



Previous winners of the ARA Distinguished Service Award

This award recognises individual conservators, archivists or records managers for career-long achievement and/or outstanding work, e.g. successful management/implementation of a project; external fundraising that has transformed a resource or service; significant improvements to service delivery, etc.

Information below taken from information provided in the year of the award, winners may now have moved or changed jobs.

Distinguished Service Award Winners 2023

Vicki Wilkinson for Distinguished Service in Archives and Records Management

Vicki has been a qualified records manager for more than 35 years and began her career at Bristol & West Building Society before moving onto the Bankers Trust, Save the Children, Barclays Bank then settling into RBS in 1992.

Currently, she is the Records Management Lead across the Bank, responsible for being the lead subject matter expert in major, enterprise wide transformation projects. From new ways of working such as O365 to leading thought invoking discussion around Artificial Intelligence, Vicki raises the profile of Records Management at every level.

She has been successfully responsible for many key Archives and Records Management projects and activities whilst working for RBS and NatWest. Examples of her work include:

- Setting up the RBS Archives in Edinburgh St Andrew Square.
- Rolling out Records Management across Europe, India and Asia including the upskilling of the teams there.
- Establishing the first records management programme in the RBS Chairman's Office and in Corporate Affairs as test cases before joining Retail to roll out RM in Bancassurance
- She was the subject matter expert to the first Records Management Policy and Records Retention Schedule in 2003
- In 1996-1997, Vicki went on secondment to Glasgow University to set up their first records management training course for those working in the profession with no qualifications
- She's been involved in writing course materials and been a visiting lecturer for many of the current post graduate courses.

In addition to this, Vicki has carried out lots of activities for ARA, including:

- Two terms on the Board of Directors,
- Conference Organising Committee,
- Scottish Training Officer,

- Registration Scheme Assessor,
- ARA Salary Review Committee in 2019,
- Part of the External Qualifications Review Panel in 2021-22 and am
- She is currently an active participant in the ARA Competencies Review for Records Managers.
- She is also a professional Mentor.

Vicki has also supported our other professional bodies as Secretary of Business Archives Council for Scotland, Vice Chair of the Financial Services Records Management Forum and as an Expert Witness on the Panel of the UNN Expert Witness series.

More recently, Vicki received the IRMS fellowship at their recent conference. The senior level of society membership, it is designed to acknowledge the most senior and respected information professionals. There's absolutely no doubt that Vicki meets those criteria.

Antony Oliver for Distinguished Service in Archive Conservation

Antony's career began in 1979 at Staffordshire Record Office as an archives and preservation assistant. Antony's role was twofold and included producing and putting away the documents for the public and being responsible for preservation packaging and recording the environmental controls throughout the strongroom areas. Whilst doing this job Antony had a desk in the conservation studio and in between his tasks he would watch the conservators at work. The conservators (Mary Mottershead and Shirley Read) really encouraged him and gave up a lot of their time to show him different conservation techniques. He was allowed to do a bit of conservation on a series of ordnance survey maps, which then progressed to traditional paper repairs and map repairs. That is where Antony's interest in conservation came from. When the assistant conservator role became vacant, he successfully applied for the post. This is where Antony began his journey in the conservation profession. In 1988 Antony joined the then Society of Archivists Archive Conservation Training Scheme and qualified as a conservator in 1991.

Antony then moved on to Sheffield City Archives in 1999, and along with his colleagues is responsible for the conservation and preservation of the collections pertaining to the city of Sheffield, and the collections that have county wide significance. In addition to that, they provide a preservation packaging and conservation service for the local studies library, and provide an advisory service to the rest of the library wide departments within the city.

They also provide a comprehensive preservation packaging and conservation service for other organisations and institutions, including individual members of the public.

Antony has recently worked on a project to conserve and provide bespoke conservation packaging for nine highly significant, early modern documents that reflect the political influence of the Devonshire Family of Chatsworth House. This project was funded with a grant from the National Manuscripts trust and the Golden Bottle trust. Antony was able to conserve 9 parchment documents, some with appended seals that also required conservation treatment. These historic items were then provided with bespoke protective packaging designed by Antony to provide support and protection during storage and handling. Antony was also able to provide some training to the volunteers working at

Chatsworth house who will be handling these and other similar items. This training has also enabled the volunteers to begin cleaning and packaging some of the other collections belonging to the estate. Antony has also provided training to the preservation team at Chatsworth House who are carrying out a large survey of 1500 maps, with the help of their training they are now able to condition survey, clean and package these maps appropriately.

Antony is also the chair of the ARA's Preservation and Conservation Group committee. This has been a role Antony has held for 4 years. During his time as Chair he has worked tirelessly on the improvement of sustainability of the conservation profession. Antony has long been concerned with the demand on the profession in times of budgetary constraints and cuts across local government. Antony has always been keen on highlighting the important work conservators do in local government institutions and has worked to improve the understanding and recognition of the profession. He has worked on the development of the ARA's Archive Conservation Training Scheme and has helped increase the awareness of the training and its value across the sector by getting involved in numerous events including an advocacy event for the All Parliamentary Committee on Archives at the Houses of Parliament.

Taking on the chair role just before the Covid 19 pandemic, Antony managed to keep the PCG committee connected and kept the PCG group informed with the most up to date and relevant information with regards to best practice and working through the challenges conservation professionals faced during the pandemic. He also managed to keep the Preservation and Conservation Group spirits up by arranging virtual discussions, quizzes and always provided a stellar soundtrack to all events, from his life-long love of vinyl! He has supported the use of social media to promote the conservation profession and the work of the PCG, despite it being a thing of mystery to him personally! Antony supported the appointment of Julie Bon as a board member which has been a key advance in our visibility and stature as a group. He's proved himself to be a terrific advocate for the PCG and conservation members of the ARA at board level.

Antony also worked as the organiser of the conservation stream of the ARA conference for many years and provided some wonderful programmes involving varied and knowledgeable speakers on subjects pertinent to the profession. Antony always excelled in communication with colleagues across the profession and ensured that the conservation stream maintained a practical element to the programme, which was something members of the ARA wanted. He has always been able to seek out the most appropriate and relevant topics for lecture and discussion. This strength has also been a huge asset to the Archive Conservation Training Scheme, and his sound, considered and diplomatic advice has always helped progress the movement and development of the training scheme to where it is today.

Antony is currently acting as external examiner for the ARA Conservation training scheme (ACTS) and will also act as an assessor on the next round of trainee portfolio assessments in July 2023. Antony's many professional book reviews have helped inform acquisitions to the Conservation Library, including his thorough review of 'Paper and Water, A guide for Conservators by Gerhard Banik and Irene Bruckle, now a core book for the Archive Conservation Training Scheme.

He has provided many talks and training events covering core conservation and preservation topics. He's provided a talk during ARA conference in 2014, Gateshead on Basic

Conservation Techniques for Archivists; helping to provide basic information to non-conservation professionals within the record keeping sector. He also helped organise a touring training event on preservation handling, which provided training in various institutions around the UK, aimed at both conservators and archive professionals.

He facilitates others to speak and act, is diplomatic, supportive and approachable, has the courage to grasp onto things that are difficult and see them through levelly and without rancour and has conservation and the interests of conservators at his core.

Sally McInnes for Distinguished Service in Archives

Sally is the Head of Unique and Contemporary Content at the National Library of Wales (NLW). She gained the Diploma in Archive Administration from Aberystwyth University in 1988 and an MPhil for her research on records management in the context of change, also from Aberystwyth, in 1999. Having gained pre-course experience in Bristol Record office, her first professional post was as Assistant Archivist in Carmarthenshire Archives in 1988, following which she joined the National Library of Wales in 1989.

Sally has made an incredible contribution to the work of the National Library of Wales over a career which has spanned almost 34 years. Starting as an Assistant Archivist, working on a collections of deeds relating to the Manley family of Erbistock, before moving on to work on a number of high profile collections, some of which posed difficult and challenging questions of the archivist responsible for their cataloguing. Sally became fluent in the Welsh language and has worked effectively at all levels of the organisation using both languages.

Sally's expertise and experience was crucial in the development of the partnership between the then National Assembly for Wales (now the Welsh Parliament) and the National Library of Wales, as a project was developed to fully scope and develop an action plan for the Assembly's management of current and semi-current records and for the long term archiving of the Assembly's records in the National Library. These records are a complex mix of paper files, digital files and analogue cassettes.

Following over ten years of working in the Archives and Manuscripts Section, Sally moved to work in the Library's new Systems Section, ensuring that archivist's perspective was central to the implementation the archives component of the Library's new Library management system.

In 2010 Sally was appointed Head of Collection Care and in 2015, took on the responsibility for the new department of Unique Collections and Collection Care which included the former Archives and Manuscripts section. Sally has led on the very important work of gaining and maintaining the National Library of Wales's Archive Service Accreditation, the UK standard for archive service, and has ensured that the work of archives has a strong voice in strategic decision making at the highest level of the organisation.

The Library has faced many challenges over recent years including a devastating fire in 2013. As Head of Unique Collections and Collection Care at the time, Sally played a crucial role in

co-ordinating the recovery during the days, weeks and months that followed. Not only did Sally work tirelessly within the Library during very difficult circumstances, but she also was very pro-active in sharing the knowledge gained, and the lessons learnt with colleagues across the UK and beyond. This was done through meetings and through talks for example, Sally gave an online talk to the Society for the Study of Labour History's archives and resources committee on Disaster Planning which was attended by over 250 people.

The other enormous challenge faced by the Library, alongside every other institution, was the Covid pandemic. Sally led in a number of areas when the Covid pandemic required stay at home order for all non-essential key workers. As well as keeping in regular contact with staff at the Library she ensured that essential preservation work continued as well as supporting the development of new ways of working, under very difficult practical and financial conditions, to allow work on collections such as cataloguing and interpretation to re-start even while the most severe restrictions were still in place.

Again, as with the fire, Sally shared her knowledge with others and was an active member of a group of Heads of Conservation from the other Celtic nations who met weekly to discuss the challenges they faced and to share knowledge. Sally has been a highly valued member of the team and her colleagues from the other institutions have praised her for always being open to share documents, policies and ideas so that everyone could benefit from her expertise.

Beyond the National Library of Wales, Sally also deserves consideration for the Distinguished Service Award for her work within the profession more widely. She was instrumental in setting up the Wales Region of the then Society of Archivists in 1994 and became Wales's first Regional Representative. For more than a decade, she has made a sustained and significant contribution to the profession in Wales, the UK and internationally, playing a major role in professional bodies, including: Chair, Archives and Records Association, Wales Region, 2008-13

- Chair, Archives and Records Council Wales Digital Preservation Group, 2013-
- Advisory Board member of the Digital Preservation Coalition, 2013-
- Member of the Heads of Conservation and Science Group, 2015-
- Joint Chair WHELF Archives and Special Collections Group, 2015-2019
- Secretary, Archives and Records Council Wales, 2018-

One of Sally's great achievements has been her work to support digital preservation capacity across Wales. Since creating the first policy on preserving electronic records for the NLW in 2000, she has been a staunch advocate for digital preservation. As Chair of the Archives and Records Council Wales Digital Preservation Group and a member of the Digital Preservation Coalition Advisory Board, she has actively supported digital preservation within Wales and beyond. She developed *Kickstart Cymru* in 2021 to further advocate for digital preservation by exploiting the networking opportunities afforded by the widespread shift to digital technologies. *Kickstart Cymru* involves three distinct elements: the Saving the Bits training programme, which was open to organisations throughout Wales; an interactive Digital Deposit Co-creation session with students at Aberystwyth University and the

provision of Start Up Bundles of equipment to enable local authority services to set up workstations to support digital preservation actions.

The Saving the Bits training programme, which was delivered between June and December 2021, built on the on-going work of the National Library of Wales in securing sustainable access to digital content in Wales. The programme, designed by Sally, was underpinned by work undertaken by the National Archives and the Digital Preservation Coalition, but was innovative in the way it combined theoretical and practical issues, making reference to existing models, tools and workflows. The programme won a prestigious Digital Preservation Award for Teaching and Communication. The awards are presented by the Digital Preservation Coalition every two years to celebrate the most significant achievements by individuals and organisations in ensuring the sustainability of digital content.

Sally's work to promote archives, and the ways they are accessioned, catalogued and accessed continues. Last year, Sally led on securing funding from the Welsh Government for the appointment within the Archives Department of an Archives Decolonization Officer with the aim of ensuring that the Library's collections and activities represent all aspects of Welsh life and history, particularly underrepresented individuals and communities.

As Sally approaches her retirement we strongly believe that the Distinguished Service Award would be a wonderful acknowledgement of her incredible contribution to so many projects within the Library as well as to her contribution to the wider archives profession. She is a very highly regarded colleague and friend to so many of us at the National Library of Wales.

Distinguished Service Award Winners 2022

Michael Cook for record keeping.

Although this award is not normally offered to recipients of the Ellis Prize the Board recognised that Michael has continued to offer exceptional service to the profession beyond his receipt of that award back in 1992 and that his contribution over many decades should be recognised by the accolade of 'Distinguished Service'. He has made multiple contributions to archives, records management, education and other areas. Focussing on those achievements post 1992 he chaired the IT Group of the Society of Archivists and the Archival Description Project and was a vital contributor to the development of ISAD(G), and early standards for archival data exchange, based around the MARC format. In 1994, he was appointed as Senior Fellow in the School of History at the University of Liverpool having retired as University Archivist. He was a co-founder of the Liverpool University Centre for Archive Studies and played a significant role in convening the hugely important Political Pressure and the Archival Record conference. Michael's contribution to archival education also continued after his retirement both in the UK and worldwide. Throughout his career, Michael's contribution has both paid the attention to detail required for successful access to and exploitation of archives and recognised the widest societal impact of record-keeping work.

Declan Kelly for Archives and Records Management and specifically for the delivery of the new Lambeth Palace Library, the National Library and Archives for the Church of England.

Declan has a long and distinguished career managing a range of library, archive and records information within a number of recognised organisations, including the BBC - that contribute to the value he has brought to the profession more widely. However, it is for his role as the programme director for the construction of the new Lambeth Palace Library Lambeth Palace Library – Bibliotheca Lambethana that his team nominated him for the DSA. He not only contributed to the overall building of the new national library and archive for the Church of England - he made it happen altogether.

In ten years, Declan managed to not only programme direct multiple stakeholders with great tenacity, but also harness an inclusive environment that enabled the whole library team to feel involved in the development of the new library spaces they would eventually occupy. The new library construction was completed in late 2019, with collections moving in between pandemic lockdowns. Improvements in both the conditions of the collections and the strength of the archive's engagement programme are already being seen.

Maggie Tohill for Distinguished Service in Archives

Maggie is the current Senior Archivist for Worcestershire Archive & Archaeology Service (WAAS), the current County Record Office for Worcestershire and she has been with the service for 40 years during which she has demonstrated the utmost integrity and commitment to the archives of Worcestershire, researchers and customers of the archives, the wider profession, and her own personal development. Her achievements include a major relocation project, almost single handedly bringing the cataloguing backlog under control, developing successful funding bids, driving innovation in cataloguing, mentoring staff, trainees, work placements, students, volunteers, school work experience and Friends projects and she has recently developed archive skills workshops for local history groups.

Maggie was part of the general modernisation of the archive profession in the 1980s and 1990s, embracing new technology as it developed; tackling new legislation on access and information; developing Worcester's first Disability Audit, a conservation strategy, a prioritisation strategy for cataloguing collections, a particular interest in promoting Health and Safety in the workplace, and learning sign language.

Maggie is also a valued member of the Oral History Society and has spoken at conferences and seminars. She has also been instrumental in the development of Worcester's audio visual archives and is a leading member of the British Library's Save Our Sounds project.

Brian Smith for Distinguished Service in Archives and Recordkeeping.

Brian is the archivist of the Shetland Amenity Trust. In 1974 Brian was the first Archivist ever appointed to Shetland Islands Council, working on his own from what had previously been a single bedroom, since then he has gathered and collected and developed the service. As he grew the collection it twice moved to larger premises and now operates from a purpose

built set of rooms including a search room, offices, and larger storage area and there are also now assistants to help with the work.

As well as bringing the archive together he also has a very detailed knowledge of Shetland documents and is a prolific author. Brian is generous with his help to all comers to the archive. Many books have been published which specifically name him for thanks for support and advice during the research.

There were no awards made in 2020 or 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic

Distinguished Service Award winners 2019

David Mander, OBE is a former chair of the ARA Board of Trustees. David's long and distinguished career in records began in 1974 in Marylebone Library, City of Westminster. In 2005 David was a key figure in the establishment of Archives for London, serving as its Chair from 2005-2011. An independent voice for archives in the city, Archives for London brings together users, practitioners and enthusiasts. Its success as an advocacy body for the sector can be seen in its continuing activity and relevance.

In recent years David has provided high quality consultancy advice in archives, culture and heritage with Creative Cultures. His advice has assisted many services across the UK in their growth and development in key areas like audience development, evaluation, performance indicators, organisational reviews, volunteering, partnership working and advocacy. David's extensive and additional contribution to the ARA deserves particular mention. David helped shape and influence a number of important improvements and additions to the association, including:

- The revision of the ARA's Vision and Mission statements
- The drafting of a new, revised Code of Conduct
- The introduction of a new Supporters member category, widening the ARA's reach
- Helping revive the ARA's Northern Region in 2018, and serving as chair (current).

Debby Rohan has spent a lifetime in the conservation of archives, her dedication having both a huge positive influence on the many trainees she has guided and also in changing and modernising the profession in the UK and Ireland, and more widely. Her combined academic and practical approach has been nothing less than inspirational. She brought to her work a strong grounding in the world of craft, which ensured rigour in thinking through processes and a confidence and mastery of all materials.

Debby spent her early career in the 1980s at Wakefield Record Office, where she trained under Ken Thornton and Allen Denison, both former instructors on the (now) ARA conservation course. Many currently-practising archive conservators across the UK have benefited from her expertise and her willingness to share knowledge. She has always been pro-active in supporting, encouraging, and promoting conservation within the recordkeeping community. Her friendly and pleasant demeanour aided her teaching skills by creating a warm, inclusive and friendly environment in which to learn.

Since her recent retirement from Cambridge Archives, Debby has been working as a preservation volunteer at the Edinburgh City Archives. She has always 'given back' to the

profession throughout her working life and typically continues to give back in retirement, equally happy in a formal leadership role or working with ‘the troops’ as a volunteer. Nominated – as she was - by her senior peers, it is entirely appropriate, therefore, that Debby should be the first-ever conservator to receive a DSA.

Mark Allen, RCARA is the second-ever conservator to win a DSA! Mark began a book-binding apprenticeship in 1984 at St Deiniol’s Library (now Gladstone’s Library) in Hawarden, north Wales, working on the books and incunabula of William Ewart Gladstone. He attended college day-release at Liverpool on a City & Guilds in bookbinding and attended night classes for two years with Paul Delrue, a well-known fine-binder, in Chester. He joined Flintshire Record Office (FRO) in 1992, moving into archive conservation, and took the then Society of Archivists’ (now ARA) conservation course.

In the course of his more than 20 years at Flintshire, Mark has become the go-to specialist for conservation across Wales and beyond and is frequently asked to advise on complex conservation projects. Mark has always given – and continues to give - back to the community. His volunteers routinely take a skill away with them, such as box-making. He has run book-binding courses for all-comers, including one that ran for several weeks and enabled attendees to repair and/or re-bind their own books. He has received an “Outstanding Tutor” award from Flintshire’s adult learners. He regularly trains/mentors the student archivists at Aberystwyth University, as visiting lecturer, and teaches on training days run by MALD (the Welsh Government body for Archives, Museums and Libraries). Arguably his biggest contribution to archive conservation is his long-standing role as an instructor on the ARA conservation course book-binding and parchment-repair modules.

Mark has had a profound impact on the archive profession. He is passionate about passing on the knowledge and skills he has acquired to the next generation of conservators. His own journey demonstrates the potential for successful, ‘non-traditional’ routes into the sector. He has contributed to important advances in technique, made valuable contributions to the creation of conservation policy at local and national level, raised the profile of archive conservation amongst archive professionals and non-professionals alike; and has inspired and trained a new generation of conservators to take up the torch.

Distinguished Service Award winners 2018

Susan Healy is one of the UK’s leading policy experts on freedom of information and data protection having (among other roles) been closely involved in developing and implementing major legislation in these areas since the 1990s. Susan has also focused on translating legislation into useful advice for practitioners, playing a leading role in developing a data protection Code of Practice for UK recordkeepers in the aftermath of the 1998 UK Act. She later led the 2009 revision of the records management Code of Practice under the UK Freedom of Information Act. Recently, Susan has been a leading commentator and adviser on the new EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and given her time selflessly to helping colleagues – in the UK and Ireland – prepare for the new legislation. In addition, Susan has been part of the editorial team of the ARA Grade 1 research journal *Archives and Records*, which has seen a rapid growth in downloads across the globe in recent years, in no small part due to the professionalism and dedication of Susan and her colleagues.

Elsbeth Reid has spent most of her career in the local government sector, becoming archivist for Falkirk District Council in 1992, where she took the service to new heights and led her team to achieve UK Archive Accreditation in March 2014, the first Scottish service to do so. Elspeth also advocated successfully for a records management service for the Council, well before the obligations of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act, 2002. She was again at the fore-front of innovation in the introduction of EDRMS records management systems in Falkirk in 2006. Elspeth has also been a committed mentor, adviser on vocational distance learning courses, and developer of work experience programmes. More widely in Scotland, she was a Commissioner of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) from 2008-2015 and involved in the formation of Historic Environment Scotland. Selfless, professional to the core, Elspeth epitomises energy, initiative, and commitment to professional ethics and values.

Margaret Turner has shown distinguished service in leading the team of volunteers that runs the ARA university accreditation scheme since 1995, which seeks to ensure that archives and records courses at UK and Irish universities maintain and improve standards in line with the needs of the wider profession and help prepare students for the workplace. But she also has an outstanding record of service, as for example Head of Sheffield Archives, and in modernising and changing the approach and thinking of the sector more broadly, at policy and executive level, and with grass-roots professionals. Internationally, Margaret has also helped innumerable professionals from other countries develop and enhance their expertise through her work in support of the International Council on Archives (ICA)

Distinguished Service Award winners 2017

Lesley Richmond became Director of Archive Services at the University of Glasgow in 2001 after an extensive career in the business archives and records world, including as the first-ever archivist employed by Racal-Chubb in the 1980s (part of what is now Vodafone). Her distinguished career in the university sector has included 30 years at Glasgow University and responsibility for the management of the University archives, which date back to the fifteenth century, the non-current “business records” of the University, and one of the largest collections of business archives in Europe. Ms Richmond retired in 2016.

Aideen Ireland was only the second professionally-trained archivist to be employed by the Public Record Office of Ireland. She graduated with an archives diploma from University College, Dublin in 1974. Aside from her extensive work at the National Archives of Ireland and across the sector during a distinguished career, Aideen has also served as a member of the council, as president and as fellow of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland and as council member and fellow of the Royal Society of Antiquaries, London. Ms Ireland retired in 2016.

Distinguished Service Award Winners 2016

ARA announces joint inaugural winners of its Distinguished Service Award

Kim Collis (West Glamorgan Archive Service), Steve Connelly (Perth & Kinross Council Archive) & Dr Ray Refaüssé (Church of Ireland’s RCB Library)

The ARA’s awards panel, a group of senior members, selected **Dr Raymond Refaüssé** of the Church of Ireland’s Representative Church Body (RCB) Library, **Stephen Connelly** of Perth & Kinross Council Archive in Scotland and **Kim Collis** of West Glamorgan Archive Service in

Wales. The panel therefore decided unanimously that all three should receive the inaugural award.

Steve Connelly has been council archivist at Perth and Kinross Council since 1978. Since 1989 he has been a member of the Archivists of Scottish Local Authorities Working Group (ASLAWG) – helping archive services across Scotland - as well as being its former Chair. Since 1997 he has been a Fellow of Society of Antiquaries of Scotland and was, from 2001-2005 Director of Scottish Urban Archaeology Trust Ltd. Locally, Steve has been a member of the Abertay Historical Society since 1980, as well as being a former president and vice-president of the society. He is currently also a member of the Scottish Council on Archives. His nomination reads:

“Steve was one of the first local authority archivists in Scotland to use the Manpower Services Commission Youth Opportunities Scheme to (help set) up the (Council) archive (in 1978). He has continued to offer work experience opportunities to the unemployed and those with disabilities, making the archive truly relevant to the community. He (has also) added to - and built up - the archive’s holdings from both the Council and private sources.

Throughout his time as Council Archivist he has given numerous talks promoting the Council Archives and their value to society. (Examples include) ... a chapter on “Arthur Kinmond Bell” for *the Ten Taysiders – Forgotten Figures from Dundee, Angus & Perthshire* (published by Abertay Historical Society in 2011), and... extensive research on Polish troops in Perth and Kinross during the Second World War. Steve... is known to staff at the A K Bell Library (where the Archive is situated) as the ‘oracle’: his knowledge of the... area being so vast. He will be sorely missed when he retires at the end of March 2016.”

Kim Collis began his career in 1985 at the then Public Record Office before taking up posts at Shell International, Tate Gallery Archive, Warwickshire County Council, the Library of the Society of Friends and Sheffield City Archives. Since 1992, he has worked at the West Glamorgan Archive Service. From 2005-2011, he was vice-chair and then chair of the Archives and Records Council Wales. He has also been chair of the project board of the ground-breaking *Cynefin (Wales Sense of Place)* project since 2012. Kim’s award nomination reads:

“Kim has made a major contribution to the development of archive services in Wales since 1992. Kim produced *West Glamorgan Archive Service: a guide to the Collections* in 1998 and created the first version of the archive service’s web site in 1999, which may have been the first local authority archive website in Wales. Successive years have seen a steady rise in visitors, an online catalogue, a service to schools and an interactive portal to the service’s screen and sound archives.

Kim (is) an able innovator, a highly-capable service manager and a diplomatic and energetic leader. His persistence and creativity were vital to the success of the Heritage Lottery Fund *Cynefin* bid,... an online showcase based on digitising all the Welsh tithe maps, using crowd sourcing to support transcription and geo-referencing and linking the web site to... related digitised sources, including other historic maps. The project included six local projects... (such as) recording ancient woodland in West Glamorgan and public houses in mid-Wales...

(B)oth his paid work and his extensive voluntary contribution deserves the recognition and acclamation of us as his professional colleagues.”

Ray Refaüssé served as Assistant Librarian in the Department of Manuscripts at Trinity College, Dublin from 1976 to 1981. He was appointed the first Church of Ireland archivist at the Representative Church Body (RCB) Library (the Church’s records repository) in 1981. Following the retirement of the Librarian three years later, he became the first combined Librarian and Archivist in 1984, a position he will hold until his retirement in June 2016.

During his time at the RCB, Ray established and professionalised the archives of the Church of Ireland in Ireland, including securing agreement with the Public Record Office of Ireland (now the National Archives) that the RCB Library was the appropriate place of custody for Church of Ireland parish registers. Over 1,100 parish record collections, thousands of manuscript collections, papers of diocesan, cathedral and other central administrative records of the Church at all levels have been secured, stored and catalogued during his tenure. Ray has also pioneered public access to this material through the establishment of an exemplary publication scheme since the early 1990s. Ray’s nomination reads:

“Ray has been a long-standing advocate for the profession in Ireland. In 1988 he co-edited with Seamus Helferty the first ever Directory of Irish Archives and jointly continued this service through to the publication of the Directory’s fifth edition in 2011. Ray served as Regional Councillor of the Society of Archives (SoA) Ireland between 1984 and 1986 and as Chairman between 1987 and 1990. He has been a Member of the National Archives Advisory Council, the body overseeing the work of the National Archives of Ireland, since 2003. He has also been heavily involved in the Irish Society for Archives, a discussion and advocacy forum promoting the place of archives in Irish society, serving as Chairman since 2001.

“(Ray’s long) involvement in and commitment to (many) different aspects of the Irish archival profession... attests to his own commitment to archives in Ireland (and) his understanding of the need for Irish archivists to connect as professionals and with the broader user community. In the course of his career, (Ray) has made a genuinely distinguished contribution both to his own archive and to the profession generally. He (therefore) deserves recognition at the highest level.”