

Essex Record Office e-bulletin August 2012

Welcome to the August edition of the ERO e-bulletin. In this edition:

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News

Why do we still need archives when we've got the internet?

Our guest speaker at our Discovery Day on 8 September is Dr Nick Barratt, who will be speaking on 'Why do we still need archives when we've got the internet?' The availability of documents on the internet has enabled unprecedented access to archive material, and has made searching for information easier than ever before. This has had the knock-on effect, however, of reducing physical visits to archives. What, then, do archives still have to offer in the digital age?



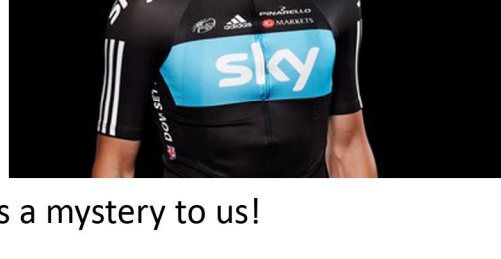
Dr Barratt is a very engaging speaker, and this promises to be a thought-provoking talk.

Saturday 8 September, 1.30pm-2.15pm, followed by questions
Tickets are free but limited – guarantee your place by pre-booking on **01245 244620**

[Read more about the other events at our Discovery Day here.](#)

Cyclist Alex Dowsett delves into the past of his sport at the ERO

As cycling fever grips the nation following a British victory in the Tour de France and cycling success in the Olympics, the ERO recently welcomed Team Sky's Alex Dowsett, Essex's very own medal-winning cyclist. Alex found out about the popularity of Essex as a cycling destination in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, with many cyclists escaping from the capital to enjoy the countryside. Even women joined in, although how they managed in their long skirts and corsets is a mystery to us!



The documents and photographs which Alex saw are currently on display in the Reception area, and cycling is also honoured in August's 'Document of the Month', the visitors book for the Cock Tavern, Ongar (D/Z 518/1), which includes signatures and even little drawings from many of the cyclists who stopped there for refreshments.

[Read more about Alex's visit on our blog.](#)

New accession: Old Harwich in photographs

The ERO has recently acquired a photograph album which contains some fantastic pictures of Harwich in the 1850s, documenting the extension of the quays, and the arrival of the railway. The album, kindly purchased for the ERO by the Friends of Historic Essex, will now undergo conservation work before being digitised.



[See some of the photographs from the album on our blog.](#)

Evacuees' voices at the ERO



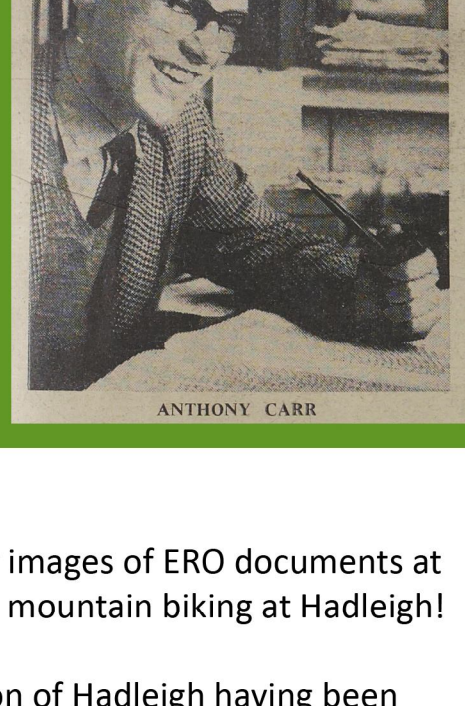
The Essex Sound and Video Archive has recently added to SEAX a collection of oral history interviews which focus on childhood experiences during World War II (SA 48). The evacuation of children can be portrayed as an example of how the nation 'pulled together' during World War II to help one another through the crisis. However, the individual stories told by those who experienced evacuation can help to

present a more complex narrative. You can now order these recordings to hear the stories for yourself to listen to in the ERO Searchroom.

[Read more on our blog.](#)

Stories from the Stores: ERO's Brain of Britain

We recently stumbled across a newspaper article about quite possibly the cleverest person ever to have worked here. In 1956, at just 18 years old, Anthony Carr won the title 'Brain of Britain' on the BBC's radio quiz show 'What do you know?' By 1962, aged 24, Mr Carr was working as an assistant archivist at the ERO when he went on to win 'Top Brain of Britain'. He remains the youngest person ever to have won the 'Brain of Britain' title.



[Read more on our blog.](#)

Team Hadleigh



Look out for images of ERO documents at the Olympic mountain biking at Hadleigh!

In celebration of Hadleigh having been chosen to host the Olympic mountain biking, Team Hadleigh, including members of our Heritage Education Unit, have produced a guidebook and mobile web-app exploring the history of the town and providing a heritage trail. Images from our collection can be seen throughout the guide.

The team began by teaching pupils from Hadleigh schools about their local heritage, and taking them on visits to local sites and the Record Office. Local residents were involved in capturing and exchanging their memories with the school children. This work has culminated in the creation of banners which will be on display outside the Olympic venue.

To see what the Heritage Education Unit has been up to, and check out the Team Hadleigh project, go to www.teamhadleigh.com, follow @teamhadleigh on Twitter or keep an eye out for the guidebook at Hadleigh Library and at the mountain biking event.

Forthcoming events

Unless otherwise stated, all events must be booked in advance – please telephone **01245 244 620**. You can also now keep up with our upcoming events on the Events page on our blog.

Searchroom Tour

This forty-five minute tour will show you how to get the very best from the ERO's Searchroom – it's ideal if you are just starting your research or perhaps want to go beyond using microfiche and microfilm. We will also offer some tips on how to use our online catalogue, Seax.

Saturday 18 August, 9.30am-10.15am

Free, advance booking essential

'Beatrix Potter – Her art and inspiration'

An informal lecture by Dudley Chignall for the Essex History Group. All welcome.

Tuesday 4 September, 10.30am-11.30am

Free, small charge for tea and coffee

Discover: Your House History – at Saffron Walden Archive Access Point

This session will enable you to begin to discover the history of your house, or other buildings, using documents in the Record Office's collections.

Tuesday 4 September, 10.30am-12.00noon

£10, advance booking essential

ERO Discovery Day – in conjunction with Heritage Open Days

Do you enjoy a good story? The Essex Record Office contains nearly 1,000 years worth of stories about Essex people and places. See behind-the-scenes on tours of the archives, and learn about how the ERO can help you with family, house or local history. Featuring a special keynote speech by media genealogist Nick Barratt.

Saturday 8 September, 10.00am-4.00pm

Free, tours and tickets for Nick Barratt's talk can be pre-booked on **01245 244 620**

Discover: Maps

Join members of our Searchroom team for a practical session that will explain how to use some of the many different kinds of maps that can be found in the Essex Record Office.

Thursday 20 September, 2.00pm-4.00pm

£10, book in advance on 01245 244 620

Essex-on-Sea

The sea has played an important part in the story and history of Essex, providing employment in industries such as ship building, ferries and oyster fisheries as well as pleasure activities at the Royal Yachting clubs and seaside resorts. This special one-day conference will look at the diverse history of Essex and the sea.

Saturday 22 September, 10.00am-3.45pm

Tickets £20 including buffet lunch and refreshments

Searchroom tour

This forty-five minute tour will show you how to get the very best from the ERO's Searchroom – it's ideal if you are just starting your research or perhaps want to go beyond using microfiche and microfilm. We will also offer some tips on how to use our online catalogue, Seax.

Wednesday 26 September, 10.30am-11.15am

Free, but advance booking essential

'How not to dispose of a body'

An informal lecture by Doug Newlyn for the Essex History Group. All welcome.

Tuesday 2 October, 10.30am-11.30am

Free, small charge for tea and coffee

Discover: Parish registers (1538-present)

Parish registers contain information of great value to the family historian, but they may seem daunting if you have not used them before. This session will explain what you might expect to discover in parish registers and how to get the best from them.

Tuesday 2 October, 2.30pm-4.30pm

Tickets £10, book in advance on 01245 244 620.

Keep up with ERO

We welcome your comments on this e-bulletin and all other aspects of the ERO's service. If you have a comment or a suggestion about how we could improve, please e-mail us at ero.enquiry@essex.gov.uk.

If you no longer wish to receive the ERO e-bulletin, please reply with 'Unsubscribe e-bulletin' in the subject line.

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