

WHERE DO I START?

- If you are researching a street that sounds like someone's name, **put the name and Witney into a search engine and see what comes out.** You will often be directed to <https://www.british-history.ac.uk>
- Ask around. Your best resource for local stories is your community. Chat to your friends, family, colleagues.
- Consult the papers. Newspapers are an extraordinary resource, not only for the articles documenting the events and issues of the day, but also the letters to editors, announcements and advertisements.
- Check local history books (there are lots of them!)
- **The British Newspaper Archive** holds millions of pages from local and regional newspapers dating from the 1700s. You can search for results and view your first 3 documents in full for free – though you will need to register with the site first. They hold copies of the Gazette from the beginning of the 1900s.
- **Explore online archives.** Archives hold the most incredible stories and there's lots of help to guide you through the records.
- **Archives Hub** is a vast index of potential sources (and stories!) gathered from 300+ institutions across the UK, to help you find what else is out there, and they have a great beginner's guide.
- **The National Archives 'Discovery'** holds records from over 2,500 archives with subject-specific research guides to help you and can help with researching houses <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/houses/>
- **Visit your local history centres,** library or museum, it's a treasure trove of local historical information. Many places now also have the option to search their collections online.
- **There are also lots of physical documents available in Oxford. To find these visit this page** <https://apps2.oxfordshire.gov.uk/srvheritage/basicSearch>
Type Witney in the search box and enter and then click on the link that says local studies catalogue and start browsing. It has information on particular areas of Witney, pubs and some older buildings and houses. You cannot view these documents on line and need to make an appointment to go and see them.