

JOINT ARCHIVES COMMITTEE REPORT

PERFORMANCE REPORT

October – December 2010

27th January 2011

KEVIN PARKES –DIRECTOR, REGENERATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to update Members on the performance of Teesside Archives September-December 2010.

BACKGROUND

2. Teesside Archives has completed the self-assessment survey for the National Archives (TNA) and still await the results.
3. There are currently no statutory indicators or standards relating to archives services. A C.I.P.F.A return is required on an annual basis.
4. The range of work undertaken by Teesside Archives is varied, and includes conservation and outreach work. This report provides a summary of this work.

VISITORS

5. The number of visitors to Teesside Archives during this period was 1,233. A breakdown is shown in Appendix 1. The visitors who were from outside the area came from other parts of the UK.

ACQUISITIONS

6. There were a total of 20 accessions of archive material during this period. They included: A plan of St. Aidan's Churchyard, Boosbeck (Acc 7011) and Logbooks from Linthorpe Junior and Infant School (Acc. 7030)

OUTREACH

7. There have been a total of 26 events/talks/visits/displays over this period.

8. Teesside Archives attended an Archives Awareness event that was hosted by Hartlepool Library and attended by nearly 1,000 visitors. Many other organisations attended including local libraries, museums, clubs and local societies and positive feedback was received. The event was entitled 'Treasures in your attic' and several people brought along items of interest for the panel of experts
9. There have been visits from several groups of students from Teesside University, local schools and a group of older people involved in a reminiscence project.

LEARNING AND ACCESS

10. The majority of participants working with the Learning and Access team this quarter were reached by outreach sessions. These were mainly made up of work with Primary Schools and in particular Corpus Christi Primary School our partner school for the Challenging History project (funded by Heritage Lottery Fund). The project involved creating a drama production based on the interpretation of archival material, two performances have taken place so far reaching audiences of 100 people. This project will move forward with the development of online resources which will not only enable schools and community groups from each of the four Borough's to access but will be available to a nationwide audience.
11. Throughout November and December work took place with a large number of university students, these included first and second year students and the MA students. Topics included: public health, childhood mortality, family, community and religion. A wide variety of Archive material was sourced for the students to work with and each session included a lesson on how to access the service to ensure these students will become repeat visitors throughout their period of study and ongoing afterwards.

CONSERVATION

12. In total 312 items were repaired, cleaned and repackaged. All these items came from one of the four Boroughs. Work included detailed conservation work on an early school admissions register for Exchange Boys' School in West Hartlepool 1891-1899. Another admissions register for West Dyke School, Redcar 1940 -51 also needed extensive repairs. An 18th century Kirkleatham Church Wardens' accounts book was repaired. The Middlesbrough Rate Book for 1899 and reference books relating to Stockton were given conservation treatment.
13. 1,881 records were treated in preservation projects. This work involved cleaning, repackaging, labelling and re-boxing into acid free enclosures. The condition of these collections was noted so that any future conservation required could be prioritised.

The number of items mentioned does not necessarily mean that less time has been spent on work from that Borough. The time taken to repair items varies considerably according to the state of the record and its format.

14. The following duties and events were also undertaken :-
- Carrying out paid conservation work for various institutions and members of the public.
 - Producing condition reports and estimates for future conservation work.
 - Working with volunteers to clean, assess and package new accessions and with volunteers from the British Steel Project to finish logging and repackaging a collection of plans.
 - 5 talks/demonstrations to groups, including attending the Archives Awareness Day held at Hartlepool Library where members of the public could seek advice on conservation problems and watch me carry out practical conservation.

OPTION APPRAISAL/RISK ASSESSMENT

15. Not applicable.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

16. There are no financial implications.

RECOMMENDATIONS

17. That members note the performance report for September-December 2010

BACKGROUND PAPERS

18. The following have informed this paper:
a) Performance statistics Sep-Dec 2010 Appendix 1.

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