

Wiltshire and Swindon
Archives

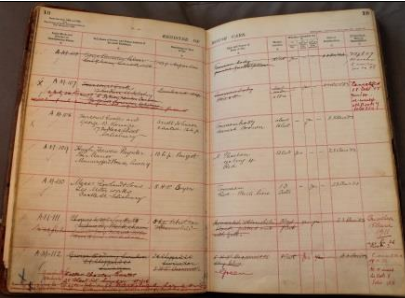


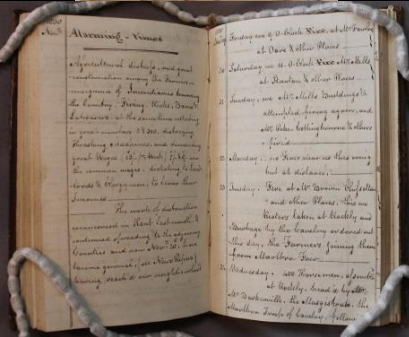
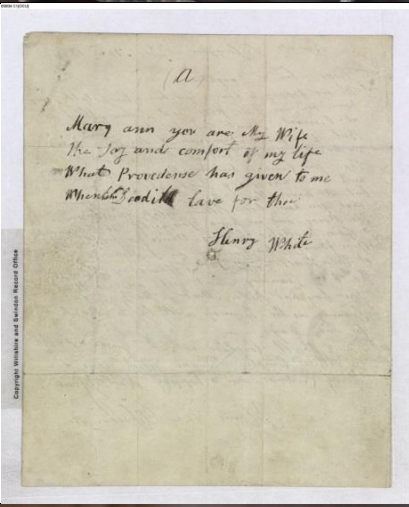
70

FAVOURITE DOCUMENTS

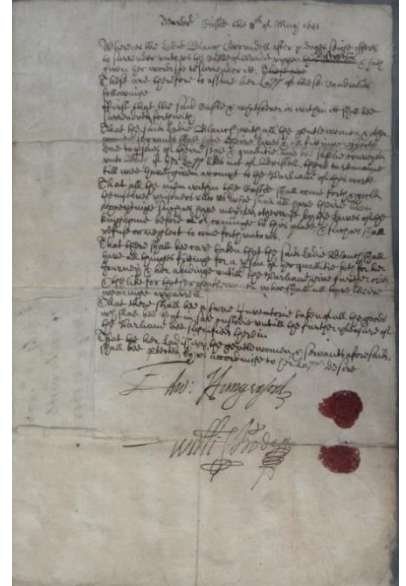
Online exhibition celebrating the 70th anniversary of Wiltshire and Swindon Archives 1947-2017

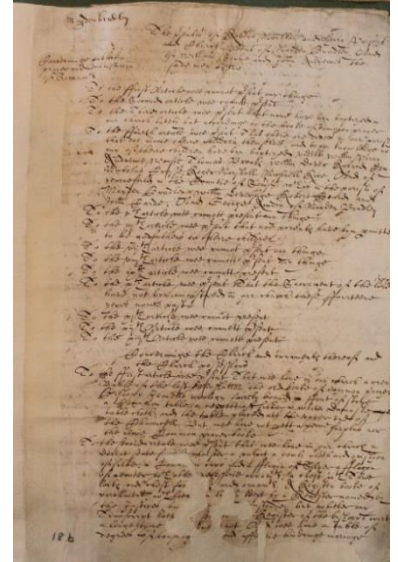
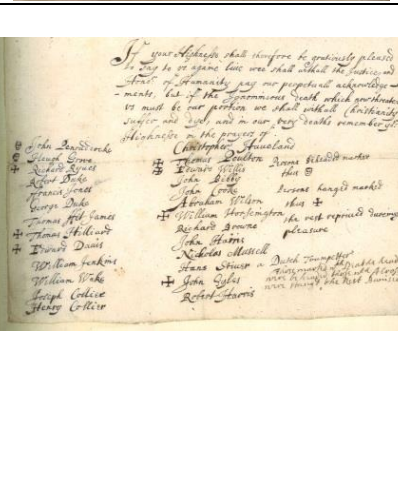
Find out more about the 70 favourite items from the archive chosen by staff and volunteers:

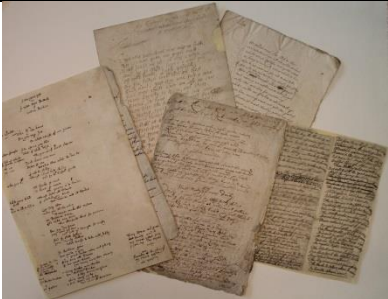
	Early 20 th century register of motor vehicle registration numbers (Ref F3/500/1).	Even though this register is dated from 1903 (when vehicle identification numbering started), it lists vehicles that would have been on the road long before this date – very early pioneering motor vehicles. A good insight into the dawn of motoring in Wiltshire. IH
	The 'Sharington Pardon' - Letters patent pardoning Sir William Sharington for his misdemeanours as keeper of the royal mint at Bristol, with restitution of his goods and estates on payment of £8000. Finely illuminated with royal portrait and fine impression of the great seal, 1550. (Ref 2664/3/4E/9PC)	An iconic document with a great story to tell, and makes me think of the Lacock Unlocked HLF-funded project which has been one of the highlights of working at WSHC. CS
	Local Board of Health plan of City for sewerage and drainage scheme (26 maps in bound volume) dated 1854. (Ref G23/701/1PC)	What I find so appealing about this series of maps is the level of detail and valuable information provided on buildings in the City of Salisbury, whilst the original purpose of the maps relates to the rather mundane subject of the City's sewerage and drainage scheme. LP
	Drawings and sketches by Major General Parham (collection reference 3112)	Major General Parham (1896-1974) was born and brought up at Norrington in Alvediston. A distinguished soldier with a career spanning both world wars, he served in the Royal Artillery and was an innovator in the field of air observation for gunnery. He was a keen amateur pilot, and wrote books on aircraft, the theory of flight and memoirs of flying. Parham was an artist of considerable skill, and recorded some of his experiences during battle, as well as scenes of Britain and elsewhere. TB

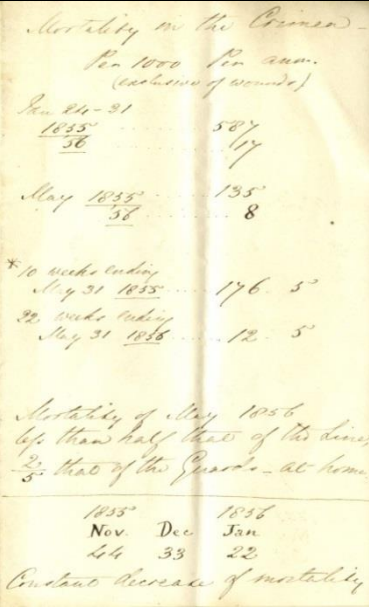
	Map of Grovely Wood showing coppices, bounded on the north by the river Wylde and south by the river Nadder. 1589 (Ref 212B/7190H)	One of our earliest maps and it includes lovely drawings of deer and huntsmen. MM
	Medieval tax list for Salisbury dating to 1399-1400 (Ref G23/1/236)	A really valuable source for the history of Salisbury (it has been transcribed and published by John Chandler in 'Endless Street'). JC
	Thomas Pinniger's farming diary, Little Bedwyn and Beckhampton farm, Avebury (Ref 4381/1/5)	They were only recently deposited and provide the most detailed record of its type that I have ever come across. This volume includes a note about the 'Swing Riots'. SH
	Will of Henry White, 1835 "Mary Ann you are My Wife; The Joy and comfort of my life; What Providence has given to me; When i'm dead i'll lave for thee". (Ref P4/1835/4)	Having digitised many of the 280,000 images taken so far for the Wiltshire Wills Project, there were times I wished all of our 110,000 wills were as short as this. Henry White's spelling may not have been brilliant, but his meaning is clear. JS
	Divisional Criminal Photograph albums, with particulars of crime and personal details for Swindon. This one dates from 1900-1916 which has open access for the public. (There are other albums up to 1936 which are obviously closed) (Ref F5/610/2)	This record not only gives you a fascinating insight into early 20th century police procedure but also a detailed view of crime and punishment during that period. The prisoners' details, mug shots and previous convictions and punishments are documented concisely, giving you, what seems like a voyeuristic peek into their lives. AE

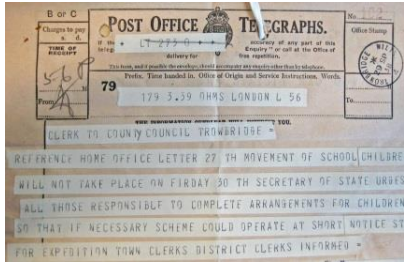
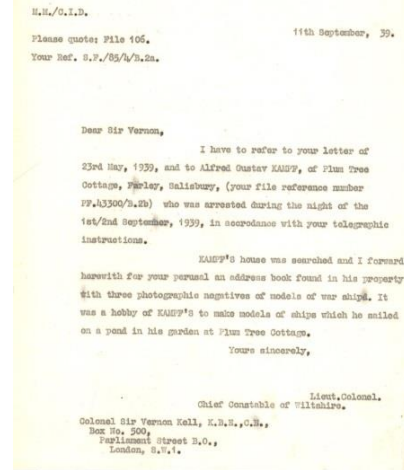
	Marriage settlement of Jane Seymour and Henry VIII, 1536. Letters patent granting Jane 'The Duke of Suffolks place' in Southwark, Surrey and manors and lands in Surrey, Essex and Herefordshire. It includes a royal portrait and illuminated letters. (Ref 1332/1/1/1MS)	The History Centre often hosts school work experience students, and this document is always a popular one when we give a tour of our collections. This tangible link to such a well-known historical figure always proves an exciting introduction to the world of archives.
	Copies of letters from Catharine Engleheart to her parents from Central Mexico, where she had gone to stay with her brother Paul and his family. Paul ran an electricity generating business and the letters describe vividly their life, the countryside and the fauna and flora: also a photograph of an unidentified Mexican village and mountains. (Ref 1498/54)	A perhaps unexpected and exotic find in the Wiltshire archives. Jd'A
	Photograph album of Mary Petre Bruce, record-breaker on land, sea and in the air, early-mid 20th cent. (Ref 1700/58)	Mildred Mary Bruce, nee Petre, is a personal heroine of mine – in the 1920s and 30s she was world-famous for breaking motor racing, speedboat and aviation records, including a solo round the world flight in 1930. She overcame personal setbacks, including being an unmarried mother in 1920 and a divorcee in 1941, to become a millionaire by the time she died in 1990. These are just a couple of the many photographs in that collection – I think Mary's strength of spirit really shines out in them. CS
	Journal kept by Audley Money-Kyrle while on board the 'Riversdale' during her voyage to Calcutta (1866-1867), illustrated with a few sketches and watercolour illustrations. (Ref 1720/717)	The entries (and illustrations) reveal the assumptions and prejudices of a typical young mid-Victorian gentleman. There are descriptions of on-board rites-of-passage ceremonies, like the shaving by 'Neptune' of those 'crossing the line' (Equator) for the first time, and the hanging aloft and burning of a stuffed horse to mark the passage of a month at sea. RJ.

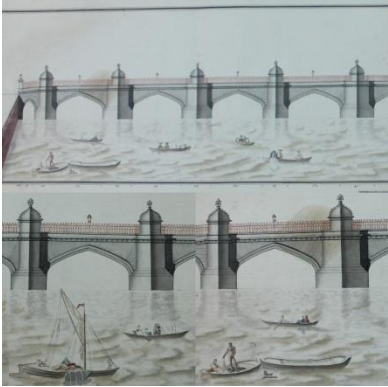
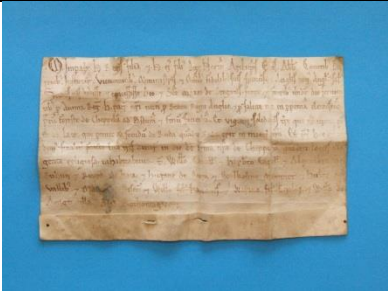
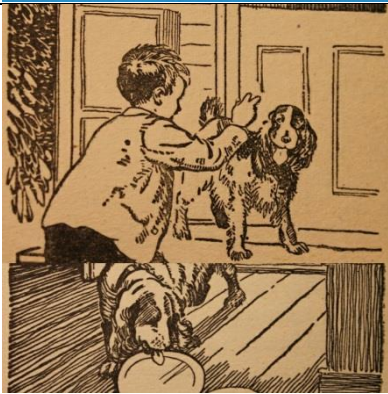
	Irene or Rene Phillips' Nature Notebook. 1919 (Ref 2430/27)	I love the fact moments of a past spring or summer have been captured and survived for nearly 100 years. Amateur natural history record-keeping can also provide useful data as well as reflecting the passions of people past and present. NS
	Court roll of manor of Tisbury, c1347-1352; it powerfully shows the impact of the black death on a local area with a long list of jurors with 'mort', short for 'mortuus', ie 'dead', next to their names. (Ref 2667/13/530)	This was one of the first documents I was shown on arriving at Wiltshire and Swindon Archives, and it has a very powerful story to tell. CS
	Agreement to surrender Wardour Castle by lady Blanch Arundell to the parliamentary forces with conditions of the surrender. 1643 (Ref 2667/22/4/1)	One of the most renowned conflicts in Wiltshire during the Civil War took place at Wardour Castle where Lady Blanch Arundell was besieged for five days with 25 fighting men against a Parliamentary army of 1300 men led by Sir Edward Hungerford. Her determination and courage entered both family and local annals. By this agreement she was to be taken with her servants and gentlewomen to Bath or Bristol with all things fitting for them. The efforts of the royalist force under Sir Ralph Hopton and Henry baron Arundell to regain the castle led to its destruction and abandonment as a family home.

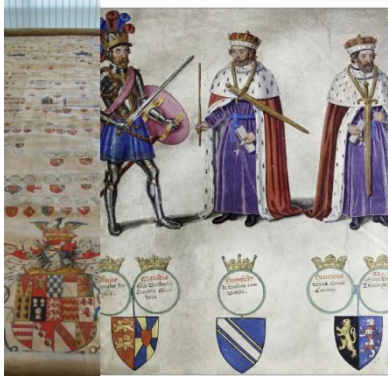
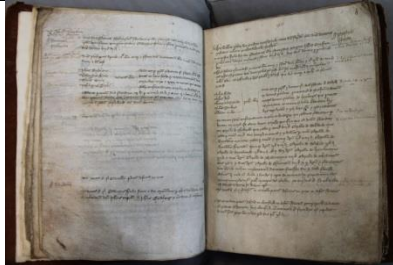
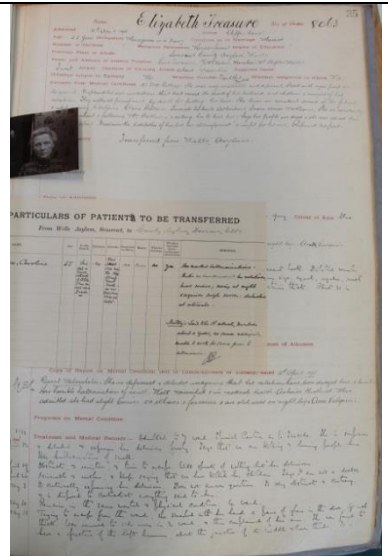
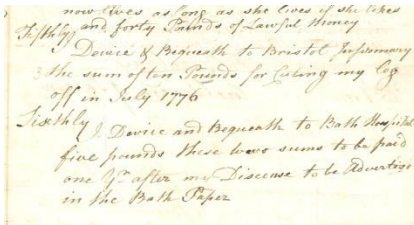
	Pattern and account book of John Randall of Sutton Veny, clothier. 1718-1739 (Ref 3015/1)	The order and practicality of this 18th century account book juxtaposed with its visual appeal makes it a bit of a gem.
	Sir Richard Colt-Hoare (1758-1838) The History of Modern Wiltshire Volume 1. (Ref AAA.940)	This book inspired me to study local history. It was the first 19th century book I had read, written by someone who had visited my village over 100 years ago. HT
	Churchwarden's presentments for Maiden Bradley - extract about the King's Arms being burned. "We present that there was in our church the King's Arms and it is reported Willm Guppill and Nicholas Lawrence came into the tower and threw the arms out of the window of the tower and caused it to be laid on the cart of Peter King, who with great triumph burned the same" (Ref D1/54/1/4)	Two volunteers from the Wiltshire Family History Society working on transcribing these records recalled this particular entry as "it tickled us and shows the human side of these records". Lm'A & DG
	Copy of petition from the prisoners (including John Penruddock) in Exeter Gaol, to the Lord Protector [Oliver Cromwell]. Annotated with details of sentences executed, thus, 'hanged', 'beheaded', 'banished', 'reprimed during pleasure'. 23 Apr 1655 (Ref 332/265/10)	John Penruddock fought for the monarchy throughout the civil wars and through the interregnum. This unwavering loyalty cost the family dearly and ultimately led Penruddock to the scaffold as the leader of a royalist uprising. He was found guilty and sentenced to be hanged, drawn and quartered. Following a plea from Penruddock and his wife, this was commuted to beheading. Two remarkable documents record a copy of the plea from the prisoners at Exeter gaol asking for clemency, and the death warrant issued by Cromwell. The prisoners' plea was annotated with heads and crosses following execution to show who was

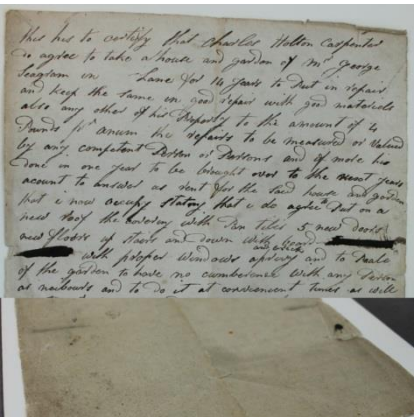
		beheaded, hanged or deported; a key shows the faces indicated “persons beheaded” while the crosses mark those “persons hanged”. Read more about this voyage of discovery that took me to documents written by a condemned man, heartfelt letters from his wife to Cromwell and then back to a document signed by a king who lost his head. http://wshc.eu/blog/item/penruddock-rebellion-wiltshire-royalist-uprising-of-1655.html RB
	Several manuscript rhymes, on love and death and some comic subjects, including a carnival in Venice, and village club, and Bullen Reymes playing bowls at Ipplepen (Devon). (Ref 865/585)	I came across this lovely poem whilst searching for records of sport and recreation in Wiltshire and although it's not strictly about Wiltshire, it is a delightful poem and is from the Chafyn Grove of Zeals family archive. The author of the poem is writing about when he and some other men, including Bullen Reymes, played bowls at Ipplepen in Devon. My favourite part is four lines about a third of the way through the poem: “Here passing by the church, sayeth Bullen, come good Sirs, let's go and see my grandsire's tomb. Well, tis agreed: and having got his fill of wall and dust he waddles up the hill”. It is all in this format of rhyming couplets and reads very easily. It is undated sadly but from the style of writing it's probably from the 18th century. The humour is constant throughout and I love bringing it out in talks about how we spent our spare time through history. My thanks particularly go to whoever catalogued this – it is part of a bundle of poems – and especially mentioned Bullen Reymes and bowling, else I never would have come across it. It's a simple yet delightful little gem within our collections. AM

 <i>Mortality in the Crimea</i> Per 1000 Per ann. (exclusive of wounds) Jan 24-31 1855 587 Feb 1-28 1856 177 May 1855 135 May 1856 8 * 10 weeks ending May 31 1855 176.5 32 weeks ending May 31 1856 12.5 <i>Mortality of May 1856</i> less than half that of the same 2-3 that of the Guards - at home 1855 1856 Nov Dec Jan 44 33 22 <i>Constant decrease of mortality</i>	Letters from Florence Nightingale to Sidney Lord Herbert of Lea. (Ref 2057/F4/66)	Report by Florence Nightingale giving figures for mortality in the Crimea. This collection of letters is being scanned by a volunteer and will be published online as part of an international project to make Nightingale's letters more accessible – see: http://hgar-srv3.bu.edu/web/florence-nightingale/ (please note Wiltshire's letters are not yet published.) CS
	Account book of John Gale, the village carpenter in Lacock, who was employed between 1839 and 1841 by photography pioneer William Henry Fox Talbot of Lacock Abbey in 1839 and 1840 to alter camera obscura and drawing frames, and in Jan 1841 make a tray for dipping paper and rack for drying them (vital for producing prints from negatives; the basis of photography before the advent of digital cameras). (Ref 2198/2)	An ordinary local archive provides details that have a much wider significance, making us redefine ordinary! SH
	Photograph of the author Alfred Williams with his wife, Mary, undated. (Ref 2598/71)	I love this photograph because Alfred is smiling, and few contemporary photographs of him show him relaxing like this. Alfred Williams is just an extraordinary individual. Entirely self-taught, this working class man from a poverty-stricken background in South Marston went onto become a recognised poet and author, as well as an important collector of folk songs. He and Mary never had children and theirs was a very close and supportive relationship, particularly in terms of Mary enabling his writing to happen. More information about him is at: http://www.alfredwilliams.org.uk/index.html CS

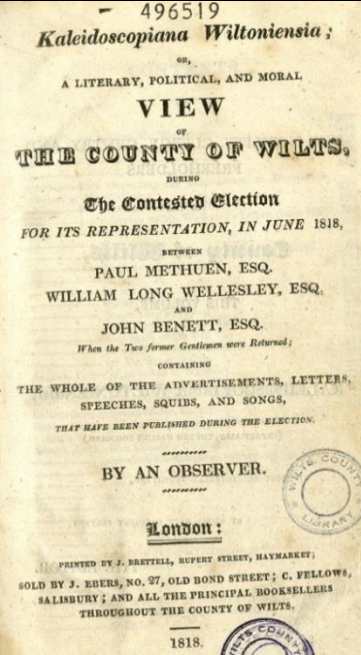
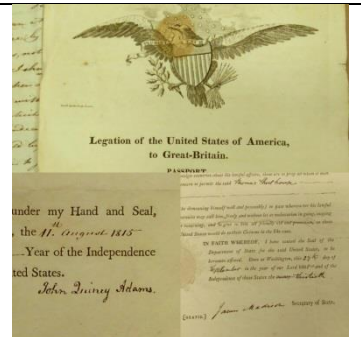
	Women's Institute scrapbook of the history of Bradenstoke with Clack, including examples of 19th century lacework, map sketches and photographs. (Ref 2626/1)	Over the years since it came to Britain in 1915, the Women's Institute has not only survived but thrived. The Wiltshire federation came into being in 1919 following the establishment of six WI's. We hold material from many of them here, including many scrapbooks such as this Bradenstoke example which includes examples of 19th century lacework. NS
	1938 evacuation telegram. Wiltshire Evacuation Scheme, Sep 1938-Dec 1938 (Ref F2/850/1)	This small, seemingly unremarkable telegram actually hides a big past. It was sent via the Home Office to Wiltshire County Council on 29th September 1938 telling them that the planned mass evacuation which had been hastily set up during the Munich Crisis was cancelled. This brief telegram led me to uncover further documents in the local authority files here at the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre, highlighting the role Wiltshire played in the planning process, attending planning meetings and working to receive large numbers of 'refugees' as they were called at that time. Current thinking was that the 1938 plan only encompassed counties quite close to London, but material at WSHC shows that this was not the case. This telegram represents information which can help further understanding of WWII evacuation and the plans to make it happen in what was the largest single movement of civilian people to ever take place. An important little piece of paper indeed! JD
	Wiltshire Constabulary files; WW2 Aliens. Aliens: Movement Restriction Order, 1939-1944. (Ref F5/530/7)	I think it's interesting because it demonstrates the level of both fear and farce that was wrapped up in the early stages of the Second World War. It shows us just how vulnerable the British felt in September 1939 that they were seeing spies and saboteurs in the most unlikely of places, but at the same time it highlights that the security services didn't really have much in the way of actual evidence about espionage or sabotage – you get a sense from the document that they were so panicked that they grasped at anything that could possibly be evidence of wrongdoing, no matter how unlikely, just because the suspect was German. It also gives us a window on the workings of state's security apparatus, as it's between the Chief Constable of Wiltshire Police and the head of MI5. TP

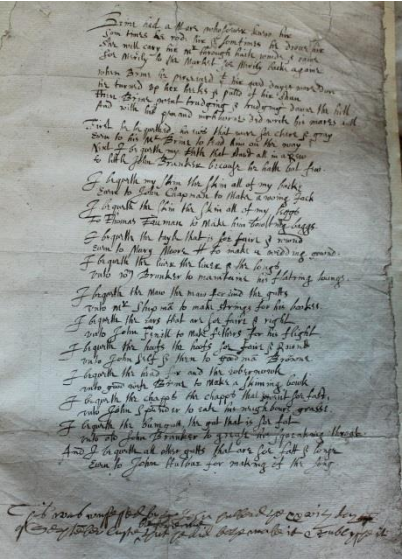
	Plans and elevations of a proposal to improve London Bridge by Charles Labelye. The text detail tells us that it was a proposal by Charles Labelye (1705-62), a Swiss engineer and mathematician, for improvements to London Bridge and presented to Richard Hoare while Mayor of London. The improvements had been suggested earlier by Sir Christopher Wren, so there are two Wiltshire men involved. The improvements were never carried out but Labelye was responsible for Westminster Bridge and a particular mode of construction that was ground breaking at the time, amongst other things. (Ref 2057/F6/12MS)	I would never have come across this, had I not dealt with an enquiry a few years ago; and I love the fact that an enquiry can lead you to this journey of discovery while also showing a strong London connection with our quiet little county. It also contains a naked man. JB
	Stanley Abbey Charter c1151 (Ref 1213/1PC)	Our earliest document. A grant of the Empress Maud (also known as Empress Matilda) and Henry, Duke of Normandy, her son (later Henry II) of property at Chippenham and Lacock.
	"Out with Romany: adventures with birds and animals" by George Bramwell Evens and illustrations by Reg Gammon. (Ref 305.8914)	Both are examples of book illustrations from the "Romany" series of books written by George Bramwell Evens (who had a gypsy background). These examples, specifically from "Out with Romany: adventures with birds and animals" with the illustrations by Reg Gammon, were published in 1943 and I think are typical of a type of illustration popular in the 1920s-1950s. A number of artists that have been researched as part of our 'Creative Wiltshire' project undertook book and poster illustration as part of their early careers. JB.

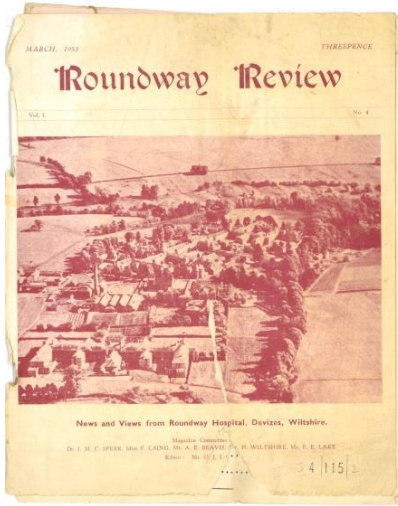
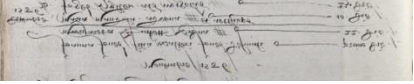
	The great illuminated roll pedigree of the Seymours. (Ref 1300/376)	It is a massive manuscript dated 1604 commissioned by the Earl of Hertford to depict his ancestry. It includes 750 individuals of which 35 feature paintings. The roll measures 6.83 metres by 1.88 metres and is attached to wooden poles at each end. It is comprised of 26 parchment membranes. An incredible document that couldn't be missing from our list! NS
	Register of Dean John Chaundler, 1404-1417. This contains a record of the visitation of his peculiar, 1405-1412, followed by the register of other acts – admissions, institutions, wills, judicial documents, election of a prior, exchanges of benefices. The register of Dean Simon Sydenham, 1418-1425, including admissions, institutions, probates, etc. (Ref D5/1/1)	It gives me a shiver every time I handle a document this old. HT
	Roundway Mental Hospital, Devizes. Female patients' case book. Feb 1853-Jun 1855. (Ref J4/191/2)	Some of the records have photographs of the patients/inmates along with details of their backgrounds and medical histories. They are so haunting and sad – especially those who seemed to have been 'put away' simply because no-one quite knew what else to do with them. Thank goodness the treatment of mental health issues has progressed so far. JM
	Will, John Fox, grocer, 1818, Melksham (Ref P2/1818/42)	John Fox was my 4th great grandfather. In his will he included bequests to Bristol Infirmary £10 for cutting his leg off in July 1776 and £5 to Bath Hospital. Both sums were to be paid one year after his death and were to be advertised in the Bath paper. John was born in 1760 . He was threfore 16 years old when his leg was cut off . He married in 1786, had 2 sons that I know of, and died aged 58 in 1818. I consider this quite a feat, to have a leg cut off in 1776 when operations were obviously more primitive than now, and then live another 42 years. JB(v).

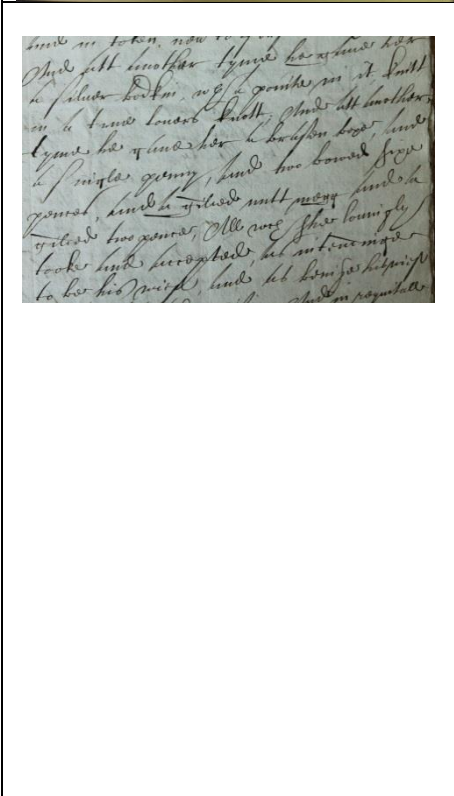
	Westbury's contribution to the petition to abolish the police in 1841. (Ref A1/591)	Two years after the formation of The Wiltshire Constabulary, the rate payers of Wiltshire felt that they did not need a police force and petitioned to have them dispensed with. Westbury's contribution to this is particularly impressive measuring 20 feet, over 6 meters in length, which I estimate to have about 500 signatures!". IH.
	Album of pressed leaves and plants, with the Latin names of the plants within the collection of the Godolphin School, Salisbury. (Ref 4312/11/A/1)	Two personal favourites within the Godolphin School Collection are the botany exercise books that we have under 4312/11/A/1 and 2 – 1 is a book of pressed leaves and flowers, and the 2 comprises of 2 exercise books belonging to a student called Doris Ellis which showed details of where flowers were found, drawings of them and the dates (from 1909-1911). The pressed leaves album is not dated but is a fantastic book, really visually interesting. AM.
	Draft agreement by Charles Holton, carpenter, to take a house and garden belonging to Mr. George Seagram on a lease for 14 years. [Written on the back of a sheet of fine glass-paper]. Possibly in Warminster, where a Charles Holton, carpenter, born there in 1811, appears on the 1841 and 1851 census. (Ref 475/13)	Although documents are valued and considered for the information they give, there are other criteria on which they can be assessed. An undated draft agreement by Charles Holton, carpenter, to take a house and garden belonging to Mr. George Seagram on a lease for 14 years, is of limited interest in terms of its content. We can surmise something of its background and origins. It is in an early 19th century hand and possibly relates to Warminster, where a Charles Holton, carpenter, born there in 1811, appears on the 1841 and 1851 census. However, its outstanding feature is the writing material used, and as such provides glimpse into a fleeting moment in his life. A discussion was held about the letting of a property, possibly in his workshop. Unable to find any paper on which to draft out the conditions he resorted to a sheet of glass paper which the carpenter had to hand, presumably in plentiful supply. SH.

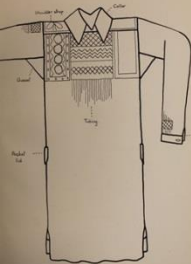
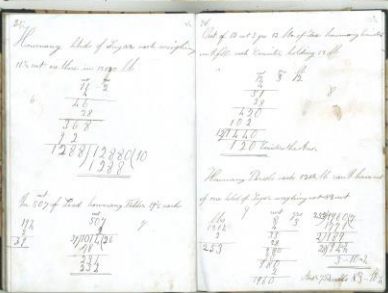
	Exemplification of a cause in Chancery between Philip earl of Pembroke, the earl of Salisbury and others about the estate of Philip, late earl of Pembroke. [Illuminated chancery document showing Oliver Cromwell, 1655] (Ref 2057/D4/81)	This document is part of the Wilton House archive and relates to the estate of the Earl of Pembroke. I was not too concerned with the content (although it was in English as opposed to Latin). It was the portrait and seal that drew me in to a fascinating period in our history (the English civil wars, the rule of Oliver Cromwell and the fight to restore the monarchy) and opened up all sorts of questions about how power and authority are conveyed through images as well as words. Here I was, handling (very carefully) a 361-year-old seal and looking at a contemporary portrait of Oliver Cromwell, the ruler of an English republic! RB.
	Photograph, panda cut into chalk, Laverstock, Wiltshire, 1969 (Ref P15397)	You will have heard of Wiltshire's chalk White Horses, but a chalk Panda?! The clue to its sudden appearance was to be found in the letters UCNW carved alongside. It was revealed to be done by a student from Salisbury for the University College of North Wales rag week! MK
	Confirmation by Richard I of a gift of 'Codintone' and 'Wapelee' (Codrington and Wapley nr. Chipping Sodbury, Glos.) made to Stanley Abbey by 'Richard son of Stephen', who had received the land from Henry II. Messina. (Ref 473/34PC)	The 1191 grant by Richard I bears an impression of his great seal in good condition and is of unusual interest in that it was dated at Messina in Sicily. On the back is written a number corresponding to the entry relating to it in a list of the abbey's muniments made about 1250 which is now in the British Museum, while the care the monks took of their records is also shown by the Royal grant of 1227, which has its original linen bag to protect the seal, with a contemporary label attached. The 1191 grant was sent by Richard from Sicily just days before he set sail with a fleet of ships to the Holy Land. (He had set out in 1190 to join the Third Crusade.) The letter came at a busy time for Richard who was not only on crusade but was about to be married to Berengaria of Navarre who had made her own epic journey across Europe with Richard's mother Eleanor of Aquitaine to be with her future husband. CS and TB

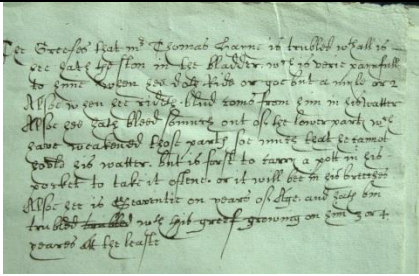
	Kaleidoscopiana Wiltoniensia, by An Observer, provides a collection of all the letters, speeches, squibs and songs published during an 1818 election. The Kaleidoscopiana includes contributions from Old Moonraker, New Moonraker replying to Old Moonraker, Notorious Quorum and Antiquorum; Barley-corn, Britannicus and Busy Body, competing with Candidus and Lunatic; letters from the Mild Inquirer and the Constant Reader vied with contributions from Rusticus, Veritas and the Veteran; not forgetting the supposed intervention of the "Dorset Farmers" and, if that wasn't enough, the "Yorkshire Farmers" got in on the act as well. (Ref AAA.324)	This was three horse race to elect two MPs, one of whom, Paul Methuen of Corsham, was a shoe-in. This left two to contest one seat; that was the local candidate John Benett of Pythouse and the wealthy "outsider", the delightfully named William Pole-Tynley-Long-Wellesley, son of the Earl of Mornington and nephew of the Duke of Wellington. More importantly he was related by marriage to the influential Wiltshire families of Penruddock, Wyndham and Long, who had dominated this seat. There was the usual rioting at the poll, but Wellesley, though fast running out of cash, managed to win the day. It is the vast array of election material that catches the eye, heavy in satirical content, often written under pseudonyms. It included a poem by Jonathan Swift Junior entitled the Wolves and Moon, with a footnote suggesting that "the lines make up the whole of the objections raised against Mr. Wellesley ...as they apply equally to the Moon." TB
	Small Rain upon Tender Herb; a book of quotations from the Psalms, inscribed Charlotte M Duke, 1838. Published by The Religious Tracts Society, before 1838, (Ref 4136/2/21)	Notably the smallest book in any of our collections within the papers of the Duke family of Lake House which includes several unusual items. It measures just 2.5 x 3 cm. SH
	Register of the Wiltshire Constabulary dating from 1893 to 1926 including details of police officers; their date of entry into the force, a description of person, any details of misconduct, and numerous other details. (Ref: F5/200/5)	At the opposite end of the size spectrum, is this register of the Wiltshire Constabulary and which we lovingly call 'Big Bertha'! It makes fascinating, if not awkward reading, especially if you come across details of an ancestor. Our shelving in the strongroom is coping admirably, but it is certainly being put to the test by the weight of this specimen! SH
	Documents signed by James Madison and John Quincy Adams who served as the 4th and 6th presidents of the USA. (Ref 1498/4)	Both documents were passports for Thomas Shorthouse who became an American citizen in 1797. The Shorthouse family lived at Little Clarendon, Dinton and the passports, letters from Philadelphia and citizenship document for Thomas Shorthouse are part of the family papers (WSA 1498/1-6). RB

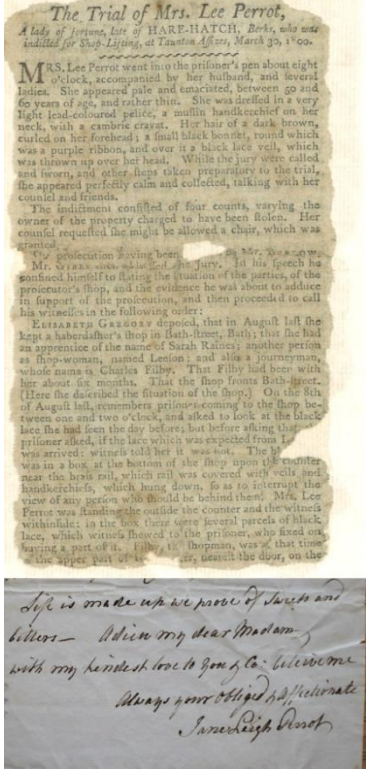
	1733 Seal of the State Governor of Virginia attached to document in the 18th century papers of Grinfield family found in the collection of Merriman, Porter and Long, Marlborough solicitors. (Ref 2027/2/1/467)	In order to establish the claim of his sons to property in Ogbourne St Andrew, John Seymour, a planter in Virginia, had a declaration drawn up in 1733 to which was appended the seal of the state Governor. The image on the seal of the subservient native American kneeling before his English overlord, is a disturbing reminder of our colonial past. SH and RB
	Great Roll for the Michaelmas quarter sessions of 1614. B. Howard Cunnington came across this document when researching his book of extracts from the Wiltshire Quarter Sessions rolls, The Records of Wiltshire, published in 1932. (Ref A1/110 1614 M)	Taking it at face value Cunnington's transcript was entitled A Curious will of the 17th Century, an appropriate description as it appeared to be the rhyming will of a horse, disposing of his remains after death. Cunnington was unable to explain its place or origin or why it was among the QS records. Closer examination of the Great Roll for the Michaelmas sessions of 1614, revealed an indictment in which the author of the document, John Hulberd, Hilpertion, weaver, was charged with composing reciting and singing what was described as malicious, seditious and obscene libel. It was deemed that he was publically ridiculing parishioners of Whaddon, including the rector, Mr Shipman, was to inherit his maw and guts to make strings for his books; in order to bind them. The horse's teeth were to be left to little John Brunker because he has so few: his bumgut to old John Branker to make grease for his squeaking throat. To modern sensibilities the verse seems tame and uncontroversial. However, in the strictly hierarchical society of early 17th century England, to refer publically and informally about one's betters was deemed disrespectful and threat to social stability. Naively Hulberd revealed his identity as the author in the final verse, and may have been surprised at the result of his action. So the document is a rare and fascinating survival which makes for an entertaining read. SH

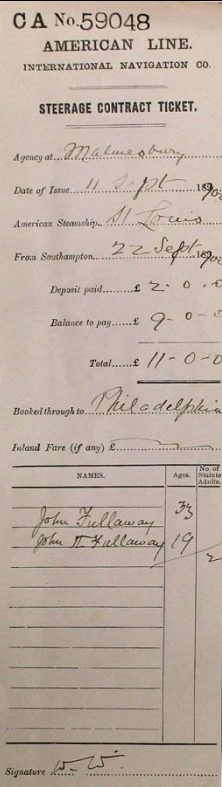
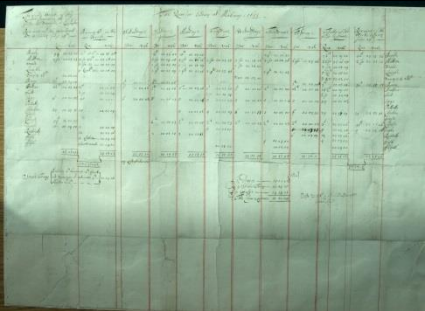
	Roundway Review magazine. Afro-Caribbean Harlem Renaissance writer and journalist Eric Walrond admitted himself to Roundway Psychiatric Hospital in 1952 (discharged in 1957). His correspondence shows that he found emotional stability and community at Roundway, helping to establish a literary magazine, <i>The Roundway Review</i> for which he acted as assistant editor. We hold an incomplete series 1953-1958 (Ref J4/115/2)	The monthly magazine (Dec 1952-Dec 1958) published articles, sketches, notices and puzzles. Many of Walrond's publications in the magazine were Caribbean stories full of tropical scenery but he also published a few set in England as well as accounts of hospital facilities. As James Davis says in his book <i>'Eric Walrond : a life in the Harlem Renaissance and the transatlantic Caribbean'</i> "there is something at once wonderful and tragic about the juxtaposition in these pages of some of the earliest Caribbean stories published in England and a startling work of colonial history [<i>The Second Battle</i> a treatment of the French canal attempt in Panama spanning 15 issues] alongside other patients' tributes to the hospital band and reminiscences about a favourite horse at a nearby farm". TB and NS
	Entry for Maria Mandula in the Calne parish burial register, December 1586 (Ref 2083/1)	Calne Parish Register of burials dated 10th December 1586 notes the burial of "Maria Mandula advena et aethiops (stranger and Aethiops)." Is this the earliest reference to a Black person in Wiltshire? Of course, we can never truly know if Maria Mandula was Black, but the word aethiops was used by Shakespeare to describe some Black people [aethiops was a term used for a black compound or mineral and also people originating from Ethiopia i.e. Africa]. We do know that Black people have been present in Britain since Roman times. We also know that by the early 1500's a number of Black people were associated with royal courts. By the reign of Elizabeth I, privateers like John Hawkins were dabbling in the slave trade along the Guinea coast in West Africa and it became fashionable in Britain to own a Black slave or servant, a fashion that lasted through the seventeenth and into the eighteenth century, where the estimated Black population in London, alone, numbered around 15,000. It is no surprise, therefore, to find Black people like Maria Mandula in Wiltshire documents such as parish registers, mostly as adult baptisms or burials, and occasionally marriages. There are numerous references to Black people living in Wiltshire in seventeenth and eighteenth century, and later. TB

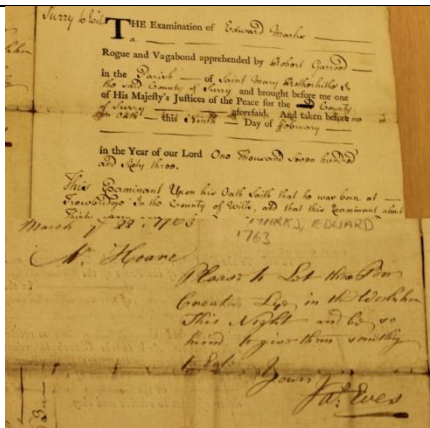
	1545 Grant of arms to Robert Long of the city of London, mercer. Ref 826/1 and Grant of arms to Thomas Long of Trowbridge, esquire. With seal of Clarenceaux King of Arms (an officer of arms at the College of Arms in London), 1561 (Ref 826/2)	Grants of arms were issued by a lawful authority such as an officer of arms, conferring on a person and their descendants the right to bear a particular coat of arms. I love the marginalia, that the colours are so striking even after nearly 500 years, and that the figures in both initial letters hold a brush as if they have just finished the coat of arms. The framing of the grant 826/2 [bottom in these 2 images] also shows past archive conservation techniques (the pins holding the document to the mount are all pinned through tiny pieces of red felt). NS
	Libels in the court papers of the Dean of Salisbury. (Ref D5/21/3/12/31)	Church courts dealt with a much wider range of business than we might imagine. Among matters of personal moral behaviour that came to their attention in the 17th century were cases of breach of promise of marriage. A jilted bride or groom wished to protect their reputations in order to become eligible for future unions. Gifts of tokens, regarded as important evidence of intention, were often described. In this case from 1638 between the impressively named Onenisiphereous Tapp, Lower Hidden, Hungerford and Ann Stockwell alias Gingell, Shalbourne, he claimed that he had given Ann a silver bodkin with a point in it knit in a true lovers knot; on another occasion he gave her several items including two bowed sixpences and a gilded nutmeg. Bowed or bent coins were regarded as indications of the level of commitment as the coin was rendered invalid as currency, and the token was thus the value of the coin. Such details provide fascinating insight into the lives of ordinary people. SH

 The work of Rural England dates from the Anglo-Saxon period, the word "smock" meaning shirt or chemise. The women of the shire have worn brocade and smocks of linen and a smaller dress over this. As time went on it became the fashion to ornament the upper part of these smocks with fine stitching and to cut down the neck of the over-dress as to display the work. As the fashion of male clothing changed, and leather coats and brocade dresses were worn, the country labourer adopted the smock-frock, a strong linen overall worn or less ornamented at the neck and sleeves than the women. 	"English Smocks" Author unknown. (Ref. 391.04, item no. 2556340 000)	I love this hand written book on "English Smocks" which includes a brief history supported by line drawings; but the surprise at the end is a hand worked example of traditional smocking. It connects well with Wiltshire, a county where the agricultural labourer and textile worker were the main occupations of many of our ancestors. JB
 	Two mathematics exercise books belonging to J E Gleed, 1853-1854. (Ref 946/76)	The Gleed of Ashton Keyes collection (946) is remarkable for the number of children's exercise and text books (over 100) from the 18th and 19th centuries – covering mathematics, spelling, geography, history, and handwriting... Could today's children do the sums shown without a calculator? MM
	A sketch of Avebury Manor, 1695 conveying instructions for plantings in the gardens showing the layout of the property at this time. (Ref 184/4)	This is an unusually early and detailed plan of a country house and its surrounding lands. The manor house itself can be seen just above and left of centre with even the windows and dimensions of the rooms visible: the hall is 34 feet long, 19 feet broad and 15 feet high, and the kitchen 20 feet long and 18 feet broad. The plan of the grounds shows individual trees and outhouses, not to mention a dog kennel, a walled 'horsepool' and trough, a pigeonhouse and a pump. The church and churchyard are shown in the bottom right hand corner. Accompanying the plan are a list of instructions to 'Farmer Skeate': amongst other tasks he is "To plant 4 younge elmes or two elmes and two ashes or siccomores at the upper end of the bullwork in a square forme, and to preserve them, under which a bench or

		seate may bee hereafter placed” and “the wall... in the graden under the parlour window is in decay, pray get a dreyne made for the water at least 3 feet from the wall into the Cherry Court, and to get it well done to prevent the water which falls from the house sokeing through the wall”. JP and JD
	A note attached to a petition to the Justices that Thomas Hayne of Aldbourne, one of the constables for the Hundred of Selkeley, be excused from attending the Quarter Sessions in January 1647. (Ref A1/1647H 136-7)	The note reads: ‘The Greefes that Mr Thomas Hayne is trubled w[i]thall is hee hath the ston in the bladder w[hi]ch is verie paynfull to hime when he doth Ride or goe but a myle or Alsoe when hee rideth blud coms from him in his watter Alsoe hee hath bleed somuch out of the lower parts w[h]ich have wakened those parts soe much that he cannot hould his watter. but is forst to carry a pott in his pocket to take it oftene. or it will be in his breeches Alsoe hee is Seaventie on years of Age. and hath bin trubled w[i]th this greefe growing on him 3 or 4 yeares att leaste’. It is not at all difficult to empathise with poor Thomas. His plight was contrasted by the experience of the diarist Samuel Pepys, who celebrated the anniversary of a successful operation to cure a similar ailment. Such treatment was not available to Thomas who struggled on for several more years and was buried in 1652. Archives like his sick note are vital in placing people to the fore in our research, and in recording what Philip Larkin described as ‘their scrap of history’. SH

	Letter written by Jane Austen's aunt Mrs Jane Leigh-Perrot. It was likely written in 1816 as the two nieces it mentions were in Chawton around the time of the letter. This was also around the time that Jane Austen began to get ill (she died 18 July 1817) (Ref 110/23)	Our archives often contain some curious literary connections. One of my favourites are two documents relating to the Aunt of Jane Austen, Mrs Jane Leigh Perrot, who was married to James, brother of Jane Austen's mother Cassandra. It was the Leigh Perrots who first facilitated Jane Austen's entrance into Bath society. The first and most intriguing document is an extract from a newspaper concerning the trial of Mrs Leigh Perrott for shoplifting. The incident took place during August 1799, in Bath, not long after the Austen family had left their Aunt. The story is recounted here https://www.janeausten.co.uk/the-life-and-crimes-of-jane-leigh-perrot/ by the Jane Austen Centre in Bath. Mrs Leigh Perrot was found not guilty. The second is a letter written by Mrs Leigh Perrot and is thought to date to 1816. It includes references to her nieces, including Jane, at the family home in Chawton and to other members of the Austen family. Around this time Jane Austen started to get ill and the letter provides insight into family context around this time. TB
	Papers about Swindon's Air Raids, including Mortuary Superintendent's completed forms of deaths due to war operations, and these labels attached to bodies of those killed in air raids.1940-1942. (Ref G24/224/4)	These labels were to be filled in by the person finding the body, with further more detailed information often provided on accompanying forms. They are a distressing but important reminder of a sombre time in our history. NS
	This map is from a large, calf-bound volume containing detailed maps in colour and surveys on parchment of the Savernake Estate, 1703-1776. (Ref 1300/372 MS).	Although drawn and painted in the 18th century, the colours on this map are still vibrant. Considering the amount of time this must have taken, the attention to detail is impressive. The sense of pride in the whole volume is very clear. HT

	Books of counterfoils of tickets to New York, Cleveland, Philadelphia, Quebec, St John, Montreal, Halifax, giving details of emigrés, port of embarkation, ship, etc. (Includes detailed typed list). 1883-1920 This example is for two John Fullaways aged 33 and 19 travelling from Southampton to Philadelphia in 1900 (Ref 386/1)	In the first part of the 19th century migration to America was from farmers; the Swing Riots of 1830 and fear of mechanisation may have affected this trend. It was during this period more than any other which saw the movement of people with other members of their families. The late 1820s had already seen a short-term rise in the number of workers from industry such as textile workers emigrating to America during the depression in the cotton industry. The majority of those emigrating at this time appear to have enough assets to sell to help them on their way, and for many it was not economic hardship, but a sense of concern over the changing economy and worries over their children's standing and position in that society which affected their choices. JD
	Letters Patent of Charles II creating Robert, Baron Bruce of Whorleton, Yorks. and Baron of Kinloss and Earl of Elgin in Scotland, as Baron Bruce of Skelton, Yorks., and Earl of Ailesbury, Bucks., with seat and voice in Parliament. Fragments of Great Seal on gold and silver tag, fine portrait initial and border in gold and colours. Note of enrolment in Receipt of Exchequer. (Ref 1300/398 PC)	Time travel to restoration England with this splendid portrait of Charles II on an illuminated document. RB
	Bishop's Household Accounts. An account of food, drink and fuel purchased for the week beginning 19th at Lavington, Bishop Seth Ward. 1673 (Ref D1/27/1/5 H)	One interesting outcome of the programme of flattening and repackaging the probate collection was the discovery of a document, unique among the diocesan archives, which had been cut up and used as bundle wrappers. It was an account of the provisions for Bishop Seth Ward's household in the manor house at West Lavington for one week in July 1673. The bishop's palace in Salisbury Close was undergoing extensive refurbishment and the bishop resorted to one of his manor houses for the duration. Renowned for his hospitality, the Bishop lived up to this reputation during his sojourn. Mutton, beef, rabbit, duck and goose were complemented by carrots, beans and turnips, and washed down with beer and

		wines like claret and canary. On the Thursday four lobsters and 'souce' meat (probably bird of prey) were purchased for consumption on meatless Friday. The document has been reconstituted from twelve strips and placed in the diocesan archives with Seth Ward's personal papers. SH
	Map of Fisherton Delamere, 1742 (Ref 628/7/1 MS)	When I first discovered this 18th century map of the Wylve valley manor of Fisherton Delamere I fell in love with its beautifully detailed drawings of houses and woods, drawn by that master surveyor, William Godson, for the 3rd Duke of Bolton. I also marvelled at the strip fields depicting a lost world prior to the enclosure of common fields. Most helpfully the map is accompanied by a survey book which gives the names of tenants and their fields, using a letter and number which links to the map. For a local or family historian such information is like gold-dust for researching a time before censuses, telephone directories, and electoral registers allowed us to pin people down to a particular place at a particular time. CS
	A vagrant's pass for Edward Marks and his wife, Hester, and their two children, to travel from Rotherhithe in Kent to Trowbridge, which is judged their legal place of settlement (Ref 206/52)	On their long journey in 1763 they would have been accompanied by the parish constables from each parish they passed through, to make sure they got to their destination without stopping anywhere too long. Many of the people they met would have been quite dismissive of them, but this is written on the back: "March ye 22d 1763 Mr Hoare Please to Let the Poor Creaters Lye in the Workhouse This Night and be so kind to give them something to eate Y[ou]rs Ja[me]s Eves" I love this little touch of humanity and sympathy in the face of fellow humans' suffering. It's a reminder that though political systems and structures may change, human nature stays the same. CS



An album of family papers, newspaper articles, memorial cards, compiled in the late 19th cent. Goldsborough Family including this poster titled "The French Invasion" (Ref 2601/5)

In 1798 a plan was drawn up to make provisions for a potential invasion by France. This poster, interesting in its own right, also highlights another fascinating collection, which is under-used. The Wiltshire Parish War Books (refs F2/851/3/1 – F2/851/4/52) are essentially lists of names of who does what in the event of an invasion, but they provide a fascinating insight into town/village life during the threat of invasion in 1941. For anyone interested in local history, these are a must read. IH

Hadden's Ingredient Calculator. Workhouse Regulation (Dietaries & Accounts) Order (Ref H18/1/1)

This is an ingenious booklet used for scaling up quantities of ingredients for workhouse regulation recipes. You can imagine workhouse residents tucking in to some of the recipes like Bread Pudding, Seed Cake, Fish Pie, Hotch Potch, and Potatoes with Milk. NS & TB

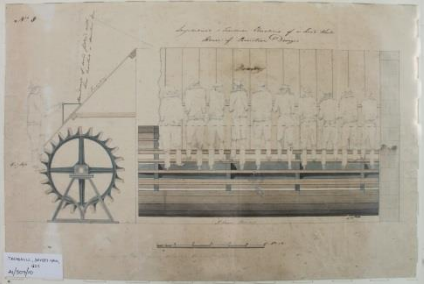


Image of Fonhill Gifford asylum c.1832 (Ref A1/562/4)

The earliest asylum, Bethlem or 'Bedlam' Hospital in London was established in the 13th cent but generally provision was not widespread until the 18th cent. Private asylums or madhouses were set up to cater for those who could afford to pay. Pauper lunatics were dealt with locally by their families or ended up in workhouses or prisons; however, if the parish agreed to pay the fees they could be treated in the private asylums. In Wiltshire 7 private asylums were licensed following the first regulatory Act of 1774:- Laverstock House, Laverstock ; Fiddington House, Market Lavington ; Fisherton House, Fisherton Anger ; Kingsdown House , Box ; Belle Vue , Devizes ; Fonhill Gifford. At Fonhill Gifford amusements included a hand organ and cards and 'canary and other singing birds for the gratification of those who are attached to such domesticated living objects'. MM

Letter from I K Brunel to Mr Gifford concerning the transporting by ships of hospital buildings for the War Office. 1855 (Ref 1780/20)

I love this letter because it represents an interesting connection between Florence Nightingale and Isambard Kingdom Brunel. In 1855 the War Office asked Brunel to design and build a pre-fab hospital to send to Crimea to help combat the numbers of soldiers dying of disease in unsanitary conditions. Brunel designed and built a structure made of wood and canvas taking into account ventilation, drainage, cleanliness and

		even temperature. Florence Nightingale apparently referred to them as 'marvellous huts'. NS
	Contract and plans for erecting the treadmill at Devizes prison, including image no. 8: men on treadmill. 1823-1826 (Ref A1/509/10)	A record of crime and punishment in a different era. This 1823 contract includes the provision of treadwheels for hard labour in prison. The machinery was 'to consist of six Tread Wheels capable of employing ten men at a time, allowing twenty inches for each man. We know it was built and used as there is also a report on repairs to the treadmill written for the Justices of the Peace dated 1826. NS & TB

These are our 70 favourite items from the Wiltshire and Swindon Archives held at the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre. There are many more that could have been included and on another day there might have been a different 70! What's your favourite?

<http://www.wshc.eu/home/70th-anniversary-exhibition.html>