

CENTENARY OF BEDFORDSHIRE AND LUTON ARCHIVES SERVICE

2013 will see the centenary of Bedfordshire and Luton Archives Service – this was the first public archive outside London, after Kew. In order to celebrate the event, make people aware of the importance of archives, and enable and inspire more people to use them, Colmworth and Neighbours History Society is sponsoring a television documentary, which will be put together by the Media Department of the University of Bedfordshire working with the Archivists at BLARS. We are at present jointly applying for funding.

In effect, we hope the programme will be a cross between ‘Antiques Roadshow’, ‘Time Team’ and ‘Who Do You Think You Are’, and will show how to use archives and the exciting stories they contain. The work for this programme will be done next year, and we are now looking for stories. The key for televisual stories is human interest – people using the archives and talking to the archivists, then following up leads. The key is tracing stories involving people.

We already have a series of fascinating stories demonstrating how archives have been used to show family and village life, and reveal a variety of human activity and emotions, most of which are replicated today. We are now looking for stories which have not yet been investigated.

This is where you may come in. Do you know of any stories which you would like us to investigate? Some dramatic stories of village, personal, or institutional life which have not yet been explored? We would decide which ones to follow, and give you a television crew to follow the search with the archivists as they get to the bottom of your particular mystery.

If you have an idea, contact me on smithstephen30@gmail.com and we can discuss it further.