

The importance of protecting significant archives for future researchers has led to the establishment of the All Party Archives Parliamentary Group on Archives.

On the international front, the Red Cross in Geneva hold the prisoner of war records, with hundreds of thousands of entries. Ditto the International Tracing Service has many records of Nazi concentration camps internees, forced labour workers and displaced persons. Eastern European archives are now being opened to the public as a consequence of the ending of the Cold War.

The Bank of England archive holds records of how previous financial crises were handled, these are referred to today. For example, our banks were closed at the start of WW1 to avoid a “run” for gold and hard currency.

For the historian, Local Government, university and local judicial records hold many treasures. Many are being digitised. With changes in technology, it is vital to ensure that the storage media is current and retrievable. Not everything can be saved so thought is required as to identifying what is relevant. “Weeders” play a vital role in ensuring what should be kept, and what it is safe to throw away. Without them bias could creep into a collection.

4. Forthcoming meetings

April 24th	"Humphrey Repton - understand his impact on the Ashridge and Aynho estates landscapes"	Mick Thompson, Ashridge Gardens Manager
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