

**TWYFORD AND RUSCOMBE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY  
40th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
MONDAY MARCH 12<sup>th</sup> 2018**

**Archive Report 2017**

Archive report

Members will be aware (see the Foreword in Journal 78) that our Archive Store has had a much-needed and long-awaited tidy up by stalwart members of the Management Committee. On visiting the store, a local archivist complimented the society on the store's space, correct temperature, lack of dampness and general good order. The archivist's advice on keeping archives is being followed up.

In January of this year, five members accepted the Berkshire History Society's invitation for a backstage tour of the Berkshire Record Office, coinciding with its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A history of the Record Office was followed by a tour of the reading room where interesting items were on display – among them a photo album of prisoners in Reading gaol and a missing person poster for Agatha Christie for that mysterious 11-day disappearance in 1926.

Having walked through strongrooms, and noting the enviable conditions for the storage of valuable items – the rooms are maintained at a constant temperature and humidity with no natural light – our group were able to enjoy a demonstration of the care and attention given to the repair of a large leather-bound parchment ledger, circa 1600, and discovered that every stage of the conservator's work is photographed in case newer processes are developed and a task needs to be revisited.

Members will no doubt enjoy reading the fuller report of this fascinating visit in the forthcoming Journal 79.

*Pauline Humphreys*