

# Diary Dates

## Saturday 19 March 2016

### Discovering Shrewsbury's History

An opportunity to learn more about the fantastic Shrewsbury Borough records dating from the 11th century and recent work to make them accessible to all.

**10.00am – 1.00pm** Shropshire Archives, Castle Gates, Shrewsbury, SY1 2AQ  
Free event but booking essential (see leaflet for details)

## Wednesday 25 May 2016

### Visit to Acton Round Hall

Built in 1714 by Smith of Warwick for the Actons of Morville, Acton Round Hall is listed Grade I, as a fine example of architecture from the Queen Anne period. It contains a fascinating personal collection and is surrounded by beautiful gardens.

**2.30pm** Acton Round Hall, Bridgnorth, WV16 6XG  
Cost: £15 including refreshments

## Sunday 26 June 2016

### Wem History Day

A day event celebrating the history of Wem in association with the Victoria County History

Wem Town Hall, High Street, Wem, SY4 5DG  
Cost, time and programme tbc.

## Tuesday 5 July 2016

### Old Oswestry Hill Fort followed by the Town Museum and Archives in the Guildhall

Discover 3000 years of history, from Bronze Age beginnings to World War One practice trenches and learn about the hill fort's special wildlife. Oswestry Guildhall dates from 1893 and replaced the old Guildhall which was declared unsound and demolished.

**2.00pm** Oswestry, SY11 1HT  
Cost: £10 including refreshments

## Wednesday 10 August

### Visit to Weston Park

Weston Park was the seat of the Earls of Bradford from the 17th century and was gifted to the nation by Richard, the 7th and present Earl. The tour includes the Victorian Library furnished with over 3,000 books and the stunning Dining Room, which houses an impressive collection of paintings including works by renowned artists such as Sir Anthony Van Dyck.

**2.30pm** Weston-under-Lizard, Shifnal, TF11 8LE  
Cost £14 (refreshments excluded, cafe at venue)

## News Extra...

Do you have any stories to tell about Shropshire's history or have any news about Shropshire Archives? If you have, the editor is waiting to hear from you now. The contact details are below and photographs are always welcome.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:** The newsletter of the Friends of Shropshire Archives is edited by Andrew Pattison and designed by Nat Stevenson, Shropshire Archives' Image Services.

There are three issues per year, paid for by the Friends. The contents are provided by friends and well-wishers. If you would like to join the contributors, please contact the editor at the address below.

**DISCLAIMER:** We have made every effort to ensure that the information in this publication is correct at the time of printing. We cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions.



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The newsletter of the Friends of Shropshire Archives,  
gateway to the history of Shropshire and Telford

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*A view of Coalbrookdale and the adjacent county, c.1800 Shropshire Archives ref. PR/1/133*

**Contact...** For further details or to pass on your comments, please contact:  
Shropshire Archives, Castle Gates, Shrewsbury, SY1 2AQ • Tel: **0345 6789096**

Email: [archives@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:archives@shropshire.gov.uk) • Website: [www.shropshirearchives.org.uk](http://www.shropshirearchives.org.uk)



# The Coalbrookdale Doctors

*An iron work, for casting of cannon, and a boring mill, taken from the Madeley side of the River Severn, Shropshire, 1788. Shropshire Archives ref. PR/4/41*

The village of Coalbrookdale is famous for its pioneering contribution to the Industrial Revolution — the first iron bridge, the first iron boat and the first steam locomotive to run on rails, amongst other achievements. It is not so well known, however, for three generations of a family who were the doctors in the Dale and whose letters and other documents have been preserved in Shropshire Archives (SA 1987/56/2-32). They

experienced the evolution of the modern medical profession as it emerged from an assortment of proud physicians and well-meaning tradesmen to an organisation based on science, education and legal regulation.

The first member of this family in Coalbrookdale was Benjamin Wright, son of a Cheshire farmer, who came to Broseley as an apprentice apothecary in the 1770s, and by 1775 had completed his indentures. At that time the

medical profession was not yet organised: there were university educated physicians looking after the well-to-do; surgeons who dealt with wounds and fractures; and apothecaries who kept shops in which they sold medicines and offered medical and surgical advice. Their training was a seven-year apprenticeship loosely supervised by their trade organisation, Apothecaries' Hall in London. Benjamin was a Quaker, as were many of the ironmasters in Shropshire, and was thus known to

Abraham Darby of Coalbrookdale who invited him to open a shop in the Dale. He lived in Dale House (now part of the Darby Houses in the care of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust (IGMT)), was doctor to the Darby family and was present at the birth of the children of Abraham Darby III. He lived there until 1791, when he leased 60 acres of land from Lord Craven on which he built the house called Greenbank for £600, which was, and still is, a substantial property.

Apothecaries were shop-keepers and 'in trade'. They sold medicines and undertook minor surgical procedures in their shops, which is why their professional descendants, today's general practitioners, call their places of work their 'surgeries'. As well as keeping their shops, apothecaries visited their seriously ill (or richer) patients at home, but after a dispute with the Royal College of Physicians, they could only charge for the medicines they supplied. The scanty records in the IGMT library show that Benjamin's

patients included several important people in the Dale, including Thomas Baugh, ironmaster, and John Rose (probably the manager of the Coalport Works). He also treated the many tradesmen, miners, labourers and their families. He was a member of the Parish Council, for whom he was Overseer of the Poor and Medical Officer to the poor house. He also acted as banker to the area, for some documents exist to show that he was involved in arranging loans to various people, including



prominent figures such as Abraham Darby III, James Rathbone and R. Guest. Some loans amounted to hundreds of pounds.

Benjamin died in 1794, aged only forty-nine, and this story might well have ended then but for the marriage of his oldest daughter Elizabeth to William Edwards, a young apothecary. There was no qualifying examination at this time, so William only had to satisfy his master of his competence. But times were hard for William and Elizabeth: France was devastated by revolution, Europe was at war and Shropshire suffered a series of very cold winters with severe flooding of the River Severn. Food was short in Coalbrookdale, prices were high, including ingredients for William's medicines, and his income fell so low that he could not even afford a new overcoat to keep him warm on horseback when visiting his patients. Yet he and Elizabeth moved in to a new home, Rose Hill, in what is now Darby Road. William had been an apprentice but had also studied in London for six months, thereby joining a trend that would develop into a five-year curriculum of study in the coming decades.

William's practice was busy, for as well as his own patients he was Medical Officer to the poor house, and following the new trend for apothecary-surgeons to look after women in childbirth, he began to undertake this demanding work. He and Elizabeth had eight children, of whom one died in infancy and two in their teens. None of the other five married or had children, but two of them followed their father into the business, which continued until

their retirement in the eighteen-sixties. William and Elizabeth's first child, Betsy, was born in 1797, followed soon afterwards by a son, Edward. At the age of fourteen Edward was apprenticed to his father having decided to become an apothecary-surgeon too, or as they were now being called a 'general practitioner', that is to say physician, surgeon and medicine-seller in one person. He was soon at work in Coalbrookdale, helping in the shop and visiting patients in their homes. He did much of the midwifery practice in which, his mother said, he was very popular 'among the ladies'. By the early nineteenth century medicine was becoming much more complicated as new scientific discoveries were made. Advances in chemistry, anatomy and medicines made it important for Edward to study in London for much longer than his father had done.

Edward's absence during 1814 was a burden on his ailing father, especially as the practice was becoming busier and times were hard. Then, in 1815, an Act of Parliament was passed requiring all apprentices to be examined at Apothecaries' Hall for a licence to practise, which William regarded as a mere formality. But Edward realised that a proper qualification

would become necessary in years to come, and persuaded his father to allow a two year period of study in London. In due course Edward passed the Licentiate (LSA) examination, to become one of the first properly qualified general practitioners. He returned to Coalbrookdale and resumed work in the practice. It was not easy: smallpox and typhus were common and cholera came to Coalbrookdale in 1834; many people were undernourished, injuries at the works or in the mines were frequent, and the hazards to mothers in childbirth put heavy demands on the doctors.

By 1828 Edward was settled in the practice but William, who had often been ill from the strain of the practice and rides in foul weather, suddenly died aged fifty-eight. Edward therefore had to run the practice on his own and support his mother, four sisters and a brother, with Betsy keeping house. To share the burden of work Edward employed an assistant until his younger brother Benjamin decided that he too would be a doctor and joined his brother as apprentice. By now it was the 1830s, and education for medical practice was much more demanding, requiring two years of study, including time in hospitals and out-patient

dispensaries, either in private schools or at University College or King's College in the new London University. Benjamin was not as ardent a student as his brother Edward had been, and this lack of commitment caused a serious disagreement between them in which Edward accused Benjamin of a 'serious want of temper'. Nevertheless Benjamin passed the LSA and returned to the practice.

The brothers were caught up in yet more legislative developments in the profession. After nineteen unsuccessful bills, the Medical Act was passed in 1858. This required all suitably qualified medical practitioners to enter their names on the new Medical Register, which defines today's medical profession. Edward registered promptly, but for some reason Benjamin did not, perhaps reflecting his earlier lack of commitment. This may explain his behaviour in a tragic event which provoked public censure in the coroner's court. Benjamin had

been called to an accident in which a young man was seriously injured, but he refused to attend because another doctor had already arrived. Unfortunately the man died, and at the inquest the jury expressed their 'strong disapprobation' at Benjamin's refusal to attend. Why did he refuse? Was it because he had failed to register under the Medical Act? Or did it reveal once more his earlier lack of commitment?

Earlier generations of the Edwards family had owned land, and in due course Edward and Benjamin inherited their shares when it was sold. Edward bought Rose Hill, and Benjamin purchased a small estate where he set himself up as a gentleman. But the years had passed. Edward died in 1878 at the age of seventy two, leaving his property to his sister Betsy and various bequests to the Salop Infirmary, widows in the Dale, his servants and former colleagues. There is a memorial

to him in Coalbrookdale church commemorating his dedication in life and his generosity in death. Nine years later, in 1881, Benjamin died at the age of sixty-five. He left £8,000 to his housekeeper, together with his silver, musical instruments, pictures and wines – and his collection of parrots. He left nothing to charities or good causes.

Though the Coalbrookdale doctors may be unknown to the twenty-first century inhabitants of Coalbrookdale, they deserve their place in its history. They were part of the community that witnessed the Industrial Revolution and shared its successes and difficulties: and were active participants in the evolution of today's medical profession. They deserve to be remembered. ■

*The Coalbrookdale Doctors: a family practice in Shropshire, by Richard Moore is published by YouCaxton at £12.99. It is available at Pengwern Books, Fish Street, Shrewsbury and other bookshops, or from the author (01743 362731).*

*Right: a selection of the Edwards' correspondence. Shropshire Archives ref. 1987/56/2-32*



*Coalbrookdale upper works, c 1890's. Shropshire Archives ref. PH/C/31/2/42*





## Feature

Graham Bradbury

# Annual lecture

Graham Bradbury on 'Military Conflicts through Artefacts, Letters, Postcards and Family History'

## Introduced by Ruth Campbell

This year's Annual Lecture was full of interesting stories of the soldiers behind the various military artefacts collected by Graham. He provided us with a large display of medals and other items, such as snuff boxes, postcards, letters and pay books. Each item was accompanied by information about the men who had won the medals and owned the items. As well as original items, there were some interesting artefacts which were made later in order to commemorate a battle or other event. Graham used family trees and service records from the internet in order to find out about the soldiers named on the medals. Newspaper articles and regimental records are also helpful in showing where various battalions served. Making contact with members of a soldier's family enabled him to acquire a photograph and add more detail about the men who had won the medals and their lives in the forces. 'Having done the research, Graham then documents the information he has found and shares this with the families concerned. Graham introduced us to websites useful for finding the history behind medals and awards and other military objects and artefacts. There are websites for researching The Napoleonic War, 1803 – 1815, including one listing the names of the men who served at the Battle of Trafalgar 1805.

After this talk I shall be seeking out obscure boxes at sales and will make more effort to write up and file my own research in such a well presented manner.



Graham Bradbury told us more about one example of his research:

It always amazes me why any family would have little interest in their own family history and historical heirlooms in their possession. If there are no relatives I can understand the circumstances,

but to sell items, or throw them in the skip, loses their historical context. One of my hobbies is going round junk shops and antique markets looking for items relating to military history and then researching their 'back-story'.



## An unpromising beginning

On one occasion I purchased a pair of World War One field glasses at a flea market. All the seller could tell me was that these had belonged to his grandfather, who had the surname Williams (not a very promising start for research!). He had served in World War One and his father (the great grandfather of the seller) was either a Harry or Henry. He also remembered a large photograph at his grandfather's house taken in Africa — possibly during the Anglo Boer War.

So I began my research. The field glasses themselves are inscribed with an army symbol and dated 1896, with lenses marked *L. Casella, London*. The case was made by *Picard, Petot and Lienard*, and is marked in several places '8 HANTS'. This refers to the 8<sup>th</sup> (Isle of Wight Rifles, Princess Beatrice's) Battalion, Territorial Force. From the quality of the field glasses they must have belonged to a 'Rifleman' above the rank of Private, which narrows the field. There was not an 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion in the Boer War, but World War One Regimental records (available online) show that an 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion served as follows:-

04.08.1914 — Stationed at Newport, Isle of Wight (IoW), and then joined the 163<sup>rd</sup> Division of the 54<sup>th</sup> Division and moved to Bury St. Edmunds and then Watford.

30.07.1915 — mobilised for war and embarked for Gallipoli from Liverpool aboard the *Aquitania*.

09.08.1915 — landed at Suvla Bay (Gallipoli) and engaged in various actions.

03.12.1915 — evacuated from Gallipoli to Egypt due to heavy losses from combat, disease and severe weather.

31.10.1918 — ended the war in Palestine, near Beirut.

Above left: A selection of World War One ephemera held within the collections of Shropshire Regimental Museum and Shropshire Archives.

Right: The medical index card for Corporal Dudley Richard Williams

Left: The World War One field Glasses, purchased by Graham at a flea market, that provided the inspiration for research.

Below: A table to compare the two soldiers identified as possible owners of the field glasses.

Name	Rank	Number	Company	On Aquitania	Fate	DoD	died/buried	Born or lived at	Comments
Williams, A.J	Cpl/Sgt	408/330025	A	Yes	Medically unfit	/	/	Ryde IoW	Discharged 02/08/1917, Silver War badge
Williams, D.R	Cpl	330274	/	3	Wounded	/	/	Ryde IoW	Mentioned in Dispatches

## Narrowing the field

The next step was to locate any soldiers above the rank of private who served in the 8<sup>th</sup>. Jessica Martin, the curator of the Hampshire Regimental Museum, helped me to locate two possible soldiers, and I was able to draw up the table below.

Further research on the 1911 census to determine if either had a father named Harry or Henry proved that the owner of the field glasses must have been Corporal Dudley Richard Williams. He had a father Harry Dudley Williams who was born in 1855 in Alverstoke, Hampshire, whose occupation was headmaster. Census records also show our Dudley Richard Williams having been born in the June quarter 1893 at Ryde, IoW. After the war he married Linda B Collins in Gloucester in 1928, and he died 19<sup>th</sup> March 1971 in Surrey. Knowing the story of the movements of Corporal Williams suggested that his grandson's reference to the picture taken in Africa is fairly certainly from World War One Egypt (after 03.12.1915), not the Anglo Boer War.

## Tracing the family

There are obvious sources of information for the family historian such as *Find My Past* and Military Museums, and I have found the *Ancestry Public Members Tree* very useful in contacting living relatives. Items often follow one side of a family tree and are then lost to the other branches. Reuniting the items I have found with the family and exchanging information, such as photographs, is a rewarding part of my research, often replacing lost family memories. Do I have any special research message? Yes! It is, please label all existing photographs! ■







# 'Painting the Forth Bridge...'



Andrew Pattison recently caught up with Samantha Mager, senior archivist, to learn more about her work.

Samantha (universally known at the Archives as Sal) gained a history degree, after which she did a postgraduate course to become an archivist. She moved to Shropshire 22 years ago. The main change since then has been the computerisation of the records, and Sal has enjoyed building up a database over the past 17 years which now contains over half a million items. She is always trying to find ways to enable users to search the database more efficiently, and helps to train both the staff and the public in its use. She finds it frustrating that a combination of lack of time and money means that it is always less good than she would like, and it is also challenging to keep up with constantly evolving technology.

## Accessions

Another of Sal's roles is dealing with new accessions. The Archives service is offered 100-150 new 'collections' a year. These can range from single items (for example someone recently donated an 1835 letter by Prime Minister Robert Peel found in a shed) to large collections. More unusual collections received lately include records from the Silhouette corset factory and a radio equipment company. It may be difficult to decide what to accept, bearing in mind the limited storage that we have. Often she has to err on the side of acceptance, since it is difficult to predict what may become useful for future researchers. Having received the donation, she then has to record in general terms what is in it and box it up securely. Before the recent staff cuts, she used to be assisted by another part-time archivist and an assistant, but now has to do all the work herself, in addition to all her other responsibilities. However, she does enjoy working with the original material, and is grateful for the on-going generosity of donors.

## Half way there...

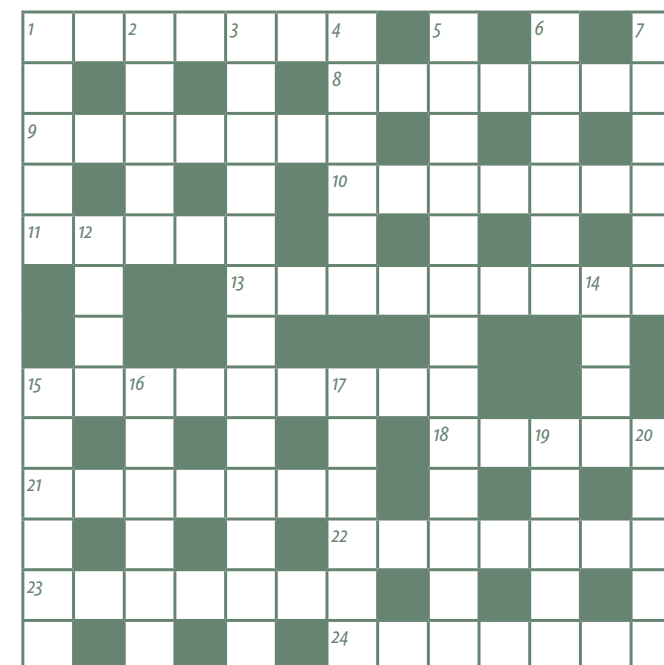
Detailed cataloguing of the collections is usually done by volunteers, whom Sal helps to oversee. She is particularly pleased that the 40,000 items in the photograph collection are almost all catalogued now, but overall only about 50% of the Archive collections are catalogued. One source of volunteers is those who have made the deposit, if they are willing. It takes time to train them, but since they may be already familiar with the collection this may add to the value of their work.

## The challenge of data

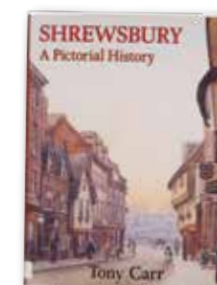
Sal's other main role is to do with data protection. Some collections hold potentially sensitive personal information, but the service may have an obligation to release the information under the Freedom of Information Act. "This can be hugely challenging," Sal explained, "and the complexity of legislation also has to be handled very sensitively. We have a moral and ethical duty to make sure that we produce the information correctly, as this can have a significant impact on people's lives." She can get help from the Information Officer at the Shirehall, and also from the National Archives and the Information Commissioner, but ultimately the decision on what to release and how to do it is down to Sal, in consultation with her colleagues.

I came away from talking to Sal with a new appreciation of the enormous importance of the work that she and her colleagues do, and wondered how she can possibly fit it all into three days a week! ■

## Prize crossword with a historical theme



Please send your solutions to [apattison@clara.net](mailto:apattison@clara.net). If you want an electronic copy please send to the same email address. The first correct one pulled 'out of the hat' on January 31<sup>st</sup> will win a copy of Tony Carr's *Shrewsbury, a Pictorial History*, which contains a wonderful selection of photographs from the Archives.



## Across

1. 'The Colossus of Roads' - now located in Shropshire! (7)
8. A support for cooking in an open fire (7)
9. Only birds used to do it, now people do too! (7)
10. What 1 across used to do to rivers (7)
11. A leader in a Presbyterian church (5)
13. An old word for farming (9)
15. Controversial poet, 1788-1824 (4,5)
18. First name of one of Napoleon's sisters (5)
21. What the infant does in Shakespeare's Seven Ages of Man (7)
22. The theme of this crossword! (7)
23. One of four ancient basic substances (7)
24. Infection in these facial spaces might once have been fatal (7)

## Down

1. A tax to support the church (5)
2. A landowner in the country that 1 across came from (5)
3. 1 across designed churches for these far-flung islands (5,8)
4. A well-known dynasty of Shropshire ironmasters (6)
5. Britain's best-loved naval hero (7,6)
6. Mediaeval houses were like this in winter (6)
7. Most historical battles lasted just this long (3,3)
12. An old-fashioned floor covering (4)
14. ----, poles or perches (4)
15. The ----- proletariat (Karl Marx) (6)
16. His house and mansion are two beautiful Shrewsbury buildings (6)
17. Tom Paine wrote a lot about these (6)
19. Metal shackles (5)
20. A bottomless pit (5)

## A First World War Box

The Shropshire Remembers project has produced an artefact box on a World War One theme for primary schools in Shropshire. The box includes a variety of items which can help children explore what life was like during the First World War.

The artefacts and documents have been chosen to reflect life in the trenches and on the home front. Among the objects included are scaled down uniforms for a soldier and nurse, replica food, (the bar of chocolate is cardboard!),

a letter from the trenches, photographs, posters and a hand knitted balaclava. There are photographs of two soldiers, one survived the war and the other did not. The images of nurses are of two sisters from Shrewsbury with contrasting stories. One nursed at Stokesay Court, one of several convalescent hospitals in Shropshire, the other went to Serbia where she was caught behind enemy lines. The box will be available for loan through the School Library Service. If you have items and a story

to tell about the First World War, the project would love to hear from you. You can 'add your story' on the Shropshire Remembers website [shropshireremembers.org.uk](http://shropshireremembers.org.uk) or contact Alison Mussell at Shropshire Archives, [alison.mussell@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:alison.mussell@shropshire.gov.uk)





# From the Chair

Jill Ming

Planning any outdoor event in Britain is a risky business as far as the weather is concerned, however we threw caution to the winds and organised a guided walk around parts of Shrewsbury led by Blue Badge guide Dorothy Nicolle in July—and the sun shone. The theme of the walk was the River Severn and its role in the history of Shrewsbury, exploring its bridges, quays and some of the buildings and features along its banks. Dorothy has an encyclopaedic knowledge of Shrewsbury and took us from St Mary's Water Lane downstream to the Welsh Bridge and Quantum Leap, stopping frequently to tell a story and point out places of interest. The pace quickened towards the end of the walk as we got our 'tea legs' on.

*Friends taking in the scenery at Quantum Leap during the guided tour with Dorothy Nicolle.*

We finished our walk at Lily's Garden Tea Rooms where we enjoyed tea and delicious scones in a delightful riverside setting.

Our annual lecture this October was a fascinating introduction by Graham Bradbury into the lives of service personnel revealed through artefacts he has collected (see separate article). As well as curating an interesting collection of military memorabilia including medals, letters and photographs, Graham has researched the history of the people behind these objects and, in some cases, been able to contact their descendants. His work demonstrates how a great deal of information can be gleaned from a single object, not to mention some unusual stories. As well as enjoying Graham's engaging talk, it was a privilege to be able to examine some of his artefacts at first hand.

Planning of our activities for 2016 is well under way and will include visits to Acton Round Hall, Old Oswestry, and Weston Park. Details and a booking form will be posted on our website

[friendsofshropshirearchives.org](http://friendsofshropshirearchives.org) when the events are finalised, and circulated with the spring newsletter.

One of the ways in which the Friends help Shropshire Archives is providing funds to enable them to purchase documents that come up for auction from time to time. We recently donated over £300 in a successful bid for documents relating to the Wood family of Henley Hall, Bitterley, which included some estate records, photographs, and Ludlow quarter sessions papers. These occasional purchases help to supplement the Archives' collections and make these records available to a wider audience, and it is very rewarding to bring some of Shropshire's records back to the county.

We still have two vacancies on our committee, so I'll repeat my invitation to you to consider joining our team to help plan our events and activities. We meet four times a year; do email me ([jill@buildingbeginnings.co.uk](mailto:jill@buildingbeginnings.co.uk)) if you would like to help.

## Sponsorship of the Salopian Recorder

We are very grateful to Arrol and Snell, Architects of Shrewsbury, who have helped towards the cost of this issue. If you know of anybody who might be interested in sponsoring future issues, do let us know. We are very happy to include a small acknowledgment of this sponsorship.

## News

Mary McKenzie

### World War I projects

Work on the World War One commemoration projects continues. The fantastically recreated trenches at Park Hall were officially opened on 7 September with significant media coverage, including a feature on **BBC Midlands Today**. Planning is now also underway for further World War One commemoration activity from 2017. In autumn 2018 the project will culminate in a large scale commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Wilfred Owen's death at the age of 25 in November 1918, just 7 days before the armistice.

### Work experience and student placements

We have been able to offer a number of placements over the summer to Work Experience school students, unemployed people seeking work experience, and a post graduate student from the University of West Virginia in the US. The volunteers have worked on a range of cataloguing, digitisation and conservation projects, including parish collections, the records of Shrewsbury Borough, and our prints and drawings collection. We are grateful for their support.

### Shropshire VCH

The launch of the new **Shropshire Victoria County History** took place on Saturday 31 October in Shrewsbury. A fantastic turnout of almost 200 people showed the depth of support for the project. Funds are now being actively sought to ensure that the work can start in earnest, with a planned first project to complete the history of Wem. An event to introduce the project is arranged for the afternoon of Saturday 27 February 2016 at Shropshire Archives. For further details see the enclosed flyer or contact [info@victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk](mailto:info@victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk). If you are interested in supporting the effort further details are at [victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/counties/shropshire](http://victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/counties/shropshire).

### Archives West Midlands

The Regional Archive body of which I am Chair has changed its name from the West Midlands Regional Archive Forum to the rather snappier, and hopefully

*The King's Shropshire Light Infantry at Park Hall Camp, 1915.  
Shropshire archives ref. 6005/SHYTA/0423*

more memorable, Archives West Midlands. Following a project to review our aims and function, supported by the National Archives and regional archives services, we are now planning for a formal launch in 2016. We hope the new organisation will support improved regional collaboration which is essential in the current difficult financial situation faced by all archive services.

### Staff changes



We welcomed Brenna Davies-Sheil as our new apprentice in September. Brenna has settled in very well as an active member of the team, and has taken on and developed our social media presence, as those of you who 'like' us on Facebook and 'follow' us on Twitter will have noticed. We are very grateful to Brenna for helping to bring us more up to date with the latest technology.



Telford & Wrekin  
COUNCIL



Please send any comments to:  
Mary McKenzie, Team Leader, Archives, Shropshire Archives,  
Castle Gates, Shrewsbury, SY1 2AQ  
tel: 0345 6789096  
email: [mary.mckenzie@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:mary.mckenzie@shropshire.gov.uk)  
website: [www.shropshirearchives.org.uk](http://www.shropshirearchives.org.uk)