



News from the 'Source'



Partners' and friends' update from Worcester Archive Source Project

Greetings again from the Worcester Archive Source Project and welcome to our third newsletter

We are based at the Worcestershire Record Office until September 2012, working on our Heritage Lottery Funded Project to catalogue and share the contents of the Worcester City archive.

We are showing off in this article with a photo of Kathryn and Elizabeth from the team scooping the Adult and Community Services award for 'Innovation' following the success of the project on Old St Andrew's Parish by the Worcester College students, as reported on in the last newsletter. Our thanks to colleagues in the Record Office who helped the project become a reality by supporting our needs for space and time in the search room.

We are now eighteen months into the cataloguing of the Worcester City collection, and in the last period since July have unearthed more treasures which you can find out about later on. We have been spending more time working with both primary and secondary schools, and have completed a real 'feel good' community history project at Dines Green. With plans to work with a group of Bangladeshi women from the Midland Road area of Worcester, we are looking forward to more exciting months ahead. We look forward to hearing from any colleagues, community groups or potential partners who would like us to help them make use of the Worcester City collection in the coming months.

Contact: Kathryn Steenson – WASP Cataloguing Archivist KSteenson@worcestershire.gov.uk
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Dines Green history project for forty people ends in happy celebration



Three community groups from the Dines Green area of Worcester spent one month exploring the story of the Worcester's west side.

The Green Centre in Dines Green played host to ten separate archive research and art sessions over October and November. An after school group, 'Kids Club' (seen here), an older persons' support group 'Live at Home', and a group for adults with disability and sensory impairment – Worcester Connect, were all involved. One of the documents which they explored was a will and inventory from 1677, which became a key clue as we investigated the fate of the Ingram family who once lived at Earl's Court – a manor house and estate which once stood in the fields to the West of Tudor Way, Dines Green. **(contd.)**

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Children and adults alike enjoyed finding out how their homes now stand where once there were orchards, hop fields, coppice and crops. Using an apportionment (key) and map kindly found for us by Sheena Payne from the Historic Environment Record, we were able to get our investigations started. We then moved on to looking at life in the 19th century for the farm and mill workers who lived in the area, using a diary which was given to the Record Office last year by the great, great grand daughter of a mill worker who was once at Hallow Mill. The city collection came into it's own when we referred to sanitary surveys, police charge books and the restrictions placed upon young apprentices in St Johns to illustrate how different life was in the more urban parts of Worcester's west side.

Image: The Estate of St John in Bedwardine, John Doharty, 1751 – 53. Photograph by Sheena Payne



Each group worked with Victoria Westaway from Expressive Arts to create their own visual interpretation of the history they had discovered and a quiz at the end of the sessions for the Kids Club highlighted that much had been learned! The Live at Home group were inspired to share chat about their memories of the hop fields, and of courting near by. The end of project party included the

presentation of certificates to everyone involved and their own framed copy of their art work. The day was happily supported by friends and family of those involved. Our thanks to Victoria, all support staff at the Green Centre, and to all involved for making this a very fun and rewarding project.



Images: Judy and Rob from the Connect group get stuck in to their art work. Edna and Lucy from the Live at Home Group discussing the policeman's charge book.

Hear Elizabeth and Victoria talking about the project to BBC Hereford and Worcester on the WASP website. To find out more about the work of Victoria Westaway and Expressive Arts, contact: mailus@expressivearts.co.uk

Volunteering Update

Since July, WASP has benefited from some skilled volunteers coming on board. Our investigations into the history of Dines Green were kick started by Nils Wilkes, an experienced local history researcher. Pamela Langford also joined us with her background in heritage education and is seen here at the Pumhouse in Barbourne helping out at our drop in sessions for Gheluvelt Park Community Festival. We were also joined by Sarah Burlace who we originally made contact with via the St Andrew's history project back in the spring and she now joins us on a fortnightly basis to help with

research for outreach. We happily still have help with listing and indexing of the collection and our thanks goes to those still involved with that also.

In October, WASP and WHEAS volunteers got together for a trip to the 'Lost Buildings of Worcester' exhibit at the City Museum and Art Gallery, and we heard a talk by the Curator of Archaeology at the museum, Debbie Fox who kindly shared with us some insights into the assembling of the exhibit. Our thanks to all of our volunteers, including those working at home and our committed 'GIS' team also – you know who you are!

We are always keen to hear from new volunteers who have some experience of documentary research. For more information contact Beth on 01905 765926



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St George's Catholic Primary School embark on an archive trail of Barbourne

Children from Year Five spent one of their first days back in the Autumn term investigating the role that their local area has played in the welfare of the city. Clues about the history of the area were dotted around the classroom and original documents placed strategically around, yielding the answers to the 'time detective' clues.

Children found out all about the Barbourne Fever Hospital and the objections to it in the 1880s. They learnt about the establishment of Gheluvelt Park, the welfare homes for ex servicemen inside its gates, and the effect of the city waterworks on the city's health. The class then turned their investigation into posters for display at Gheluvelt Park Community Festival, with the help of their teacher, Mrs Huguenin. St George's will be a pilot school for forthcoming WASP outreach sessions based on the traditional history topics of the Key Stage 1 & 2 curriculum. Sessions for each year group begin in the Spring Term 2010.



Forthcoming WASP events

WASP is hosting several bespoke events for learning groups and schools over the coming months, including Young Archaeologists, Worcester Home Educators Group and an Asian women's group.

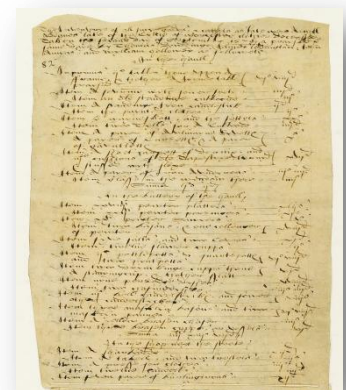
We do not have any public events scheduled until next July, but we are always happy to respond to groups who are interested in working with us, and things are always changing, so keep an on our website.

How Mr Beane brought WASP to the museum

From July to October this year, Worcester Museum and Art Gallery staged the 'Lost Buildings of Worcester' exhibition, all about streets and key buildings that are no long gone, as well as some plans for a civic centre that never quite made it.

Image: Arnold Beane's inventory, 1579

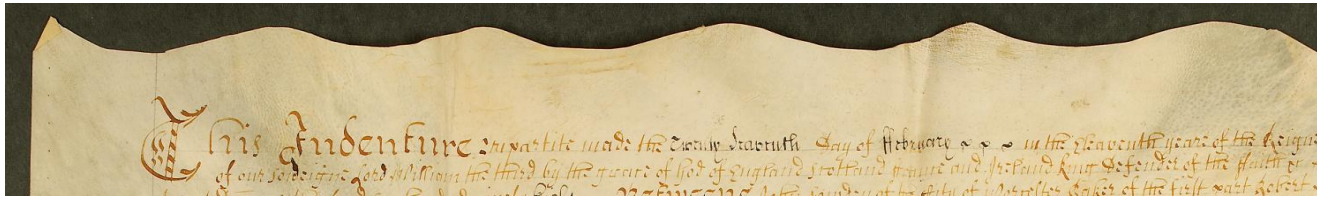
WASP contributed some deeds and records relating to Newport Street, in support of artefacts from the archaeology collection, and in October half term we ran a joint workshop with the Curator of Archaeology, Debbie Fox. We took along the will and inventory of Arnold Beane; a wealthy clothier from Newport Street in the mid 16th C. Mr Beane had rather a grand town house it seems, as well as a shop facing the street, a long garden to the River, access to a fleet of seven barges called 'The Black Pear' and 'The Ragged Staff' amongst others, plus his very own pawn broker business. After three, everyone say "Aaarrrrrr" in your best pirate voice!



The joint workshop explored the value of different sources of primary evidence as the children deciphered the inventory and dug for finds in an archaeology pit inside the museum. **Our thanks to the museum for helping with this and hosting this fun workshop.**



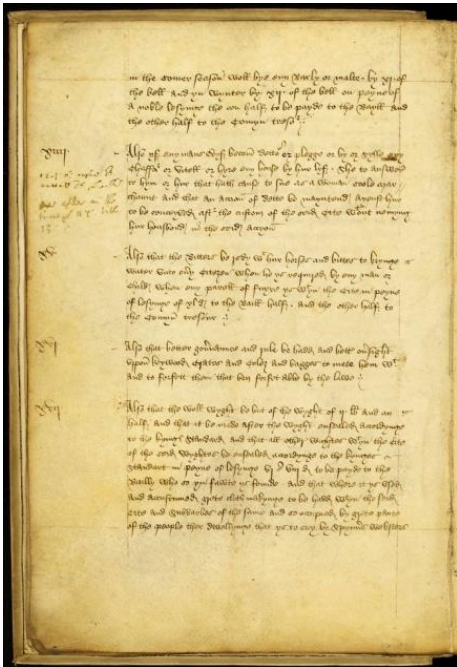
Wonderful WASP words No. 3 – Indenture



An indenture is a legal document between two or more parties, often regarding the transfer of land. A copy for each party was written on a single large sheet of parchment, which was then cut to make a wavy ('indented') edge. This was an early form of authentication, as only the genuine pieces would fit back together. Usually there were two parties involved, one giving and the other receiving, so only the top edge is indented. An indenture with a wavy top and one wavy side indicates that a third copy was made, perhaps for another party or, if the courts were involved, one for the court's records.

Kathryn's Corner In each newsletter we will bring you a flavour of the Worcester City Collection by explaining some of the document highlights. This time it's the turn of:

Ordinances of Worcester from the Reign of Edward IV, 1467



Very little survives of Worcester's medieval past, and the majority of extant records are deeds, so this slim parchment volume is especially interesting. Many of the laws are clearly stated to predate 1467, but had not previously been consolidated into one volume. There 82 ordinances or local laws, drawn up by the local governing body, relating to the city's records and accounts; cleanliness of the streets and river; employment of men and apprentices; markets and trade regulations (different for citizens and non-citizens of Worcester); freemen; keeping the peace and punishments for various crimes; the appointment and responsibilities of council officers; and the ringing of the church bells at set times each morning and night, a sort of City-wide alarm clock. Included is an order to replace all thatched roofs with tile, a fire prevention strategy borne of bitter experience.