

# DEVON HISTORY NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE DEVON HISTORY SOCIETY

**Almost gone:  
Devon's  
vanishing  
orchards**

**Malcolm Todd:  
Archaeologist  
and historian**

**Lost: Peter  
Orlando  
Hutchinson and  
Hederland**



**More online  
resources for  
historians**



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Cover photos courtesy of Tom Nancarrow (Pip and Stone), and East Devon AONB.

# CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

The Society's 2013 AGM was held in October at a new venue; the Streatham campus of the University of Exeter. The day's programme took the theme of Mining in Devon and included lectures by Dr Tom Greeves, Dr Mick Atkinson and Sue Dymond. Two of the Society's 2013 prize winners also gave brief presentations. Charles Scott-Fox, winner of the Hoskins Prize for his book *Holcombe Court, a Bluett Family Mansion* spoke briefly about the background to the book, followed by Oliver Reilly, a University of Exeter graduate and winner of the Dissertation Prize, who gave an interesting summary of his winning entry, 'War and Peace in the West Country: Responses to African American Troops in the Southwest of England 1942-1945'. We hope to repeat invitations to prize winners to speak at future AGMs. All talks were well received by those members present on the day.

The day concluded with a tribute and presentation to our out-going president, Professor Christopher Holdsworth who was stepping down after an extended period in office of four years. Christopher was as generous in spirit as he was with his time and we owe him a deep debt of gratitude. I take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to our new President, Dr Bruce Coleman.

The changes in the Devon History Society, as outlined at the AGM, reflect the strategies agreed at a special meeting earlier in the year. These roadly speaking, aim to increase the membership of the society, give it a higher profile and enable it to 'do' more local history,

Apology: so much to say - so little space... your new Newsletter editor is Chris Wakefield, and he hopes to comment more comprehensively on his new position in the next edition of the Newsletter.

are beginning to bear fruit. We now have an impressive peer-reviewed journal, we have academic participation on the Council, we have much more feedback from our affiliated societies, we have a new-look newsletter as you will have noticed, and finally, we are running a research project (see p.5). These are all things you can see. Less visible but equally important is the way that officers of the Society and members of the Council are now liaising with each other through regular email contact and meeting in twos or threes to implement the strategies for the future agreed on last year.

In the coming year I would like to see more participation of members in the Society's life: more feedback from the affiliated societies, more members at the AGM and more members who would like to sit in on Council meetings with a view perhaps to one day becoming Council members themselves. These would be my wishes for 2014. ■

*Phil Planel*

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## Affiliated Societies

I'm writing at the end of my first year as the DHS Council link with our affiliated societies, so the first thing that I want to say is a 'Thank You' to those groups who have welcomed the Council's initiative for increased contact and communication through my informal bulletins. Thank you - to all those of you who have given me information, introduced me to your websites, engaged in our discussions about how Devon History Society should evolve, made yourselves known at DHS events. I hope you have been pleased by the responses to some of your comments in recent DHS initiatives such as the speakers list (update out soon) and the

start of the first cross-society research project on Devon's orchards.

I've also, as a result of the bulletins I have sent, had a number of interesting queries about where to find all sorts of things, from someone who could read Latin legal charters, to speakers on archaeological topics, and local researchers on women's suffrage issues. Maybe we need to build up this kind of contact between societies (and individual members) so that any society or individual can draw on the expertise of other members. This would be something rather more specific to members than the 'Enquiries' section of the website currently provides. Other ways of sharing expertise might be by arrangements for societies in a specific area to meet and share experiences, as already happens across East Devon. Let me know what you think and whether Devon History Society could do something more to promote exchange of expertise.

Finally, the Society welcomes new affiliates: Bratton Fleming History Group, High Bickington History Society and Sidmouth History Society. ■

*Julia Neville (Affiliated Societies Link)*

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## Affiliates News...

### Feniton's past on film

Brigadier Peter Acland (1902-1993), who lived in Feniton House (Feniton old village) was a keen amateur film maker and his early efforts, shot on army exercises but also around his home village, had languished at a local farm, and were nearly lost during a recent clear out. Fortunately they were rescued from destruction and passed to a film restorer - Paul Dibbins, who runs a non-profit specialist

*continued overleaf...*



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film restoration service called Cine Star Archive Film.

The fully restored results were displayed at a gala event in Feniton church on October 8th 2013. The film showed Feniton between the wars, including the Acland family at home and scenes from village life and work.

Paul Dibbins writes *“We are trying to establish an archive that is both free to the public and free from adverts or sponsors. We offer free shows to history groups etc., but prefer to play to larger audiences (perhaps several groups at once) as costs can hamper showing for 10 or 20 people at a time. We only look to cover our cost and if a donation to the ongoing costs is made we are happy. Phone me on 01364 631516 for more information.”* More details can also be found at [www.cine-star-archive-films.co.uk](http://www.cine-star-archive-films.co.uk) ■

▼ Still taken from Feniton film. Courtesy of Ricky Dibbins



## News Shorts

### BBIH & BALH

The Bibliography of British and Irish History online database no longer allows concessionary access with membership of British Association for Local History.

Dr Jane Howells, editor of *Local History News* writes... *‘Although our members who took this up found it extremely useful, there were not enough of them to cover the cost...’*

Jane Bliss

### The thirtieth Jackson Knight Memorial Lecture

will be held on

Friday 3rd October 2014 at 6.30 p.m. in the Alumni Auditorium, The Forum, University of Exeter.

## Divining the Distant Past

### W.G. Hoskins and Pre-Roman Exeter

by

by Emeritus Professor Peter Wiseman  
FBA

### The historian of Devon

W.G. Hoskins (1908–1992) was the great historian of the English landscape and author of a magnificent history of Devon, published in 1954 (hence this sixtieth-anniversary lecture). He was born in Exeter, founded the Exeter Civic Society, was President of the Devonshire Association, received an honorary degree from the University (1974), famously quarreled with the city council about the planning of the city centre, and in general was one of the most prominent citizens Exeter ever had.

### How old is Exeter?

The subject of the lecture is Hoskins’ surprising change of mind about the origin of his native city. In his 1954 Devon history he accepted the archaeologists’ view that Exeter was created by the Romans, but later he became sure it was much older than that – and that Geoffrey of Monmouth’s story that the city was besieged during the Roman conquest of AD 43 was actually historical. So the lecture will also discuss the general question of how historians try to use myth and legend.

Paul Auchterlonie

# The DHS Devon Historic Orchards Project

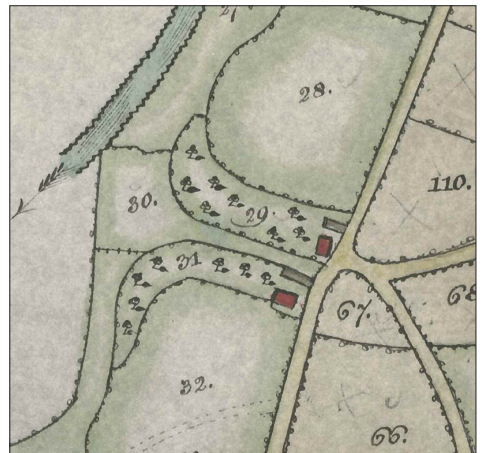
One of the outputs of the current DHS development strategies is the Devon Historic Orchards Project. The data collection stage of this project is now complete and we are moving on to make the data concerning the extent of orchards in c1840 (abstracted from the tithe apportionments), comparable with that collected by Devon County Council for c1890 (Devon Historic Landscape Character Assessment). No longer will the debate about the 'core' areas of apple production in Devon (no apologies for the pun), nor the extent of orchard gain or loss in the course of the 19th century, be a matter of subjective opinion. In addition the data will lend itself to the investigation of other relationships, for example the relationship between farm size and orchard size – an important relationship in terms of wages paid in kind in cider. The data will be made available on the society website.

As important as the data and interpretation is the fact that around 50 volunteers came forward to abstract the data from the digitised tithe apportionments. The IT co-ordinator of the Orchards project has recently joined the society, demonstrating that the more we do the more members we will attract. The DHS is building a track record in organising a community history project, something which will be important in any funding applications the society makes to the Heritage Lottery Fund or other bodies in the future.

There will be a news release on the DHS website in the next few months when the orchard data is available in a digested form. In the meantime 1840 orchard data is already

available for individual parishes should members require it (requests through the Chairman please) and we would also welcome suggestions on how members would like to explore the cross-community history of Devon's orchards, using landscape, social and economic perspectives. The East Devon Local History Group annual meeting in November included three further presentations on aspects of orchard history; this was the third successive year of presentations on orchard history for the group, ranging from the mapping of orchards to oral history, the traditional orchard year and the restoration of old orchards – an indication that orchards have not lost their flavour. ■

## *Phil Planel*



▲ *Two interestingly symmetrical farms and orchards from the 1840 Gittisham Tithe Map courtesy of the Devon Heritage Centre and East Devon AONB*

# Malcolm Todd

## 1939 - 2013



Malcolm Todd was President of the Devon History Society from 2006 to 2009. On behalf of the Society, he organised a very successful conference about early Devonian history, which was held at St Luke's Campus on 4 - 5 April 2009. It was entirely characteristic that, in so-called retirement (after 2000) from a career of international distinction, he devoted time – inter alia – to local studies. For him, the study of the past was not only a seamless and interdisciplinary web in subject-matter: it was also a seamless web in its institutional framework. He saw no difference, in spirit or motivation, between – for example – serving on national academic bodies (and there were many to which he gave his time) and venturing out on a cold winter's evening to lecture to a group of amateur enthusiasts in a village hall. Indeed, he

remarked (to this writer, amongst others) that the local audiences were often not only more appreciative than the more widely-based ones, but were quite often more acute and searching in their questions and discussion.

Like the complex archaeological site, or the complex palimpsest of the over-written manuscript, Malcolm Todd's academic background and achievements had many layers. The first layer came from his classical education at St David's College, Lampeter. The second came from his education in classical archaeology at Brasenose College, Oxford. A third layer – and crucial to the later man – originated in two years work in Bonn, where he developed a deep understanding of the Roman and migration period history-with-archaeology of the frontier provinces of the Roman Empire and of the 'barbarian' cultures which succeeded them. This field of expertise he maintained throughout his career and one of his many achievements lay in presenting it to an English-reading audience. A fourth layer arose from his three successive university posts in England: at Nottingham, Exeter and Durham. At Nottingham, he taught and conducted various excavations in the midland shires. He left (in 1979) as Reader, to take up the (new) Chair in Archaeology at Exeter. His arrival in the South West coincided with the development of a (newly-labelled) Department of History and Archaeology as well as a single honours degree in Archaeology. Here he conducted excavations (Hembury, Bury Barton, Rudge, Charterhouse-on-Mendip) and took a particular interest in promoting – with great success – the cause of 'mature' undergraduates. At Durham (from 1996) he

combined a half-time post in the Department of Archaeology with the duties of Principal of Trevelyan College. These duties drew on his considerable personal and academic skills while (simultaneously and sadly) exposing his reluctant attitude to the onslaught of box-ticking cultures and information technology.

Malcolm Todd was, to those who knew him in a professional or personal capacity, a sophisticated and widely-read man of letters, possessing not a little of the pre-modern quality of undifferentiated and (genuinely) intellectual scholarship. His origins lay in the mining and agricultural societies of County Durham, and thence in a grammar school education: facts which permanently influenced his subsequent attitudes. His final university post, at Durham, thus represented a return to his north-eastern homeland.

A full account of Malcolm Todd's professional activities, in Britain and beyond, will be found in the obituary published in *The Times* (18 July 2013). An account highlighting his archaeological activity in the South West will be found in the *Devon Archaeological Society Newsletter* (No.116, September 2013). He published widely in the fields of Roman archaeology and early Germanic Europe. For a south-western audience, his *The South West to AD 1000* (Longman, 1987) provided a valuable overview, and he was one of the group who created the idea for the Historical Atlas of South West England (eds. R. Kain & W. Ravenhill, Exeter University Press, 1999).■

*Bob Higham, Exeter*

## BOOK REVIEWS FOR THE DEVON HISTORIAN

The following books have been received for review in the 2014 edition of *The Devon Historian*, and they need to be allocated a reviewer. If anyone would like to offer to review one of them (it helps if you have some knowledge of the subject or related topics) please contact me by e-mail or post at the following address: 41, Broadway, Exeter, EX1 2PU. My e-mail is M.M.Auchterlonie@exeter.ac.uk

- Paul Randall Garnsworthy, ed., (2013), *Brunel's Atmospheric Railway*, Friends of Devon's Archives and the Broad Gauge Society.
- Sam Smiles, ed., (2013) *West Country to World's End: The South West in the Tudor Age*, Paul Holberton Publishing.
- David Parker (2013) *The People of Devon in the First World War*, The History Press.
- Alex Woodcock (2013) *Of Sirens and Centaurs* Impress (about the medieval sculpture of Exeter Cathedral)
- Nicholas Orme (2013) *The Church in Devon 400–1560*, Impress.
- Helen Fry (2013) *The Jews of Exeter*, Halsgrove.
- Todd Gray (2013) *The Art of the Devon Garden: The depiction of plants and ornamental landscapes from the year 1200*, The Mint Press.

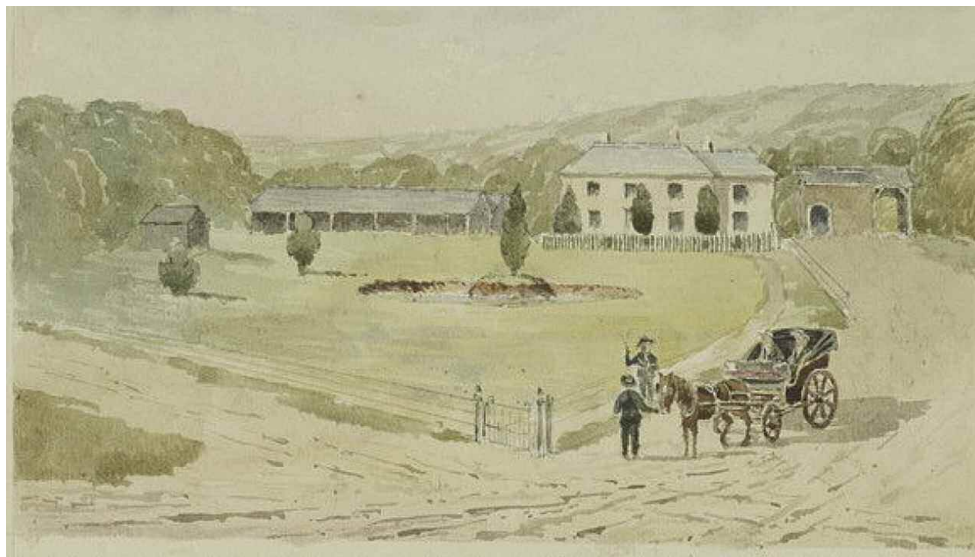
Lucy Ryder (2013) *The Historic Landscape of Devon*, Windgather Press.

Peter Fung (2012) *From Venus to Victoria: a history of Fortfield Terrace and Sidmouth 1790-1901*, Fortfield Publishing.

*Dr M. Auchterlonie*

Reviews Editor.

# Historical Footnotes



Holcombe Farm, near Ottery. It apparently occupies the site of the ancient capella de la Hedreland, or Hetherland. When making the circular pond, indications of a cemetery were found. — June 19, 1877.

## Where is Hederland?

The indefatigable Sidmouth Antiquarian Peter Orlando Hutchinson records an outing on Tuesday, 8 April 1851 which begins.... *‘Went over from Sidmouth to Ottery to see Mr. F.G. Coleridge about the Otterton Cartulary, from which I wish to make some extracts’.*

The extracts POH copied include a reference to a holding called La Hederland. Here’s Hutchinson’s description: *‘Folio 24 is headed Yettmetone. This, I believe is a hamlet near Bicton, and now called Yattington. At the next we have Hederlonde, with its tenants. Hederland was attached to Ottery’.*

White’s 1850 directory has a chapel at ‘a place called Hederland’ belonging to Otterton Priory rather than Ottery, so presumably they got their information from elsewhere. POH

▲ POH’s sketch of Holcombe Barton near Ottery St Mary, made in 1877. This was his initial choice of location for the lost medieval chapel and estate called Hederland. Courtesy of the Devon Heritage Centre and East Devon AONB

does not pursue the matter but it remains in his mind that Hederland is in Ottery St Mary. Twenty six years later, he writes the following in his diary...

*‘Sidmouth. June. 1877.*

*Tu. June 19. — To-day Mr. Heineken and myself drove to the neighbourhood of Ottery, to look for the remains of an old Chapel. In ancient charters of the 12th and 13th centuries, mention is made of a chapel in the parish of Ottery, under the name of De la Hedreland, or De la Hetheland, quasi up among the heather. [See my M S. Hist. of Sidm. I 183;] Bishop Brantyngham in 1388 granted a licence for a domestic chapel at Holcombe, about a mile and a half east of Ottery, and I presume this*



*must have been the ancient De La Hetherland, under a new regime: at least I do not know where else to look for it.'*

POH sounds a little perplexed and he assumes a change of 'regime' to account for the loss of the Hederland name. But he is reassured by other evidence he finds at Holcombe.

*'We were told that the remains of the chapel had been pulled down many years ago, and a former house built out of them, parts of which are behind, or eastwards of the present dwelling house; that the present house was erected twenty years ago, partly out of old materials; and that when excavating a circular place to the west, or in front of the new house, to make a pond, (which we saw) they turned up a quantity of bones, from which they inferred that the spot had been the burial ground. I went up behind the present dwelling, to examine parts of the old house. There is a large square stone chimney, and the walls were of brown chert, well squared out, and in some places good size blocks of wrought Beer stone, such as might have once belonged to an ecclesiastical building'.*

At some later point Hutchinson realises his error and a footnote to the above piece (undated) declares his newer version of events... *'No – it appears to have been a mistake, and was near Washfield above Tiverton. See my MS. Hist of Sidmouth, Vol. IV. Pp. 12, 22.'*

Elsewhere the debate was still in progress, and three years after Hutchinson's death in 1897, Oswald J Reichel's review of the 'Calendar of documents Preserved in France' by J Horace Round, published in 1899, notes that the author has Hederland in Ladram Bay. Reichel mentions POH's final conclusion on Washfield, and points to support for this from Rev Randolph-Hingeston. But then he reviews the evidence again and suggests the following...

*'the entry in Stafford's Register, p. 365, shows that Hetherland was an independent chapel of*

*Washfield, not of Otterton and was in the same private patronage as Washfield. It therefore can hardly have been Mont St. Michel's Hetherland. The taxation of Pope Nicholas in 1288 gives the temporal estates of St. Michael in Devon as 'manor of Otritone, Sidemuwe, Budleigh rents and mill, Ertecombe, Hederlonde, Forsham rents, city of Exeter rents.' It also shows that Hederlonde must have been a very small possession as the revenue from it was only one shilling. It is possible that Hederlonde and Wonleighe may be in the north of Sidmouth, and that the latter name may still survive in the name of the stream the Wolbrook?'*

I'm in no position to confirm or deny Reichel's final suggestion, but perhaps there is indeed a second 'Hederland' and some further close investigation might finally locate this elusive piece of Devonshire countryside. Suggestions welcome. ■

### Chris Wakefield



▲ Peter Orlando Hutchinson. Self Portrait aged 38  
courtesy of the Devon Heritage Centre and East Devon AONB

If you have a short article of local interest (or would like to write one) please either mail it to [dhsnewsed@gmail.com](mailto:dhsnewsed@gmail.com), or contact Julia Neville on [j.f.neville@btinternet.com](mailto:j.f.neville@btinternet.com)

# Internet resources for historians

**The amount of material useful to local historians and available on the internet grows with astonishing rapidity. This list is revised for each new edition of the Newsletter, but the editor would welcome any discoveries that members make, and wish to share with others. Just email [dhsnewsed@gmail.com](mailto:dhsnewsed@gmail.com) with a note about the resource and a link.**

## **The Electronic Sawyer**

For anyone interested in the Anglo Saxon studies, this resource is a searchable compendium of AS charters compiled for the Royal Historical Society in 1968 by Peter Sawyer, now updated and amended for its online version. Much other interesting material available there too:  
[www.esawyer.org.uk/about/index.html](http://www.esawyer.org.uk/about/index.html)

## **Bishops of Exeter Registers**

In various places online you can find ebooks of Victorian and Edwardian publications of seminal importance for local studies. The same data is frequently offered for sale as paper editions, but why pay for paper when you can have your own, often searchable, pdf file on your PC. These include the Bishop of Exeter's Registers, available from the internet archive and Digital Library  
<https://archive.org/>

## **Peter Orlando Hutchinson diaries and sketchbooks (see also p8)**

Alongside much else, a landmark transcription effort was undertaken by the 'Footsteps of Peter Orlando Hutchinson Project' which ran from 2010 to 2013 as part of the East Devon AONB Historic Landscapes campaign. As a result we now have ready access to all POH's beautiful pictures and the diaries that accompanied

them, together with transcriptions of the diaries to make text searches easier. Go to [www.eastdevonaonb.org.uk](http://www.eastdevonaonb.org.uk) then click the 'Conserve/Culture and heritage/Orlando Hutchinson' menu links.

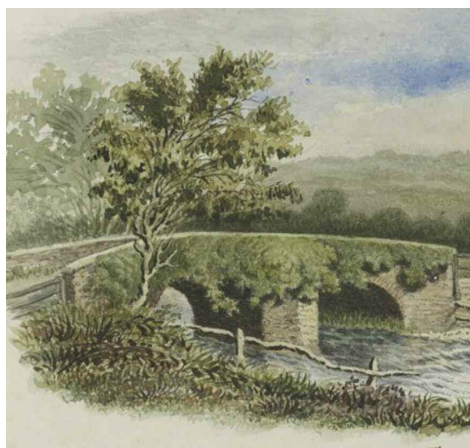
## **Vision of Britain**

**John Bradbeer** writes: 'the *Vision of Britain website* [...] does have some useful sources that I am not aware are available elsewhere, including the First Land Use Survey of Great Britain from the 1930s. The url is:  
<http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/>

## **Historical Population**

My other source, again reflecting a geographer's interests at regional or sub-regional scale is the *Historical Population site*, which offers the published censuses to 1931. It is salutary to compare the demographic histories of Devon's parishes and watch the wave of rural depopulation breaking across the county. The url is:  
[www.histpop.org/ohpr/servlet/](http://www.histpop.org/ohpr/servlet/) ■

▼ *Sketch of 'Stoney Bridge' over the river Otter near Honiton - from the diaries of Peter Orlando Hutchinson. Courtesy of East Devon AONB and Devon Heritage Centre.*





# Poltimore House Local History Afternoon Sunday 20 July 2014

Following the successful event last year the Friends of Poltimore House and Poltimore Estate Research Society are planning another local history afternoon in the wonderful setting of Poltimore House and its grounds and with tempting tea and cakes. This year we hope there will be no power cut to disrupt our speakers or the displays!

Local history societies and other groups with historical interests are invited to come and take a table in the chapel. It's a great opportunity to showcase what your society is doing, to recruit new members, and to network with other groups. If you're interested please let Julia Neville know at [j.f.neville@btinternet.com](mailto:j.f.neville@btinternet.com)

All are welcome (a small charge for admission is made), so please put the date in your diary and watch for further information about the speakers on the DHS or Poltimore House websites. ■

*Julia Neville*

## East Devon AONB Historic Environment Conference

12 April 2014

Norman Lockyer Observatory - Sidmouth

### Capturing the Past in the Present

**10.00 – 10.15** Chris Woodruff – Introduction

**10.15 – 11.00** Emma Rouse (Wyvern Consultants) – Layers in time: exploring and managing the past in East Devon's landscape.

**11.00 – 11.30** Coffee

**11.30 – 12.15** Prof Patrick Dillon (University of Exeter) – Cultural-ecological insights into landscape history.

**12.15 – 12.45** Sue Dymond (Landscape Historian) – The biodiversity of our cultural heritage: Ponds, Plats and Pits.

**12.45 – 14.00** Lunch

**14.00 – 14.30** Tom Nancarrow (Pip and Stone) – Conserving and managing historic orchards.

**14.30 – 15.00** Phil Planel and Martin Smith (Devon History Society) – Assessing our Historic orchards: the Devon History Orchards Project

**15.00 – 15.15** Short break

**15.15 – 15.45** Roger Stokes (Woodbury History Society) – Woodbury – its changing face and landscape secrets.

**15.45 – 16.15** Barbara Farquharson and John Torrance (Branscombe Project) – Branscombe landscapes lost and found.

**16.15 – 16.30** Closing remarks

**16.30** Tea and dispersal – until next year.

# DHS EVENTS

## PROGRAMME FOR 2014

**Saturday, April 12th, 10am-4pm**

### Spring Meeting

at The Globe Malthouse, Topsham, hosted by the *Topsham History Group*.

See separate form for programme and booking (also downloadable from DHS website).

**Wednesday, May 7th, 10am-4pm**

### Second Local History Skills Seminar

at North Devon Record Office, Barnstaple. Tutors / speakers include *Deborah Gahan, Gary Knaggs, Naomi Ayre*.

Free to DHS members and members of affiliated societies. Limited places. No guests or visitors. See separate form for programme and booking (also downloadable from DHS website).

**Thursday, May 15th, 11am-1pm**  
**Seminar**

at Mint Methodist Centre, Fore St, Exeter. *Dr Clare Greener* - Researching the History of Devon Gardens.

Free to DHS members. Refreshments free but donations welcome. Booking via enclosed booking form. (Use city centre car parks, no parking at Centre).

**Thursday, June 19th, 2.30pm-4pm**  
**Visit to Grade II listed Church of St Peter and St Paul, Teignrace.**

*Judith Jolliffe* - The Templar Family and Teignrace Parish Church.

Free to DHS members, charge for cream tea. Booking via enclosed booking form. (Free parking).

**Saturday, June 28th, 10am-4pm**

### Third Devon History Society Conference on Religion in Devon

to be held at Mint Methodist Centre, Exeter on the theme of *Nonconformism in Devon*.

See separate form for programme and booking (also downloadable from DHS website).

**Friday, July 25nd, 2.30am-4pm**

### Lecture at Endecott House, Chagford.

*Dr Patricia Milton* - The Literary Invention of Dartmoor.

Free to DHS members. Refreshments free but donations welcome. Booking via enclosed booking form. (Use local car parks)

**Saturday, 11th October, 10am-3.30pm.**

### Devon History Society, AGM

at University of Exeter, Streatham Campus, Streatham Court, Lecture Room B, on the theme of *The First World War*.

Free to DHS members, but charge for refreshments. The programme and booking arrangements will be included in the August Newsletter. Speakers to include *Prof Jeremy Black, Dr Bruce Coleman and Dr Richard Batten*.

**Tuesday, November 4th, 2.30am-4pm**  
**Lecture at Plymouth Central Library.**

*Marc Partridge* - Enforcing the Contagious Disease Acts in Victorian Plymouth.

Free to DHS members. Booking arrangements will be included in the August Newsletter.

Short articles, letters and other submissions for the newsletter can be emailed to [dhsnewsed@gmail.com](mailto:dhsnewsed@gmail.com)