

Off the Record

Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies Quarterly Review

Issue 41, November 2019

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News

December Opening Hours

We will be closed for our annual stocktake from **Thursday 12th until Tuesday 24th December.**

Over the festive period we will be closed on the following days:

Wed 25 December

Thu 26 December

Wed 1 January

Document ordering pilot

During the summer we carried out a trial where we encouraged visitors to order archive documents in advance of their visit. That trial is now over and we are reflecting on feedback from visitors and staff. Please watch this space for news of any future changes.

CIPFA Distance User Survey

We are currently running our biennial Distance Survey, through the data analytics company CIPFA. If you have submitted an enquiry to us by email in recent weeks you will be asked to complete a short survey about your experience.

WW1 book and website

In July we celebrated the culmination of our Great War Buckinghamshire Project by launching our new website and book. The launch, at the nissen huts at Chiltern Open Air Museum was well attended by volunteers and other organisations who have helped us over the past three years. You can get involved by taking a look at the website: www.greatwarbuckinghamshire.co.uk, and by picking up a free copy of the book *Buckinghamshire and the Great War*, from the Centre.



News from Local Studies: HS2



We hold a large amount of documentation relating to High Speed Rail (HS2) between London and Birmingham. The material consists of items that concern Buckinghamshire, or route-wide where the county is included.

We have produced a guide outlining these collections, which is now available to pick-up at the Centre and on our website. Due to the volume of HS2 material this guide can only be an overview. For a more thorough

search of our holdings please use the Buckinghamshire Library catalogue: www.buckscc.gov.uk/libraries

Many, but not all, of the publications have been produced by High Speed Two Limited and often have long titles, but you could try a search on your location of interest. These books are located on the shelves in Local Studies under a HS2 heading. Many are large route maps, A3 in size. In addition, we also have six 'cuttings' files in our ephemera drawers, under reference L009, arranged by years from 2010 to 2019. They contain pamphlets and articles collected over that time, supplementing the published material. The local newspapers have also reported on HS2 and we hold the complete set of backcopies of 'The Bucks Herald'.

There is also a great deal of material online: www.hs2inbucksandoxfordshire.commonplace.is - a website provided by HS2, with information about what HS2 is doing in Buckinghamshire and

A highlight from social media

On 7 September we Tweeted this image of Elizabeth I to mark her 486th birthday. The portrait comes from a 1574 deed provisionally granting lands in Buckingham. The lands had formerly been owned by the Duke of Buckingham but were forfeited to the Crown when he was executed in 1521.

Find us on Twitter/Instagram/Facebook:

@cenbucksstudies



Events

Our Events

At the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies, unless stated otherwise stated

Thu 31 October

Talking Archives: Gruesome Murders

11.00-noon FREE

Judi McGinley and Paul Evans tell the stories of some of the county's more notorious deaths

Sat 16 November

Buckinghamshire History Fair

9.30—3.30 FREE

Our annual bonanza of local history talks and exhibitions...keep your eyes on our social media to see who will be getting involved this year

Thu 28 November

Talking Archives: Sir Thomas Francis Fremantle, a Life of Service to Buckinghamshire 1862-1956

11.00-noon FREE

Volunteer Ann Marshall reflects on the 3rd Lord Cottesloe's legacy, as told by the papers in the Fremantle Collection

Booking is essential for all Talking Archives events, via archives@buckscc.gov.uk



Join us for our fourth annual celebration of all things historic in Buckinghamshire!

10:30 - 11:10 David Noy

Highlights from Stoke Mandeville wills and inventories 1552-1853

11:15 - 11:55 Nigel Crompton

Women in the Great War 1914-1918

12:00 - 12:40 Julian Hunt

The Village of Hedgerley and its connection to Eton College

12:45 - 13:25 Linda Henderson

Women of the Aylesbury Duck Industry

13:30 - 14:10 Martin Deacon

The Hidden Bucks Project

14:15 - 14:55 Hannah Dale

Waddesdon at War: Teens, Tots and Treacle Tart, 1939-1945

15:00 - 15:35 Karen Lewis

Researching Bletchley Park through the 1939 Register

We will also have heritage organisations exhibiting with us on the day.

This event is FREE and suitable for families. Refreshments will be available.



Newsletter Mailing List

Off the Record is released quarterly. If you are reading this in paper format, but would like each new edition delivered to your inbox, email us at archives@buckscc.gov.uk, and we can add you to our newsletter mailing list.

Alternatively, If you would like to receive one year's worth of printed copies of 'Off the Record', please send four A4 stamped addressed envelopes or £2.50 to the Centre with your name and address (cheques made payable to Buckinghamshire County Council)

Spinal 2 Sport: Memorabilia



Project Archivist Mary Brown has been busy cataloguing the papers of the International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports Federation (IWAS) as part of the Spinal 2 Sport project. Along the way she has found a few unexpected items...

When you think 'Archives' you tend to think of parchment or paper; however some of the most interesting things that I have uncovered when cataloguing boxes of IWAS material have been memorabilia produced in conjunction with specific disability sports events. Objects are often interesting to look at and fun to have but they bring challenges to archivists and conservators. The differences in materials, shapes, sizes, and ages can necessitate different approaches to their description and preservation. I have loved the change of pace and the challenge that these objects have presented; here I outline some of my favourites.

This hat is from the 1996 Atlanta Paralympic Games; it is an example of the enamel pin mania. The hat is decorated with different types of pins and badges. Pin collecting and trading is a very popular hobby to this day for many people, especially at large events. You can see the amount of care and effort that went into this collection from the variety of different pins from many organisations and events. The object's mixture of textile, metal, enamel, and plastic have created a conservation challenge.



Our ref: D-IWAS/IPC/3/1/4/64



Our ref: D-IWAS/7/5/10/1

Among objects from the IWAS Junior Games in Olomouc, Czech Republic in 2010, we found a small backpack of items given out to participating athletes, it contains a number of items, seemingly collected by an IWAS executive. These items include a red and white Team USA flag, and this was the strong favourite, until we found a small American flag pin that contains a battery and lights up (even now, over nine years later). While we hold a large array of flags within the Paralympic Games collections, the battery operated object was a first.

Spinal 2 Sport, continued...



This may be the only Key to the City of Osaka in Buckinghamshire. It was given to Joan Scruton on 8 November 1983. Joan Scruton worked for Stoke Mandeville Games founder Sir Ludwig Guttmann, and she remained involved in disability sport for the rest of her life. Japan has played a big part in the development of the Paralympic Games, first hosting them in 1964. A key figure in this development was Dr Yutaka Nakamura who studied under Sir Ludwig Guttmann at the National Spinal Injuries Centre at Stoke Mandeville. On his return to practice in Japan, he instigated many new treatment techniques inspired by Guttmann's methods, including sport as rehabilitation.

Our ref: D-IWAS/JSC/10/10

Another significant part of the collection are the pennants and flags. This Russian amputee football pennant is one of our more ornate examples. The first World Amputee Football Federation World Cup was in 1984. Amputee football is not a Paralympic sport but has a significant following around the world including in Russia, the Russian team continues to do very well internationally.



Our ref: D-IWAS/6/32/1

The Channel Island Toys' reversible lion and bulldog soft toy comes from material relating to the IWAS World Junior Games in 2014, which took place in Stoke Mandeville. The toy is an office favourite and unusual. The typical toys within the Paralympic collections are mascots from different games so this stuffed toy was a first for this collection.



Our ref: D-IWAS/7/5/4/8

New Accessions June to September

From 1 June to 30 September this year we have had 41 new accessions. There were three deposits from Parish Councils, minutes and papers from Medmenham (AR 60/2019), and from Wingrave (AR 91/2019). There was a large deposit from Great Horwood Parish Council including minutes of the Council and Planning Committee, receipts and payments books, receipts and payments book for Great Horwood and Singleborough Charities, and papers relating to Recreation Ground/Cricket Club on Nash Road (AR 94/2019).

Chesham Bois parish church deposited minutes, agendas and correspondence of the Parochial Church Council, 1984-1989, 2002-2011, 2013-2015, with other items including parish magazines, 1964-1973, 1987-1990 (AR 62/2019). From Denham parish church there were registers of baptisms, 1966-2004, banns, 1980-1998, marriages, 1939-1945, 1956-1965, 1971-2004 and burials and cremations, 1957-2017, with other records including registers of services, 1958-2009, minutes and reports of the Parochial Church Council, 1929-1994, 2003, 2006-2014, annual parish meeting, 1927-1970, 1984-2013, and minutes of the committee for New Denham Mission Church (St Francis), 1938-1953, 1957-1979. There were also papers relating to St Francis Community Centre, St Marks Youth Club, church inspection reports, and papers relating to church property and fabric (AR 73/2019).

Accessions concerning businesses comprised minute books of the Aylesbury and District Licensed Victuallers Association, with annual accounts, 1898-1923 (AR 81/2019). There were plans of the Horlicks Factory in Slough in 1969 (AR 72/2019). There was a collection of papers relating to the Propellants, Explosives and Rocket Motor Establishment (P.E.R.M.E.) in Westcott, including a history of the establishment by Maureen Fowler, 1981, press release and magazine produced by PERME. There were also photographs of staff, 1970s-1990s, and a photograph of a group Beating the Bounds of Waddesdon parish (near the factory) on 19 May 1981 (AR 95/2019).



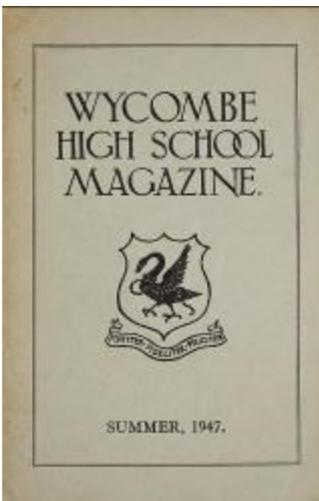
Beating the bounds in Westcott/Waddesdon 1981, Our ref: AR 95/2019

Personal records included the papers of Reverend Wilfrid Float, who was Vicar of All Saints in High Wycombe (1925–1950), including his appointment by Lord Lincolnshire, 1925, correspondence from Lord and Lady Lincolnshire and others, papers relating to construction of new church at Terriers, 1930s, including a letter from Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, with photographs, parish magazines and other papers relating to the church (AR 58/2019).

New Accessions June to September, continued...

There was a collection from Wing parish church including minutes and papers of Parochial Church Council, 1998-2007, annual reports and accounts, 1998-2008, quinquennial inspection reports, 1962-1998, and papers about repairs and alterations including major repairs, tower clock, kitchen and toilet porch, aisle roofs, sound system, footpath and lighting, rood screen, and repairs and restoration of war memorial (AR 92/2019). Tyringham cum Filgrave deposited a few items which had unfortunately been badly damaged by damp. These included a register of marriages, 1951-2016, and register of confirmations, 1951-1989, which are currently too fragile to inspect (AR 65/2019). There was also an intriguing collection of settlement certificates, removal orders and bastardy bonds from Waddesdon parish, 1703-1838 (AR 89/2019).

Cheddington Methodist Church deposited papers including minutes of leaders meetings, 1953-1967, and Church Council, 1977-1992, minutes of Womens Meeting, 1935-1953, 1955-1972, pulpit notices, 1951-1992, 1994-2011, collection journal, 1939-1967, accounts, 1999-2014, seat rent ledger, 1933-1957, society stewards account book, 1949-1956, Sunday School Secretary's book, 1923-1932, and attendance register, 1951-1961, and papers relating to property, including land transfers, 1902-1985, and reorganisation, 1989-1990 (AR 66/2019). There were also registers of marriages for Stokenchurch Methodist Chapel, 1935-2007 (AR 85/2019).



From Wycombe High School there was a small collection comprising Wycombe High School Magazines, 1925-1926, 1933-1937, 1942-1972, 2011 (sequence has gaps), Yearbooks, 1993/1994, 1994/1995, 1995/1995, 1996/1997, 1999, Leavers Yearbooks, 2003, 2007, 2014, magazines of Wycombe High School Guild, 1972-1974, 1978, 1997, 1998, 2001, 2005, and History of the Guild by Olive Mary Busby, 1968 (AR 76/2019). There was also a collection of plans produced by the Oxford Diocesan Council of Education of various Church of England Schools, including alterations to Ashley Green, 1969-1970, Eton Porny, 1955, 1960, and Turville, 1954-1961, and a survey of Hambleton School, showing drainage, 1957 (AR 96/2019).

Our ref: AR 76/2019

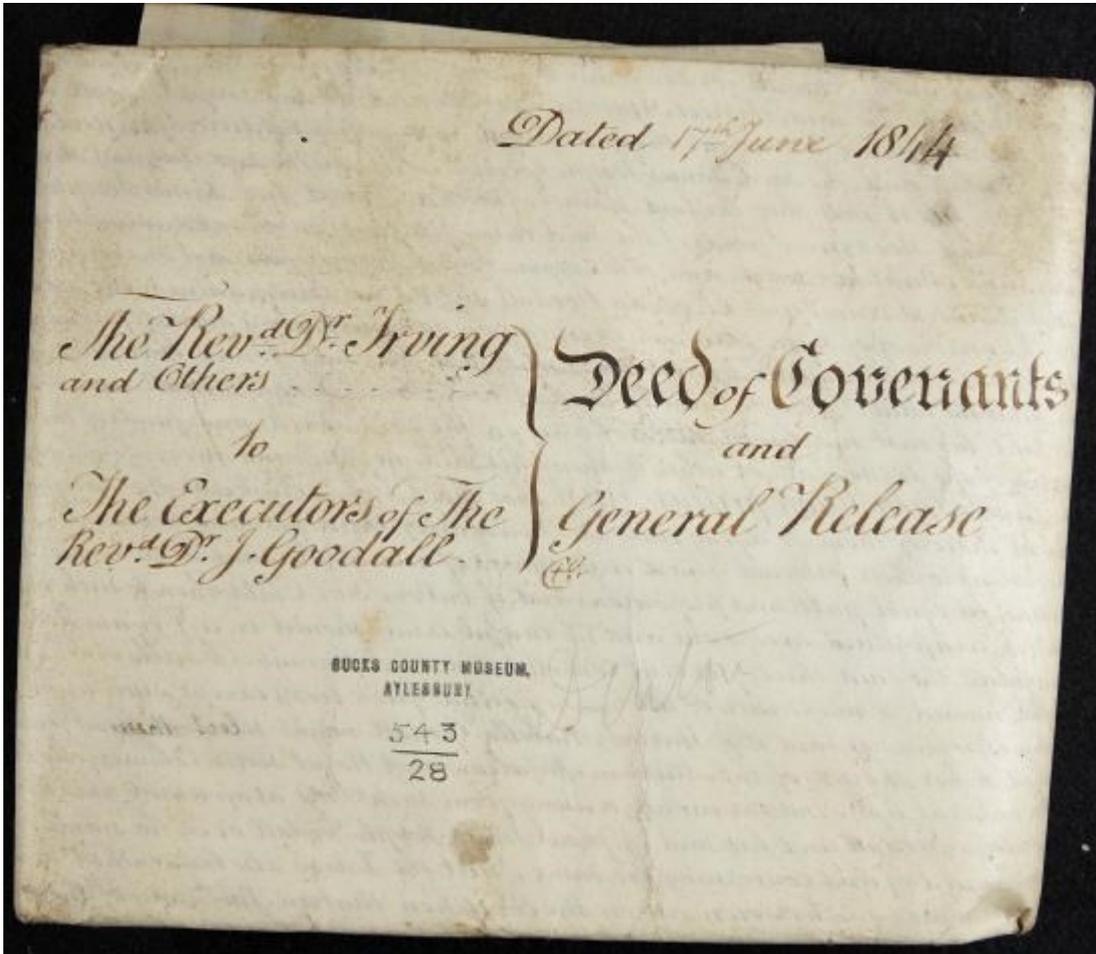
Other items included records of the Holy Trinity Old Wolverton Branch of the Mothers Union, 1950-2002, with minutes of committee meetings, branch reports, account book, minutes of deanery committee, newsletters, publications, copies of Mothers Union Service Book, 'Mary Sumner, Her Life and Work', by Mrs Horace Porter (1950), and 'The Mothers Union, Worldwide Voices' (1999)(AR 86/2019). There was also a collection of slides of various locations in Buckinghamshire, including several of Cliveden, Waddesdon Manor and Bekonscott Model Village in Beaconsfield (AR 59/2019).

Hidden Buckinghamshire Project: The Library of Joseph Goodall

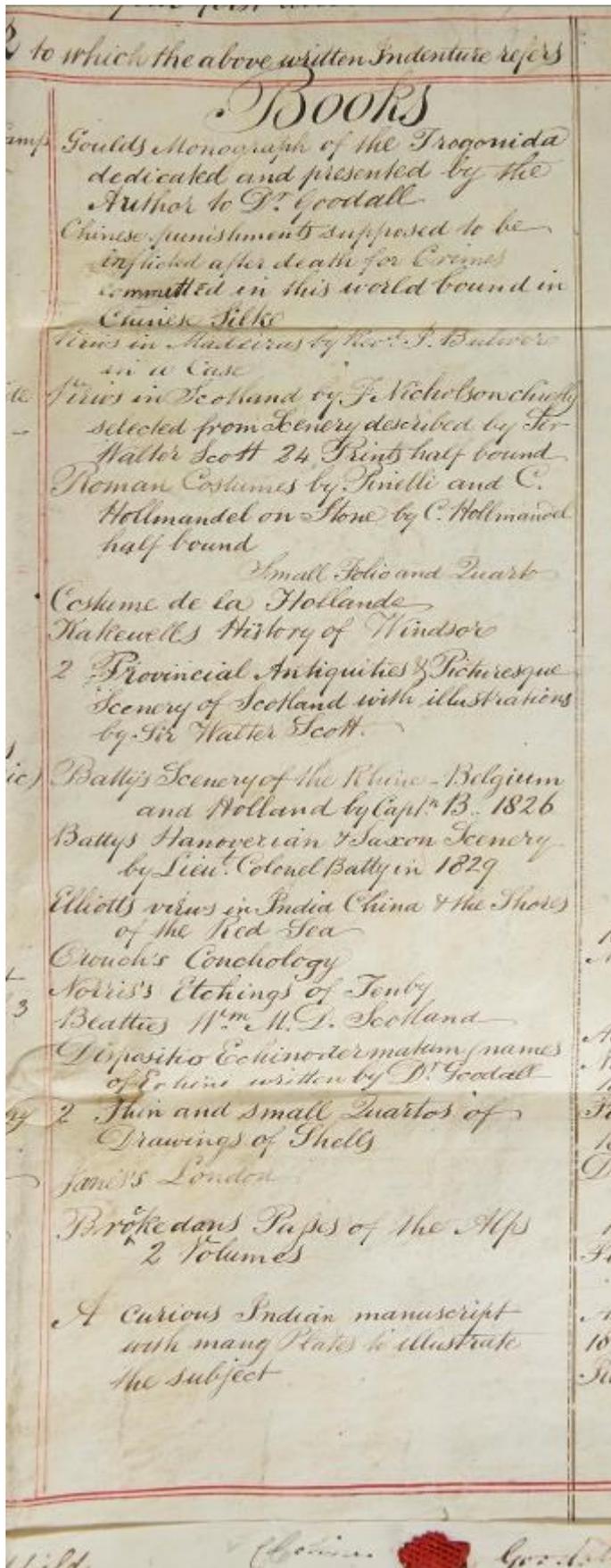
The Hidden Buckinghamshire Project began in April 2018 and will run for two years. The aim is to catalogue over 11,000 items collected by Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society (BAS). Below, the project's archivist Martin Deacon tells us about one of the treasures he has recently found.

Many of the items I have catalogued so far have been deeds. One of these deeds is a covenant by Harriet Arabella Goodall of Hyde Park Square in London, and was to mark the fact that she had successfully undertaken the role of executrix of the will of her husband Rev Joseph Goodall [Our ref: D-BAS/28/543]. Joseph Goodall (1760-1840) was a Londoner and a classical scholar as well as a clergyman. He had attended Eton College before going up to Cambridge and in 1801 became headmaster, or provost, of his old school. He became Canon of Windsor in 1808 on the recommendation of his friend and old schoolfellow the Marquess Wellesley, elder brother of the Duke of Wellington. Goodall later held the livings of West Ilsley in Berkshire and Hitcham in Buckinghamshire.

The document is principally of interest because it details Goodall's will. He was a great collector of books and of coins and was, by the standards of the day, an extremely rich man - leaving £45,752 in stocks and bonds as well as property and £6,734 cash in the bank. One of the schedules to the deed lists those of Goodall's books which Harriet had taken for herself rather than selling. The titles are listed as follows:



Hidden Buckinghamshire Project: The Library of Joseph Goodall, continued...



Transcription of the book titles:

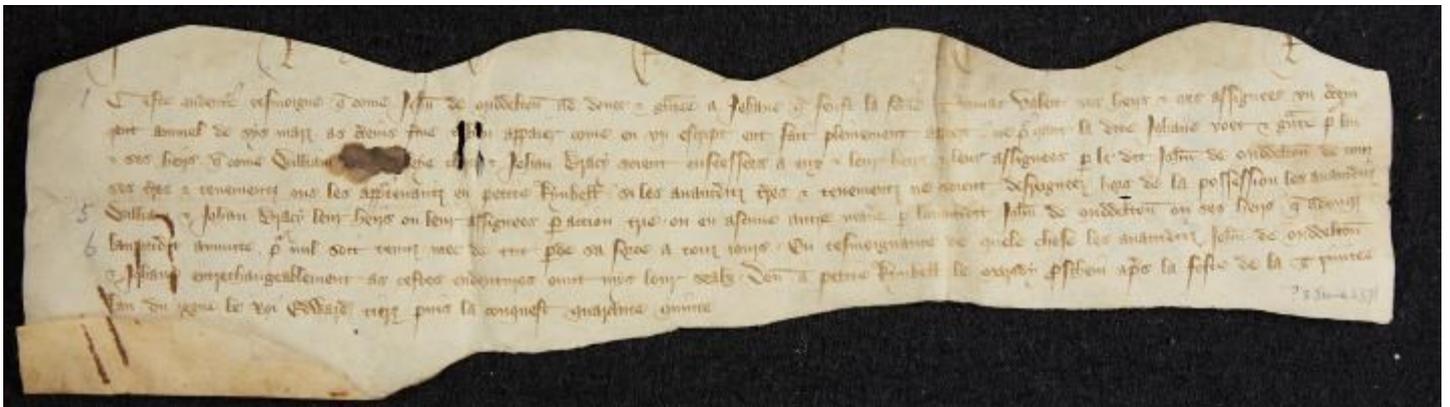
- Gould's "Monograph of the Trogonida";
- "Chinese Punishments Supposed to be Inflicted After Death for Crimes Committed in This World";
- "Views in Maderias" by Rev J Buliver;
- "Views in Scotland" by F Nicholson;
- "Roman Costumes" by Pinelli and C Hollmandel;
- "Costume de la Hollande";
- Kakewell's "History of Windsor";
- "Provincial Antiquities & Picturesque Scenery of Scotland with Illustrations" by Sir Walter Scott;
- "Scenery of the Rhine - Belgium and Holland" by Captain Bally 1826;
- "Hanoverian and Saxon Scenery" by Lieutenant-Colonel Batty 1829;
- Elliott's "Views in India, China and the Shores of the Red Sea";
- Crouch's "Conchology" [conchology is the study of mollusc shells];
- Norris' "Etchings of Tenby";
- "Beatties William M. D. Scotland";
- "Dispositio Echinodermatum" (names of Echini written by Dr Goodall) [echini are sea animals such as sea stars, sea urchins etc];
- "2 thin and small quartos of drawings of shells";
- Janes' "London";
- Brockedan's "Passes of the Alps" 2 volumes;
- "a curious Indian manuscript with many Plates to illustrate the subject"

Whilst Goodall's entry in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography lists locations of his archives, including Eton College, St George's Chapel Windsor, and the Linnaean Society, what became of this collection of books is unknown.

Using Deeds: Title Deeds and Tax Avoidance

Everyone loves a deed! Often made out of parchment, researchers wrestle with these documents physically and intellectually. Help is at hand—over the next few editions Collections Archivist Sally Mason will explain the origins and common types of deed. For this instalment we learn that tax dodging is nothing new.

Title deeds were very useful for security of tenure, but they did have one major disadvantage for central government. Livery of seisin was public, everyone knew who owned the land and therefore who owed the services for that land. Title deeds were private, there was no central land registration and accordingly no guarantee that if service was required the lord, and particularly the King, would know who was supposed to provide it. For example direct Knight Service was being replaced by a payment, called “scutage” as early as the twelve century, and by the mid thirteenth century this was normal and was effectively a direct tax. This was last levied under Edward III, but there were many other such dues which were very lucrative, eg wardship of underage heirs, payments on the death of a tenant or on someone else taking over the property. These were a very useful source of income for the Crown. They were finally abolished under the Commonwealth, after Charles I had over used them to get income directly rather than being dependant on Parliament (Charles II accepted the abolition when he was restored in 1660).



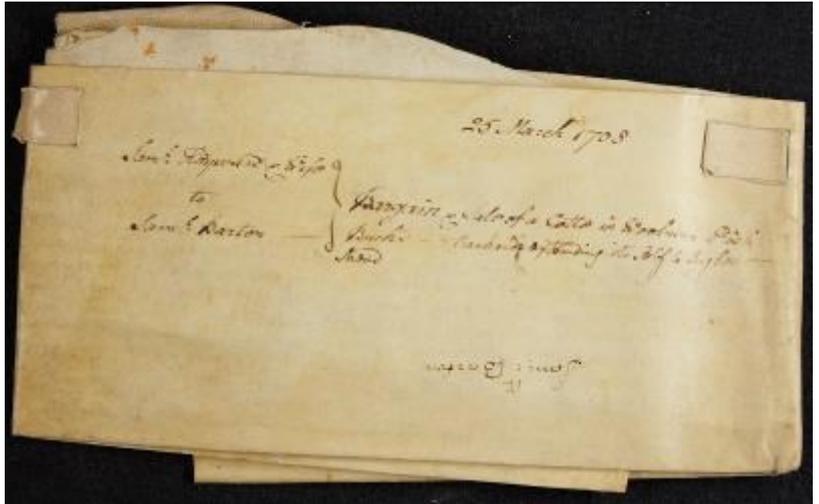
Our ref: D-X 681/21 Agreement and feoffment regarding land in Little Kimble, 1371

No-one likes paying taxes, and still less having to perform tedious services, such as fighting in wars which are not to your advantage. And death duties were as resented then as they are now. To get round having to pay these things lawyers devised what were known as ‘uses’. The vendor of a piece of land transferred the property to one person ‘for the use’ of a third party. The first was merely a ‘feoffee to uses’, he was the legal owner of the property but not the actual owner, while the third party was the effective owner but not the legal owner. This made it very difficult to know who owed any dues and services. If you had several feoffees (and kept replacing them) then it was highly unlikely that they would all die at the same time, hence no death or entry duties.

Using Deeds Part Three, continued...

The person who actually owned the property would always have someone else who appeared to own the property. This meant your creditors could not claim money from your land (since you did not own it), and you could leave the land to others, not just your main heir [in tail male, entails will be dealt with later], give it to a daughter or dispose of it as you wished by your will. During the thirteenth century disputes about who actually “owned” the land were generally referred to Chancery. However by around 1400 it was accepted that it was legal to give the land to feoffees even several at the same time.

The usual title deed by the fifteenth century was the **Bargain and Sale**. This gave the names of the parties, the property followed by a clause beginning Habendum (to have, often highlighted). This is where the terms under which the property was held would be stated. It may look like A is selling to B, but may actually be transferring the property to B to be held in trust.



Our ref: D-X 1093/1 Bargain and Sale with Feoffment, regarding land in Wooburn, 1662

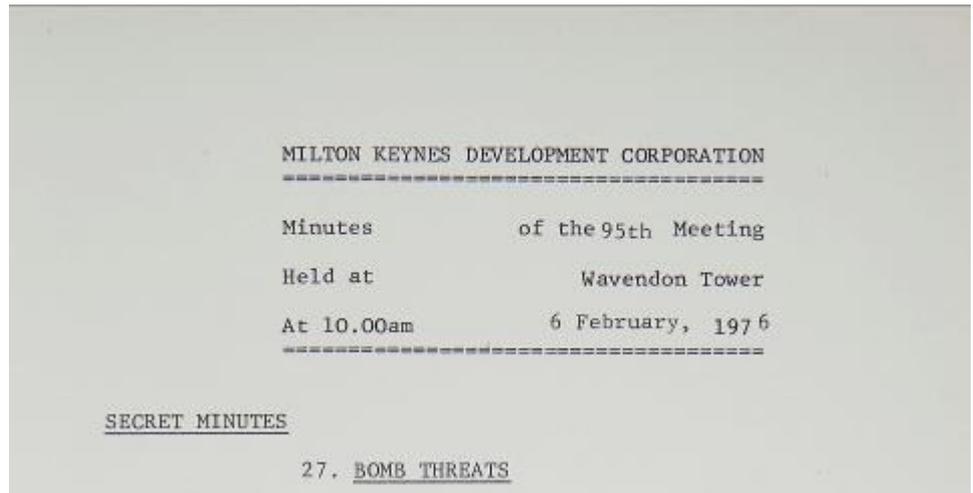
By the 1530s the Crown was feeling the disadvantage of the loss of feudal dues, which formed an important part of royal income. So in 1536 the Statute of Uses was passed. This vested the estate in the person legally holding it. The Feoffee(s) hence become the actual as well as the legal owner, and liable for duties. The original owner could not retain ownership without being liable for the duties.

Since the Statute meant that ownership now clearly passed with the deed, there was no longer any need for livery of seisin and so there would be no public acknowledgement of a land transfer. Hence in the same year under the Statute of Enrolments all bargains and sales had to be enrolled in the Court of Records at Westminster, or at the relevant county Quarter Sessions. If this was not done within 6 months then the transaction was void. Enrolled Bargains and Sales replaced feoffments, and that form of title deed ceased to be used. Landowning classes were not happy about having to enrol their land transactions, meaning that the Crown would know who owned what and how much of it (and hence how much tax they could be expected to pay). Registering title to land with the royal courts in order to ensure security of tenure was done, generally by means of a fictitious court case but landowners did not want to be forced to do it. However the statute only applied to Bargains and Sales, so to get round it new forms of land transfers began to be developed. Bargains and sales were still used (they were not abolished until the nineteenth century), and there are enrolments in Buckinghamshire Quarter Sessions but the numbers are very small.

Milton Keynes in Fifty Records

The blog exploring the history of the Milton Keynes area through fifty documents in the collections is wrapping-up this month.

For the last blog, #50, the Secret Minutes of the Milton Keynes Development Corporation, 1976-1977, have been chosen. Topics touched upon in these formerly highly confidential papers include: a gold watch; bomb threats; and Luton Town Football Club.



Our ref: D-MKDC/1/4/1

News from Conservation



Something ghoulish from the conservation lab - live mould on a wooden box, about to be treated.

The past couple of months have been busy with boxing up large unprotected material and photographic collections. Also busy in the background has been the condition survey of our Bishops' Transcripts collection: these are copies of parish registers dating to 1575-1844. We are assessing the material to see if it requires repair.

In September, colleagues from the Milton Keynes Registration Service required our help. They had a marriage register that had been saturated with water, the ink had bled and it was mouldy too. The task was to make the register usable again. We did this by slowing down mould growth; drying out the paper and binding, and then mechanically cleaning the register, page by page. The treatment took two months to complete and I am glad to say the register is now back in Milton Keynes and can be used when needed.

At the beginning of October our Conservator, Sam Joiner, gave a talk to the Buckinghamshire Archive and Heritage Network (BAHN) at Buckingham Old Goal. The talk, given to an audience of delegates from heritage organisations from across Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes, covered the basics on conservation and preservation. This included what you should and shouldn't do to look after your collections.

We also had time to be filmed, while completing a couple of repairs to our will collection. You can find the time-lapsed film on our Twitter feed/Facebook page.

Matters of Life and Death: Murder

During 2019 a team of researchers based in Wycombe have been delving in to some of the area's murders. We recently featured Pat Bingham's re-telling of a murder in the well-to-do Gibbons family in 1909. Here Heather Dempsey tells us about the murder of Eliza Coltman in 1892.

In April 1892 George Coltman, who was aged 58 years and a chair maker, killed his wife Eliza who was aged 57 years. This happened at 45 Brook Street in High Wycombe, which no longer stands, the area is now accommodation for Bucks New University Students.

George attacked Eliza with a knife when she was downstairs lighting the fire early in the morning. A neighbour heard her screams, and Eliza tried to leave the house but she fell and died. George then took his own life by cutting his throat; he too could not be saved. The couple's adult daughter, and younger son were upstairs when the incident occurred. They were not injured, and both managed to escape with the help of a neighbour., Mrs Milner, who put up a ladder to the bedroom window.

George had been out of work in the months leading up to the murder and suicide, and was also suffering with tuberculosis. At the inquest it was concluded that he had committed the murder when being of unsound mind. The inquest was held at the Chairmakers Arms in High Wycombe, and evidence was heard from many witnesses. One of the couple's elder sons gave evidence, stating: "He was always considered strange by those who knew him".



Photograph of Brook Street, where the murder took place. You can clearly see the Chairmakers' Arms, where the inquest was held. This photo is circa 1900

The couple were buried together in un-consecrated ground at Wycombe Cemetery. I met with George and Eliza's great grandson at High Wycombe library, and he gave me some useful background information concerning the family. He stated that George was a chair maker, and that his wife Eliza worked as a lace maker. They had eight or nine children, and confirmed that one of their twin boys had died at 18 months of age. He had been told by family that it was because George was unwell that the murder and suicide had happened: tuberculosis, depression and alcoholism all might have played a part in the sad deaths of George and Eliza Coltman.

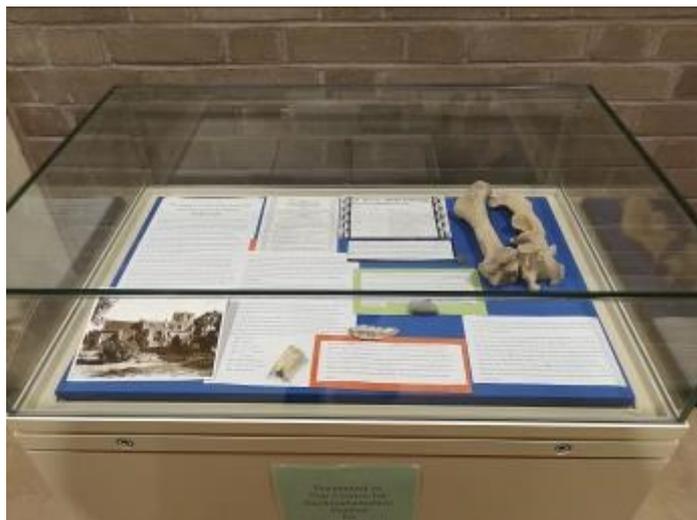
Archive of the Month: October

In October, there were bones from a grave yard on display in the Archive of the Month case.

St Dunstan's is a quiet Grade I listed church that dates to the 14th Century in the village of Monks Risborough in rural Buckinghamshire, which is itself one of the oldest recorded parishes in England. You could be forgiven for thinking that this building is stuck in an unremarkable past, but you would be wrong: today it is a hub of activities including an annual flower festival, regular Bucks Art Week shows

and a pop-up cinema, in addition to regular church services. As we will see, its history too is far from unremarkable.

To find out more take a look at the online version by Googling "Archive of the Month Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies".



Volunteering at CBS

Volunteering is a great way to learn new skills, meet people and to make a difference in the community. The Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies is looking for volunteers to help with projects we are currently running, and would be glad to hear from you if you have a few hours spare each week.

Photograph digitisation and cataloguing

In the 1990s, the photographic collections of the County Museum and the Local Studies Library were digitised. The resultant 20,000 images are available on our website. Technological improvements, copyright issues and changes in the Council website since that time have left the collection in need of review. We are looking for people to help us as we create better quality images of the photographs, improve the descriptions of them and expand the selection of images available online.

If you'd like to work on either project, or others that we are running, give us a call on 01296 382587 or email archives@buckscc.gov.uk.

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