

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Report Title: Joint Archives Committee - Performance Report
Executive Member for Regeneration and Economic Development
Director Kevin Parkes
Date: 30th August 2012

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1. The purpose of this report is to update Members on the performance of Teesside Archives April-June 2012.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2. That members note the performance of the Teesside Archives Service.

IF THIS IS A KEY DECISION WHICH KEY DECISION TEST APPLIES?

- 3. It is over the financial threshold (£150,000)
It has a significant impact on 2 or more wards
Non Key

DECISION IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE

- 4. For the purposes of the scrutiny call in procedure this report is
Non-urgent
Urgent report

If urgent please give full reasons

BACKGROUND AND EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

5. The range of work undertaken by Teesside Archives is varied, and includes conservation and outreach work. This report provides a summary of this work.
6. The number of visitors for the period was 925, compared to 1,833 for the same period last year. The drop in visitor numbers reflects the move of the microfilmed family history sources to Middlesbrough Reference Library. The number of documents issued during this period was 1,937 this remains constant despite the cut to the opening hours. The new system appears to be working reasonably well, although a few minor complaints have been received.
7. The service has continued to receive new deposits including some new material relating to Smith's Dock, a large deposit of official records from Redcar Council following the closure of Eston Town Hall, material relating to ICI Billingham and an interesting diary relating to the Crimean War by an unknown local woman. There was also a large deposit from Head Wrightson's overseas site engineer, W. Lander that includes his personal and business papers.
8. The Learning and Access Officer has been concentrating on placing photographs on-line in order to improve access to the collections, for those customers unable to visit and to attract new audiences. Group visits from schools and adults have continued and the behind the scenes tours remain very popular, almost always being fully booked. In June the Service hosted a screening event by the Northern Region film and Television Archive with a sporting theme during the weekend that the Olympic Torch visited the region. The Service also attended an event at Prior Pursglove College in Guisborough that was tied to the BBC series '*A People's History*'.
9. Work has been carried out on a variety of archives in the last three months in order to make them available to the public for research. In total 301 items from the four Boroughs were given conservation treatments.
10. Conservation work included work on a Middlesbrough Planning Application for a circus building in Corporation Road November 1881, photographs and documents from Saltburn Rotary Club, a fragile poster advertising Stockton races, a Hartlepool shipping register so that it could be safely digitised. 3,822 records were treated in preservation projects. These included a large collection of maps, plans and committee minutes, etc from Hartlepool, a collection of maps and plans from Redcar and Cleveland, and records deposited by Gilchrist Tash of Middlesbrough.
11. Work also included 7 talks/demonstrations to groups and induction training for new volunteers. Also giving advice to several members of the public and institutions including Preston Hall Museum.
12. The work of the volunteers has settled into a routine and the Service continues to receive requests for placements. The total number of volunteer hours during this period was 660. A member of the *Friends of Teesside Archives* gave a talk at the event attended at Guisborough.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IA)

13. Not applicable.

OPTION APPRAISAL/RISK ASSESSMENT

14. Not applicable

FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND WARD IMPLICATIONS

15. There are no financial, legal or ward implications.

RECOMMENDATIONS

16. That members note the report.

REASONS

17. That members acknowledge quarter 1 service performance

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

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