



Quarterly Update for Partners: Spring 2016

Launch event

Hot on the heels of our Heritage Lottery success, reps from partner organisations, volunteer groups and guests gathered at Gloucestershire Archives on 25th February to formally launch the next phase of "For the Record".

This was also a chance to celebrate the work we've done so far, and consider what the project means to the various partners involved. As well as anticipating new ways of working, there was excitement about what "For the Record" will do for historic Gloucestershire's documented history.

We're all looking forward to what our future partnerships will bring. And there's a lot to get on with in the meantime!

All change at Alvin Street

The "For the Record" project will build three new strong rooms and create a new facility: Gloucestershire Heritage Hub, which will operate from the Archives' Alvin Street premises. The construction work will happen in two phases: firstly we'll build the new strong rooms and reconfigure part of the Archives' main building to create a shared space where key partners will support people to undertake research and work with archives; and then we'll build a new training room, adjacent to the main building. We hope to have everything completed by late 2017.

Following a tendering process, Gloucestershire County Council has appointed Lakehouse, an Essex-based company as Principal Contractor for the project. Lakehouse is very enthusiastic about our plans for the site and the project as a whole.

There's going to be a fair bit of disruption at Alvin Street whilst building work is going on. Amongst other things, this will have an impact on the Archives' opening hours, document access arrangements and on-site parking. You can stay up to date with what's happening by visiting www.goucestershire.gov.uk/archives/news.

We'll also be sharing occasional stories about how the work is progressing. You'll find these on the Archives' blog: <http://gloucestershirearchives.wordpress.com>.



Activity plan launched

The project will also provide an extensive programme of activities for people and communities across Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire. This will run until the project ends in 2020 and offer a range of learning, participation, training and volunteering opportunities.

Some of the activity strands are already underway eg the pilot volunteer training programme, digital preservation work, Gloucestershire Police Archive project and Dowty Heritage project. Others will include reminiscence sessions for older people, adult lectures, a shared online catalogue and a summer holiday scheme for children in care. We'll also be setting up a Gloucestershire Heritage Hub website and events programme.

Our vision for Gloucestershire Heritage Hub

We see Gloucestershire Heritage Hub as a network of local people and organisations with a common interest in our historic county's documented history, benefiting from Hub facilities at Alvin Street and a Hub website, and supporting each other to gather, keep and share the historic county's documented history. We're hoping the "For the Record" building and activity programmes and collaborative working arrangements will help to create this new network. And we'd very much like you, as our respective members and supporters, to become part of it as it develops.

Recruiting project staff

A project this wide-ranging needs some specialist support. Gloucestershire Constabulary has recently appointed a fixed term Project Assistant to help with the Gloucestershire Police Archive activities; this is being funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. And the Archives will shortly be advertising for a 0.4FTE Project Support Officer and a 0.2FTE E-Preservation Officer, two of five project funded fixed term posts.

Over the coming months, the Archives also hope to recruit undergraduate volunteers from the University of Gloucestershire and the University of the West of England to help with some of the project activity strands.

Date of next issue: Summer 2016