer, via

brian.carpenter@devon.gov.uk or 01392 380573.

If you have a particular desire to work in conservation, contact Deborah Phillips, Senior Archive Conservator, via deborah.phillips@devon.gov.uk or 01392 384317.

Brian Carpenter, SWHT

*

Devon Roll of Honour Project

[originally published in *Crediton Country Courier* - April 17 2015.
Our thanks to Nora Parminter for her permission to include it in
this Newsletter]

THE Friends of Devon's Archives (FoDA) currently has an exhibition at Crediton Library featuring pages from the Devon World War One Roll of Honour. The Crediton pages from the book, which contains 11,539 names, are on display in the exhibition, which will run until the end of April. Devon County Council decided to put the names of the fallen into the Roll of Honour as it was considered impractical to create one memorial listing all the names at the time. Each parish in Devon has its own entry with a list of names of the fallen.

Three copies of the Roll of Honour exist, one in Exeter Cathedral, which was for families of the fallen to view. One is under the Memorial Cross in Cathedral Yard and the third at Devon County Council in their archives.



Photo of Pete Best co-ordinator and Carole Herbert of Friends of Devon Archives at the Roll of Honour exhibition at Crediton Library.

Three years ago FoDA decided to transcribe the book and place the transcription on line at www.foda.org.uk/ where it can be found in the projects section of the charity's website. People can use the website to search by parish or by surname and will be able to find the information listed in the Roll for each person. In addition further details about the background of each person is also available, although this is sparse at the moment - the group envisage working on the project until 2019. More background information is needed to complete the records. FoDA can be contacted on telephone 01363 776403 or by email: ROH@foda.org.uk .

Nora Parminter

News from SWHT Conservation Studio, Exeter.

It is now eight months since becoming the South West Heritage Trust: Devon Archives and Local Studies Service (formerly Devon Record Office – Devon Heritage Services). Ian Ponsford and I have enjoyed meeting the new challenges of integrating with the Somerset Archive and getting to know their staff and collections. There is new impetus under the Trust with many exciting projects planned.

Among recent projects, I have been involved with the transfer of the Beaford Arts: James Ravilious collection of photographic material which had been stored in the North Devon office. It was decided that the delicate negatives should be stored in our British Standard strongroom for modern media and an agreement has been made for long term storage here at DHC. Beaford Arts have approached the Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant to catalogue and repackage the collection, which will eventually involve contract staff working with us. I have provided a condition survey and advice so far. Please note this collection is only accessible through their website.

Another significant partnership project involves the Devon and Exeter Institution Library. The library building is undergoing a major rebuild of the Georgian roof, after some delays. To complement this project it was decided to review the condition of the library books and Rebecca Newman, a private conservation bookbinder <http://www.newmanbookbinding.co.uk/> and I were asked to carry out a condition survey to give a clear overview of the condition of the 30,000 books they keep there. Plans are moving ahead swiftly for a Heritage Lottery Fund project to enable refurbishment of the library books by professional bookbinders and a team of dedicated volunteers trained by us, on the skills of book preservation. The project will include local partnerships and outreach development. These plans will breathe

new life into the Institution for members, partners and public, designed to safeguard the future.

For more information on these projects please visit their websites:

- <http://www.beaford-arts.org.uk/archive/>
- <http://www.devonandexeterinstitution.org/talks/>

On home turf, we are preparing a major project to re-catalogue and conserve the Acland family collection (Killerton Estate: ref 1148M) beginning with a survey of condition carried out by our summer volunteers, Hannah Weaver and Anastasia Yapp, both undergraduates hoping to find careers in the culture sector. Among the fine documents, Hannah found a fragment of cloth wrapped in an explanatory note, reputed to be attached to the saddle of Henry V, 'collected' by a juvenile member of the family on a visit to Westminster Abbey.

Another interesting new accession has been the administration papers and photographs of the English Lace School (Ref. 9082 (XAAZ) based in Tiverton, from the estate of the late Susan Cox, founder of the school, which includes a small collection of Branscombe lace. We are involved with the photographs and appropriate packaging of the lace. We do not encourage artefacts under normal circumstances, but these beautiful items take little space.

We are often asked to help with minor water damage and drying of private collections from the public or local museums for a small fee. A pair of Barnfield Hall theatre tickets from the 1920's was sent to us, which had been laminated. The tickets had been both wet and dirty which led to the growth of mould and almost complete consuming of the paper in the 'greenhouse' effect of the plastic/adhesive layers. Luckily, a wash & brush up has, for the most part, rescued 'The Coming of the Fairies' and 'Mary, Mary Quite Contrary' tickets c.1922. Please **never** laminate archive items or documents.

Ian continues to add new shelving to our original strongrooms to maximise shelf space, along with extra shelving for the new rooms dedicated to Local Studies. When not attending to this, Ian continues work on the Stones Photographic collection (ref. 8649Z) for which FoDA so kindly contributed to the cost of packaging materials last year.

Our long standing volunteers Diana Nason and Jen Wimsett continue to preserve the drawings and administration of the Herbert Read: Church Architecture Collection (ref: 6854B), which has been ongoing for eight years now with nearly four thousand drawings, cleaned, encapsulated and listed. We certainly value their dedication.

We are always happy to offer advice on family/local documents you may have and can provide small quantities of packaging materials at reasonable prices. With the prospect of new projects, new colleagues and willing volunteers, things are looking bright here in the conservation studio.

Deborah Phillips,
Senior Archive Conservator, SWHT

*

Conference Dates

2015 AGM and Autumn Conference

- Monday 19 October 2015, Exeter Guildhall (papers enclosed)

2016 Spring Conference

- Saturday 16 April 2016, North Devon (venue tba)

2016 AGM and Autumn Conference

- Saturday 15 October 2016, Plymouth (venue tba)