

Library and Archives Report

N.B.: A new appointment system is now in operation. In the Spring Newsletter I mooted the idea of an appointment only system for the library. No comments were received so the system is now in operation. This means that we can plan for your visit which should make things quicker and easier for researchers and for us in the library too. Please email or ring the library (details below) to make an appointment. If leaving a message on the phone, please let us know what you are researching and we'll get back to you.

Following Honor's retirement as Archivist in May I have been on a steep "learning-curve" (as the management gurus say) whilst I try to wear two-hats as librarian and acting archivist. I'm pleased to say that we still have three regular library volunteers, Roelie Reed, Jeremy Howarth and Adrian Harford whilst Bronwen Lee, our Membership Secretary, is in the library every week. I'm very grateful for all their help and support without which we couldn't keep the library open each Wednesday.

Our main task over the last few weeks has been to free-up space in our bulging Muniment Room via the "Great Records of Bucks give-away". Once we have some clear shelves the Muniment Room will be re-organised and I hope we will not have to buy any more racking - a considerable saving.

I'm delighted to report that Dr Garry Marshall, has taken on, and almost completed, the near-Herculean task of cataloguing the Hohler archive, a job which Dr Kim Taylor-Moore had to abandon following her move to Devon. We should be able to put the catalogue online within the next few weeks.

We had a stall at the Bucks Family History Fair in July and took £65, much less than last year when David Noy's Winslow book sold like the proverbial hotcakes! An addition to our stall was a marvellous display on Stoke Mandeville wills prepared by Honor Lewington, complete with a Power-Point presentation and copies of all the will-transcripts prepared by her BAS Probate Group. Incidentally these transcripts are now in the BAS archives for all to consult. We met a variety of people, from novices just starting on the hunt for their ancestors to experienced researchers. We always learn something at these events. Thanks are due to Honor for the display and to Bronwen Lee, Mike Ghirelli and Julian Hunt for helping with the stall and especially to Julian for donating some of his own books. It was a bonus to have the author on hand to sign copies!

We seem to have had fewer readers in the library this year; increasingly researchers are using online resources and contacting the library by email. Visitors have included members of our own Active Archaeology Group researching hill-forts for the National Atlas and Chilterns hill-forts projects and a teacher preparing GCSE course material. We can often deal with enquiries by email or through the post. Many Buckinghamshire researchers are based out of the county; we had a visitor from South Wales and recent enquiries have come from family historians based in Cumbria and Guernsey.

Email: help@bucksas.org.uk Phone: 01296 397200

Marian Miller
Hon. Librarian and Acting Archivist