



NEWSLETTER

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OUR NEW LOGO IS HERE!



Friends will remember that FONA has been seeking a new logo for the organisation. Thanks to Sheila Leeds, our Programme Secretary, we were introduced to Matt Lyons, who worked with us to produce some designs which would fit our brief. After consultation and refinements, Matt has come up with what we think is an outstanding design. It has the merits of being clear and accessible, different from other organisations in the city and county, and different from other Friends groups in Nottinghamshire and elsewhere. The lace pattern associates the group instantly with the county and is based on material held in pattern books at Nottinghamshire Archives. Our thanks to Ruth Imeson for providing us with access to these. You'll be seeing more of the FONA logo – as we develop our website and public presence – but for now we'd like to launch it with you and thank Matt for all his hard work. *Richard Gaunt*, Chairman.

BOOTS - A NOTTINGHAM BRAND



We were delighted to welcome Sophie Clapp, (pictured, above left, with Sheila Leeds) the Company Archivist and Corporate Records Services Manager at Boots, who spoke to us about her work – and the archive – following our AGM on 15 March 2014. *Cherry Knight* reports:

Who has never been in to a Boots? I would be amazed to hear of anyone. But who knew about the amazing archives that the company hold?

Sophie Clapp has been a professional archivist for 20 years, and has spent 13 of those in charge of Boots Archive and Museum. She started her career at The Boots Archive answering student enquiries and now manages a professional team of five staff. The Boots Archive has its own high-tech building with around 5000 listed boxes of archive material on its database. It has 600 boxes of museum items with many more outsized items. The collection also receives regular additions, and more modern materials are archived there on a regular basis.

Boots is extremely proud of its heritage and story and this is shown in the collection of traditional records, such as minutes of meetings and accounts, but also in its collection of advertising material, labels, and artworks. There is a collection of staff magazines dating from 1915. Boots has much printed material and had its own printing works from very early on. The archives also hold chemical research notes and marketing information. Personnel records are not archived because, with such an old established company, there would be far too many. Research is also conducted on behalf of enquiries from outside bodies and individuals. If academics or, for example, engineers need information, they are invited into the archives to do their own research. Store history is archived and there is much information about the families that worked at Boots.

On a day-to-day basis, Sophie's team regularly receive thousands of business files that have to be appraised and members of the public also send in museum items. The team creates booklets and maintains the website: (http://www.boots-uk.com/About_Boots/Boots_Heritage.aspx.)

Boots is proud to be used as a model for business archives by The National Archives and Sophie has attended some glamorous events when Boots archive material has been used. The material is also used to engage with customers when Boots celebrate store anniversaries. The archive material is also used for product and training conferences. Historic materials are even used for inspiration in the process of creating new products.



[Peter Hammond explores the Boots material]

Alliance and Boots have two very different cultures and the use of the Boots history material is used to bind those cultures within the new organisation. Further, the archives are used to provide evidence of patent dates, trademark disputes and building construction.

In previous years, the Boots Archives was a closed resource but Sophie is now developing customer engagement, by giving talks, arranging store events and writing articles. The Boots Archive was involved in the Heritage Weekend last year, when the famous D10 factory was open for public

tours. Social media is also used by the business to promote key Boots anniversaries.

There is now an exhibition space in the main reception area of Boots. Images from this exhibition space are now online on the Boots UK website. A number of the films from the collection can also be viewed there. Sophie sees this heritage as a valuable way to drive business in new markets.



[Kevin Powell investigates some of the exhibits]

Building new partnerships is now a key part of Sophie's role. Recently, a Boots Heritage exhibition went on display at the Lakeside Arts Centre. This was a new venture and helped Sophie to understand how important Boots is to the local community. Sophie is currently working with schools and on a Community Memories Collection.

Other partners that Sophie has worked with in the past include Nottingham Contemporary (where a No.7 exhibition took place), Warwick Business School (working with PhD students to get external views on Boots' organisational identity history), Nottingham Industrial Museum, and The

National Portrait Gallery (providing an educational online resource about Innovators in Victorian medicine).

A project was undertaken following the 80th anniversary of D10 in 2013, similar to one just completed on the history of Raleigh, where volunteers record memories of D10, and these memories will then be used to create new material which will go on display, with D10 being used as the theatre to present these memories Florence Boot (Jesse's wife) was born in Jersey and a number of events took place there last year to mark the 150th anniversary of her birth; both Florence and Jesse are buried in Jersey.

Sophie concluded her talk with her dream vision for the future. She is working towards

a new museum on-site in an empty 1920s building. She is currently putting together a business case for the Heritage Lottery Fund. The new museum will be the base for an educational space for the history and development of health and beauty and the story of working life at Boots. Sophie believes that the Boots Archive is the best corporate archive in the country with real value to academics and local people.

During the question-and-answer session, Sophie revealed that Boots had some 1000 shops in the 1930s; today there are nearly 3000 shops worldwide. The No.7 brand was launched in 1935 and, whilst the origin of the name is still unknown, the strap line tells us that "No.7 stands for perfection".

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER!

Graham Crisp, our Treasurer and Membership Secretary, writes: Annual Subscriptions for the 2014-15 Membership Year became due on 1 April 2014. Thank you to all those Friends who have already renewed their subscriptions for your continuing support.

Those who haven't yet paid their subscriptions are reminded that they need to do so by the end of September if they wish to continue to support the Friends. Standing order forms are available on request: please e-mail: treasurer@fona.org.uk.



NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

We welcome David Anderson (Webmaster) and Christine Drew (Committee Member) who were elected to the FONA committee at the AGM. The meeting passed thanks to Mark Whitehouse and Mark Dorrington for their service on the committee and Cathrin Wharton for her advice on I.T.



[Some of the guests who gathered to wish Mark Dorrington a fond farewell]

We asked *Mark Dorrington*, who left Nottinghamshire Archives at the end of 2013, to give us the highlights of a busy decade in post. Mark writes:

Looking back at my ten years (June 2003–November 2013), it is difficult to narrow down the highlights so I think I am reduced to drawing up a list of the significant achievements and developments of the last decade.

- Securing £2.5 million capital funding from the County Council to extend the Archives building, having previously been awarded £1 million to construct a new Records Centre for the Records Management Service;
- Achieving the top rated four star status in The National Archives self-assessment of local authority archive services; the highest rating in the East Midlands;
- Introducing new archives management software (CALM) which enabled the launch of an online catalogue (NAWCAT) and new records management software (Wisdom) for the expanding Records Management Service;
- Introducing public access computers to the searchroom;
- Obtaining a range of cataloguing grants which have ensured that major collections such as the Southwell Minster archives (National cataloguing scheme for archives) and Rampton Hospital archives (Wellcome Trust) amongst others are catalogued and available for research;
- Updating and computerising the Manorial Documents Register for Nottinghamshire;
- Re-launching the Victoria County History for Nottinghamshire;
- Obtaining grants principally from the V & A Purchase Grants scheme and the Friends of the National Libraries which has enabled the purchase of important collections such as the archives of the architect TC Howitt; eighteenth century drawings of Rufford Abbey; and saving a 1371 Nottingham Guild roll from export to the USA;
- Securing the permanent allocation of the Savile of Rufford archive under the governments Acceptance in Lieu scheme;
- Numerous learning and young people's projects with the Young Persons Diary competition winning a Nottinghamshire Heritage award in 2010-11;
- Winning further Nottinghamshire Heritage awards in 2012 for the Gertrude Savile twitter diary and the Judges acknowledgment of outstanding achievement;
- Obtaining Chartermark and Customer Services Excellence awards;

- Achieving excellent results in the PSQG Surveys of Visitors to British Archives culminating in 2013 in a 99% public satisfaction rating;
- Drawing up a Development Plan and establishing a sound policy framework for the future;
- Continuing the Libraries and Archives local history publications programme and winning the Alan Ball award in 2006 and 2010;
- Establishing a post of Trainee Conservator; a Research Service; and Skills for the Future traineeships;
- Collaborative exhibitions at the University of Nottingham Weston Gallery and an impressive range of virtual exhibitions;
- Last but by no means least establishing the Friends of Nottinghamshire Archives in 2012!

I am sure there are things I have forgotten but none of this would have been possible without the enthusiasm, dedication and hard work of the staff and volunteers at Nottinghamshire Archives to whom I wish to record my thanks and best wishes for the future.



[Mark Dorrington pictured with (from left to right) Chris Weir, Barbara Sharp and Ruth Imeson]

And so to the future...

Extension and Improvement works at Nottinghamshire Archives: an update

Ruth Imeson reports:

Nottinghamshire Archives is pleased to announce that work to extend the strong rooms and refurbish the public areas has commenced.

We will endeavour to keep any disruption to a minimum; however, there may be times when selected collections are temporarily unavailable. On 20 October 2014, the service will close for approximately three months.

Important dates:

- 31 March 2014: Building work commences. From this date no car parking facilities will be available.
- 20 October 2014: Service closures for refurbishment of public and staff areas.
- Early February 2015 service reopens (with no car park).
- Late March 2015 – car park becomes available.
- May 2015 – official reopening.

...Progress reports in forthcoming newsletters!