



# RHN Archives Service

## Our history and heritage collections



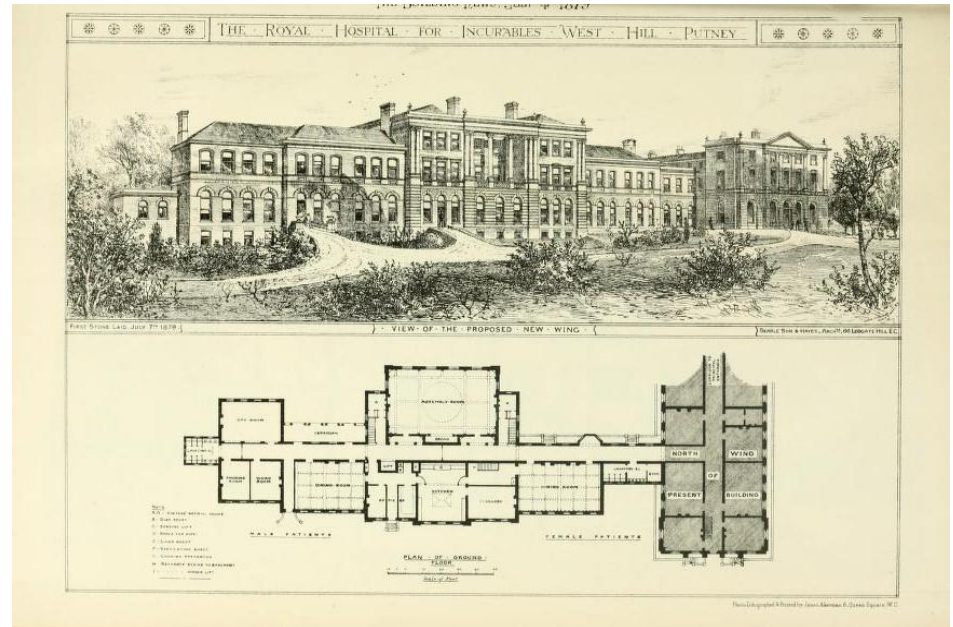
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# Royal Hospital of Incurables was founded in 1854



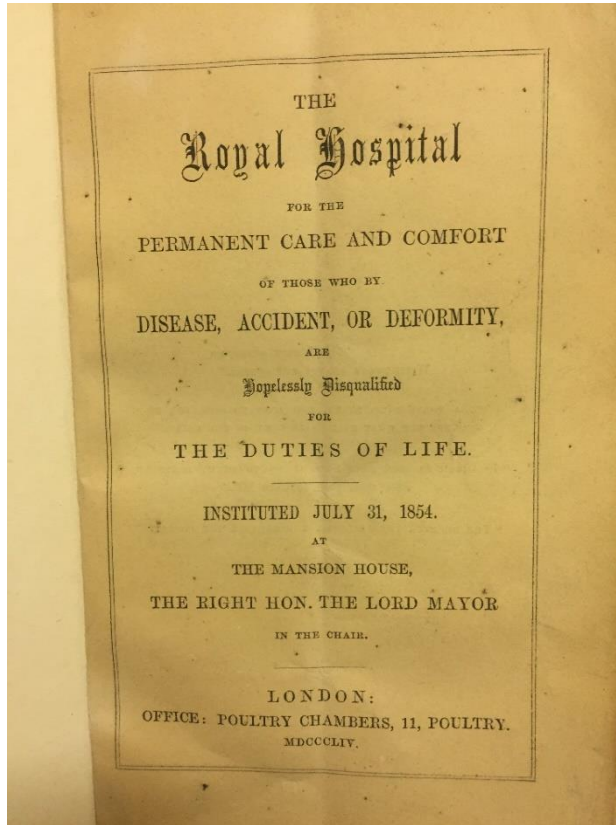
*Andrew Reed*



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# First Hospital appeal (1854)



For permanent care and comfort of persons who are “hopelessly disqualified for life”

Article III: That the DESIGN, therefore is, not to interfere with the action of existing charities; but to take action where *their action ceases*.

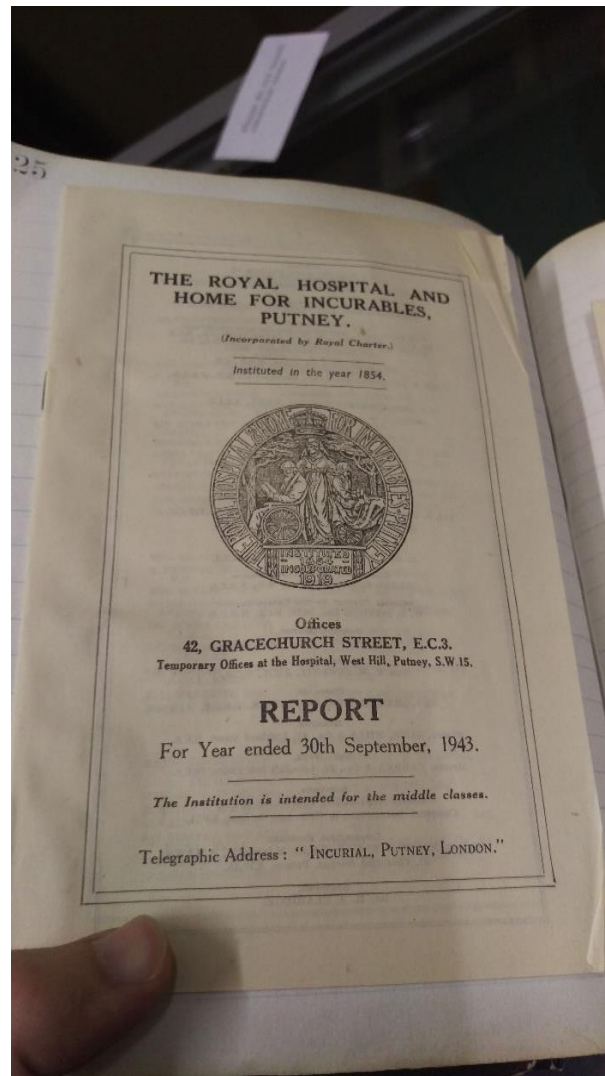
It will not provide for *temporary* affliction, which is excellently supplied by our great hospitals; but that is which is *permanent* and *continuous*, for which there is now no *provision*.

It will not deal with the hopeful cases, but with hopeless; and provide, in a hospital, a final home for such as would otherwise be the rejected and outcast of mankind.



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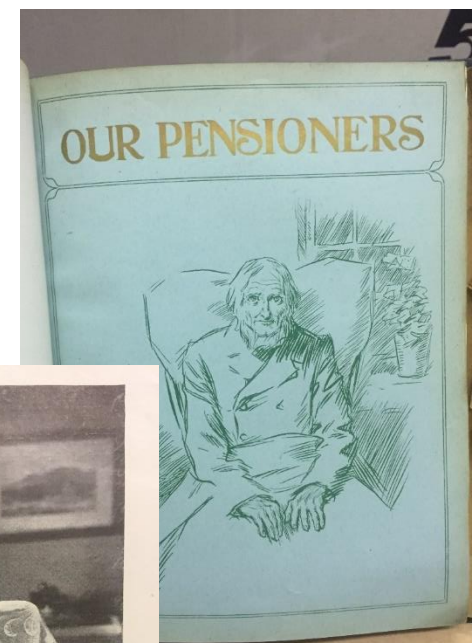
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# Patients

- Out-patients, 'pensioners', across UK, c. 700 patients
- In-patients, 'inmates', mostly local area, c. 260 patients
- Majority admitted by election



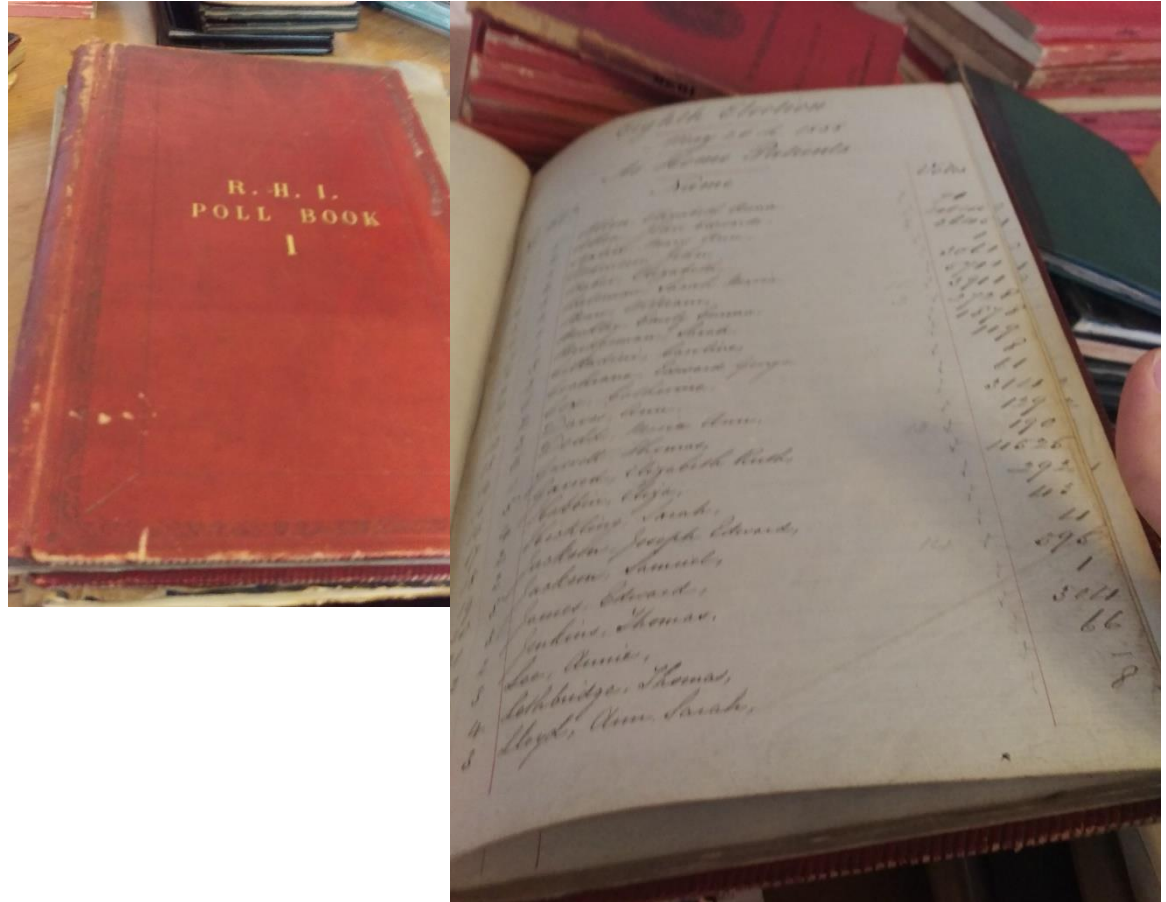
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# Election System (1854-1951)



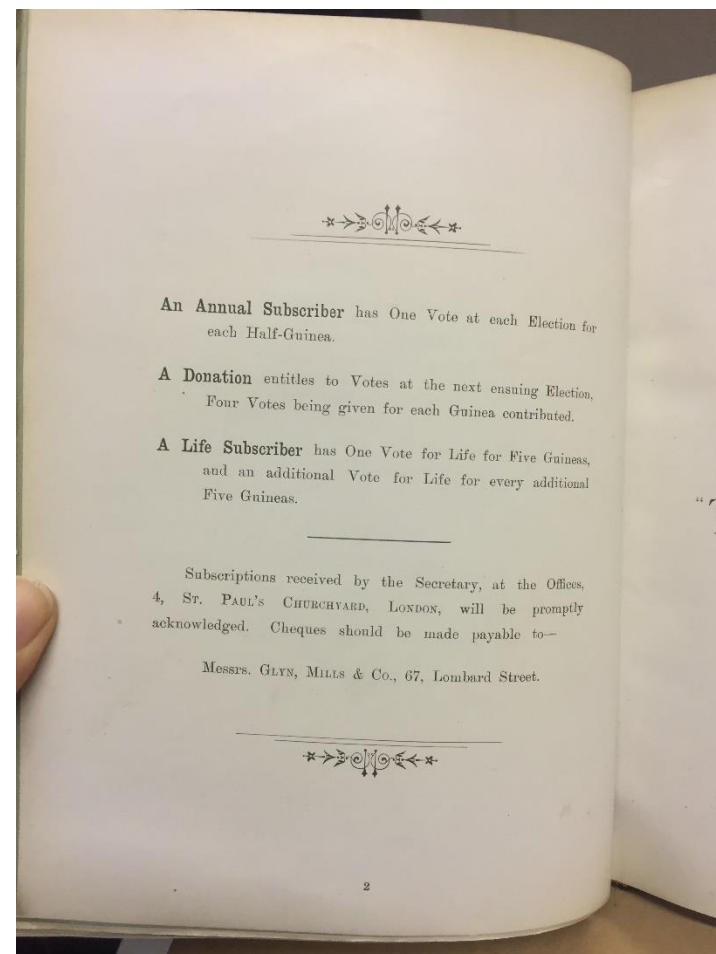
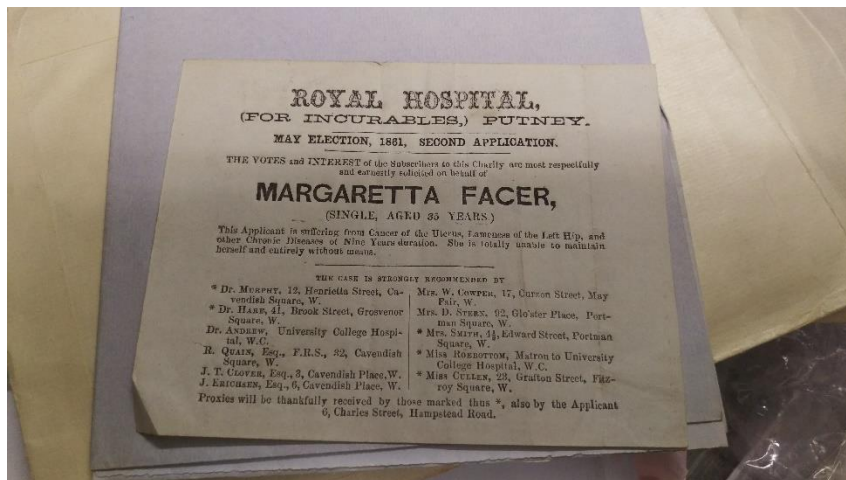
## Subscription books



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# Election System

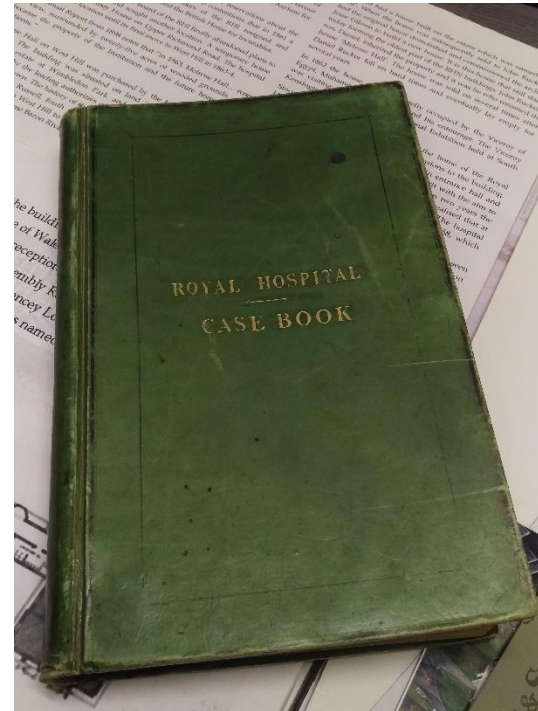


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# Case books (1854-2000s)

- 27 volumes, over 20,000 applicants
- Entries include family history, social background and medical conditions of applicant
- Includes further details of admitted patients



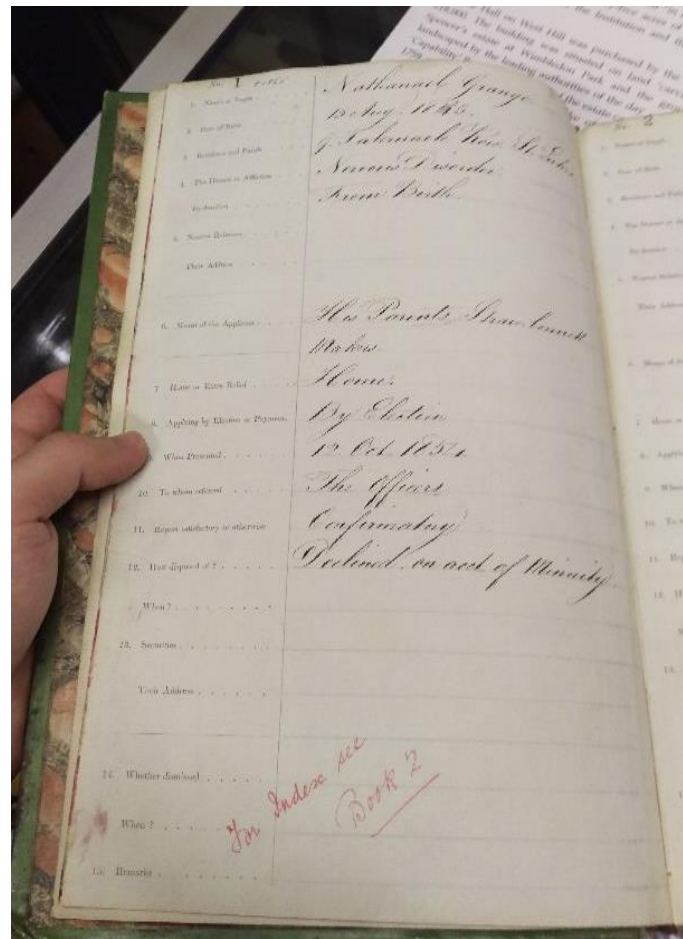
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# First applicant: Nathaniel Grange

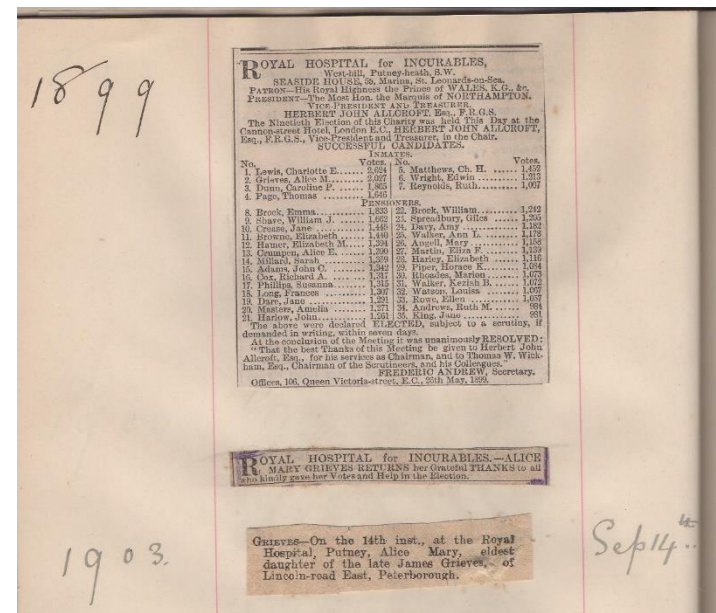
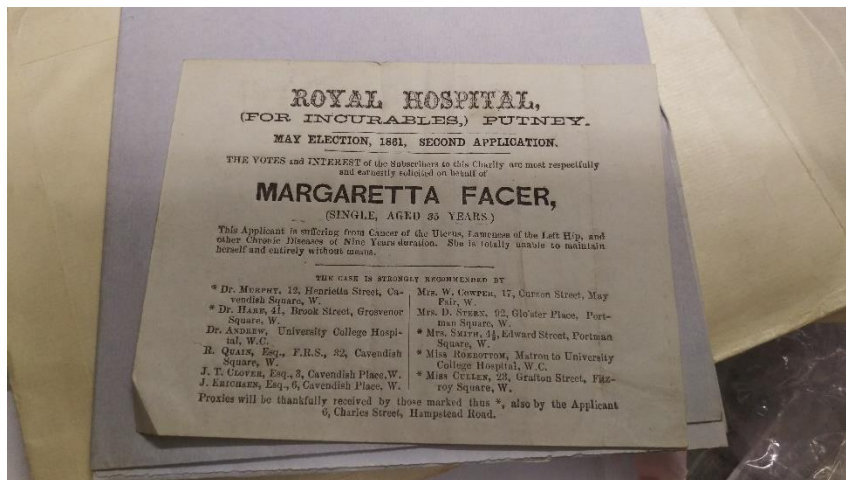
- who lived near Shoreditch.
- suffered from a nervous disorder since birth.
- supported by his parents, who were straw bonnet makers.
- His admission was declined.



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# Polling card



Example of a voting card for Margaretta Facer, Press cuttings of election result aged 35, for the 1861 election.

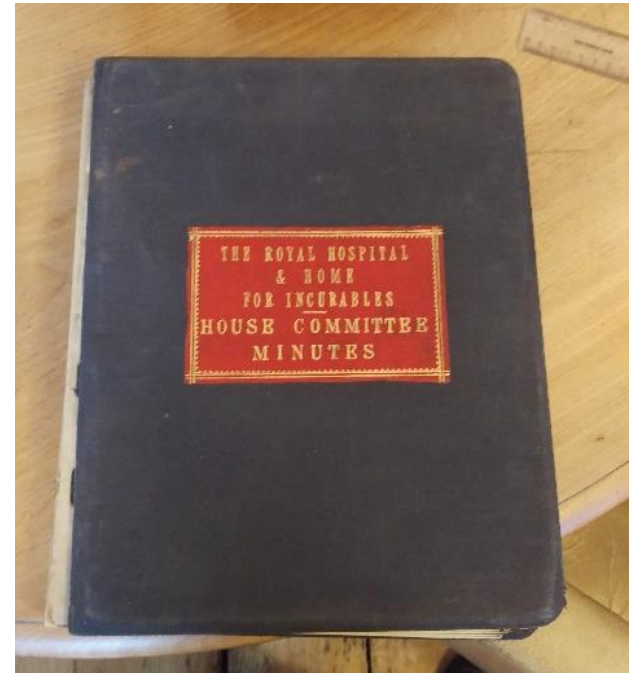


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# House Committee Minutes

- 1854-1970s
- Matron, Steward and Secretary reported weekly
- Includes information about patients, staff and issues about the estate



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# Medical casenotes

- 4 volumes
- Covering patients admitted between c.1900-1920
- Detailed case notes, including photographs of patients



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# Beatrice Nowell

- Beatrice Nowell
- Born on the 23rd March 1860
- Former hospital nurse at St Bartholomew's Hospital
- Admitted in 1905, died in 1945.
- Previously lived as a sister in religious order



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# RHN Archives

- 1854- present
- 200 standard boxes (25 linear metres)
- Contains bound volumes, loose papers, photographs and artefacts



*Our New Ambulance*

(PHOTO BY M. A. HOSSAIN, B.A.)



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# Aims of the archives

1. To provide long-term preservation, management and access to the RHN archive collections.
2. To ensure that valuable information relating to the RHN's past and present is not lost.
3. That our collection be available to access to local and national communities.



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# Disability History Archive at the Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability



- The Hospital has been awarded an HLF grant of £69700 to develop the archive service at the RHN
- The grant will provide funding for cataloguing, conservation and digitisation of the RHN archive collection.
- It will also involve extensive public engagement programme, featuring school visits, art therapy workshops and many other events for the general public.
- The project will begin in December 2019 and run until November 2021.



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# What are our plans in 2020

- To **catalogue our current archives** and publish our catalogue online .
- To establish a **reading room service** for internal and external researchers.
- To promote the service through **outreach activities**.



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# Future goals of the service

- Building an audience
- Filling in the gaps in the collection
- Working towards becoming more a disability friendly research service



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# For further information

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Thank you for listening!



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