

Devon History News



NEWSLETTER OF THE DEVON HISTORY SOCIETY



Illustration: Section of the 'Northern Rye', a piece of handwritten early legal music (of NORFOLK) from the 15th century. Printed by kind permission of North Devon Record Office.

Devon History News

From the Editor

There is a definite 'North Devon' feel about this second issue of our newsletter. Tim Whittington, Principal Archivist at Barnstaple North Devon Record Office, describes some of the resources that are available to researchers and also discusses some of their recent projects. Then Stephen Hobbs explains his current work of compiling an index of the papers of the Society family of Harland Abbey, thought to be one of the largest private archives in Devon.

Chris Jago
Editor
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Annual General Meeting

The 18th Annual General Meeting of the Devon History Society will be held on Saturday 11th October 2022 in the Lecture Theatre G16, Peninsula Medical School, St Luke's Campus, Exeter. Details are given in the enclosed sheet. All are welcome.

Devon Book of the Year

The Book of the Year announcement will be taking place at the 2022 AGM. This year the announcement of the Devon Book of the Year 2021, sponsored by Devon County Council, will take place on Saturday November 16th at 2.30pm in the Main Room, Exeter Central Library, Castle Street, Exeter during the Westcountry Studies Library's Local History Day.

From the Treasurer

The Society's financial situation continues to be satisfactory, although it could take only one or two busy days to change this. However, unless there is a catastrophic drain on the Society's reserve funds, I do not envisage having to recommend an increase in the subscription cost during the foreseeable future. As ever, I am grateful to those members who pay their subscriptions by standing order and to those who participate in the Gift Aid scheme.

Sahnu Bhanji
treasurer@devonhistory.org.uk

People and Landscapes - 2009 Conference

The Devon History Society in conjunction with the Devonshire Association and the Devon and Cornwall Record Society, is sponsoring a two-day conference on April 8th and 9th 2009 on the theme, 'People and Landscapes'. This event will be held at St Luke's Campus, University of Exeter.

The conference will be held on the Society's Spring and Summer meetings at Babacombe and Woodbury and East Chulmleigh. Details of the conference and re-opening of Exeter's St Nicholas' Priory. Notice is given of a two day conference to be held on 4th and 5th April 2020 on the theme, 'People and Landscapes', at St Luke's campus of the University of Exeter. Finally, the programmes of two of the Society's affiliated groups are featured.

Malcolm Todd

Westcountry Studies Library Local History Day

On Saturday 8th November 2020, the Westcountry Studies Library are hosting a Local History Day. Various organisations have been invited including the Devon Record Office and the Devonshire Association. During the afternoon's programme will be made to the visitor of the Devon History Book of the Year. Refreshments will be available. For more information please call 01392 384514.

Malcolm Todd

- Spring Meeting -

The Society's spring meeting was held this year for Babacombe and St. Michael's Head Local History Society, when a number of fascinating visits and presentations were held. A special visit was made to the Babacombe Bookshop, which is a premier of the recent Devonshire Association. The Babacombe Bookshop is a premier of the recent Devonshire Association. The Babacombe Bookshop is a premier of the recent Devonshire Association.

- Summer Meeting -

Members enjoyed a recent summer visit to Woodbury History Society, where in addition to a varied programme, a number of fascinating visits and presentations were held. A special visit was made to the Babacombe Bookshop, which is a premier of the recent Devonshire Association.

The North Devon Record Office

The North Devon Record Office is the recognised repository for archive collections relating to the northern Devon area, and holds historical documents dating from the twelfth century through to the present day. These include records of the ancient boroughs of Barnstaple, Bideford, South Molton and Great Torrington and Church of England parishes in the Archdeaconry of Barnstaple. We also hold records of individuals, families, businesses, estates, clubs and societies, non-governmental organisations, local councils and schools.

The North Devon Local Studies Library

The North Devon Local Studies Library includes a large collection of printed books, magazines and pamphlets on a wide variety of local subjects, as well as video and audio material. It also houses a number of electronic resources, local newspapers, census returns and the International Geographical Index of parish registers for the whole of the UK.

The North Devon Antiquarian Society

The North Devon Antiquarian Society has a large collection of local and general reference books, local newspapers, illustrations, maps, parish registers, genealogical records, census returns, and a collection of audio material. It also holds the General Register Office's civil registers of births, marriages and deaths for England and Wales.

The North Devon Archaeological Society

The North Devon Archaeological Society holds around 12000 old photographs of everyday life in the northern Devon area, as well as the work of renowned north Devon photographers, James Rawlins (1859-1959). The full collection of archive

at Woodbury

at Woodbury De Dyrck Lanning's interesting presentation on the geology of Woodbury Common took us a lot further back in time, the rocks here being 200 million years old! Members also enjoyed an inspiring glimpse of the geology of Woodbury, having selected images from a collection of over 2,000 photographs collected by Roger Scales for his research 'Woodbury Village Photographs'.

The North Devon Record Office

The North Devon Record Office opened in 1988 as a branch of the Devon County Council archives service, which has its headquarters at the Devon Record Office, Exeter. It is one of a number of partner organisations forming the North Devon Local Studies Centre based in Barnstaple Library along with Devon Library and Information Service, the North Devon Advertiser and the Bedford Photographic Archive. Together, we are able to offer a comprehensive range of services, including access to our archive, family history research, and more.

negatives is stored at the North Devon Record Office

negatives is stored at the North Devon Record Office, together with a selection of prints and a card index to the historic photographs. The North Devon Local Studies Centre has housing for 14 volumes in its main building, with an additional 10 in the Record Office search room. In addition, there are a microfiche viewer, 12 microfiche viewers, 3 microfilm readers and 4 public access computers. Visitors may take advantage of up to an hour's free internet use per day for subscription access to the popular archive website for family historians. For those who are unable to visit the Centre to print or carry out research, we offer a professional research service or computer access.

More than 150,000 visitors have passed through our doors

More than 150,000 visitors have passed through our doors over the past twenty years and we look forward to welcoming every more in the years ahead!

where the Heven household is brought to life through interpretation and a Tudor Christmas event is also planned.

where the Heven household is brought to life through interpretation and a Tudor Christmas event is also planned. However, the sheer quality of the replica furnishings and the research behind the verisimilitude makes the site just as interesting as history specialists.

Official Society Contacts:

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- Editor (Devon History News): Chris Jago 01392 27369
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Events of other societies

- 04th Plymouth Society Programme 2022
- 19 September: St. Nicholas Priory (Exeter, National Trust, Devon)
- 17 October: St. Nicholas Priory (Exeter, National Trust, Devon)
- 21 November: St. Nicholas Priory (Exeter, National Trust, Devon)
- 22 December: St. Nicholas Priory (Exeter, National Trust, Devon)
- 23 December: St. Nicholas Priory (Exeter, National Trust, Devon)
- 24 December: St. Nicholas Priory (Exeter, National Trust, Devon)

Obituary - John William Perkins

The Society has learned with regret of the death of John Perkins, who died on 15th August 2022. John was a founding member of the Devon History Society and was a devoted researcher and writer. He was born in 1911 in Devon and spent his childhood in Exeter. He was educated at Exeter College, Exeter, and then at the University of Exeter. He worked for the Devonshire Association and the Devon Record Office. He was a member of the Society from 1954 and was elected a Director in 1988. He died at Exeter on 15th August 2022.