



News

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MEDWAY ARCHIVES AND LOCAL STUDY CENTRE WINS YOUR FAMILY HISTORY ARCHIVE OF THE YEAR AWARD 2011

Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre have won a reader nominated archive award which raises awareness of the plight of local services.

Winner's story

Your Family History magazine announced Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre as winners of the prestigious 2011 Archive of the Year Award at the Who Do You Think You Are? Live show in London Olympia.

Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre was selected from nominations from across the country, by a panel of judges that included *Your Family History's* Dr Nick Barratt and actress Miriam Margolis, ambassadors of the Action 4 Archives campaign.

Dr Nick Barratt, Editor in Chief, Your Family History said:

"I visited the site in 2009 to give a talk, and was very impressed by the facility – everyone was friendly and knowledgeable, and a great deal of care had gone into creating an excellent research environment, with the needs of the user definitely a priority. Medway are a worthy winner of this award."

Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre was praised for its involvement with the Kent Family History Society and its enthusiasm for engaging the public through exhibitions. Accessibility to the Archive was also improved through Medway's use of social networking sites such as Facebook www.facebook.com/medwayarchives and online resources including an image database www.medway.gov.uk/medwayimages, resulting in new methods for locals to interact with the archivists, as well as creating an accessible Local Studies Centre. Readers who voted for Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre also described its resources as 'vast' and praised staff for their knowledge, attention to detail and work with visitors.

Three 'Highly Commended' certificates were also awarded to Darlington Library's Centre for Local Studies, Birmingham Central Library Archives and Wolverhampton Archives. 'Against All Odds' certificates which recognises institutions that are 'struggling to keep their doors open to the public', were awarded to Doncaster Archives and Plymouth and West Devon Archive Service.

2012 nominations

Nominations for the 2012 award can be made online now at www.your-familyhistory.com and are restricted to UK national, county or municipal record offices; local study centres; specialist and regional archives and university or library manuscript collections. Readers should cite the service provided by the staff; the facilities in the search rooms; the accessibility and quality of the catalogue and finding aids; the range of services provided online, including access to digitised records; the range of documents available for consultation; connections with the local community; and facilities for disabled people.

