

Councillor Ken Thornber CBE  
Hampshire County Council  
The Castle,  
Winchester  
Hampshire  
SO23 8ZB

7 December 2009

Dear Cllr Thornber

**The Broadlands Archive**

We are due to meet next week but I wanted to write in advance to bring to your attention a pressing matter concerning the sale of the Broadlands Archives, one of the University Library's foremost collections of manuscripts and one of the UK's more important family and estate archives.

The papers have a special resonance for the county of Hampshire and are well used by members of the local community: they are also a resource of immense importance internationally — and many researchers from across the world come to the University of Southampton to work on them.

The Trustees of the Broadlands Archives have determined to sell the archive, motivated by the need to fund building work at Broadlands House. The net price of the archive is large at approximately £2.85 million and we understand we have only about 5 months to raise this sum. The Trustees have indicated to us that if the sale does not proceed, they will consider offering the collection at auction. This would almost certainly result in the collection being broken up and dispersed, probably outside the UK.

The University is making an unprecedented effort to raise the funds from a wide range of potential sources. We will also be giving local people an opportunity to see the collection and to hear about it. Although we are looking for public engagement with the fundraising, we will also need support from government and government agencies. In this context I would like to ask Hampshire County Council to consider making a gift towards the purchase.

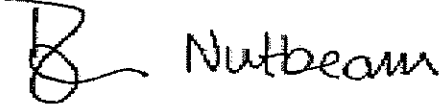


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The Broadlands Archives form an extraordinary collection of papers including the Mountbatten papers as well as those of Palmerston family. They are a crucial part of Hampshire's heritage, of international importance, and we believe it is imperative that we ensure their safety for future generations. I very much look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink. The first part is a stylized, cursive 'D' that loops back under itself. To the right of this symbol, the name 'Nutbeam' is written in a clear, cursive script.

Professor Don Nutbeam

Vice-Chancellor