

Report from the Archivist

There are a few points to add to the Archivist's Annual Report on the City Archives stored at Wells Museum.

Curatorial matters

The Archivist arranged for a Condition Survey of the City Council's historic paintings to be carried out by Bush & Berry, and this was done in February. Similarly, a Condition Survey of the paintings' frames was carried out by Ashley Sands. Condition Reports have subsequently been received, along with recommendations for treatment and quotations for the cost of the work.

Heritage Open Day

The date on which Wells Town Hall will be open has now been confirmed as Saturday 10th September 2016, from 10.00-4.00. There will be a separate event on downstairs, and the HODs displays will take place upstairs.

Modern records

Sorting of the modern records continues. One of the cells has been cleared in order to accommodate the records of St Cuthbert's Out Parish Council.

Talk and display

The new Mayor invited the Archivist to speak briefly at Mayor Making. She talked about retail in Wells and displayed the King John Charter, dating from 1201. This guarantees the citizens of Wells the legal right to have a weekly market.

There was a display of original documents immediately after the Mayor Making ceremony. These included some of the documents recently restored by Somerset Heritage Centre. There was also an exhibition on "Civic Firsts", researched by the Archivist, documenting the first women in civic roles in Wells, including the first woman Councillor and the first woman Mayor.

City Council item on display

The City Archives includes a large needlework panel illustrating the local legend of Bishop Jocelin and the Worminster Dragon. This is on display in the exhibition "Simple and Beautiful" at Wells & Mendip Museum from 11th June – 2nd July. This exhibition features domestic needlework samplers from the 18th to 20th centuries, and complements "The Ornate & The Beautiful" on show at the Bishop's Palace until 31st August.

Dr Julia Wood
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