



# Lancashire Archives & Local History

Annual Report 2022-2023



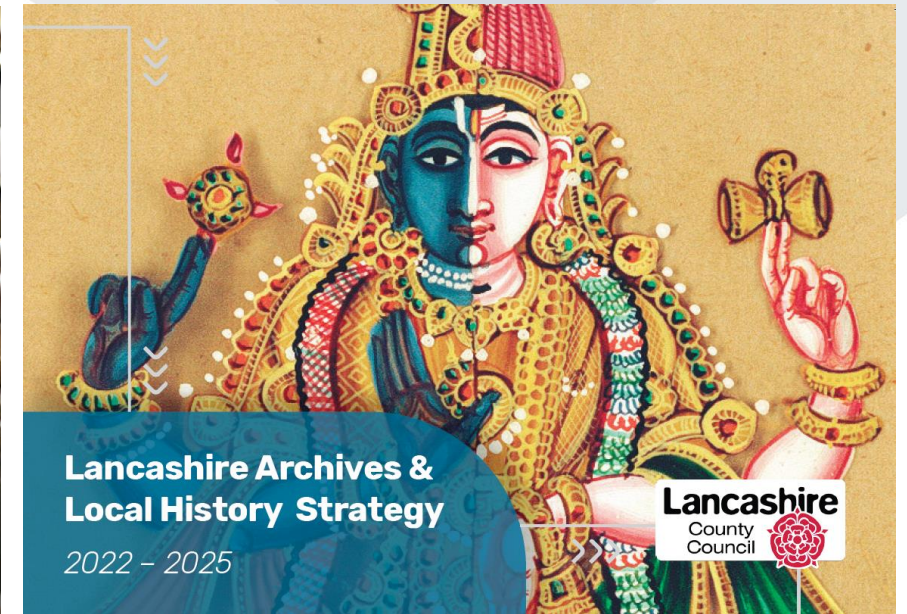
## About Lancashire Archives & Local History

Lancashire Archives cares for **900** years of the County's history.

Millions of items, from medieval parchments to digital sound recordings, are stored on 9 miles of shelving in the strongrooms in Preston and in Local History Libraries around the county.

We collect and preserve archives so that Lancashire's stories will be told in the future; and so they are available for everyone to use and enjoy today.

We are an Accredited Archive Service as designated by The National Archives and supported by an amazing team of volunteers and the Friends of Lancashire Archives.



## Access and Engagement

In 2022-2023 we:

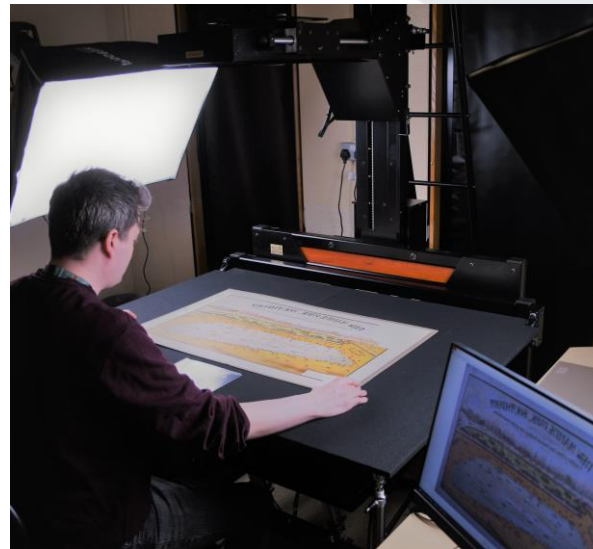
- Launched our new Lancashire Local History Publication, *Archives*;
- Recorded new podcasts for our series with expert historians built around Lancashire's archive collections;
- Worked with Preston Recovery College on the innovative culture therapy project, *Change Minds*;
- Produced 11,128 documents for Archive visitors; and provided over 180 Lancashire primary schools with teaching resources;
- Collaborated with artist and musician Jennifer Reid, URPotential and Lancashire County Council's Youth Zone team to mark LGBTQ+ History Month;
- Reorganised our public searchroom, creating a new exhibition featuring displays on *Lancashire Treasures*, *Preston Guild 1922* and *The Amazing Mr Mercer* in partnership with the Museum Service, and our Great Exhibition family event;
- Established a network of Local Studies Champions and staff training programme across Lancashire Libraries;
- Supported the County Council's Project Search scheme for neuro-diverse young people, and the delivery of resources for history teaching through Lancashire Professional Development Service;
- Carried out extensive audience development work to set the groundwork for new partnerships with local history networks.



## Collections and Conservation

In 2022-2023 we:

- Launched external funding bids for two innovative collections and engagement projects, Clarets Collected and Keeping East Lancashire in the Picture (via the National Lottery Heritage Fund), and we secured the funding totalling over £250,000;
- Created a new Local Studies team and welcomed two new members of staff to lead on the development of local studies collections and local history venues;
- Received £35,000 from the Friends of Lancashire Archives to purchase new digitisation equipment and appointed to a new Digitisation Technician post;
- Received over 140 new collections and the Friends of Lancashire Archives funded a new post to support cataloguing of unlisted records;
- Worked with the Harris Museum to digitise and catalogue the Harkness Collection of 19<sup>th</sup> century ballads;
- Produced a major new catalogue for the Lilford Estate Collection;
- Secured the purchase of Preservica to deliver proactive digital preservation for Lancashire's digital heritage.



**Proud Preston and Pageantry:  
The 1922 Preston Guild Pageant Revisited**

For three days in September 1922 an epic historic pageant took place in Avenham Park to celebrate the history of Preston and Preston Guild.

Every school in Preston took part in a theatrical and musical extravaganza, with performance, historic tableaux, and music, all written and co-ordinated by the Master of the Pageant Albert J Berry.

**This is a FREE event**

Saturday 22 October  
10am—3.30pm  
Lancashire Archives,  
Bow Lane, Preston,  
PR1 2RE

Refreshments will be on sale during the day from Café Archive, run by the Friends of Lancashire Archives.

**Lancashire County Council**



**LANCASHIRE ARCHIVES**  
Enjoy the real thing

**THE GREAT EXHIBITION**

## Lancashire Archives & Local History in numbers

**5,882,260** views of images of Lancashire documents on *Ancestry*

**373,399** unique page views on Red Rose Collections and **517,687** unique page views on LANCAT

**11,128** documents produced for users

**1731** people visited to use documents in the searchroom

**4960** written or emailed enquiries including copying orders

**4368** followers on X (formerly Twitter)

**3795** hours worked by our Archives volunteers

**1345** attendees at our talks, events and engagement activities across 80 different events

**970** students from 25 Lancashire schools have explored aspects of their local history in bespoke sessions based on items from our collections

**200** Friends of Lancashire Archives supported us

**149** accessions of new archives were received



Lancashire Archives presents

A day of exhibitions, craft and cyanotype workshops and tours behind the scenes (where we look after 900 years of Lancashire's written heritage) inspired by the work of

**The As tounding Mr Merc Er**  
A Heritage Open Day Event  
**FREE**  
10 Sep 2022  
10am to 3pm

Lancashire Archives,  
Bow Lane,  
Preston,  
PR1 2RE  
Email: [archives@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:archives@lancashire.gov.uk)  
Web site: [www.lancashire.gov.uk/archives](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/archives)  
[@LancsArchives](https://twitter.com/LancsArchives)

Tours and cyanotype workshops can be booked on arrival

heritage open days

Lancashire County Council



## Lancashire Archives in our visitors' words

"Oh, and by the way, Lancaster Archive and all staff are fab - I always feel welcomed and am never intimidated!)"

*"... thank you so much for what was such an incredible trip, I'm still in shock at the amount of incredible material your archives hold, and I'm so grateful for the amount of time you spent sharing your knowledge. I really look forward to coming back soon!"*

"... thank the staff for welcoming us last month. All 9 of us were treated as special guests from the U.S. The staff did an outstanding job, they made us feel like we were at home with friends. We couldn't have asked for a better reception in a very short period with such a rewarding outcome."

*"I really enjoyed my first session at the Archives, they were all very welcoming and they all made us feel like we were part of the team. I found the tour of the archives so interesting, and I felt very inspired. It reminded me why I love history and how people feel when they see something that's hundreds of years old. "*



**LANCASHIRE ARCHIVES** **History is Here**  
Exploring Lancashire's Archives

Lancashire County Council

Lancashire Archives is home to millions of historic documents that together help tell the story of our county over the last 900 years. We want people to enjoy exploring that story and be intrigued, engaged and inspired by the archive collections we look after. Copies of some documents are provided here along with information about them and their context, and signposts to relevant resources elsewhere. We hope they will encourage and enrich local history teaching and learning across Lancashire.

**Contact us** if you have any questions about what you find here. Please also get in touch if you want to find out about an aspect of Lancashire's past not represented here - we will have a look to see we have.

Our historic maps are a great place to start

Maps

A MAP OF THE COUNTY PALATINE OF LANCASTER.

