“WHOSE HISTORY IS IT ANYWAY?”

Saturday 18th January, 1000 - 1500

Dartmoor National Park HQ Conference Room, Parke,
Bovey Tracey, TQ13 9JQ

This seminar will explore the differences between the archives held by community and local history groups on and around Dartmoor, their relationship with professional archives and their future development.

A community archive is the collective memory of the social history of a village or town. History is not just about kings and queens, wars or great national events – every family or community has a story worth telling and without the collections of photographs, oral history tapes and transcripts; documents, maps, minute books of societies, copies of parish magazines, council minutes etc., in local archives this history would be lost forever. To adapt the words of Rowland Parker in *The Common Stream*, community archives are the story “of the ordinary men and women who in their countless thousands have trudged through life and then departed from it, leaving little visible trace. That little, multiplied a million-fold, constitutes a large slice of what we call our national heritage.”

There are some twenty five local history groups who attend the annual Dartmoor Local History Day organised by the Dartmoor National Park Authority. Of these at least fifteen hold an archive of one sort or another. Some are recently established but others have been in existence for up to 50 years.

The seminar will consider

- the different approaches to archiving local history in the area including physical and virtual archives;
- the statutory responsibilities for collecting, collating and storing;
- how the material is collected;
- how the material is looked after and to what standards;
- how the material is made available to the public and researchers;
- the relationship with Record Offices and other professional archives.

The aim of the seminar is to explore

- ways to expand access to the material held by community archives;
- the relationship between the sector and professional archives;
- how the sector can be supported in the future.
AGENDA

Seminar Chair
Emma Stockley, Community Heritage Officer, Dartmoor National Park

1000 Registration and coffee

1030 Welcome

1040 Key note address
DR NICK BARRATT
President of the Community Archives and Heritage Group

An English genealogist and Director of Senate House Library at the University of London. Nick is best known as genealogical consultant for series 1 to 4 of the BBC show Who Do You Think You Are? Barratt is the CEO of Sticks Research Agency and personal heritage site Nations Memory Bank. He also presents Live the Dream: As Seen on TV with Melissa Porter

1115 Case studies from Dartmoor Community Archives
- Judy Moss, Chagford Local History Society Archives
- Bill Hardiman, Moretonhampstead History Society
- Anne Goulborn and Steve Parker, The Valiant Soldier Archives, Buckfastleigh

1205 The view from the professional archives
- Tim Powell, Sector Development Manager South West, The National Archives
- Brian Carpenter, Community Learning Officer, Devon Archives and Local Studies Service

1245 Lunch

1330 Other areas of interest
- Abi Gray, Curator, Devon Rural Archive
- Tony Clark, Chairman of The Dartmoor Trust
- Katherine Chant, Chair, The Friends of Devon Archives

1420 Questions and Panel Discussion
Discussion to include consideration of:
- ways to expand access to the material held by community archives
- the relationship between the sector and professional archives
- how the sector can be supported in the future

1500 Close

Attendance is free but it is necessary to book your place on this seminar via EVENTBRITE via this link: [https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/whose-history-is-it-anyway-community-archives-seminar-tickets-75995409315](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/whose-history-is-it-anyway-community-archives-seminar-tickets-75995409315) Please book by December 16th in order for us to confirm catering arrangements.

Places are limited to 2 people per group, however, we may be able to include additional people nearer the date of the Seminar.

Further information can be obtained from Lee Bray lbray@dartmoor.gov.uk or Peter Mason: peter@moormasons.plus.com