



Quarterly Update for Stakeholders: Summer 2016

It's been a busy few months and the project is beginning to gather momentum. We've all been beavering away, mostly behind the scenes, to prepare for the planned building work at Gloucestershire Archives' Alvin Street site. And we've been making headway with the project's programme of activities to help people gather, keep and share local archives.

All Change at Alvin Street

Our principal contractors, Lakehouse Construction Ltd and their architects, Quattro have been liaising with us to fine tune our building development plans. There will be two phases of construction works. The first, due to begin in September, will involve demolishing the Horsa Hut next to the railway track and developing the main Archives building: erecting three new strong rooms on the southern side and remodelling the westerly end, which encompasses the current Archives research room. Once this is done, hopefully by early 2017, we'll be able to move the Archives research room and Gloucestershire Family History Society's Centre into the new facilities. The second phase of construction works, scheduled to begin straight after the first, will involve demolishing the Horsa Hut (Frith Centre) on the north side of the site, erecting a new entrance and linked training room, and landscaping. All being well, we'll have everything done and dusted by the end of 2017. And at that point we'll officially launch the new onsite Gloucestershire Heritage Hub.

The construction work preparations include decanting collections from the strong room that's going to become a part of the new Archives research room and clearing the existing research room. We've temporarily adjusted the [research room opening hours](#) to make these activities possible and will be keeping this arrangement whilst major building works are ongoing. It includes special provision for pre-booked project groups and volunteers to get on with their activities on Mondays and Fridays. The research room service will run from the Frith Centre, keeping the current operating arrangements, from the week beginning Monday 5th September. And this set up will stay in place until phase one works are completed.

The parking arrangements during construction work will be as follows:

On-site parking - There will only be space for 'blue badge' holders to park on site once the building work starts.

Alternative parking - There are two public car parks within a short walk: in Great Western Road and Hare Lane

You can stay up to date with what's happening by visiting gloucestershire.gov.uk/archives/news



Heritage Hub Training Programme

Archives staff are continuing to develop and refine the Heritage Hub training offer. In June, we ran and evaluated pilot training sessions on: “E preservation”, giving guidance on how to manage and preserve digital records; and “Protective Enclosures” pick ‘n’ mix training modules, which are part of the emerging Collections Care training offer and linked to heritage sector benchmarks. The next round of pilot training, scheduled for this autumn, will include aspects of Collections Management. The search is on for an alternative training venue as the Archives’ research room will be occupying our usual one in the Frith Centre.

Virtual Heritage Hub

The ‘For the Record’ Stakeholders Advisory Board has made good headway with plans to develop a virtual Heritage Hub. Like the onsite Hub, it will offer facilities (a website and social networking) that support people to gather, keep, share and use archives. The Board has already agreed a specification and the Archives is setting up a stakeholder team to develop and manage the virtual Heritage Hub.

Gloucestershire Police Archive

Gloucestershire Constabulary appointed Sue Webb as their project assistant at the end of April. As a former police constable and latterly, a head teacher, Sue brings a wealth of useful experience to the project. This is going to be bolstered by expertise from three University of Gloucestershire interns who will be helping with the Police Archive activity strand during the 2016-17 academic year. They will be adding content to the Police Archive website and recording spoken histories of current and former Force members.

Sue, three of the core police archive volunteers and one intern all took part in the recent Collections Care pilot training.

New project staff

We have now appointed people to two of the five Heritage Lottery funded project posts: Claire Collins has taken on the role of E-Preservation Archivist; and Kim Kenny is our new Project Officer. And we’re currently recruiting a Community Heritage Development Officer – someone who will grow the Gloucestershire Heritage Hub network and help the individuals and community groups/organisations that are part of it to engage with the onsite and online Heritage Hub offer. You can find details [here](#).

We’re delighted to have recruited five undergraduates, from the University of Gloucestershire and the University of the West of England, to serve internships on some of the activity strands.

Can you help?

Your Place in History

We're looking for quotes and archival images to display in the new onsite Heritage Hub and would welcome your ideas:

- Pithy comments about your experience of archives. E.g. 'History is the glue that holds communities together' (Historical Research Group, Sittingbourne, Kent);
- Short quotes from archives and/or iconic archival images to inspire or intrigue Hub visitors.

Birthday celebrations

2016 marks the 80th birthday of Gloucestershire Archives and the 90th birthday of the building. So we're also looking for contributions to our birthday celebrations in the autumn:

- A story or anecdote about Gloucestershire Archives or our current home, the former Kingsholm School;
- Or nominate your favourite archive (with reasons why) to feature in the birthday celebrations or future blogs.

We'd love to hear from you. Please contact brenda.fenner@gloucestershire.gov.uk or send your contributions by post to Gloucestershire Archives by 23 September please.

Date of next issue: Autumn 2016

