



Wednesday 14 July 2010

HAMPSHIRE CELEBRATES FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

Florence Nightingale's legacy will be celebrated in Hampshire this summer as the county commemorates the centenary of her death.

To tie in with the Archive Awareness Campaign www.archiveawareness.com theme, *Discovery-Archives in Science, Technology & Medicine*, Hampshire County Council's Archives and Local Studies service, will be telling the life story of Britain's pioneering nineteenth century nurse.

As part of the celebrations, local people will have the opportunity to see the County Council's diverse collections of Florence Nightingale material which include photographs, letters – ranging from correspondence with her cousin, Henry Bonham Carter, about the training of nurses, to a letter she wrote to her aunt about an eclipse, at the age of six, and an original audio recording and sketches of her by members of her family. The events will also explore what Hampshire was like at the time - its costume and entertainment, its politics and daily grind, as well as Florence's links with the County.

For example, she influenced the location of the Royal Hampshire County Hospital in Winchester and expressed strong opinions about the design of the Royal Victoria Hospital in Netley near Southampton, which became a training centre for the new Nursing Service and the largest military hospital of its time.

Florence made regular trips back to Hampshire after the Crimean War and her family home at Embley Park was located near Romsey. She is buried at St Margaret's Church, East Wellow in the Test Valley.

Deputy Leader of Hampshire County Council, Councillor Roy Perry, said:

“Florence Nightingale has a fascinating history in Hampshire and is surely one of the county’s greatest historic figures. I am thrilled that the County Council is using this occasion to raise awareness of the archives we preserve and to share the insight they provide to this remarkable woman with the residents of Hampshire.”

Highlights of the centenary celebrations include a play about her life and work which will be performed by Chester House Productions at Hampshire Record Office in Winchester on 28 September and at Hampshire Collegiate School, on 21 October; the school will also host an event for visually impaired reading groups.

A free lecture, *Ever your old Flo* will take place at Hampshire Record Office in August and an exhibition will also be on show there from September to October. Visitors to the search room - where documents are held in the office’s eight miles of shelving - can consult over 200 documents relating to her including nearly 80 letters written by Florence and 50 letters sent to her, sketches of the family at Embley in Hampshire, watercolours, photographs and copies of some of her books. A recording of her voice from 1890 will also be made available and can be heard at

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/florence-nightingale.htm>

Angela Owusu, Archive Awareness Campaign Officer said:

“Archives provide a fascinating window into the past and as is the case with Florence Nightingale, many ideas stand the test of time and are as relevant today as the last century. The Hampshire events give people the opportunity to reflect on her work and recognise the significance of its development for nursing in modern society.

There will be exhibition boards which interpret Florence’s exciting life touring Hampshire County Council venues throughout the year. Details of events can be found at

www3.hants.gov.uk/florence-nightingale/nightingale-events.htm and

www.hants.gov.uk/archives

- Ends -

For further details, spokespeople or images on the Archive Awareness Campaign, please contact **Angela Owusu** on **0208 392 5237** or email Angela.Owusu@nationalarchives.gov.uk

Notes to Editors

For more information on Florence Nightingale and events in Hampshire visit: <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/florence-nightingale.htm> .

Headquarters: Hampshire County Council, The Castle, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8ZB, Tel 0845 603 5638

Headquarters opening times: 8.30am - 5.15pm Monday - Thursday, 8.30am - 4.45pm Friday

- Archive Awareness is spearheaded by the former National Council on Archives (www.nca.org.uk) and funded by The National Archives (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk) and the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (www.mla.gov.uk).
- Archive Awareness Campaign www.archiveawareness.com is an ongoing celebration of all kinds of fascinating archive treasures. It celebrates and promotes local and national archives. Throughout the year archives across the country open their doors to showcase history, hold open days and present workshops to help the public discover a piece of their own history.
- To find an Archive Awareness Campaign event near you or to discover more about the UK's archives visit www.archiveawareness.com
- Archives & Records Association (ARA) covers the UK and the Republic of Ireland, providing support to archivists, records managers and conservators. They advise users and provide views of the sector to government and wider society. ARA supports the work of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Archives which was administered by NCA, and organises the annual Archive Awareness Campaign. Though an independent body, ARA receives some public funding from The National Archives and the Museums, Libraries & Archives Council with specific objectives within the fields of advocacy, awareness raising and sector development.

Events

Romsey Singers

Tuesday 13 July 2010

[Hampshire Collegiate School, Embley Park,](#)

Tickets from Geoff Williams, email geoff.williams@church-schools.com

Florence Nightingale Influence and Inspiration Conference

Wednesday 14 to Friday 16 July 2010

[Hampshire Collegiate School](#)

Delegate fees apply

Further information from Dr Russ Foster

tel 01794 512206, email russ.foster@church-schools.com

Army Concert

Saturday 17 July 2010

In aid of Royal Army Benevolent Fund and St Margaret's Church

[Hampshire Collegiate School](#)

Tickets from Jean Clarke, tel 01794 322484 email portclarke@btinternet.com

Centenary Service

Friday 13 August 2010, 10.30am

St Margaret's Church, East Wellow

Public welcome

www.wellow-nightingale.co.uk

Ever your old Flo

Thursday 26 August 2010, 1.15pm

Sources for Florence Nightingale in Hampshire Record Office – by Sarah Lewin. Half-hour lunchtime lecture

[Hampshire Record Office](#)

Free and no need to book

Florence exhibition

Monday 6 September to Friday 15 October

[Hampshire Record Office](#)

Free and no need to book

'Florence': performance by Chester House Productions

Tuesday 28 September 2010, 7.30pm

[Hampshire Record Office](#)

£7, booking essential

