

February 2013

Issue 11

Devon History News



• NEWSLETTER OF THE DEVON HISTORY SOCIETY •



Image Copyright Alan Hunt. This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.0 Generic Licence. To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, 171 Second Street, Suite 300, San Francisco, California, 94105, USA.

The west front of the church at Buckfast Abbey. The church was built in the early years of the 20th century by the monks themselves and took about 30 years to complete. See 2013 programme of events for details of DHS conference to be held in the Abbey Conference Centre in May.

Editor

Welcome to the latest issue of Devon History News, which I hope will have something of interest for all our members, wherever you are in the county. There is an update from the Devon Heritage Service (previously the Devon Record Office) about their forthcoming open day and the launch of their Devon History Forum. Meanwhile the Plymouth and West Devon Record Office has sent details of the Plymouth History Festival taking place throughout the month of May.

We also have articles about the opening of the Devon tuberculosis sanatorium 100 years ago this year with a request to members for local information, and an orchard history project in east Devon with an invitation to local history societies in other parts of the county to attend a future meeting to learn from the group's experience and hopefully develop similar projects in their own areas.

Finally we have our usual updates from society officials and as reported elsewhere, a reminder that the Devon History Society is still looking to recruit a new treasurer.

Happy reading!

Ann Bond

Editor, Devon History News

A message from the new Chairman

The publication of the DHS 40th anniversary book (copies still available) has clearly been a major event for the society. As well as containing chapters by well-known Devon historians, it has also provided a first step in publishing for a number of previously unpublished parish historians, who may well indeed have remained unpublished had it not been for this book and the three years of work that went into preparing such a copious volume. The varied contents of the book serve as a reminder that the history world is not in fact divided between historians and consumers of history. Everyone interested in history is in the act of becoming a historian, but there are various stages in that process and not everyone is at the same stage. Some people can, as we have seen, in the right conditions and with the right encouragement, publish a fully referenced article. Others may not wish to go this far, but may, for example, find it useful to attend one of the excellent skills-based or themed training seminars which Jane Bliss has organised over the last three years. Part of the role of the DHS is surely to see where people are and encourage them to move further up the salmon leaps of historical understanding - at the risk of reversing the 'cascade of knowledge' analogy!

At the first DHS council meeting following the October AGM, four new members

were welcomed to the DHS council and it was immediately apparent that here were four equally dynamic individuals who were willing to assume responsibilities and take initiatives immediately. It may be hard for the rest of us to keep up.

The treasurer's post is currently vacant and we are very grateful to Graham Bliss for holding the fort until a new treasurer can be found. If you wish to step up for this post or recommend someone, please contact one of the society's officers.

Meanwhile, the interest in Devon history, and indeed history generally, is considerable, growing and not necessarily reflected in the current size of the DHS. New audiences need to be addressed and our commitment to our current audience confirmed. New audiences are notoriously difficult to reach but, for the first time, we now have a publicity secretary who will help the process along. We also have a very active affiliated societies secretary who is well equipped to respond to a question that is already a little easier to answer: 'what does the DHS do for us?' The publicity, affiliated societies and programme secretaries constitute an important triumvirate. Also at the heart of our work are the membership secretary, the treasurer and the editors of the newsletter and the Devon Historian. In the last instance our society will be judged by our actions and outputs, which will eventually be reflected in our membership statistics.

Phillippe Planel, Chairman

From the Membership Secretary

The Society has had a good response from members and affiliated societies regarding outstanding subscriptions and notification of email addresses, for which we are most grateful.

If you or your Local History Society have not yet notified us of your email address, please do so to the membership secretary. Contact details are on the back page.

Gerald Quinn

Robin Stanes

It is with regret that we have heard of the death of Robin Stanes who died peacefully at home on 19 January 2013, aged 90.

A full appreciation of Robin's life and involvement with the Devon History Society will appear in the next edition of Devon History News.

A few words from the programme secretary

Thanks to the indefatigable efforts of the former programme secretary, Jane Bliss (now the editor of *The Devon Historian*), the past three years have seen a huge growth in the number of events put on annually by the Devon History Society. As the new programme secretary, I will try to keep up the standards of my predecessor and ensure that members of the Society have a wide variety of events to enjoy each year. An important change this year has been the creation of the new post of booking secretary, and bookings for all events should be sent to the new Bookings Secretary, Judy Moss, and not to the programme secretary.

For 2013, there are specialised seminars in Exeter and Branscombe, a visit to view the mediaeval rood screen at the Church of St. Peter ad Vincula at Combe Martin, the spring meeting at Ottery St. Mary and the summer meeting at Poltimore House, as well as the second in the series of conferences on religion in Devon, this time on Catholics and Anglo-Catholics in Victorian Devon to be held at Buckfast Abbey Conference Centre in May. Having encountered some logistical difficulties during the 2012 AGM held on the St. Luke's Campus, University of Exeter, the AGM for 2013 has been moved to the Main (Streatham) Campus of the University and will focus on mining in Devon. An innovation in the programme this year is the holding of a skills seminar for local historians. This seminar is designed to develop skills useful to local historians, such as handling and reading local documents/elementary introduction to palaeography, exploiting cartographic resources, discovering how to make best use of local record office resources along with a session on online resources for local historians. It will be held in Plymouth in November and similar seminars are planned for the future in South Devon, North Devon and Exeter/East Devon. These skills seminars will be restricted to DHS members and members of affiliated societies.

The full programme for events in 2013 is enclosed with this newsletter along with the booking forms for the first half of the year, covering events between March and July 2013. The booking form(s) for the autumn and winter events, as well as a full programme for the AGM in October will be enclosed with the summer Newsletter.

Paul Auchterlonie,
Programme Secretary J.P.C.Auchterlonie@exeter.ac.uk

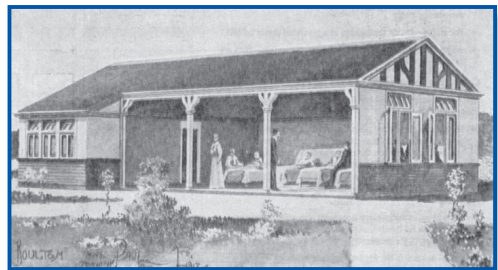
Tackling Tuberculosis in Devon, 1913 Do you have any information?

The centenary of the opening of a new sanatorium for Devon falls on 9 June 2013. Hawkmoor Sanatorium, on the road between Bovey Tracey and Moretonhampstead,

was built by Devon County Council to help tackle the major health problem of tuberculosis. In 1913 tuberculosis, graphically described by Lloyd George as a ‘grim monster ... challenging any power to save from his poisonous fangs the victims he has marked for destruction’, was still a leading cause of premature death.

1913, however, marked a major step forward. Waldorf Astor, MP for Plymouth, had chaired a committee to determine how the problem of tuberculosis could be tackled. Its radical conclusion had been that the whole community, not just those insured under the National Insurance Act, should be covered, and that comprehensive arrangements to do this should be made by local authorities.

In Devon responsibility lay with the County Council, and with Devonport, Exeter and Plymouth Borough Councils. It was under this scheme that Devon and Exeter linked together to provide the new sanatorium at Hawkmoor. On the first day it took just five patients, housed in open-air shelters, but plans were already approved for 80 beds in three ‘pavilions’.



Open Air Tuberculosis Shelter, Boulton and Paul catalogue, 1912

Dartmoor was a popular site for sanatoria because of the importance placed on good quality fresh air as part of treatment. Plymouth’s response to the new policy was to fund a wing, the King Edward VII Memorial Pavilion, at the Didworthy Sanatorium, near South Brent, run since 1903 by the local branch of the Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis.

As well sanatorium treatment, Devon County Council planned long-term care beds at Bideford, at Newton Abbot and at Tiverton, for example. Schemes already set up by local voluntary groups, such as the open-air shelters in Crediton and Tiverton, or the Mildmay Hospital in Torquay, were adopted. ‘Dispensaries’, clearing houses where patients could be assessed, were also established. Those initiated in 1913 were at Ivybank, on St David’s Hill, Exeter, and at 9 Castle Street, Barnstaple.

Some of these buildings still survive, though their original function changed once an effective drug, streptomycin, was introduced. Julian Payne has published photographs of what survives at Didworthy. Ivybank remains in the ownership of Devon County Council. Hawkmoor, however, has been demolished and replaced by a housing estate. Early photographs of it are hard to find.

Do you – or does your local history group – have any information about this phase of treatment for tuberculosis? If so, please get in touch with me via my email address or phone number shown below. If we find enough material we will publish a follow-up in August.

Julia Neville,
j.f.neville@btinternet.com or on 01392 461 157

The DHS needs you!

Could **YOU** be the new treasurer for the Devon History Society? Our treasurer, Graham Bliss, has had to give up the role because of work commitments and we need to recruit a new treasurer to take over from him. So far no one has come forward. We are very grateful that Dr Bliss is holding the fort in the short term, but we really do need to have someone in place to take over from him. If you could be our new treasurer, please contact one of the committee.



The Devon Historian

The publication of The Devon Historian in September 2012 marked the final edition of the journal under the editorship of Dr Andrew Jackson, who carried out his editorial work in addition to a heavy workload as senior lecturer at the University of Lincoln. Andrew made a huge contribution to the Society, and his helpful approach and attention to detail have been much appreciated by contributors to the journal during his eight year tenure. I am honoured to assume editorial duties, although conscious that Andrew will be a hard act to follow.

It has been a great pleasure to have had regular contact with the membership during my recent term as Programme Secretary, and I hope to hear from members in my new post as Honorary Editor regarding articles for possible inclusion in The Devon Historian. We welcome articles on any aspect of Devon history, and I will be pleased to discuss ideas for contributions, or to advise on preparation.

Articles should be sent to the Honorary Editor, Mrs Jane Bliss,
jbhistory@hotmail.co.uk.

Material should be prepared according to the journal guidelines which can be found on the Devon History Society website, www.devonhistorysociety.

Jane Bliss

Orchard History in Devon

The annual meeting of East Devon local history societies, held under the aegis of the East Devon AONB on 19 November at Kennaway House and convened by John Torrance of the Branscombe project, centred on the theme of historic orchards, which had been agreed at the last meeting in November 2011. Four East Devon history societies gave presentations on the subject, each with a different flavour.

Roger Stokes from Woodbury showcased the fruit of 2000 hours of work digitising the orchard data for the parish using map regression reaching back to the 18th century Rolle Estate maps and building up layers of mapped data telling the graphic story of shrinking orchard acreage in the parish over time. He also examined one farm in detail and produced diary evidence from the early 20th century on the diverse and surprisingly intensive orchard year. Margaret Burrough from Whimple told the story of her family's involvement in Whimple orchards, which continues to this day in the post-Whiteway era. Sue and Trevor Diamond returned to the tithe map apportionment data for Ottery St Mary, also looking in detail at other sources for orchard history, such as the Exeter Flying Post manual index and making some useful comparisons between the Ottery orchard data and Sam Turner's Devon-wide

data produced by Devon Historic Environment Service (HES). Trevor noted that the HES data did not cover plots of land under a hectare in extent and of course many orchards were smaller than this. Barbara Farquharson from the Branscombe Project gave the final presentation and concentrated on oral sources as evidence for orchard history and pointed to the importance of orchards for finding the now disappeared farmhouses which had once stood within them. Cressida Whitton from Devon HES commented on the joint bio-diversity and historic importance of orchards, and the initiatives to conserve remaining orchards. Cressida also noted that the position of orchards at the heart of many villages had made them prime sites for modern development.

It was agreed that the theme would be continued and further presentations would be made next year from other societies; to some extent more of the same, for example contrasting the Northleigh tithe map evidence with the earlier Netherton Hall estate map, but also examining transport and marketing of both apples and cider. If history societies outside East Devon wish to attend next year's meeting as observers, to learn from the East Devon experience they are cordially invited to contact John Torrance at: john@torrance.myzen.co.uk

Plymouth History Festival

This year Plymouth will be home to the city's first annual History Festival. It will run from 1-31 May 2013 and will be an opportunity to celebrate the rich and proud history of the city.

There will be a variety of talks and workshops; walks and guided tours of some of the city's most interesting and hidden spaces; large-scale public events like Lord Mayor's Day and the opening of Devonport column; plus photographic and other exhibitions at various locations across the city.



Over 20 different organisations have come together to create a programme of events and activities that stretch from Plympton Priory to the Devonport Naval Base and Crownhill Fort to Mount Edgcumbe. Every day there will be something to help you find out more about Plymouth's history.

There will also be opportunities to go behind the scenes of the oldest Ashkenazi synagogue in the English-speaking world and see the famous 1946 film 'The Way We Live' at the Jill Craigie Cinema.

2013 marks the 70th anniversary of the 'Plan for Plymouth' which defined the way Plymouth looks today following the devastation of the Blitz. An exhibition called 'The Making of a Modern City' will be on display at Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery to celebrate this.

For those of you with younger relatives and friends there will also be half-term activities at the City Museum and Art Gallery and Mount Edgcombe House and Gardens.

For more information about the full History Festival programme please see www.visitplymouth.co.uk or follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

Louisa Mann
City Archivist

News from the Devon Heritage Service

The Devon Heritage Service is delighted to announce the launch of the **Devon History Forum**, which will act as a co-ordinating forum providing mutual support, advice, information, training opportunities, events and online networking for all groups, organisations and bodies interested in exploring, collecting and promoting all aspects of the unique history and heritage of the county of Devon.



The Forum is intended to operate without a formal constitution, committee structure or any of the usual administrative trappings of a large society, and it is hoped that this will help to create a truly collaborative mutual support network operating across the county. There will be an annual get-together and regular meetings and training opportunities, many of which will take place at the Devon Heritage Centre in Exeter, but meetings can also be held in other suitable venues throughout Devon. An important element of these meetings will be to exchange information, share ideas and best practice, and encourage a co-ordinated approach to furthering the awareness of Devon's heritage. If you have any suggestions for topics that you would like to see discussed, or would like to join the Forum, please let us know (contact brian.carpenter@devon.gov.uk).

An online networking platform is central to the success of the Devon History Forum and we have established a 'Devon History Forum Group' on Facebook to act as a channel for discussion, posting news and coming events and generally encouraging the development of an online Devon History community that is open to all, amateur and professional alike, with similar interests and concerns. Please request to join the group at www.facebook.com/groups/124540101041167/ so you can add your content, photographs, news and views.

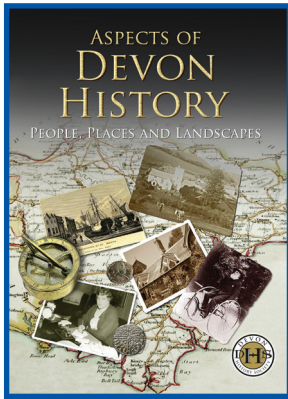
The first annual meeting of the Forum will be held on Monday 23 September 2013 at the Devon Heritage Centre, Great Moor House, Sowton, Exeter so make a note in your diaries!

The initial phase in the process of transferring the county local studies collection, formerly at the Westcountry Studies Library, to the Devon Heritage Centre has now been completed and work is progressing for the transfer of the remainder of the collection in summer 2013. For further details on progress please visit www.devon.gov.uk/dhcdevelop.

Our next Devon Heritage Centre Open Day will be held on Saturday 16 March 2013, with the theme of 'Partnerships'. We will be presenting news of current projects and initiatives, including the launch of the 'Mapping the County' educational resource on historic maps, which has been created with the help of a generous grant from the Devon History Society. We hope to see many of you there.

Tim Wormleighton,
Heritage Services Manager

DHS Fortieth Anniversary Book



As advertised in the last issue of this newsletter, the publication of our fortieth anniversary book, *Aspects of Devon History – People, Places and Landscapes*, took place on 2 November last at Crediton. Around ninety people attended and the gathering was presided over by our president, Professor Christopher Holdsworth. Todd Gray, who wrote the book's Introduction, gave the main address and Shirley Purves also contributed her thoughts, as DHS past Chairman. After these formalities, the important business of book-buying and socialising over tea and cakes all made for a very pleasant afternoon.

The book contains twenty nine articles ranging in topics from tenth century Tavistock to the General Strike of 1926. Each article is fully referenced and bibliographies are included. It runs out at 428 pages, including index, with nearly a hundred illustrations, some in colour. It weighs 2 pounds 8 ounces, so this is not a slim volume!

So far, sales of the book have been good but given the prevailing difficult economic climate, we need to do all we can to keep up momentum over the coming months. If you have not yet bought a copy, and think you might, or if you know of someone who might be interested in buying their own copy, please do get in touch with our distributor, Keith Stevens, of Stevensbooks, who will be pleased to take your order. Their website contains a list of the book's contents. It retails at £18. Keith can be

contacted by telephone on 01392 459760 or online at www.stevensbooks.co.uk. So please do get in touch!

Chris Jago

Websites for local historians

I'm sure most of us know about some of the electronic resources available on a pay to view basis such as census returns and military records. Many other resources like the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography and the Times Digital Archive can be used free of charge by anyone who has a library card. If you don't know how to access these services check out the website of the public library service for more information. I thought members might also be interested to read about some other useful websites for local history research.

Our cover photograph of Buckfast Abbey Church has been taken from the **Geograph**® website (www.geograph.org.uk) The **Geograph**® Britain and Ireland project aims to collect geographically representative photographs and information for every square kilometre of Great Britain and Ireland and is a wonderful resource for modern images. Its images are licensed for re-use as long as you follow basic requirements about crediting the image as has been done with the cover picture. Full details are on the website. These images can be of enormous use in, for example, comparing present day scenes with historic views.

Whilst on the subject of Buckfast Abbey, British Pathé (www.britishpathe.com) has 90,000 historic film clips, the oldest dating from the 1890s. Entering 'Devon' in the search box gives over 550 results and these include footage of the consecration of Buckfast Abbey in 1932 by Papal Legate, Cardinal Bourne, and attended by the whole of the British Catholic hierarchy,

Other Devon clips which can be viewed in this website include 1919 footage of Lady Nancy Astor on polling day, the election when she was first returned to parliament; scenes of mine clearance taking place at Saunton beach in 1940; footage of the 1952 Lynmouth flood disaster; Brixham Regatta in 1935; and the opening of Exeter Airport by Air Minister, Sir Kingsley Wood in 1938.

Ann Bond
Vice-Chair

Official Society Contacts: www.devonhistorysociety.org.uk

President	Prof. Christopher Holdsworth	01392 428190
Chairman	Philippe Planel Philippeplanel@gmail.com	01404 46663
Vice Chairman	Ann Bond bond499@btinternet.com	01626 890736
Secretary	Chris Jago generalcj@hotmail.co.uk	01395 273569
Treasurer	VACANT	
Acting Treasurer	Graham Bliss Wavecrest, Sunnyside Road, Woolacombe EX34 7DG jbhistory@hotmail.co.uk	01271 870723
Membership Secretary	Gerald Quinn g.quinn256@btinternet.com	01803 607256
Programme Secretary	Paul Auchterlonie 41 Broadway, Exeter EX2 9LU j.p.c.auchterlonie@exeter.ac.uk	01392 426052
Editor (The Devon Historian)	Jane Bliss jbhistory@hotmail.co.uk	01271 870723
Books Review Editor	Dr Mitzi Auchterlonie 41, Broadway, Exeter EX2 9LU M.M.Auchterlonie@exeter.ac.uk	01392 426052
Editor (Devon History News)	Ann Bond bond499@btinternet.com	01626 890736
Affiliated Societies	Julia Neville j.f.neville@btinternet.com	01392 461157
Publicity	Claire Donovan claire.donovan@poltimore.org	01803 862598
Webmaster	Ray Girvan ray@raygirvan.co.uk	
Council Members	• Todd Gray • Judy Moss	

