

# ARCHIVES

## Coventry archives

by **M.J. Hinman**

Coventry Archives' collection area covers the present city, so includes suburbs which have had their own local party and ward organisations, as in Foleshill and Earlsdon.

The Liberal Party was stronger in the city than were the Conservatives during the nineteenth century, but it declined during the 1920s to the extent that an informal electoral pact was made with them, formalised as the Progressive Party in 1936, which lasted until 1949.

Records held relate to the Coventry Liberal Association, 1895–1929 (PA68); Coventry Liberal Club, 1873–79 and 1968–70 (liquidation) (PA 1189, 1554); Coventry Progressive Party, 1941–47 (PA585, 937); Foleshill Liberal Club, 1912–14 (PA752); Liberal Party, Earlsdon branch, 1984–89 (PA1408); and Social Democratic Party, 1981–88 (PA1250, 1279, 1305). There

are also magazines for Foleshill and North-East Warwickshire Liberals, 1885–87 (PA 1749); and lecture-notes and correspondence of Alderman W.H. Grant, 1890–1931 (PA159).

All the above collections are open for immediate inspection except those of the Earlsdon branch, permission to view which must be obtained until 31 December 2009, inclusive, from the secretary of Coventry Liberal Democrats.

- Address: Mandela House, Bayley Lane, Coventry CV1 5RG
- Tel: 024 7683 2418 Fax: 024 7683 2421
- Email: archives@coventry.gov.uk
- Web: www.coventry-city.co.uk/archives/home.htm
- Open Monday 9.30 – 8; Tuesday – Friday 9.30 – 4.45

## The London Liberal Foundation and London Liberal Party records held at London Metropolitan Archives

by **Nicola Avery**

The London Liberal Foundation was formed in 1903 to assist in maintaining Liberal Associations in the London area, to secure candidates, and to further political education. Its name was changed to the London Liberal Party during a general

reorganisation in October 1943.

Records of the London Liberal Foundation were deposited at London Metropolitan Archives on long-term loan on 26 February 1979. These consist of council and committee minutes 1920–62, accounts 1930–35

and a committee meeting attendance register 1970–75. The deposit also included minutes of the Holborn Liberal Association 1903–07, minutes of the Peckham and Camberwell Liberal Association 1947–54 and an account book of the Willesden Liberal Association 1965–66. A catalogue of these records is available at London Metropolitan Archives under reference number ACC/1446, and the records themselves are open for consultation.

An additional deposit was received on 13 September 1995, consisting of further minute books, account books and administration and correspondence files dating from 1964 to 1988. This deposit has not yet been catalogued, however, and is therefore available for consultation only with 48 hours notice.

- London Metropolitan Archives is based in Islington, at 40 Northampton Road, London, EC1R 0HB.
- Tel: 020 7332 3820
- email: ask.lma@corpoflondon.gov.uk

- Web: www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/lma
- Details of how to get to the record office are on our website.
- Opening hours: 9.30 – 4.45 Monday, Wednesday and Friday; 9.30 – 7.30 Tuesday and Thursday

We are also open 9.30 – 4.45 on selected Saturdays during the year. These are usually the second and fourth Saturdays in the month, but it is best either to check the website or phone in advance of a Saturday visit to confirm that we are open.

A reader's card is not required to visit the record office.

Catalogued material can be accessed via the catalogues which are all on open access in our public rooms. Original documents can be ordered from these catalogues and will be produced from our strongrooms approximately 20 minutes later.

At present there is no web access to our catalogues so remote ordering is not possible.

## Email mailing list

If you would like to receive up-to-date information on the Liberal Democrat History Group's activities, including advance notice of meetings, and new History Group publications, you can sign up to our email mailing list: visit the History Group's website (www.liberalhistory.org.uk) and fill in the details on the 'Contact' page.

## Media update: volunteer wanted

One of the services we aim to provide via the website is a guide to media sources, including:

- A bibliography of articles on the Liberal Democrats in the main newspapers and magazines
- Articles in academic journals on the Liberal Democrats
- Articles of historical interest in the main Liberal Democrat journals (*Liberal Democrat News*, *Liberator*, *Reformer*)

Unfortunately the individuals who first collected this data for us are no longer available, and the listings exist only for 1988–96 (for the first two) and 1995–98 (for the third).

Anyone who would like to volunteer to update and maintain any of these listings would be very welcome: please contact the Editor at journal@liberalhistory.org.uk.