

JOINT ARCHIVES COMMITTEE REPORT

ACTIVITY REPORT FOR 2004 - 05

13 April 2005

Tim White, ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE REGENERATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1 To inform Members of the use made of the Archive Service for the year 2004/05

BACKGROUND

- 2 There are currently no statutory indicators or standards relating to use for archive services. A CIPFA statistical return is required on an annual basis. Local indicators have been agreed and will be reported to this committee as agreed at six monthly intervals.

The attached table documents various elements of Archives work, where possible figures are provided for each of the authorities. A summary of the salient points from the last six months is listed below

a) Public Use

A total of 5605 people used the service in 2004/05. This is a slight increase (2.3%) from 2003/04 continuing the trend since 2001.

b) Acquisitions

Important acquisitions during the last six months have included two volumes of weather records relating to Redcar, twentieth century shipping records relating to the ports of Hartlepool, West Hartlepool, Middlesbrough and Stockton and many thousand of photographic negatives dating from the mid-1950s to mid 1990s covering the Teesside region.

Other items of interest include photographic albums and records relating to Brierton School, Hartlepool, Stockton Unitarian Church and the Cleveland Social Survey 1975 – 95.

The service has also received additional records of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes for the Cleveland Area.

c) Outreach

As part of the Archives Awareness Campaign, a day school on migration to and from the Teesside area was held in Stockton Library in November 2004. Over eighty people heard six speakers cover the subject from the Anglo-Saxons through to the nineteenth century. The day gained a 100% satisfaction rating with requests for more such events.

Talks have been given to various organisations including Hartburn Women's Institute, Redcar rotary Club, the Church of the Latter Day Saints, Middlesbrough, Stockton Library Family History day and Thornaby Family History class.

There has been an increase in visits to the service particularly from family/local history classes. These include groups from Teesside University, Middlesbrough College, Stockton and Billingham College, Thornaby and Redcar and Cleveland Adult Education service. Other groups visiting include Whinney Banks School, Middlesbrough and Teesside University Creative Writing Group. Many of these groups have visited more than once in the last six months.

Together with the Friends of Teesside Archives the service took part in the Family History Day at Redcar Library in December. This was in conjunction with the BBC who were showing the series *Who Do You Think You Are*.

Archives staff took part in three Family History roadshows organised by Middlesbrough Libraries.

As part of the outreach activities the service has developed an *Introduction to Archives* session for library and museum staff. These have been successful attended by staff from all the boroughs.

d) Conservation

Conservation work has been carried out on a variety of archives in the last six months in order to make them available to the public for research. In total 204 items were repaired and repackaged. Particular items of interest include a photograph of Thornaby Thursday Football Club, an admission register for Richard Hind School and photographs from Hartlepool and Redcar and Cleveland. The latter include photographs of the Warrenby explosion of 1895.

It should be noted that priority is given to items in high demand and poor physical state and the time taken for individual items varies according to the state and format. The conservator's duties also cover the environmental monitoring and condition survey for the Archives building.

The Conservator has also been busy with outreach work. The conservation of several blueprints of the Transporter Bridge brought publicity from Radio

Cleveland, Tyne Tees Television as well as the regions newspapers. Paid conservation work has been undertaken for the Dorman Museum, Redcar Reference Library, Middlesbrough Council Transport and Design Department and several members of the public. Talks and demonstrations were given to various groups, advice given at the family history days.

OPTION APPRAISAL/RISK ASSESSMENT

3 The basic archives service is provided free at the point of delivery.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4 There are no financial implications.

RECOMMENDATIONS

5 That members

a) note the contents of this report

REASONS

6 The recommendation is supported for the following reason

a) The data provides a picture of the workload currently being undertaken by the service

BACKGROUND PAPERS

7 There are no background papers

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