

# Cheshire Archives & Local Studies



## Summer News

Bringing you the latest updates and unmissable events from Cheshire Archives & Local Studies.

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### Cheshire's archives: a story shared – update



Last year we submitted a funding bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to support our plans to relocate the service and extend the range of services we provide across Cheshire and online. Unfortunately this bid was unsuccessful because of heavy competition across the UK. We received positive feedback, however, and were encouraged to apply again.

In May we resubmitted our bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (the new name for HLF) and expect to hear their decision in the Autumn. We will keep people informed about progress through this newsletter and our website.

We are very grateful for all the support we've received while developing our project and funding bid.

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### Your Accredited Archive Service

Cheshire Archives & Local Studies has been an Accredited Archive service since 2015 and following resubmission and review earlier this year it was confirmed that we would retain accreditation. The Panel's overall view was that we have a positive approach to continuous improvement, they welcomed our ongoing efforts to develop activities around audiences and collections and recognised that major improvements in the service's preservation and access offer required a new home.

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### New Tithe Map website launched

Our new, updated tithe map site is now live! It replaces the original website which was launched back in 2008. The website was the only one of its kind at that time and has been accessed by over one million people looking into the history of buildings and plots of land. It holds over 500 tithe maps from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, details of owners, occupiers and land use and you can compare these with historic OS maps, modern mapping and aerial photographs.

The site was becoming less reliable over time and was not compatible with smartphones and tablets so the decision was taken to update it. The new website includes all the previous mapping, data and search facilities with new viewing options making it even more user-friendly. If you are out and about in Cheshire you can load the site on your mobile and navigate to your location to see what was there over 150 years ago!

### [Tithe Maps](#)

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## Cotton Spinners and Doublers

As part of the ongoing preservation work carried out by our Conservators we are currently working on the packaging of all our maps and plans. During this work we came across some beautiful plans of former cotton spinning mills, Adelphi and Clarence Mills at Bollington. They will be cleaned, flattened and encapsulated to ensure access for many more years to come.

The plan shown here (LUB 80/52/2) is of Adelphi Mill and dates from the early 20th Century. The Adelphi Mill was built in 1856 for a local cotton spinner Martin Swindells of Bollington. We also happen to hold the business and family papers of the Swindells family at the Record Office under reference D 2056 which put altogether forms a nice resource on the cotton industry in this area!

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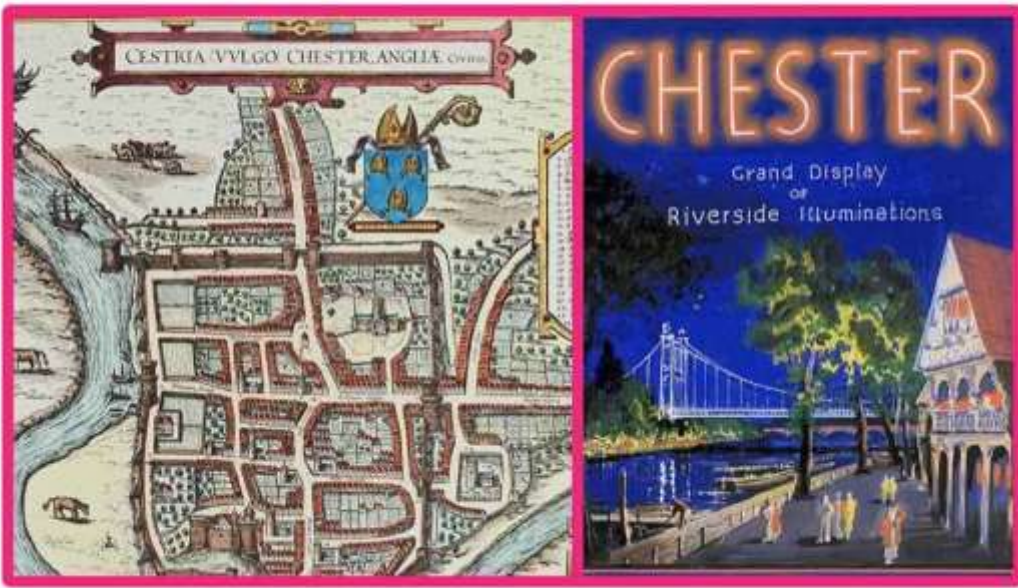
## Top Secret and on the move!

This remarkable photograph is taken from an album that was recently deposited with us. The photographs document the work of Joseph Parks & Son Ltd. who were construction engineers in Northwich. This local firm was one of the companies involved in the top secret construction of the pierheads for the Mulberry Harbour and formed a vital part of the D-Day landings in June 1944.

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## Coming Soon...

Cheshire Archives  
& Local Studies



### The River Dee: a journey through the records

Wednesday 26 June 5pm to 6.30pm

Collections experts will be on hand to help you navigate the unique and original records that tell the story of Chester and its river. See for yourself the charter from 1354 that confirms that Chester's Mayor is also Admiral of the Dee. Explore the evidence of the importance of the Port of Chester and the struggle to keep the river open to ships. On to more recent times where you can enjoy the floating baths and spectacular Victorian Dee illuminations!  
Drop-in session -booking not required.

**FREE**

**Cheshire Record Office, Duke Street, Chester, CH1 1RL**

[Chester Heritage Festival events](#)

## Staff news

### Linda Clarke retirement



At the end of March our Local Studies Advisor Linda Clarke retired after 10 years' service with Cheshire Archives. Among her many achievements she oversaw the creation of the new Cheshire Image Bank, forged new partnerships and delivered exciting events to community groups and people across the county. Enjoy your retirement Linda, we'll miss you!

### Tabby Hanlon

We also said farewell to Tabby Hanlon who has left us to start a new career in community engagement for the construction industry. We'd like to thank her for all her hard work especially on the Absent Voters project, and wish her all the best in her new job.



## Before We Go



### Soldiers and Sailors Rest

The 'Sailors and Soldiers Rest' at Crewe Station played host to thousands of members of the armed forces who passed through the station during the First World War and throughout demobilisation. The Rest was established in a former Railway Temperance Union Mission hut next to the station, where the men could relax for a few hours, have a meal, a bath and a sleep if necessary.

Twelve visitors' registers were signed by 130,000 men from April 1915; the final two registers, covering 1919, are lodged with us at Cheshire Record Office. Our volunteer Susan Chambers has been selecting and posting extracts from the registers on Twitter– follow us [@CheshireRO](#) to view the extracts and visit our [blog](#) to find out more.

[@CheshireRO on Twitter](#)

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### Horrible Handwriting!

- Encountered older sources while researching your family history?
- Using primary sources for your university dissertation?
- Struggling with horrible handwriting?

We can help! Our workshops will give you the skills you need to read and interpret old handwriting.

We recommend an initial two hour beginners session, but we can also offer a more advanced course of five to ten sessions if needed. Charges and minimum attendance apply.

Please contact us to register your interest and discuss requirements.

Telephone: 01244 972574

e-mail: [recordoffice@cheshiresharedservices.gov.uk](mailto:recordoffice@cheshiresharedservices.gov.uk)

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