

Archives Newsletter Barts Health NHS Trust Archives

Updates from Barts Health NHS Trust Archives

BARTS: OUR HOSPITAL THROUGH TIME

This summer, the archives has hosted a small team of researchers, as well as a full TV crew, alongside presenter Professor Alice Roberts, as filming got underway at St Bartholomew's Hospital for a new six-part series, coming soon for broadcast and streaming on 5. 'Barts: Our Hospital Through Time' (working title) will explore the work of the modern hospital, alongside stories from its nine-century history, featuring material from the hospital's archives. It is being produced by Lion TV, the team behind the popular 'Inside the Tower of London' series.



As well as highlighting the world-leading care delivered by the hospital every day, each episode will focus on key moments from history, such as the refoundation by Henry VIII, as well as lesser-known stories. It will look at continuities across the hospital's long history, as well as some of the aspects of care and treatment that would be less recognisable to today's patients. Keep your eye on the schedules for broadcast soon!

A NEW DISPLAY AT THE GARROD BUILDING



Students returning for the new academic year to the Garrod Building in Whitechapel (one of the main teaching buildings for the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, Queen Mary University of London), have been able to enjoy a newly-installed display of records and objects from the collections relating to the history of the faculty and its predecessor medical schools.



This is the first display in a new case, installed for the display of objects from our collection following the refurbishment of the building in 2024. After a period of monitoring the environmental conditions in the case, Medha, who is Archivist for the Faculty, curated and installed the display, which focuses on key themes from the history of medical education and the history of the schools. It will be in situ in the case, on the first floor of the Garrod Building, throughout the 25/26 academic year.

SANITATION AND STRATEGY!



Once a year the archives team plan an Away Day – a day away from the archives, to allow us to focus on service planning and strategic work without the distraction of emails and calls, in a location which we can learn and take inspiration from. Last year we were hosted by Bethlem Museum of the Mind – this September, we were lucky enough to visit Crossness Engines Trust, where we marvelled at Victorian sanitation history before setting our minds to the year ahead! Planning on the day included discussions of an upcoming oral history project, the procurement of a new collections management system, and the development of new teaching resources. Keep an eye on future issues of the newsletter for updates on these!

We are incredibly grateful to Rob Harris at Crossness who showed us around the fascinating historic site. We look forward to welcoming the Crossness volunteers to Barts for a reciprocal visit later in the year.

COLLECTIONS AUDIT COMPLETE

This month Ginny has completed the physical audit of four of our archive stores, located in the basement of Barts North Wing. This has involved checking through every item on every shelf to ensure that our location database is correct and undertake a full condition assessment to guide prioritisation of material for future conservation work – a mammoth task, comprising over 30,000 individual items in total! Work like this is laborious but a key part of good collections management practice, so it's great to have this work complete – huge thanks to Ginny for her work on this.

DISPLAYS RETURN TO ST BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL MUSEUM

Barts North Wing, the historic Grade-I listed administrative block of St Bartholomew's Hospital, will reopen on 6 October after a two-year project, led by Barts Heritage, to repair and restore the building including the Great Hall and Hogarth staircase. As the restoration works have drawn to a close, the archives team have reinstalled the collection items displayed in St Bartholomew's Hospital Museum, ready for it to reopen to the public.



The objects and archives from the museum were moved to our stores for the duration of the works, with several items undergoing conservation work by specialist conservators to ensure that they are in suitable condition for continued display.

With the support of a museum mount-maker who made bespoke new mounts for the protection of a number of items, the team reinstalled objects and made a few new additions in some cases to reflect the hospital's evolving story. The museum's front lobby has also undergone a facelift to reflect the wider look within the North Wing. Find out more about our collections by searching our [online catalogue](#); for more information about the museum, including opening hours, visit the Barts North Wing website at <https://bartsnorthwing.org.uk/visit/museum/>



AWAY AT THE ARCHIVES

The collections that we hold tell the stories of the Barts Health hospitals (and so much more!), and a key part of our work is finding new ways to share them with colleagues across the Trust, to help them understand their place in the story of their hospital. We host sessions in the archives for teams from across the Trust to see historic records and objects relating to the history of their department or specialism, but for colleagues working at other hospital sites, the Bart's site can be a long way to travel for a short session.

This summer, we hosted our first away day, combining an archives session with a chance for colleagues to use the searchroom space for their strategy planning and team-building day. The Dietetics team from the Royal London Hospital enjoyed their day so much that they have recommended that their Bart's counterparts do the same thing this autumn! If you work for Barts Health NHS Trust and would like to book an away day for your team, email us at barts.archives@nhs.net.

Other ways to follow our service

To learn more about our collections visit our [website](#) where you can search the Barts Health NHS Trust Archives online [catalogue](#), and find out how to book a visit to the search room at St Bartholomew's Hospital.

Instagram: [@barts_health_archives_museums](#)

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