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# ARCmagazine

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## Special Repositories Special Issue



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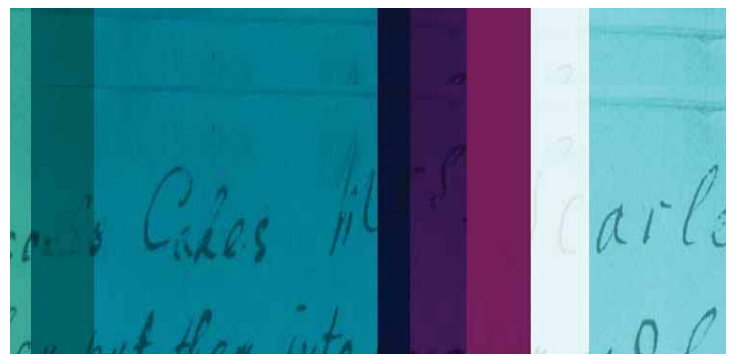


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WELCOME **ARC**

## EDITORIAL

**W**elcome to the August issue of ARC.

And so the big day dawns. By the time you read this, the Olympic flame will have been lit, 70 odd sheep will have wowed us with their brilliant dance routine in the opening ceremony, and team GB is no doubt already topping the medal tables.

Just to prove that we archivists are not still bitter about any reduced funding the Olympics might have meant for our sector, and that we don't all have an aversion to physical activity and the great outdoors, we are championing sport again this month. This time we're delving into some of the more obscure areas of our sporting past. We take a look at sport being used for the improvement of the working classes in 19th century Wenlock; therapeutically at the Royal Edinburgh and Bethlem Royal Hospitals; for the "advancement of economic, social and spiritual freedom for women" by Madame Österberg; as inspiration for young Scouts, and as a source of enjoyment for us all - including nuns! Sport has been played, watched, taught and debated for centuries and, as Adrian Glew states, it "pervades all our lives". This issue is a reminder that sport is not only for elite athletes, it is for everyone. It's not all about billion-pound stadiums and dancing sheep; it's also about the everyman having a quiet game of billiards with friends.

Many thanks to all who contributed - and particularly to Susan Scott for very efficiently rounding up the SSR articles.

Finally, due to an editorial slip in June's ARC it was not made clear that Sporting Cities is a London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) project. We would like to apologise to the Sporting Cities Project Manager Nicola Avery and her LMA colleagues for this oversight.

**Ceri Forster, Gary Collins, Richard Wragg,  
Sarah Norman and Rose Roberto**

### DISCLAIMER

The Archives & Records Association (UK and Ireland) cannot accept responsibility for views expressed by individual contributors to ARC Magazine. It is a medium for informing members of news, information and ideas relevant to the profession, including archive conservation. It is not an official guide to procedures, concepts, materials or products.



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Left: William Penny Brookes, 1876. © Wenlock Olympian Society  
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Dance on College Pitch, 1938. Reproduced with permission of the Bergman Österberg Union Archive.  
The Day Parliament Burned Down. Print held in the author's own collection.

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# Opening Lines



Aileen McClintock is the Director and Deputy Keeper of the Records at the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI).

PRONI has long had a good working relationship with the NIFRS, ranging from familiarisation visits by local station watches, providing preservation training for firefighters (in preparation for assistance in the salvage phase of an emergency), to attendance of crews at PRONI's emergency reaction practices and the sign-off of a formal Memorandum of Understanding for Heritage Protection.

Building on this, the creation of NICCHE is intended to develop a strategic partnership for mutual support on a multi-agency basis. Members will provide contingency planning through sharing of talents, expertise, equipment and joint training, so that in the event of an emergency in any one of the partner organisations, each can provide support. This may be through provision of 'triage' facilities, trained volunteers for salvage operations etc.

Besides cost savings, NICCHE is determined to produce practical outcomes and is currently devising subgroup work-streams with clearly defined outcomes such as development of a best practice emergency plan template. How many archivists and conservators have an emergency plan which (fingers crossed) they won't ever have to use and if they do, will (hopefully) meet the needs of the particular emergency they face?

The NICCHE initiative is one which benefits each organisation in this time of economic constraint - a shared resource in one area may meet a business plan

objective, or free up another resource elsewhere. However, at present it is essentially a group of enthusiastic interested parties, aware of the need to address an issue, but without a statutory driver or policy framework. It is possible that just such a driver resides in the existing Civil Contingencies legislation (or Framework in NI).

Civil Contingencies legislation is designed to provide community resilience in emergency situations. With the current emphasis very properly on protection of life and provision of essential services, food, fuel etc., and returning communities to normal following a catastrophic event, it also incorporates protection of the environment (intended to include the heritage environment). There is surely a case to be made that in compiling Community Risk Registers, Local Authority Resilience Forums should include consideration of risks to heritage assets (including archives) and that 'returning communities to normal' should include the preservation and conservation of heritage-based assets.

So here's the question - in preparing for emergency prevention and/or reaction, (whether environmental, climatic, or manmade), how do we as archivists secure recognition in civil contingency planning of the value of archives in 'returning communities to normal' and ensure proper and effective resilience for archival heritage? Over to you.

And by the way, it's still raining....

In May 2012, PRONI hosted the UK premiere of '360° Ground Zero' a stunning photographic exhibition, capturing images of 9/11 taken in the aftermath by Nicola McClean, a New York-based Irish photographer. The exhibition is set to return to PRONI in August 2013 when the World Police & Fire Games come to Belfast – early advance notice!

At the time of writing, this has been the wettest June on record, with widespread flooding. Evidence of climate change? Perhaps.

Two unrelated situations - but in terms of emergencies (one man-made, one natural) - something which we in the business of archives must consider and prepare for.

In Northern Ireland, the NI Co-ordinating Committee for Heritage Emergencies (NICCHE) has recently been established, comprising membership from the Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service (NIFRS), National Museums of NI, NI Museums Council, Arts Council NI, NI Environment Agency, Libraries NI, the National Trust and of course, PRONI.

# ARA Conference 2012

## Progression, Innovation and New Landscapes.

*"Practical and confidence building"*

*"Very inspirational"*

*"Gave me a lot to think and talk about"*

*"Vibrant feeling"*

When was the last time you used these words to describe your day at work? These quotations are from delegates attending last year's conference in Edinburgh. You too could have a day like that if you are able to attend this year's in August!

The conference will be held in Brighton from 29 to 31 August. Expect more inspirational and practical talks and plenty of opportunity to talk to others about their problems and experiences and to find out what others outside your place of work are doing. It's a chance for us as a profession to take time out, to learn from and engage with each other, and look to the future with renewed skills and confidence.

Our conference theme 'Progression, Innovation and New Landscapes' has attracted papers from speakers in the UK and Ireland and overseas. We'll be discussing promoting our services, innovative approaches to users, building sustainable partnerships and securing funding. Practical sessions will look at the impact of the changing digital world on archivists and records managers. A number of break-out panels will provide the opportunity to discuss a range of topics in smaller groups.

The Conservation programme is very exciting this year with most current issues being addressed and discussed. There are sessions on decision making in conservation, risk assessment, storage environment and housing, practical sessions on parchment repair, pigments under investigation, conservation projects, leather treatments, moulds, audio formats, stationery binding, conservation to enable digitisation, case studies and much, much more.

As Martin Taylor, ARA Chair, says "There is little safety in the way we have always done things; to get to places of greater safety you need to move forward. The Conference can help us all do that."

Book your place now, even if just for a day, and read the full programme at [www.archives.org.uk/ara-conference/the-ara-conference.html](http://www.archives.org.uk/ara-conference/the-ara-conference.html)

Can't decide which day to go to? Read the biographies and abstracts of the speakers at [www.archives.org.uk/ara-conference/speakers-abstracts-a-biographies-2012.html](http://www.archives.org.uk/ara-conference/speakers-abstracts-a-biographies-2012.html)

.....  
**Caroline Brown and Martin Allen**

ARA Conference Committee  
.....

# Collecting Matters

## Did you think the Olympics was just about sport?

If you take a look at The National Archives 'The Olympic Record' website and the online records dating back to 1896, you'll see that's not the case: [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/olympics/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/olympics/)

The Olympics raises issues about politics and international relations, culture and diversity, personal and community identity, ethics and morals.

And archives - each one specialist in some way - hold collections offering insight into those and innumerable others.

But as a Specialist Repository, what have you done to take advantage of the spotlight on the UK to engage new audiences, locally, nationally and internationally with your collections?

## What's your London 2012 legacy?

As part of the Mandeville Legacy project - celebrating the history of the Paralympic Movement - archives, museums and galleries adopted the Revisiting Collections methodology asking users to help interpret collections relating to disability and rehabilitation across the South East:

[www.mandevillelegacy.org.uk/category\\_id\\_\\_24.aspx](http://www.mandevillelegacy.org.uk/category_id__24.aspx)

Have you tried anything similar to involve users in collection development around London 2012? If not, our toolkit and guidance could provide the support you need:

[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archives-sector/developing-collections.htm](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archives-sector/developing-collections.htm)

And if it does, then let us know and claim your place in The Olympic Record.

.....  
**Cathy Williams**

Head of Collections Knowledge

The National Archives  
.....

## Registration Scheme News

### Newly Registered Members of the Archives and Records Association:

Following the most recent assessments of portfolios submitted to the Assessors, the successful candidates are as follows:

**Lyn Crawford**

(Archivist, Glasgow City Archives)

**Melinda Haunton**

(Programme Manager (Accreditation), TNA)

**Talei Masters**

(Senior Archivist (Resources), Bristol Record Office)

**Claire Twinn**

(GMO Archives Manager, HSBC)

**Tracy Wilkinson**

(Archivist, St John's College, Cambridge)

The Committee would like to congratulate the newly registered members on their success.

### New Enrolments:

We welcome the following new candidates to the Registration Scheme and wish them good luck with their progress:

**Gillian Butler**

(Records Officer, National Army Museum, London)

**Katy Johnson**

(Archivist, Pensions Archive Trust, LMA, London)

**Anna-Marie Hajba**

(Consultant Archivist, University of Limerick & National Dance Archive of Ireland)

**Bethany Hamblen**

(Archivist, Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service)

**Jennifer Delves**

(Records Manager and Archivist, United Reformed Church, London)

**Sarah Tester**

(Archivist, Cunard, Liverpool)

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**Registration Scheme Mentor Queries and Advice:**

<regschemementors@archives.org.uk>

**Richard Wragg**

Communications Officer, Registration sub-committee

## The Organisational Structure of the ARA

An up-to-date structure chart on how the Association agenda is achieved - by Board members, staff and members - is opposite.

In all, nearly 400 roles are undertaken by ARA members on a voluntary basis through a structure of committees working for a Nation, Region or Section and through other voluntary roles, including ARC editing. Some ARA members work alongside non-members who join them on, for example, Public Engagement Committees. Such committees ensure that the ARA is well networked and engaged with all sector issues.

"I believe the ARA has now developed an effective, fit-for-purpose structure," says Chief Executive John Chambers. "It allows all of us to deliver essential work effectively. We are all busy and we must make sure our time is well spent for the Association."

The new Board, with effect from the AGM in May 2012, agreed some changes to the Organisational Structure. With the stepping down of Board member Andrew Nicoll and the end of the ARA's Section for Professional Associations (SPA) secretariat responsibilities, it was agreed that there would be no specific portfolio holder for the ARA's International work for at least a year. Board members, committing to the importance of International Affairs, will take responsibility personally for the portfolio. Andrew Nicoll will represent the ARA in Brisbane in August 2012.

As well as the headline work being done this year on the development of the ARA CPD and Training offer, work continues to review both specific aspects of the ARA member offer (how can we offer an improved, desirable 'affiliate' membership?) and more general aspects of how the membership operates across regions and sections.

This chart is on the website, alongside an up-to-date 'Who's Who on the Board and Secretariat'.



# The Organisational Structure of the ARA

SECRETARIAT	
CEO, Head of Public Affairs (HPA) and Office staff (Membership and Office Administrator, CARN Administrator, Accounts Administrator)	
• ARC Magazine	• Staffing
• Journal	• Business Management
• Website	• CARN
• General Administration	• Membership
• Accounts Administration	• Training
• ARC Recruitment	• Grant Agreements
• APPG Administration	• Company Secretarial

BOARD	
Company Directors and Charity Trustees: Chair, Vice Chair, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Secretary, Board Members (8) (CEO and HPA Report)	
• Business Plan	• Strategic Plan
• Reserves & Investments	• Budgets
• Governance	• Policy
• Research	• Bursaries
• International Affairs	

PERSONNEL SUB-COMMITTEE	
Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and 1 Board Member (CEO Attends as required)	
• Contracts	• Remuneration
• Grievance & Discipline	

BOARD APPOINTED GROUPS & COMMITTEES		
Report to Board through Portfolio-holding Board members		
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT	MEMBER SERVICES
External Qualification sub-committee	Public Services Quality Group [PSQG]	Member Offer Working Group
Conservation Training sub-committee	Chief Archivists in Local Government	Diversity Working Group
Registration sub-committee	Archivists of Scottish Local Authorities Working Group (ASLAWG)	
Training Officers sub-committee	Consultative Forum: Sector Bodies (External)	
Continuing Professional Development Working Group		

MEMBER ELECTED COMMITTEES	
Report to Board through Portfolio-holding Board members	
SECTIONS	NATIONS & REGIONS Committee for the Nations & Regions
Archives for Learning & Education	East Midlands
Business Records	Eastern
Community Archives & Heritage	Ireland
Data Standards	London
Film, Sound & Photography	North West
International Engagement	Northern
New Professionals	Scotland
Preservation & Conservation	South East
Records Management	South West
Specialist Repositories	Wales
	West Midlands

STANDING COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES	
Report directly to Board	
Conference Organising Committee	
Legislation sub-committee	
Representatives on other Bodies	

# Norfolk Record Office 'Goes Gay' with Gaymer's Cider Records

In the summer of 2011, the Norfolk Record Office (NRO) applied for the Business Archives Council's annual grant towards the cost of cataloguing the relatively small, but highly significant archive of the historical Norfolk firm of William Gaymer & Son Ltd of Attleborough, cider manufacturers. These records had been donated to the NRO in 1995 upon the factory's closure, but we had not subsequently found the opportunity to catalogue them. The BAC agreed that our application deserved the award of funding and granted £2,000 to the NRO to establish a project for that purpose.

We are pleased to report that a publicly accessible catalogue of the Gaymer archive is now complete and may be consulted both locally and online at <http://archives.norfolk.gov.uk>.

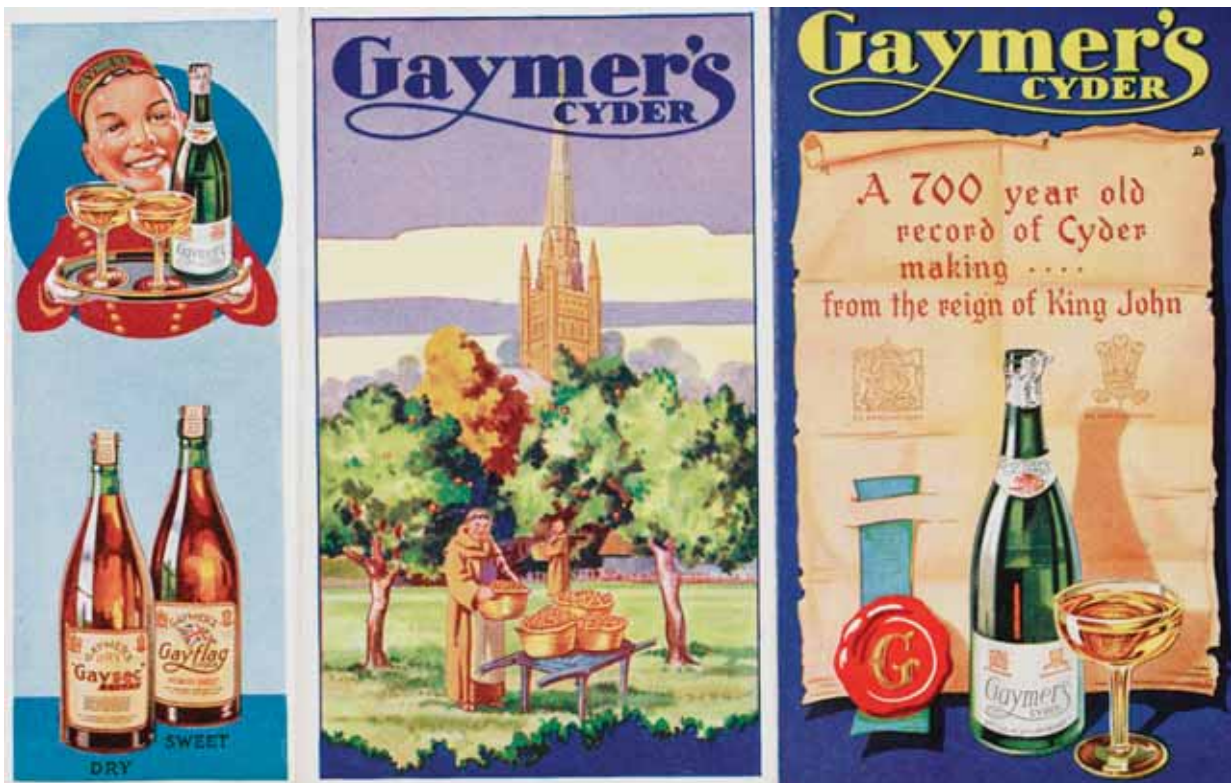
The archive includes directors' correspondence, advertising artwork, stock lists, partnership deeds, ledgers, photographs and other records relating to the manufacture of 'cyder' by William Gaymer and his successors in Banham and Attleborough. Of particular interest are six large scrapbooks, containing

1920s-1930s advertising literature, original artwork and cartoons featuring such punning catchphrases as 'Gay Ma', 'I'm getting Gaymer and Gamer!', and, 'Gay, Gay, Gaymer, the bottled laughter of the Norfolk Peasant'.

A key feature of the project was the provision of a paid placement for a graduate. In September 2011, Louise Piffero, one of our existing volunteers, successfully applied for and took up the post. For the following five weeks, Louise reviewed, sorted, arranged and added descriptions into the NRO's CALM software, under the supervision and guidance of project manager, NRO archivist Tom Townsend.

From the start of the project, we thought that the new catalogue deserved a memorable reference, thus we decided to use 'GAY' as the first element of the catalogue reference. We felt that this also resonated nicely with Gaymer's famous 1960s marketing slogan, 'Go Gay with Gaymer!' Also added to the original brief were the pre-existing, but non-ISAD (G)-compliant catalogues of two other Gaymer-related collections. These smaller collections have now been substantially re-catalogued and incorporated into the new catalogue.

Illustrated cover of price list with spurious 700-year cyder-making claim, from the Gaymer of Attleborough archive. Courtesy of the Norfolk Record Office.



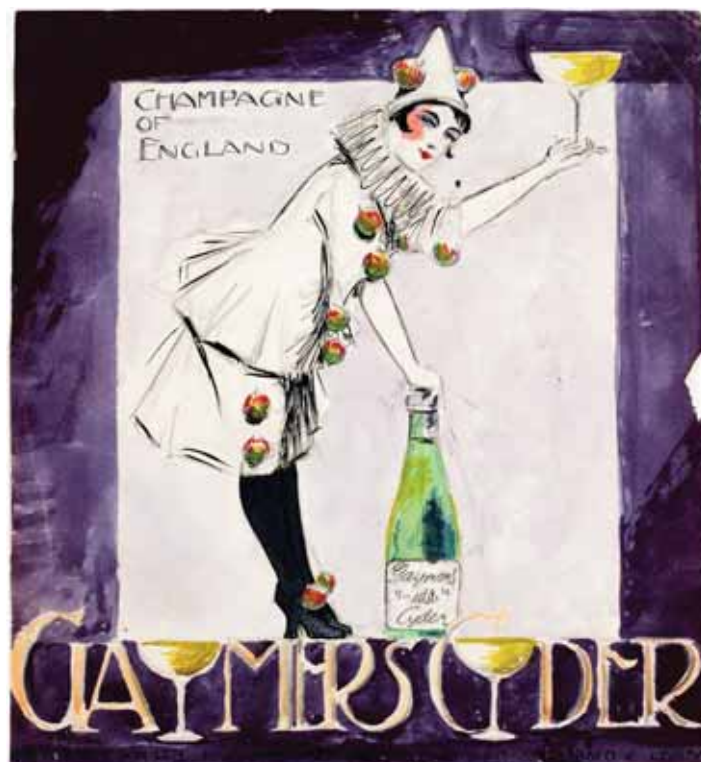


“the project has benefited from the enthusiastic support of the Attleborough Heritage Group (AHG) and from other people and organisations in Attleborough.”

Throughout, the project has benefited from the enthusiastic support of the Attleborough Heritage Group (AHG) and from other people and organisations in Attleborough. The AHG effectively became the NRO's local partners in Attleborough, helping to organise voluntary help and becoming the conduit for information about the Gaymer business. Crucially, the Group also acted as agents for the transfer to the NRO of further, early Gaymer business records, consisting of William Gaymer's correspondence from 1903 to 1927. These records provide much insight into the personal nature of William Gaymer's operation of his business. He held tightly to the reins of power until well after his 80th birthday. For instance, in 1924, long after the firm had converted into a private limited company, he wrote to a would-be, external acquirer of Gaymer shares, explaining that shares were offered first to heads of staff and then to other employees, in preference to people outside the company. His son, William Chapman Gaymer, followed in his footsteps and the family's personal controlling influence may, at least partly, explain the apparent lack of any surviving board meeting minutes.

Gaymer's correspondence also reveals his personal obsession with the acquisition of a Royal warrant. Officials at Buckingham Palace and anyone whom he thought may have wielded influence with the royal household were bombarded with pleas to try his cider. This led, in January 1921, to a brief exchange, reminiscent of P.G. Wodehouse's prose, with Lord Claude Hamilton, who commented most unfavourably on his young nephew's capacity for discharging the duties of Deputy Master of the King's Household, and advised that it would be no good Gaymer's applying to him.

Public meetings and poster exhibitions of Gaymer's advertising artwork, arranged by the NRO, were held both in Norwich and at Attleborough and helped to publicise the existence of the archive. Local people



Example of original advertising artwork from the Gaymer of Attleborough archive. Courtesy of Norfolk Record Office.

in Attleborough were also enlisted to help with the identification of subjects of the many uncaptioned photographs in the archive.

Liaising with our colleagues, in both Norfolk Library and Information Service, and Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service, has helped to develop a more joined-up approach to providing public finding aids. We have incorporated links to the Gaymer collections at the Rural Life Museum at Gressenhall and will send to them, in turn, links to our new catalogue for addition to their finding aids. In this way, we hope that our catalogue will reach out to those who may not be in the habit of searching our website for relevant material.

The success of the project can be measured not only by its producing a publicly available catalogue of the Gaymer archive, but also in its provision of valuable training and experience to a prospective archivist and in the fostering of ongoing links with the local community and with our colleagues in allied services in Norfolk. Such links will far outlast the term of the project and, we hope, will result in more similarly collaborative ventures. We are, of course, immensely grateful to the Business Archives Council for helping to fund the project, thereby aiding us in our mission to reach out more widely to the people of Norfolk.

.....  
**Tom Townsend**

Norfolk Record Office  
.....

# DIY Archives

Cataloguing a new collection is daunting enough for any archivist, but more so for one 'flying solo'.

I began my time with The Buccleuch Group, the holding company for all of the business interests of Richard Montagu Douglas Scott, 10th Duke of Buccleuch and 12th Duke of Queensberry, as a Tour Guide at Drumlanrig Castle at the beginning of April 2011. Drumlanrig Castle is part of the Queensberry Estate in Dumfriesshire. Little did I realise that this would lead on to the most complicated archival challenge I have ever faced.

When my experience in archives came to light, I was appointed to the new role of 'Estate Records Project Administrator' for Queensberry Estate Office, tasked to bring order to chaos, literally. An accumulation of at least ten years of 'depositing' records from the Estate Office in Drumlanrig Castle had led to three rooms filled with financial, administrative and other records covering 20th century Estate business.

After initial discussions with Duke Richard, we established that there was no real link-up with the records created within the business on a day-to-day basis; no capability to handle even basic research enquiries; records spread across a variety of Estates and records offices (in Scotland and England); limited cataloguing work, and no real records schedule. In short, there was no archive in the conventional sense at all.

Duke Richard has recognised the serious need to improve in this area and is part of a concerted effort over the next few years to create a coherent and flexible heritage framework. As such, my cataloguing project is to work

alongside Joyce Beattie, Office Manager at Queensberry Estate Office, to create an Estate-focused retention/disposal policy to go some way to redress the deficit. Additionally, Gareth Fitzpatrick, Collections and Archive Research Director at the Buccleuch Living Heritage Trust (BLHT), and Duke Richard's Private Secretary, Sandra Howatt, are working alongside Duchess Elizabeth to address systemic flaws and devise long-term strategies for heritage management within the Group.

The project has taught me to:

## 1. Have the necessary equipment before you begin.

In a conventional repository, a full supply of archive boxes and preservation supplies are on hand. I began cataloguing in September 2011 and did not see an archive box until the following January. With files, bundles, ledger boxes piled around me, it created a challenging physical environment to work in.

## 2. Get to know your employers.

It took some time before I got a sense of who was actually creating records at any given time, further complicated by a multitude of corporate re-organisations and spin-off companies created in the 1980s and 90s.

## 3. Be patient.

Pacing the project, as well as accepting what cannot be changed, is essential. This has been a marathon, not a 100-meter sprint. Due to the storage problem, boxing and locating has proven laborious and has effectively doubled the work. Accepting that this is only a small part of the huge archival endeavour is essential. Additionally, whatever progress is made at

Queensberry, the same needs to be done at Langholm Estate in Dumfriesshire, Bowhill Estate near Selkirk, Dalkeith Estate near Edinburgh and Boughton in Northamptonshire.

## 4. Accept that things don't always go to plan.

Cataloguing on Microsoft Word has posed some of the greatest challenges, necessitating the 'simplest possible method' approach. I tried to use ISAD(G) standards where possible within the existing system (created by Gareth Fitzpatrick, an 'enthusiastic amateur' of steadily increasing expertise in heritage management), tried to keep things as 'idiot-proof' as possible and created something which can be pasted into a database system when the Group acquires one.

## 5. Accentuate the positives.

In Duke Richard, I have a manager who is genuinely interested in the work that BLHT (and I) are doing. I have the opportunity to work independently in an environment which is quiet, reasonably light (albeit freezing in winter!) and undisturbed. I am helping to create an archive from scratch, a rare opportunity for any Archivist, and finally, up in the North-East tower, I have the best vantage-point of any Estate worker, with views along the grand-processional Castle approach.

All in all, it has been a great learning experience as well as a great challenge, which I very much hope will prove worth the time and effort in the end.

.....  
**Nicola Marchbank**

The Buccleuch Group  
.....





## IDAP Parchment Analysis Workshop, The National Archives, London, March 2012

In March 2012, the Institute of Conservation (ICON) organised the first UK-based workshop on parchment analysis, presented by Dr René Larsen, Dorte Vestergaard Poulsen and Kathleen Mühlen Axelsson from the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts School of Conservation. The speakers are members of the European Improved Damage Assessment of Parchment project (IDAP), which aims to develop non-destructive techniques to assess the condition of parchment.

There was an international feel to this workshop, with delegates travelling from as far as Australia, Mexico and Qatar. The distance travelled is a reflection of the global interest in parchment conservation and concerns regarding appropriate conservation treatments.

The workshop combined both theoretical presentations and practical experiments. The presentations were engaging and interactive, thanks to the speakers' passion for the subject and their

excellent preparation for delivering the workshop. The illustrated materials and extensive bibliography will become an important tool for future reference. The practical element provided invaluable experience in assessing parchment fibres. Examining parchment on a microscopic scale highlighted structural details, which, although not evident in a visual examination, are integral to the condition of the material.



Microscopic examination of parchment fibres. Antoinette Curtis, Norfolk Record Office.





Group work with Dr René Larsen. Antoinette Curtis, Norfolk Record Office.

“  
Examining parchment on a microscopic scale highlighted structural details which... are integral to the condition of the material.  
”

Dr René Larsen commented that the group had worked well and gained a lot and I would agree with him: I feel that the workshop provided a supportive environment to explore the subject and this allowed us to challenge our thinking. I gained confidence through talking to other delegates and realising that they experience similar challenges in their roles.

As an Instructor for the Archives and Records Association Conservation Training Scheme (Parchment Module), this course was particularly helpful, and included new theories which I will incorporate into my delivery of the course. A particular point of reference will be the IDAP Help File which gives clear and extensive information on parchment type, assessment and deterioration.

The quantity and quality of information within the course was considerable. The challenge for me now as a Conservator is to interpret this knowledge to achieve the appropriate balance between the scientific ideal for the material and its function as a document within an archive.



Magnified parchment fibres. Antoinette Curtis, Norfolk Record Office.

I would like to thank Victoria Stevens ACR, ICON Book and Paper Group Co-operative Training Register Sub-Committee Chair for her hard work and efficiency in organising this event, particularly in sourcing specialist equipment for use during the course direct from the manufacturers. I would also like to thank all the staff at The National Archives Collections Care Department for their help, support, and the use of their excellent facilities.

.....  
**Antoinette Curtis**

Conservator, Norfolk Record Office  
.....



# Rutland's Phoenix

A 60 week project to complete the cataloguing of the Archives of the Noel Family (Earls of Gainsborough) is now well underway at the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland. The project is funded by a grant from the National Cataloguing Grants Programme 2010.

The extensive archives of the Noel Family of Exton Park in Rutland were thought to have been lost forever in a series of fires at Exton Hall, most notably that of 1810 which completely gutted the Old Hall. However, around 25 years ago, a hoard of rusty deed boxes was found in the stables at Exton Hall containing a treasure trove of documents dating back to the 12th century. These records were deposited in the Record Office by the Earl of Gainsborough along with later 19th and early 20th century material.

The Record Office was fortunate to secure grant funding from the Leverhulme Trust to begin cataloguing the collection. However, the sheer volume of the archive and the arrival of additional items found at Exton meant that, whilst a large proportion of the collection had been listed, funding dried up before the collection could be finished or arranged. This meant that though awareness of the collection and its contents had been raised, it remained largely inaccessible. As a result, the final catalogue, and access to the records, has been greatly

Detail of the Survey of the Lordship of Exton and Horne by Thomas Bladslade, 1730 (Exton Collection, DE3214)  
Courtesy of Lady Gainsborough and the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland.







Silhouette of Henry, 6th Earl of Gainsborough, c.1798 (Exton Collection, DE3214). Courtesy of Lady Gainsborough and the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland.



Detail of Sir Baptist Hickes' Grant of Arms and Crest, 1605 (Exton Collection, DE3214). Courtesy of Lady Gainsborough and the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland.



Detail of Sir Baptist Hickes' Grant of Arms and Crest, 1605 (Exton Collection, DE3214). Courtesy of Lady Gainsborough and the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland.

“  
the Noel family papers hold  
resonance with us from across the  
centuries.  
”

anticipated by researchers and local community groups for many years.

Funding from the National Cataloguing Grants Programme 2010 enabled the Record Office to employ a project archivist, Rachael Marsay, to finish cataloguing the collection. The project has now passed its half-way point: all items are now listed, the item level descriptions are arranged in their final order and so far over 2,000 records have been entered into the Record Office's CALM database. A fully complete online catalogue is due to be launched in late September.

The scope of the archive is vast in breadth and depth: the collection is housed in 700 archive boxes with hundreds of outsize maps, plans, charters and many volumes. The collection demonstrates the interests and connections of a family of consequence throughout the centuries and vividly depicts their highs and lows. Though the Noels' Exton and Rutland interests are predominant in the collection, the family also had estates in Chipping Campden (Gloucestershire), Teston (Kent), London and Ireland. Deeds, maps and estate

papers offer a multitude of opportunities for exploring the landscapes of these places over the centuries and help bring the local areas to life.

The collection includes a wide selection of family papers representing their business, political and personal interests, revealing their links to the broader social arena and wider world. From late 18th century banking crises, through 19th century love stories, to poignant reminders of the horrors of the Boer and World Wars, the Noel family papers hold resonance with us from across the centuries.

The collection also includes charity papers dating back to the early 17th century and an intriguing selection of papers regarding witchcraft trials brought before Sir Andrew Noel as a Justice of the Peace in the late 16th century. There is even a rare glimpse of early English Jewish history with an illuminating Hebrew addition on a medieval deed regarding St Lawrence Jewry in London.

Some records are rather more surprising. The collection includes a selection of papers regarding the production of Maidstone Geneva Gin, and accounts of skirmishes with smugglers around the turn of the 19th century. One of my favourite records is a scrawled memorandum that reads: 'Garden Horse to wear Boots – where are they?'





The Exton Collection as found. Courtesy of the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland.

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greatly anticipated by researchers  
and local community groups for  
many years.  
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Some of the highlights of the collection are showcased in the 'feature' section on the Exton Project webpages (see [www.leics.gov.uk/recordoffice](http://www.leics.gov.uk/recordoffice) under 'Our Resources') and supporters of the project are kept in touch via regular news bulletins. A travelling exhibition will be created for use in the communities and regions covered by the collection, giving the Record Office an excellent chance to create links to communities in other areas of the country as well as strengthening bonds with communities within Leicestershire and Rutland. The first location to host the exhibition will be the Rutland County Museum, which was originally built by Sir Gerard Noel Noel as a Riding School for the Rutland Fencible Cavalry in the 1790s.

.....  
**Rachael Marsay**

Project Archivist, Record Office for Leicestershire,  
Leicester and Rutland  
[Rachael.Marsay@leics.gov.uk](mailto:Rachael.Marsay@leics.gov.uk)  
.....

# NOT the Olympic Games!

**W**elcome to the annual Section for Specialist Repositories (SSR) issue of ARC.

The Olympics have been on the SSR's mind ever since London won the Olympic bid in 2005; those of you with long memories may remember that we produced a sport-themed section for ARC that year. Seven years later, we don't want to go over old ground, and between June's Olympic-themed ARC, and the saturation coverage that the Games are no doubt receiving at the moment, we thought we'd give you a break.

Which is why this is a sport-themed issue. But don't despair, for no member of the International Olympic Committee will lose any sleep over these pages. We're featuring a variety of articles about non-Olympic sports and pastimes which you won't see in Olympic coverage this summer. Golf! Billiards! Ballooning! Cricket! Admittedly you'll spot a couple of winter sports; and golf is coming back in 2016, after an absence from the Games of over 100 years (read all about it here), but I did say *this* summer.

We open with an article about the Wenlock Olympian Society and their archives. The Wenlock Games were first held in Much Wenlock in 1850; when Baron Pierre de Coubertin attended the 1890 Wenlock Olympian Games, he was inspired to found the International Olympic Committee. The rest is, as they say, history.

And this year we end with something of an annual SSR tradition - nuns. This year's article

*(Not the Olympic Games cont)*

has been co-authored by a Provincial Superior, and discusses the 150th anniversary of the founding of her congregation. These are sporting nuns in every sense: not only do they enjoy following sport, but they also teach and participate. There's a fantastic archive photograph of nuns playing netball to accompany the article. But by the time you get to that, you'll already know when and by whom netball was invented. The SSR aims to be educational as well as entertaining.

And finally, if you want to amuse yourselves on the internet, I suggest you try searching for one of the most infamous of non-Olympic sports - poodle-clipping. Introduced into the Games only once, in Paris in 1900, the event was won (unsurprisingly) by a Frenchwoman. But this 'sport' failed to appeal to an international audience and was never included in the Games again. The astute researcher might guess why on discovering that the winner's name was Avril Lafoule: your entertainment will be derived from finding the number of respectable websites that solemnly repeat the entire story as fact. The Daily Telegraph has a lot to answer for!\*

We do hope you enjoy SSR's selection of articles this year - and that they provide an interesting counterpoint to the Olympic Games.

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**Susan Scott**

Section for Specialist Repositories  
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\* [www.telegraph.co.uk/sport/olympics/2565840/How-Telegraph-struck-Olympic-poodle-clipping-gold-in-Beijing.html](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/sport/olympics/2565840/How-Telegraph-struck-Olympic-poodle-clipping-gold-in-Beijing.html)

# Going For Gold

## Adrian Glew gives us an update on the activities of the Section for Specialist Repositories.

Last year, mirroring the Olympic Torch relay, we continued our peripatetic journey around the UK with a visit to Edinburgh in June, taking in fascinating tours of the Royal College of Nursing HQ and the archives and special collections held by the city's university. It was topped off with a delightful talk by Sarah Sheridan on using archives as background research for her novels, in the sunny and welcoming surroundings of the Quaker Meeting House.

By August our charabanc had moved to the Norfolk Record Office where we heard an excellent talk about the disastrous fire at the Norwich Public Library in 1994. The county records were thankfully stored in the basement, and suffered reversible water damage rather than being engulfed and lost forever in the flames above. And all because of a simple electrical fault in a library showcase. The Archivist then gave us a tour of their conservation studio and stores with triple guards against fire, flood, and tempest. Next door we had the chance to view the East Anglia Film Archive, funded (or drastically reduced as we discovered) by the University of East Anglia. What an amazing resource with multiple storage facilities for differing audio-visual media and an excellent conservation unit on site to boot. But we were witnessing their apogee as most of the manpower were about to be made redundant, leaving a skeleton staff to look after a nationally important resource. A scandal! We duly reported back to the ARA council in the hope that a national policy to safeguard our regional (aka our national) screen heritage could be formulated.

At the SSR AGM in March, we were given an overview, by a commercial company, of a cost-effective way for small repositories to digitise their holdings, and listened transfixed to a very moving account from Katy Carr about using archive material and personal testimony to create

songs and videos relating to the incredible story of a Polish national's escape from Auschwitz Concentration Camp ([www.kazikfilm.com](http://www.kazikfilm.com))

By the time this issue appears, an invaluable DPA/FOI training day will have been held in London and we will have heard about the collections at the National Museum of English Rural Life and special collections at the University of Reading, hosted by the Mills Archive, with further talks about working with volunteers by their own staff and colleagues at Sussex Record Office.

As you can see, our training officer, Nichola Court, is steaming ahead in her new role. I encourage more of you to join our section to hear about our activities (via our regular electronic newsletter efficiently zapped into the ether by our Secretary Daniel Scott-Davies) and/or to suggest future training events or offers of venue. If you would like to become involved in the committee or would like to become a rep for your region, or could help us in other ways, please contact either me ([adrian.glew@tate.org.uk](mailto:adrian.glew@tate.org.uk)) or Daniel ([Daniel.Scott-Davies@scouts.org.uk](mailto:Daniel.Scott-Davies@scouts.org.uk)).

This year's SSR edition of ARC illustrates the breadth and depth of our members' holdings on sporting topics. Sport pervades all our lives, so we hope the articles will bring back fond memories (or not!) of double PE. There is a challenge thrown down by the good people of Wenlock, who believe they have the earliest photograph (dated 1867 no less) of a multi-sport event in the UK - if not the world. If you have an earlier example in your archives, please let us know!

We look forward to hearing from you and seeing more new faces at events around the country in the coming year. We promise not to refer to sport until after the next Olympics!

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**Adrian Glew**

Head of the Archive, Tate  
Chair of SSR  
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# The Wenlock Olympian Society and the Wenlock Olympian Games

Some 18 years ago, I was asked to research the Victorian philanthropist, William Penny Brookes, in his capacity as one of several notable Shropshire people. In 1850, Brookes had set up an Olympic-like Games:

*for the promotion of the moral, physical and intellectual improvement of the Town and neighbourhood of Wenlock and especially of the Working Classes by the encouragement of outdoor recreation and by the award of prizes annually at public meetings for skill in Athletic exercises, and proficiency in intellectual and industrial attainments.*

In Brookes' day, Wenlock was a vast borough which loosely consisted of the districts of Broseley, Madeley (including the World Heritage Site of Ironbridge) and Much Wenlock, which was often referred to as 'the Town'.



William Penny Brookes, 1876. © Wenlock Olympian Society.





Linden Field, Wenlock Olympian Games June 1867. One of the oldest photographs known of a sporting event. ©Wenlock Olympian Society.

My research was for a corporate film we'd been commissioned to produce for Shropshire County Council with the working title of 'A Thousand Years of Shropshire'. The film was never made, but those initial investigations took me to the archives of the Wenlock Olympian Society (WOS) the volunteer-run organisation set up by Brookes to stage his Games. I tracked the WOS archives down to the Corn Exchange - the Much Wenlock Town Council's offices, and after that first visit, somehow I never left.

The Much Wenlock Town Council archivists, Glyn MacDonald (a retired head teacher) and Muriel Furbank (a retired language teacher) doubled as the WOS archivists. They made me very welcome, and introduced me to the WOS archives. They were stored in the 'back room' in a large old wooden box, which in those days needed a small crow bar to prise it open. As the WOS was still very active, it seemed a curious place for a society to keep its archive. However, this was almost apologetically explained to me. The WOS was still a volunteer-run organisation, run on a shoestring and without premises of its own. In 1950, the Honorary General Secretary of the WOS had been Mr A.G. Matthews, who was also Clerk for the Much Wenlock District. The Clerk's office was in the Corn Exchange, so the easiest arrangement was for the minute books and memorabilia of WOS to be kept safely inside the wooden box in the back room.

Once the film commission fell through, my research into William Penny Brookes and his Wenlock Olympian Games became personal, rather than business, and began to take shape slowly. It is still on-going. During those first years, I witnessed how, by means of quiet but persistent diplomacy, Glyn and Muriel overcame apathy brought on by familiarity, and instigated a series of vital improvements. They acquired a number of strong purpose-made cardboard boxes in which to store the paper archives such as the early sports photographs and other equally precious documents - including the leather-bound minute books. These were each wrapped in newly-requisitioned acid-free paper, and the cardboard boxes were stacked securely in the newly installed second-hand fireproof cabinets. Since Glyn and Muriel's retirement in 2001, there has been a series of archivists, all enthusiastic, and all adding a little more to the conservation of this unique archive.

Brookes was a collector. He encouraged those around him to collect. With reference specifically to the WOS archive, minute books one and two are fine examples. These are the records of the WOS from 1850 to 1895 (the year of his death) - handwritten by Brookes. The minutes of the meetings tell the story of his struggle to set up and maintain an Olympic-like Games open to people of 'every grade', but especially the working classes. This was an amazing achievement which



Thomas Sabin, Pickford, Coventry. Winner of the Wenlock Olympian Games Bicycle Races 1877 and 1878. © Wenlock Olympian Society.

succeeded despite concerned criticism. The spectacle of scantily dressed, virile young men performing in front of the female populace was too much for some people to countenance, but Brookes was not afraid to point out that as a doctor, surgeon and magistrate, he had seen the grinding poverty of the working classes first hand. He could attest to the benefits of encouraging the development of a healthy mind and body. Alongside the meeting's minutes are newspaper reports of the annual Games, articles of interest and various letters from dignitaries such as Gladstone and Disraeli, all of which record the success of the enterprise. They tell the tale of the Games' expansion, of the gradual sophistication of the disciplines and how, by the 1890s, competitors and spectators were arriving in Much Wenlock from across the country. The Wenlock Olympian Games was no longer a small local event. In 1860 Brookes had set up the county Olympian Games as an annual peripatetic sports meetings - a new innovation. Then in 1866, the National Olympian Games were similarly organised. Through his Olympian Society, Brookes lobbied the Greek government on several occasions,

“Through his Olympian Society, Brookes lobbied the Greek government on several occasions, and requested that the Olympic Games be revived as an international competition.”

and requested that the Olympic Games be revived as an international competition. He was unsuccessful.

The minute books also record how Brookes, through his Olympian Society, lobbied the British government to put physical education on the curriculum of National Schools. It was this aspect of his life's work which brought him into contact with Baron Pierre de Coubertin (1863-1937). The young Frenchman came to visit Brookes in Much Wenlock in 1890 to discuss Brookes' work in this field, but when he left he took with him the blueprint for a modern Olympic Games open to all people no matter what language they spoke or what creed or class they originated from - the blueprint was based on Brookes' lifelong work.

The Autograph Book, a separate volume, is a collection of the notable people Brookes encouraged, attracted or lobbied to support his various causes. The archive also contains a few scrapbooks, a letter book, medals, trophies and 'oddments', all of which adds to the biography of an extraordinary figure of a Victorian philanthropist, polymath,



entrepreneur, innovator and family man. The photographic collection is equally exciting. There are photographs of Brookes in a typically Victorian studio pose, of Brookes with two of his children, of athletes such as Thomas Sabin from Coventry, William Roberts, a local Wenlock man, or Harold Brooke of the German Gymnasium. A tantalisingly few others are extraordinary photographs taken at the Games itself. The 1887 image of the Champion Tilter kneeling before the Lady of Beauty to be rewarded with a crown of laurel leaves is a particular favourite. Less spectacular visually but of greater importance is the 1867 photograph of the Games on Windmill Field, or as Brookes refers to it 'the arena'. It is the oldest known photograph of a multi-sports meeting. Windmill Hill rises at the back to form a natural arena and is covered with spectators. At the foot of the hill are a line of booths containing typical Victorian amusements - rifle range, coconut shy, food and ale tents, etc. Lined up in front of them are the competitors - tilters on horseback and athletes. They stand alongside the drum and fife band who led the procession through the town's streets to the Games field. A copy of this historic photograph will be on display at the Sir John Soane Museum in London during the London Olympic Games.

Other WOS artefacts are on loan to various museums and displays including the British Museum (medals), Ironbridge Gorge Museum, the Royal Opera House, and also the Olympic Park, with the largest collection on public display in Much Wenlock Museum. Much of the WOS Archive has been digitised, and the WOS continues to benefit from the generosity of Much Wenlock Town Council who kindly house the remainder of the collection at the Corn Exchange. It is open to visitors strictly by appointment.

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**Helen Clare Cromarty**

Wenlock Olympian Society  
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# Lost Balls: Golf and the 1908 London Games

Golf returns to the Olympic Games in 2016 at Rio de Janeiro, where the game's top professionals will join their fellow athletes as the first Olympian golfers in over a century. While no Olympic golf will be played during the 2012 Games, London was the last city scheduled to host golf, at its first Games in 1908. Nevertheless, at the 11th hour the tournament was cancelled. The archives of The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews and the collections of the British Golf Museum, a Recognised Collection of National Significance, help to reveal why.

Golf was first held at the 1900 Paris Games, which formed part of the Exposition Universelle Internationale. "It was very important to bring golf to light" claimed the official report: "this is such an interesting and healthy game, aimed at all social classes, and men and women". Golf was one of the few sports that women, making their Olympic debut, were allowed to compete in. Unfortunately, with no overall authority governing the Games at that time, it was unclear

1908 Golf Medal. Reproduced by kind permission of The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews.





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If the organisers of the 1908 London Games had hoped that the return of Olympic golf to Britain, home of its greatest champions, would be supported by the golfing press and public, they were much mistaken.

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which sporting events had Olympic status. Indeed, Margaret Ives Abbott of the USA, who won the women's event while studying art in Paris, died in 1955 unaware she was the first female Olympic golf champion.

Golf returned at the 1904 St Louis Games, held under the wider Louisiana Purchase Express Exposition. The weekly paper *Golf Illustrated* was mildly supportive, encouraging any golfers thinking of visiting the exhibition to take their clubs with them. Despite the organisers' hopes of crowning an Olympic Golf Champion from among the world's finest golfers, 72 Americans and three Canadians alone took part. Not even consolation events, including a putting competition "held at night under electric lights of different colours", could lure the Europeans across the Atlantic.

Not everyone was happy with such grand golfing aspirations for the Games. Before the competition was even held, *The Irish Golfer* argued that if Olympic golf was to be regarded as a World Championship, it "must be under the control of the old and famous golf clubs", arguably those in Britain and particularly The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews (the R&A), golf's governing body. Dismissed as trivial by *Golf Illustrated* at the time, this sentiment was to prove farsighted.

If the organisers of the 1908 London Games had hoped that the return of Olympic golf to Britain, home of its greatest champions, would be supported by the golfing press and public, they were much mistaken. As before, many correspondents questioned both the need for and legitimacy of the competition. Britain's Open and Amateur Championships - then two of golf's Majors - were seen as the pinnacle of golfing achievement, the first Open having predated Olympic golf by 40 years.

Others queried the game's inclusion at all. When two-time Open Champion Harold Hilton objected on the grounds that no golf was played at the Greek games, Rev. RS de Courcy



John Low of the R&A Rules of Golf and Green Committees. Reproduced by kind permission of The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews.



Two-time Open Champion Harold Hilton. Reproduced by kind permission of The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews.

Laffan, Honorary Secretary of the British Olympic Association, pointed out that the ancient stadium at Olympia had not been lit by electricity. Neither fact, he argued, had any relevance to how the modern Games be held. They would not, Laffan confirmed, be holding chariot races.

Most debate, however, derived from a letter apparently lost in the post. In January 1908, John Low of the R&A Rules of Golf and Green Committees wrote a letter to *The Scotsman*, highly critical that Royal St George's Golf Club, Sandwich, and not the R&A had been asked to run golf at the Olympics. Rev. de Courcy Laffan responded, stating that the British Olympic Association had written to the R&A in 1906, who, he claimed, "took no notice of the communication."

What followed through the press was an increasingly impassioned debate on the rights and wrongs of Olympic golf. Low was incredulous that the Association never followed up their initial letter, believing the lack of acknowledgement "indicates that they [the Association] were not too anxious to receive their answer". Many editorials joined Low and Hilton in opposition. *The Edinburgh Evening Dispatch* railed against a perceived "exploitation of golf in connection with the 'Olympic Games'", while *The Times* argued that with "quite enough competitions in golf already...Olympic golf is a mistake". Both echoed Low's belief in a "cheapening and degradation of the game in irresponsible and unnecessary championships of this nature...If the Olympic Championships are to vie with the present Open and Amateur Championships, no loyal supporter of golf will have anything to do with them."

Others wondered if such objections were excessive. *The Birmingham Post* accused Low of potentially frightening away British players, having piled "so exceptionally heavy a mountain on the top of so ridiculously small a mouse." *The Westminster Gazette* was blunt: "It is to be feared...that, with such a powerful body of players opposing it, the Olympic meeting will prove a fiasco."

Throughout this debate, preparations for the Olympic golf competition continued at Sandwich. However, the Association's own competition regulations may have contributed to Olympic golf's undoing. Despite

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If the organisers of the 1908 London Games had hoped that the return of Olympic golf to Britain... would be supported by the golfing press and public, they were much mistaken.

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advanced arrangements, the Association cancelled the golf competitions just two days before they were due to begin. The official explanation, as reported in *The Times*, was that a number of British golfers had incorrectly filled in their entry forms. Indeed, the only correct entry received was apparently that of the Canadian George Lyon, winner of the 1904 St Louis Olympic golf competition. Believing its views proven justified, editor Garden Smith's reaction in *Golf Illustrated* was brief and dismissive: "The whole scheme from start to finish was a most unfortunate one and foredoomed to failure."

The 1908 Games were the last at which golf was on the official Olympic programme. Since then the Olympics have evolved and grown and so has golf. The R&A now governs and supports the growth of the game worldwide, operating with the consent of golf organisations in over 130 countries. In 2008, recognising the enormous benefit to golf development that participation in the Olympics would bring, The R&A and its fellow golfing bodies launched their bid for the game's readmission, 100 years after the cancelled London competition. In 2009, the bid was announced as successful.

Golf experienced the Olympic buzz in June, when the 2012 Olympic Torch Relay passed through St Andrews, the 'Home of Golf', and onto Royal Lytham & St Annes, Lancashire, venue of this year's Open Championship. The flame of Olympic golf has been relit for its journey to Rio, with all onboard this time.

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Laurie Rae

Museum & Heritage Senior Curator, British Golf Museum  
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# 'Madame's Girls'

**M**artina Sofia Helena Bergman was born in Skåne, Sweden, on 7 October 1849, the daughter of Betty Lundgren and Karl Johann Bergman, a farmer. Martina was given a private education, studied languages at a pension in Switzerland and at the age of 21 she was a private tutor. In 1874, she became a librarian, working for the editors of *Nordisk Familjebok*. One of the editorial staff was Edvin Per Vilhelm Österberg, a schoolmaster at the Stockholm Ateneum, whom she was to marry in 1886. Martina developed an interest in gymnastics and left library work in 1877 to study gymnastics and to travel in Europe. In 1879, at the age of 30 she started a two-year course in pedagogical and medical gymnastics at the Royal Central Gymnastic Institute in Stockholm, where she was awarded the Ling Certificate on 14 May 1881.

In England in 1881, the London School Board wanted to fill the post of Lady Superintendent of Physical



Martina Bergman Österberg, 1849 – 1915.  
Reproduced with permission of the Bergman Österberg Union Archive.

Exercises and to promote Ling's system of gymnastics. The post was offered to Martina Bergman, who became Superintendent of Physical Education in Girls' and Infants' Schools, at a salary of £200 per annum. Letters from the London School Board went to schools, informing them of classes for school mistresses, to be



Dance on College Pitch, 1938. Reproduced with permission of the Bergman Österberg Union Archive.





Swimming practice, 1932.  
Reproduced with permission of the Bergman  
Österberg Union Archive.

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From relatively small beginnings, this remarkable Swedish woman influenced physical education, not just in England but throughout the world.  
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run by Miss Bergman. One mistress was to attend from each school and a certificate would be awarded to those passing a theoretical and practical examination in Swedish Gymnastics, Theory of Movement, Anatomy and Physiology.

Miss Bergman's enthusiasm inspired teachers previously unfamiliar with physical exercises for girls and in June 1883, girls from Miss Bergman's London Board schools performed a demonstration before the Prince and Princess of Wales, receiving wide press coverage and public praise. By the Spring of 1888, the Swedish System was being taught in all the London Board's girls' schools and more than 1,000 teachers had been trained by Miss Bergman, who were to spread the work beyond the London schools to every part of the country.

Four years after commencing work for the London School Board, Miss Bergman started her own college in Hampstead for the training of women teachers of physical education. This College began with four students; it was the first of its kind and it flourished to

the extent that ten years later, in 1895, its Principal was looking for new premises and transferred teaching to a large country house near Dartford. After marrying in 1886, Miss Bergman was known as 'Madame Österberg' and her College in Dartford bore the name 'Madame Bergman Österberg's Physical Training College'. 50 years later, the College was renamed Dartford College of Physical Education.

From relatively small beginnings, this remarkable Swedish woman influenced physical education, not just in England but throughout the world. Students applied to the College from far and wide. Successful applicants were carefully selected (50 per cent of applications were rejected) and the training they received was strenuous, exacting and very disciplined. Madame's students excelled at a wide range of sporting activities (cricket, hockey, lacrosse, netball, swimming and tennis) and many played for their national teams. The game of netball was first developed at Madame's College from the American game of basketball.



Blue Plaque at the entrance to Madame Österberg's College.  
Reproduced with permission of the Bergman Österberg Union Archive.

Madame Österberg's ambition was not just the widespread promotion of Swedish gymnastics and the benefits of physical education. Her great vision was the advancement of economic, social and spiritual freedom for women and this vision had a powerful influence not only on those students she taught personally, but on all those in subsequent decades who were 'Dartford girls'. The quality of training was so high that teachers trained at Madame Österberg's College were in great demand; some students were appointed by American colleges; others went on to become headteachers or to found new schools or colleges, even as far afield as Japan.

In 1902 the Bergman Österberg Union of Trained Gymnastic Teachers was founded informally to assist with the circulation of news from former students and to set up a benefit fund. Following Madame Österberg's death, the Union was officially constituted in 1916 and is still active today. Members of the Bergman Österberg Union (BÖU) are passionate about their training at Madame's College and the legacy they inherited by being 'Dartford trained'. One student, who left Dartford PE College in 1964, was asked recently why she chose Dartford. She replied simply, "Because Dartford was the best!"



Vaulting with natural support, 1935.  
Reproduced with permission of the Bergman Österberg Union Archive.

Madame Österberg's achievements are documented in the BÖU Archive which has many original letters, student records, details of Royal visits, photographs, certificates, magazines, trophies and items of uniform (including an original gymslip, first designed at Madame's College in 1892, by one of her students). The material in the archive is relevant to anyone interested in teacher training, physical education and sport, women's studies, Dartford local history, and family history. Many enquirers have been thrilled with the information uncovered in the archive about a relative who was one of 'Madame's girls'.

The BÖU Archive is held at Dartford on the site which Madame Österberg chose for her College in 1895. The site has seen many changes and is now the Dartford campus of North West Kent College.

#### **Rosemary Moon**

Archivist, Bergman Österberg Union Archive  
[www.gre.ac.uk/bou](http://www.gre.ac.uk/bou)

<http://bergmanosterbergunionarchive.blogspot.com/>



# Ballooning as a Sport

Scouting was involved in the early achievements of aeronautics thanks to the brother of its founder Lord Baden-Powell. Major Baden F.S. Baden-Powell had invented a man-lifting kite in 1894 and used them for aerial photography. He founded the Royal Aeronautical Society in 1897 and held the positions of Secretary and President in subsequent years. Interestingly he made an ascent in an aeroplane with Wilbur Wright in 1908 and travelled in a Zeppelin in 1913. He also published *Ballooning as a Sport*, 1907 and *Practical Aerodynamics*, 1908. This sets the scene for a most fascinating recent accession to The Scout Association Archive.

We recently received a trophy which has been awarded to Air Scout Groups on an annual basis. This statue of Charles Stewart Rolls was sculpted by Kathleen Scott (widow of Captain Scott of the Antarctic). Charles Rolls invested in the company we all know as Rolls-Royce but he was also a pioneering aviator. He would be the first British person to cross the English Channel in a powered aircraft. The extract below from Colbron Pearse of Headquarters Staff shows the reason for Rolls'

inclusion on a Scouting trophy, and demonstrates the Scouts' very early involvement with aeronautics, well before the Air Scout branch was established in 1941.

*On Saturday, April 30th 1910, by the courtesy of the Hon. C.S. Rolls and the Aerial League, it was my privilege to take part in a most interesting experiment, organised to test the possibilities of communication between aeronauts and people on the ground.*

*Among those present to witness the start at Battersea were Colonel Massey, the founder of the Aerial League, the Chief Scout and his brother, Major Baden-Powell. We took with us about a dozen despatches, fastened in envelopes, attached to which were long tissue paper streamers, and also a large white signalling flag. We continued to rise until we reached the height of about 3,000 feet, and although the air seemed fresher it was not cold:*

*Rapidly passing over London - the parks looking splendidly green amongst the grey network of houses - we crossed in Kent. At 3.35 we passed over the Crystal*

The statue of Charles Stewart Rolls, sculpted by Kathleen Scott.  
Reproduced by the kind permission of The Scout Association Trustees.



In the basket The Hon. C.S. Rolls, with Captain Pearse. General Baden-Powell and Miss Baden-Powell on the left, and the Scouts are from the 1st Hampstead and Richmond Scoutmaster's Training Corps. Reproduced by the kind permission of The Scout Association Trustees.



A group of Scouts preparing to fly their hot air balloon, adorned with the Scout Association Fleur-de-lis emblem, at Gilwell Park in 1976. Reproduced by the kind permission of The Scout Association Trustees.



Note from Colonel Massey of the Aerial League recording the fact that Troop Leader Sidney Mastin delivered the first despatch, 1910  
Reproduced by the kind permission of The Scout Association Trustees.

Palace - looking anything but "Crystal" - and were then travelling at the rate of 16 and two thirds miles an hour, at a height of 2,900 feet. Over Herne Hill the air seemed colder, but as we passed Anerley and Shirley Woods we descended slightly and got into a warmer current. ... We dropped the first despatch about 3:40pm two miles east of Croydon.

Very few Scouts were seen, and we only saw one despatch picked up by them. But it was evident that they were on the alert all around, for many of the despatches were delivered at the Aerial League Headquarters that evening. Sidney Mastin, of Beckenham, was the first to deliver a despatch, which he found near Shirley Woods.

The envelopes containing the messages were, to my mind, rather too light, for they travelled some distance before reaching the ground.

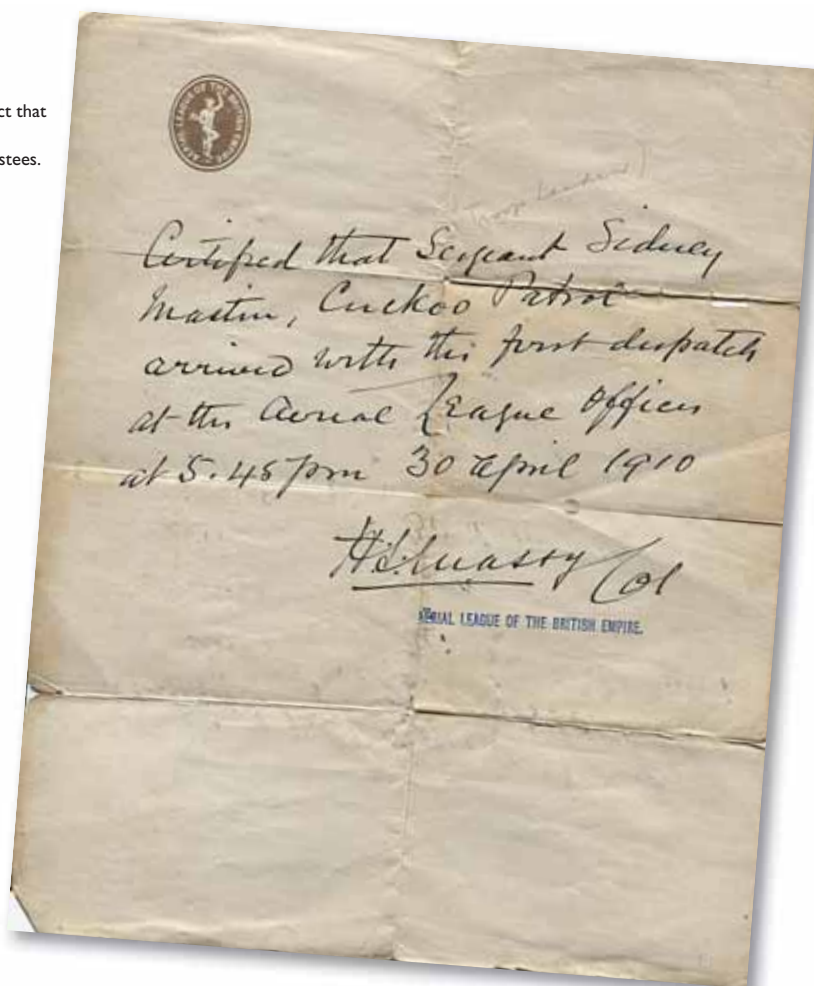
Passing over Cudham, Chipstead, River Hill, and Hildenborough, where the other balloon descended, we decided to alight near Tonbridge.

In this trip lasting two hours, we covered twenty-seven miles.

Air Scouting would develop and flourish in later years, as you can read on our website at [www.scoutsrecords.org](http://www.scoutsrecords.org). Suffice it to say, that wasn't the last balloon to be used by the Scout Movement. The image opposite illustrates a Scout balloon as it prepares to take off at Gilwell Park in 1976.

#### **Daniel Scott-Davies**

Archive & Heritage Manager, The Scout Association



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# Curling, Cricket and Clouston

Laura Gould writes about patient sporting activities at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital, formerly the Royal Edinburgh Asylum.

*The sanest looking people on our curling pond during an exciting game... are not some of the officials. But that prince of all Scotch games has the power to rouse the dormant seeds of sane enthusiasm for the time in some of our patients in a wonderful way. An old curler seldom gets so insane that its enthusiasm and its familiar terms don't come back to him when he finds himself on the ice.*  
(Thomas Clouston, Physician Superintendent, Royal Edinburgh Hospital Annual Report, 1885. (Ref: LHB7/7/9))

An Olympic sport since the 1998 Winter Olympics, curling is well suited to the Scottish climate where iced-over ponds are a common feature of the winter scenery. The image shows curlers in front of West House (now MacKinnon House) at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital (REH), a psychiatric hospital opened to patients in 1813. The photograph forms part of the papers collected by the Physician Superintendents (ref: GD16) which also include patient letters, drawings and records of their activities, such as the minute book of the Royal Edinburgh Library Club.

Whilst curling had taken place at the REH since the 1840s, the 'pond' in the image dates from 1888; the annual report from that year describes how one patient, an "enthusiastic curler", had designed a shallow curling pond which could be used after only one night's frost. The patient selected the site, and oversaw the work. According



Curling match, c.1900. Courtesy of Lothian Health Services Archive, Edinburgh University Library.

to Thomas Clouston, "it is a clear addition to our means of cure. So far as I can ascertain, it is the only such pond in Edinburgh or the neighbourhood that is perfectly sound and watertight".

Sport was considered an important part of the patients' therapy. It was introduced by the first Physician Superintendent, William MacKinnon, in the 1840s, and was continued by his successors including Clouston, in post from 1873-1908, the period during which this photograph was taken. In his 1841 report, MacKinnon wrote that the patients' regime should include occupation, society, recreation and amusement. The latter two included concerts and magic lantern shows, and by the late 1840s, under the new Physician Superintendent, David Skae, a weekly ball, picnics, country

walks and sea-bathing for private patients. During Clouston's tenure, an American bowling alley was built at West House, and a billiards room in the neo-Gothic mansion, Craig House, opened to house private patients in 1894. Clouston wrote about the significance of recreation to psychiatric patients:

*We train people to dance here who never danced before; to play billiards, bowls, cricket, tennis, curling, cards, dominoes and draughts who had never played these games in their sane lives. I have known many cases where the interest in a game led directly to recovery.*

In the summer months, the REH's cricket team was active and match reports are a common feature of the *Morningside Mirror*, a patient and staff magazine produced from



1845. They regularly played against local teams, including those of schools and universities, and those of other asylums such as Perthshire and Stirling District Asylums. The summer of 1889 saw an impressive REH team win seven and draw three of their ten matches reported in that edition, although as many as 35 matches were played in total each season. Each year a highlight was the match between the patients and the staff, known as 'R.E.A. v Dr Clouston's Class'.

Of course the sporting activities of a Scottish asylum would not be complete without a round or two of golf. The REH golf club was formed in 1892 and competitions with cash prizes were a feature. Presumably the club secretary had the most arduous task: that of rearranging matches - in 1896 the first two competitions had to be rescheduled due to wet weather! One contributor to a 1890 edition of the 'Morningside Mirror' wrote a 20-verse ode to the sport including one on its difficulties:

*A curious game, – you cannot see the hole,  
Strike up the hill, in line with that red pole;  
Don't strike the hill, or wall, or lodge in whin –  
You can't get out, though easy to get in.*

Sport and recreation continued to be key components of treatment into the 20th century. Traditional sports continued, but newer sporting activities such as 'keep fit' made an appearance too. Quite what MacKinnon et al might have made of ladies in trousers is unknown, but it's certain they would have been pleased to know that their ideals regarding treatment were still being practised.



Cricket match, c.1910. Courtesy of Lothian Health Services Archive, Edinburgh University Library.



Keep fit class, c.1960s. Courtesy of Lothian Health Services Archive, Edinburgh University Library.

The REH celebrates its bicentenary next year, and to mark this occasion, Lothian Health Services Archives is launching an archive appeal to coincide with the bicentenary lecture series, to run from October 2012 to June 2013. We will be asking anyone with items relating to the Hospital's history to consider gifting them to the Archive. More

information will be available on our website later this year, and via Facebook ([www.facebook.com/lhsa.edinburgh](http://www.facebook.com/lhsa.edinburgh)) and Twitter (@lhsaeul).

**Laura Gould**

Archivist, Lothian Health Services Archives, Edinburgh University Library

[www.lhsa.lib.ed.ac.uk](http://www.lhsa.lib.ed.ac.uk)



# Billiards at Bethlem

Since February, staff at Bethlem Royal Hospital's Archives & Museum have been blogging (none too seriously, mind you) about sports they think worthy of Olympic status, taking inspiration from the hospital-organised recreations made available at Bethlem and similar psychiatric institutions in the Victorian and Edwardian eras. At that time, sport and other pastimes played an important part of these hospitals' therapeutic regimes. One of the sports highlighted on the blog was billiards.

In 1878, the journalist Edward Walford observed that:

*on the men's side [of Bethlem] is a billiard-room, to which the most hopeful cases among the male patients have access under certain restrictions. This is a large apartment, which, but for its furniture, would look like an immense and lofty green-house, since it is almost entirely glazed above the height of about six feet - a plan which ensures a capital light upon the table. Around the room are raised cushioned seats for those who desire to watch the play; while nearer the fire a large study-table is filled with magazines, journals, and general literature.* (Edward Walford, "St George's Fields", Old and New London Vol. 6 (1878)).

Walford paints a picture that is reminiscent of a gentlemen's club. However, the implication that billiards was a male-only pursuit at Bethlem is misleading; photographs held at the Archives & Museum show billiard tables on both men's and women's wards. Nor was the game the sole province of the patients. Recalling his medical student days, the psychiatrist and pioneer anthropologist W.H.R. Rivers wrote that:

*Dr [Maurice] Craig and I [were] residents together at Bethlem Hospital many years ago, where we had frequently played billiards, and as he was by far the better player, I... learned much from him.* (W.H.R. Rivers, *Conflict and Dream* (1923), p. 43).

Billiards was taken so seriously at Bethlem that, in 1896, it was proposed to keep a record of "the form displayed by the numerous billiard players in our small community". A quarterly return was published in the Hospital magazine, *Under the Dome*, thereafter. Players' initials appeared in these returns, so as to make their form known to fellow players without advertising the fact of their residence in Bethlem to the wider readership public. Appearing at the head of many of these tables, however, was someone whose presence at the Hospital was not a matter of medical confidentiality. Apart from being a keen player of the game, 'T.B.H.' - Theodore Bulkley Hyslop - was Bethlem's Assistant Medical Officer in 1896 and its Physician Superintendent from 1898 to 1911. By

then W.H.R. Rivers had long since left Bethlem, but Maurice Craig was still around to succeed Hyslop to the post of Assistant Medical Officer.

It would be surprising if the fin-de-siècle architects of the modern Olympics ever seriously considered the inclusion of billiards. Presumably it would have been seen as not sufficiently demanding a sport. Then again, croquet (another gentle asylum pastime featured in the Bethlem Blog) featured in the 1900 Olympic schedule before being quietly dropped. If billiards had been on the programme for 1896 or 1900, perhaps Hyslop, Craig and Rivers might have found themselves part of Team GB.

To read more about Drs Hyslop and Rivers, and about other asylum sports, go to <http://bethlemheritage.wordpress.com/>

.....  
**Colin Gale**

Archivist, Bethlem Royal Hospital  
Archives & Museum  
.....



Bethlem Hospital's billiards room, early 20th century.  
By kind permission of The Bethlem Art and History  
Collections Trust.



# Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions (RNDM)

2012 marks 150 years since the founding of the RNDM congregation. Archivist Nicola Waddington and Sr Louise Shields take a look at how archives have contributed to the celebrations.

In 2007 the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions, an international missionary religious congregation, employed a professional Archivist in their UK and Ireland Province as part of development plans for their 150th celebrations in 2012. Part of the archivist's role in this project was to catalogue the collection of material accrued over the years in the province. As the work progressed, many opportunities arose to take this role much further.

One of the purposes of an archive collection is for an organisation to define a future for itself by emphasising its past. By treasuring, recording and celebrating its past, an organisation can demonstrate solidity, continuity,

and stability, both externally and internally. The provincial archives provide newly accessible material for exhibitions and publications, and, looking back 150 years to the founding of the congregation, have formed the basis of the celebrations.

The congregation now has convents in many countries throughout the world. An international group of sisters visited the UK as part of the 150th celebrations and used the archives to understand the stories of the founding sisters. Culturally these women could not have been further apart - the Victorian women in heavy black habits, with their strict routine, and the visiting sisters of 2011 wearing contemporary clothes, almost all of them

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The provincial archives provide newly accessible material for exhibitions and publications, and... have formed the basis of the celebrations.  
”

equipped with digital cameras and mobile phones! However, they were all Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions and this connection, through the archive material, contributed greatly to the spirit, lives and understanding of these sisters by bringing them closer to the context of their Foundress' aims.

There were opportunities too to use heritage to promote individual welfare within the congregation. When religious sisters grow old they need age-related care like everyone else. Reminiscence sessions were organised in the sisters' care home in Sturry, Kent. Each convent had produced a community album of memorabilia and these were presented to sisters who had formerly lived in those convents. There was a real energy generated by these sessions, as elderly sisters, many of whom now have dementia, were able to engage in an activity that bypassed their medical and physical conditions.

The congregation is a missionary congregation and its emphasis, then and now, is work in the community for the general benefit of those among whom they minister. The sisters have founded and maintained many schools both in the UK and abroad. In keeping with their involvement in education, a small inter-generational oral history project was initiated, involving local residents of Sturry, a local school and, of course, some of the sisters. The convent in Sturry was founded in 1881 and is one of the most long standing establishments in the village. The project explored relationships between the convent and local residents, World War II in Sturry, and the sisters' Missionary work abroad. Local school children helped to undertake and record some of the interviews. On the days of the interviews, the care home took on a whole new atmosphere and the sisters, many of whom were retired teachers, really came to life when they saw and interacted with the school children visiting their home.

This SSR issue is dedicated to sport and one unexpected discovery during this archive project was learning of the important part sport played in the lives of many of the sisters. The photograph shows novices playing netball in Hastings in 1954. Healthy recreation was considered important, and as you can see the sisters were uninhibited by the fact that



Nuns' archivist in charity ski fundraiser in fancy dress.  
© Disability Snowsports UK Bromley.

they were wearing religious habits! The sisters taught in many schools, and this included sports of all kinds: hockey, netball, tennis, football and any other sporting activity required by the curriculum. Today many sisters continue to be avid sports fans and the latest round of the FA cup is watched with as much interest in some convents as in any other home. The forthcoming Olympic Games in London are eagerly anticipated and will be followed with great interest and excitement!

Finally, how does a non-Catholic archivist in a convent get more into the spirit of her working environment? Well, by dressing up as a nun of course, and taking part in a fancy dress charity skiing fundraiser! The sisters saw no problem with the fancy dress costume and indeed there was much merriment and many chuckles when photographs of the event were passed around. The nuns' archivist was in good company that day with a monk, a priest, a cow, a couple of super-heroes, a policeman and yes, Dracula!

.....  
**Nicola Waddington**

Provincial Archivist  
.....

.....  
**Sr Louise Shields**

RNDM, Provincial Superior  
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# The Day Parliament Burned Down

In the early evening of 16 October 1834, to the horror of bystanders, a huge ball of flame exploded through the roof of the House of Lords, creating a blaze so enormous that it could be seen by the King and Queen at Windsor, and from stagecoaches on top of the South Downs. In front of hundreds of thousands of witnesses the great conflagration destroyed Parliament's glorious old buildings and their contents. No one who witnessed the disaster would ever forget it.

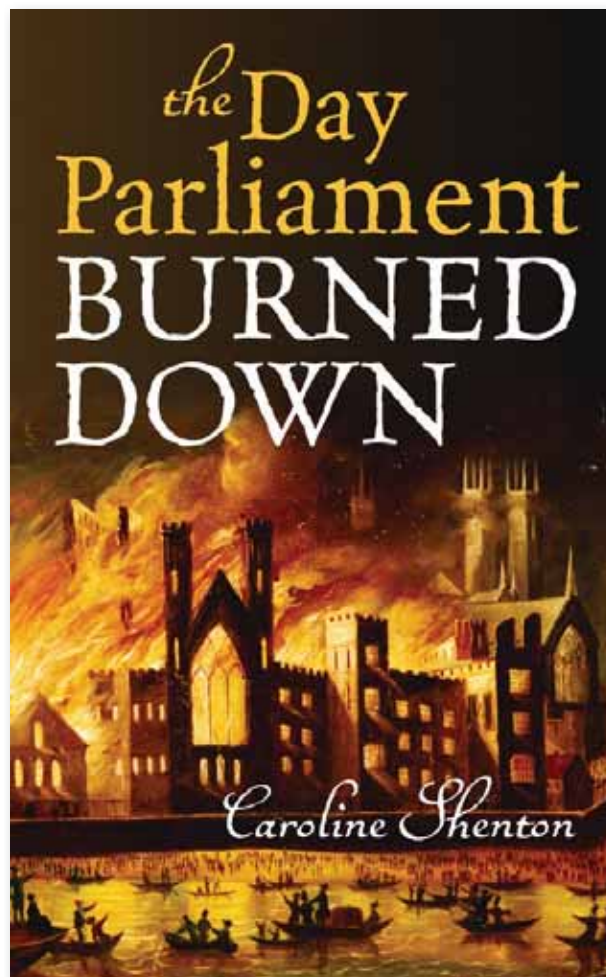
The fire of 1834 was incredibly shocking and significant to contemporaries - yet today this national catastrophe is a largely forgotten disaster, not least because Barry and Pugin's monumental new Palace of Westminster has obliterated all memory of its ancient predecessor. Rumours as to the fire's cause were rife. Was it arson, terrorism, the work of foreign operatives, a kitchen accident, careless builders, or even divine judgement on politicians?

When I began work at the Parliamentary Archives in 1999, I found myself constantly having to tell readers in the searchroom that certain records were lost in the fire. I became increasingly curious about it. But I couldn't find out very much - mention of the disaster was usually confined to a paragraph or two in books about the great neo-gothic building which now rises up beside the Thames and is famous the world over. Then I became frustrated. Surely it must have had a massive impact on contemporaries? What did people think at the time? What was the old Palace like? Why

did the fire spread so quickly? What was lost and what was saved? Who was killed? And why had no-one written in detail about it? I found the report of the official inquiry on the cause of the fire. Then I looked at some newspaper accounts of the disaster. One thing led to another, and eventually some nine years later I found I had gradually gathered enough material together - testament to a growing obsession - to write that book myself. It took me another two years to complete it in my spare time. I found an agent. He found me a publisher. And this month *The Day Parliament Burned Down* finally hits the shelves.

In fact, the fire was the result of a catastrophic records management disposal decision. But that's not the only reason why it should be of interest to archivists. It

*The Day Parliament Burned Down*. Oxford University Press.



“The fire of 1834 was incredibly shocking and significant to contemporaries - yet today this national catastrophe is a largely forgotten disaster”



Print held in the author's own collection.

wasn't just a massive architectural disaster. It was an archival one too. The great conflagration destroyed all the records of the House of Commons, apart from one precious series, and led to a government competition to design a new Houses of Parliament which carefully included 'fireproof repositories for papers and documents'. Many public records too were stored in the Palace at the time, as both the Exchequer and the Lawcourts were based there. Just across the road, only a change of wind direction away from destruction, was Domesday Book: in the Chapter House of Westminster Abbey. All were in the charge of the failing and costly Record Commission, which was abolished shortly afterwards, in part due to the disgraceful arrangements at Westminster revealed as a result of the 1834 fire. Antiquarians and other familiar figures from the early

history of what became the Public Record Office were out in force on the night of the fire desperately trying to save the public records from the oncoming flames. Their success, or otherwise, on the night is one of the key parts of the book.

The Day Parliament Burned Down, however, is not simply about the fate of the archives involved. It describes the course of the fire, and the spectacular buildings and other collections which were lost. Dickens, Turner, Carlyle and many more famous figures were there, including the celebrity fire-dog, Chance. The book covers details of the slums of Westminster and the frenzied expansion of the West End; the plight of the London Irish; child labour, sinecures and corruption in high places; fire-fighting techniques and floating engines; the Great Reform Act and the new Poor Law; Captain Swing and arson at York Minster; the parlous state of public buildings in the Georgian period; and above all the symbolism which many contemporaries saw in the spectacular fall of a national icon. I hope people have as much fun reading it as I had writing it.

The Day Parliament Burned Down is published by OUP on 9 August 2012 (ISBN 978-0-19-964670-8).

.....  
**Caroline Shenton**  
 Parliamentary Archives  
 .....

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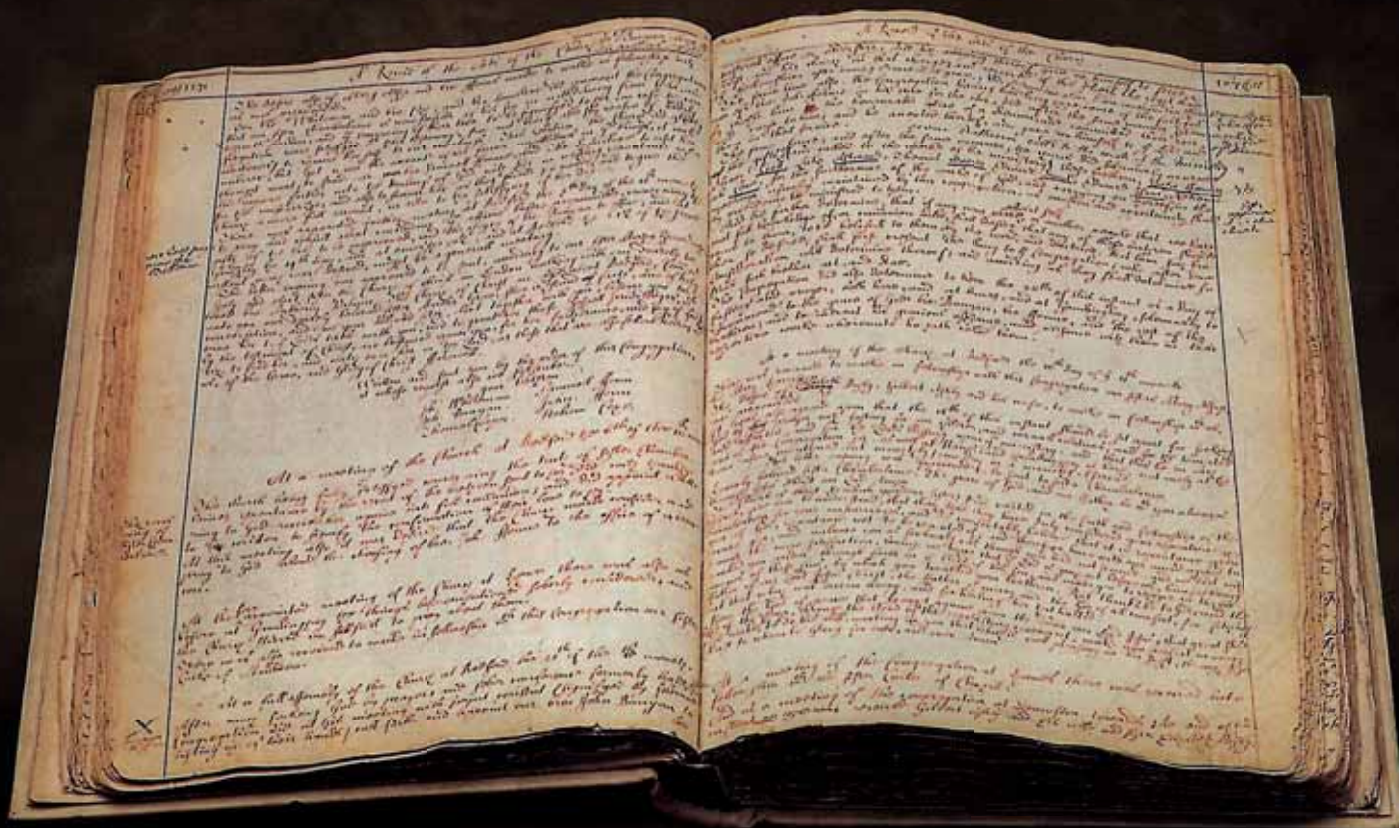
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