

# DEVON HISTORY NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE DEVON HISTORY SOCIETY

**The cider of the South Hams is everywhere famous...**

**Chris Jago  
1946 - 2014**

**Todd Gray MBE  
reviews his  
honour**

**Old Schools in  
Devon**

**Garden history  
anyone?**



**More online  
resources for  
Historians**



## Contacts

### President:

Bruce Coleman 01392 254142  
bruce.i.coleman@exeter.ac.uk

### Chairman:

Philippe Planel 07929 023378  
Philippeplanel@gmail.com

### Vice Chair & Acting Secretary:

Julia Neville 01392 461157  
j.f.neville@btinternet.com

### Treasurer:

Ann Bond 01626 890736  
1, Church Street, Kenton, Exeter EX6 8LU  
treasurer@devonhistorysociety.org.uk

### Membership Secretary:

Judy Moss 01647 433492  
see address on p5  
membership@devonhistorysociety.org.uk

### Programme Secretary:

Paul Auchterlonie 075032 11649  
j.p.c.auchterlonie@exeter.ac.uk

### Journal Editor (The Devon Historian)

Jane Bliss 01271 870723  
jbhistory@hotmail.co.uk

### Newsletter Editor:

Chris Wakefield 01404 815262  
dhsnewsed@gmail.com

### Affiliated Societies:

Julia Neville 01392 461157  
j.f.neville@btinternet.com

### Publicity:

Claire Donovan 01803 862598  
claire.donovan@icloud.com

### Council Members:

James Daybell, Henry French, Todd Gray, Gerald Quinn, Jan Wood

### OTHER CONTACTS

#### Review Editor:

Mitzi Auchterlonie 01392 426052  
41 Broadway, Exeter, EX2 9LU  
M.M.Auchterlonie@exeter.ac.uk

#### Webmaster

Ray Girvan ray@raygirvan.co.uk

## EDITORIAL

Although it looks a bit different, the Newsletter is unchanged in its commitment to promoting the discovery of Devon's history and to do whatever it can to build upon the solid foundations laid by the two previous editors – Ann Bond and the late Chris Jago. Much belated thanks to Ann in particular for her introduction to the knobs and levers that operate the newsletter.

Devon is a huge county with endless histories to tell and there are elements of it that only YOU know about. Of course the Society is interested in carefully prepared Journal articles, but we also want to know about a rare phone box, an unusual diary, old photos, strange lumps and bumps in the landscape, distinguished visitors, less distinguished visitors, embossing on drain covers, date stones, traveller's tales, odd chimneys, eccentric characters, and really – anything that you have seen, heard or know of in your village, town or city that speaks of the past. You've probably pointed out these things to a couple of friends or colleagues, but unless you go that one step further and make it more widely known, it won't find a place in the great scheme of historic enquiry and may be lost forever.

History is like that. Somebody, somewhere, is waiting for that vital piece of information to help them understand something seemingly unrelated in their own corner of the county (or further afield). The more we know, the more we can find out.

So, whether you are perusing medieval documents, looking under your floorboards, or planning a major local historical event, write to the newsletter and tell us please – dhsnewsed@gmail.com. ■

*Chris Wakefield*

# CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

The life of the society has been overshadowed in recent weeks by the sudden illness and death of the DHS secretary, Chris Jago, from an inoperable brain tumour which had been diagnosed only a few weeks previously. Chris died peacefully at home on Saturday 24 May 2014. A celebration of Chris's life was held on Wednesday 4 June at the church of St Margaret and St Andrew (Exmouth).

Hundreds of people, including a number of DHS council members, attended this very moving occasion. Chris was a modest person and many of us in the Devon History Society who knew him in the context of one activity were not always aware of his wide ranging interests and of the many and varied groups and activities in which he was involved. Angela, one of of Chris's two daughters, paid an enormously rich and sensitive tribute to her father in the course of the funeral service.

This second 'new look' newsletter coincides with a seasonal peak of society activity as we move from the last in a series of conferences on religion in Devon to preparations for the AGM and a conference on World War One. Each occasion in the life of the society is also a too vivid reminder that Chris Jago is no longer with us and his contribution to the DHS over the last few years is, quite fittingly, recalled in a separate piece.

The forthcoming AGM acts a useful barometer for the state of the society. We have never had so many affiliated societies (fast approaching 60) and these societies have never played such an important part in the programme of the AGM. The AGM will be held on the main Exeter university campus and this echoes a renewal of links with both

Exeter and Plymouth universities through the new composition of the council. This is the first AGM this chairman can recall where the main concern is actually whether a large enough venue has been booked to cater for the level of interest in the AGM conference.

If the AGM represents a high point in the society year, a brief glance at the ongoing seminars in the DHS programme reveals that mixture of sharing knowledge and skills which is now the hallmark of our society. The society also wishes to initiate further project work which will move beyond the creation of a data base (already achieved with the Orchard Project) to analysis and dissemination of results. Primary education, schools and a joint project on gardens are already a gleam in the DHS council's eye.

Despite the fact that Chris had little time left to him, he was delighted to know that life membership of the DHS had been conferred on him at the last DHS council meeting. It is now up to us to make sure that the society grows and develops in the way that Chris and all of us in the DHS would wish, as evidenced in the current newsletter.■

## *Philippe Planel (Chair)*

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### Arch. Frag.

Limestone fragment found in a field east of Alffington Village about 25 years ago. Tried endless times to confirm what it is. Have settled on an answer, but would welcome any other thoughts. Scale in inches (about 13" tall)

*cw*





▲ Chris at his daughter's wedding last year

# Chris Jago

## 1946 - 2014

Chris Jago was born in High Wycombe, Bucks, in October 1946, and grew up in Hughenden. He went to school locally and became a keen chorister at the local church – a passion which, alongside a deep appreciation of choral music in general, remained with him all his life.

His work was in London – a civil servant in, at various times, the Department of the Environment and Department of Transport, but the most important things in his life were at home – he married Mary in 1978, a fellow chorister at the Royal Choral Society, where they both sang, and he started a family.

As part of his choral interests Chris had sung in Exeter Cathedral on a number of occasions with Beckenham St George's choir, so he and his family got to know this area well. He began to imagine an escape from London to the maritime serenity of East Devon.

When ill health precipitated early retirement, Chris and his family moved to Exmouth, arriving on 9/11 (2001) so few noticed

the appearance of the new residents of Ashleigh Road.

His historical interests started early – he learned all the names of the British monarchs from a colourful poster by his desk in primary school, and while, much later on, the civil service afforded some scope for personal development, it was in Devon that Chris's polymath inclinations blossomed. Once installed in Ashleigh Road, in sight of the sea in one direction and Exeter Cathedral in the other, he got stuck in to learning again – online Oxford diplomas in history, courses at Exeter University, research into World War One, Ancient Greece and Rome, Railway history (including a summer in peak-hatted authority – clipping tickets on the South Devon Railway) – there was no stopping him now.

He joined the Devon Archaeological Society and the Devon History Society, collected coins, post cards and coronation mugs. He was a member of Devon Wild Life Trust, RSPB, Green Peace and Friends of the Earth. In many ways, his Devon period had brought the chance to tick some long unticked boxes. There's little doubt he was enjoying himself in retirement.

In spite of the obvious reluctance to return to 'civil service' style of work, Chris agreed to become DHS Secretary in 2012, and was still in post when he fell ill. He had just completed work on the DHS *Aspects of Devon History* book as well as an important piece of administrative work defining and organising a strategic development programme for the Society. These alone stand as testament to his meticulous and thoughtful work.

His quiet diligence also invented this Newsletter in 2008, and that too should remind us of the innovative contribution he made to the Society.



Chris was a committed Christian, and that must have played a large part in the extraordinary composure and resilience he showed in the face of death. His two daughters tried to give him every experience they could in the remaining few weeks he had left, but Chris was content with the status quo - it was already enough, he declared, although he did accept the chance of a trip in a Tiger Moth.

I have no doubt that DHS members will wish to send their condolences to Chris's wife Mary and his two daughters Nicola and Angela, and send our best wishes with the hope they will learn to fill the void this tragedy will have left in their lives.■

*cw*

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## Membership Secretary

I have now been in post for just over a year, and whilst becoming familiar with the role I have discovered how much more there is to it than maintaining an accurate list of members' details. Working with the Treasurer, much time has been spent getting to grips with invoicing our Corporate members and chasing payment arrears. A system of sending reminders to Affiliated Societies for membership fee payment is now in place, though with only a moderate response rate. And finally, a great deal of effort has been put in to chasing Individual members' unpaid fees and fees still underpaid after the price rise in May 2012. In late summer, the Treasurer and I will work together to chase up any unpaid fees which were due in May 2014: we would be grateful, if you think you may have omitted to pay this year, if you would check your own records and forward any outstanding payments as soon as possible to the **Membership Secretary, 2 St Olaves, Chagford, TQ13 8HJ.■**

## East Dartmoor History Association - new sub regional History Forum

In the last few years interest in local history has increased considerably. Researching one's own village can lead to a feeling of isolation as many blind alleys can be demoralising even if there is a local history society to join.

As a result a new group has been formed, the East Dartmoor Association, which aims to address this problem.

Our aims are to improve education on how to do research, to exchange knowledge and research already done, to co-operate in areas of research to reduce duplication, and to generally communicate more regularly with each other.

We have now had two meetings and several groups have joined in with enthusiasm saying this is just what they wanted. We are liaising with Devon History Society which is supporting and advising us.

The geographical area covered is fluid but is approximately along the eastern rim of Dartmoor involving Bovey Tracey Heritage Trust, Chudleigh History Group, Hennock History Group, Teign Valley History Group and Kelly Mine Preservation Society.

Other groups are invited to join us.

Even with only two meetings so far we have been able to exchange useful information on what individual groups are doing, and where to explore for historical data. The interchange of information on local initiatives has already allowed the various groups to more easily see what can be done. Further discussion on areas of common interest will take place and we already have ideas on a workshop later so we can broaden our appeal.■

*Graham Thompson, (Convenor)*  
gdthompson@btinternet.com

# Affiliated Societies

Welcome to societies who joined us during the past few months – High Bickington Historical Society, Holsworthy History Society, Harberton and Harbertonford History Society, the Huntsham Society, and very best wishes to Alphington History Group which has re-invented itself as an on-line group. It will be interesting to see how this initiative progresses.

Several societies have let us know about their work on the First World War and events and exhibitions that they have held or plan to hold. There's now a tab on our website for World War I events, so do let us know if you have anything planned that we can advertise. We look forward to seeing some of this work on display at our Annual Conference on 11th October and thank you to those societies who have promised to exhibit there.

We've had a couple of comments from societies about the clashes in the DHS programme with events organised by other societies in Devon with interests in history. This is a really tricky one for programme secretaries. We do try to avoid clashes of the AGM (you'll note that Devon FHS holds theirs a week earlier than ours) but for other events we often have to go with the availability of the venue or the speaker. But perhaps it is better to have the luxury of choice than to feel there's nothing on. We'll try to be more aware of what other organisations are doing.

Finally a reminder – we have had notes from several societies about changes in contact details as new people take on new roles after annual general meetings. It's really important for us to keep up to date so as to make sure you get all the information and publications correctly, so don't forget to let us know when things change. We also need to keep our website up to date, so please check the information there and contact us with any amendments you need to have made. ■

*Julia Neville*



*Unveiling the war memorial in Kenton - 1920*

## ‘Not Forgotten’ in Kenton

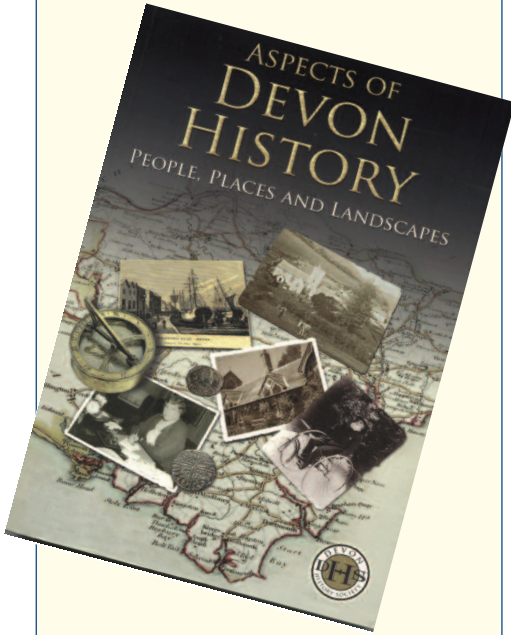
Kenton Past and Present Society has mounted an exhibition to coincide with the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War. It commemorated the twenty soldiers and sailors of Kenton who lost their lives as a result of the conflict. The display included personal histories and outlines of the campaigns in which the men served, as well as photographs and related memorabilia, providing a fascinating insight into the little-known local lives sacrificed in the Allied Cause.

The exhibition is part of a longer-term project, to be carried out over the next four years, which will examine the effects of WWI on the village home front and in particular on the lives of those returning from battle and their families. The research team spans all age groups from teenagers to seventy-somethings.

The ‘Not Forgotten’ project is part of the wider ‘Devon Remembers’ Project of Devon County Council and is part-funded through Cllr. Alan Connett’s community fund, Kenton Parish Council and individual researchers. ■

*Anne Bond*

## Anniversary Book still available



### Affiliates! - Remind your members!

The DHS's 40th anniversary Book is a mine of information on Devon history, with twenty nine contributions from local historians all over Devon, added to some acute observations from some of Devon's distinguished academic historians. No matter what your special interest in Devon, you will find ample reward in this landmark volume. Available from [www.stevensbooks.co.uk/tdhs/adh.html](http://www.stevensbooks.co.uk/tdhs/adh.html)

*(You can use this text in your own Newsletters - It can be cut and pasted from the book's description on the website.)*

- cw

### The thirtieth Jackson Knight Memorial Lecture

will be held on

Friday 3rd October 2014 at 6.30 p.m. in the Alumni Auditorium (tbc)

### 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 quarrelled 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, as for instance with King Arthur or the Trojan War.

*Paul Auchterlonie*

## Todd Gray MBE

**Long standing DHS supporter and Council member Todd Gray, was made a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the 2014 New Years Honours. You would have heard about this earlier but for the tight deadlines for the February newsletter. Other Council members are consulting their copies of Galateo to see if we must mend our ways in addressing him. But Dr Gray has already confirmed 'It won't change my life', and it's difficult to believe he's not right about that. Here is his review of the event.**

Just before the Investiture, whilst waiting in an ante-room at Buckingham Palace, I had a few minutes to reflect on the extraordinary event that was unfolding. The grandness of that building seemed at that moment to be far removed from Devon. I was akin to that fish out of water or, more apropos, I felt like a country mouse visiting the big city.

Like most people I hadn't considered being given an honour. It came as a shock. This is partly because I am American-born but also I cannot remember it having happened to a Devon historian.

What makes the MBE special to me is that it recognises Devon's history. The study of it has greatly changed since 1984 when I began training as a historian at Exeter. Research was then dominated by academics but in the last twenty years it has become reliant upon volunteers many of whom are retired and come from other walks of life. Few have benefited from structured training in how to conduct research or in writing of it. This society has long been active in correcting that. Few also receive any recompense for their hours of endeavour. I have spent many hours sitting silently with other researchers in local archives or discussing history at meetings of local or county societies. These hundreds of men and women investigate various history strands and each and every one contributes to

our greater understanding of Devon and in running societies. They also do it differently: each individual has a particular way of being a historian. Mine is as unique to me as theirs is to them.

As I stood hovering outside the palace ballroom I thought of the exceptional people that are active today. Ivan Roots, Christopher Holdsworth and Bill Stephens have long been role models and generous to the DHS amongst many societies in providing careful and considered guidance. We have other extraordinary individuals who have equally redefined aspects of Devon, such as Mark Stoye, Tom Greeves and John Allan, and there are some extremely talented young historians who are just about to make significant contributions. I feel that my MBE is a reflection of all this, for without them my own work would be much poorer.

I have managed to complete a range of projects with such different subjects partly because I expect to work at least 70 hours each week. My own term for this is the Puritan Work Ethic, a reflection of my New England upbringing. But my output has also been possible because a vast number of topics have yet to be investigated or written upon. The rise of fascism in the 1930s, our role in African slavery, the impact of looting during the second world war, or the survival of ancient wooden carving on church seats are all areas which had been ignored. The success of the research has hinged upon the survival of documentary evidence and the MBE also recognises the role I played as chairman of the Friends of Devon's Archives. It was a great honour to lead that charity over 14 years and it is crucial to the study of Devon's history that we continue to support our archives through these financially difficult years.

Just over 400 years ago our first historian, John Hooker, began to collect and analyse local documents. Since then we have benefitted from the work of so many





▲ *Dr Todd Gray (on the left!) with his MBE*

extraordinary individuals. Where would any of us be without the magnificent research of Ethel Lega-Weekes, Beatrix Cresswell, James Davidson, W. G. Hoskins, Harold Fox, Audrey Erskine, Bob Newton, Michael Duffy, Jo Cox, Stuart Blaylock, Margery Rowe or Maryanne Kowaleski?

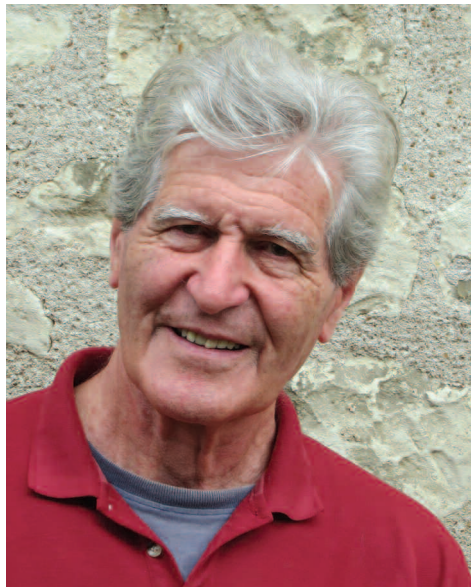
It might be that my own work is distinguished from that of other historians because I have focused so intently upon one county. This has been wildly out of fashion within universities but I remain as fascinated with Devon as when I first arrived in 1973. Who could fail to be intrigued by Sidmouth's Regency kangaroos, the loss-making of Devon's slavery expeditions, the planting of citrus trees in Georgian Kingsbridge, the furore in Devonport over a Great War street shrine, the insistence of Exeter City Council in the days immediately following the Blitz to destroy historic buildings, the medieval carving in Abbotsham of a monkey holding a urine flask, or the steadfastness of Clovelly's visiting Suffragettes?

The diversity of Devon in its people, topography, agriculture, industry and building, amongst other elements, has produced a history that is both captivating and relentless in its variety. An MBE is, to me, an extraordinary and unexpected honour but it has been a greater privilege to have engaged for 30 years in researching, writing and lecturing on the history of Devon. It has led to exciting unravellings of unknown histories and to discussing that research to audiences in exotic places such as Russia, Mongolia and Uzbekistan but it is just as rewarding to explore that work in meetings at Widecombe-in-the-Moor, Alwington or Membury. I have never considered Devon to be the back-water that I have heard it suggested as being by others. But then again that is the advantage of being a historian who is bound to have a much longer perspective. ■

### *Todd Gray*

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 our liaison officer Julia Neville on [j.f.neville@btinternet.com](mailto:j.f.neville@btinternet.com)

## East Devon historian selected as winner in the British Association for Local History publications awards (Long Article) 2014



The article by John Torrance, 'Branscombe 1280-1340: An East Devon Manor before the Black Death', published in *The Devon Historian*, 80 (2012), was recently selected as a winner in the British Association of Local History Publications Awards for 2014. There was strong competition, and John's paper was placed second in the shortlist of five articles published in local history journals drawn from across Great Britain.

John was a lecturer at Oxford University and a fellow of Hertford College, Oxford for some thirty years before retiring to Poole in 1996, and has lived in East Devon since 2006. He converted his academic interest in political history and the history of ideas (main publication: Karl Marx's Theory of Ideas, Cambridge University

Press, 1995) into a research interest in local history. John is an active member of the Branscombe Project for oral and local history, led by his partner Barbara Farquharson. Since 2010 he has been convening the East Devon Local History Workshop, in collaboration with Philippe Planel and supported by the East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, as a forum for village history societies. See also [www.branscombeproject.org](http://www.branscombeproject.org).

John's publications include: *William Ford's Branscombe* (Branscombe Project 2007); 'A Lost Chapel in Colyton' *Devon and Cornwall Notes and Queries*, vol. 40, pt. 4, 2008, 95-103; 'Raddis Lane: What's in a Name?' *The Devon Historian*, 77 (2008), 51-66; 'Raddis Lane: Politics and Landscape', *Devonshire Association Transactions*, 141 (2009), 237-268; *The Shooting at Branscombe Old Pits* (with Barbara Farquharson, Branscombe Project, 2009); 'Branscombe 1280-1340: An East Devon Manor before the Black Death', *The Devon Historian*, 81 (2012), 67-80; 'The Landscape of Branscombe in the Early Fourteenth Century' in Jane Bliss, Christopher Jago and Elizabeth Maycock, eds. *Aspects of Devon History* (Exeter: Devon History Society, 2012), 37-50; 'Branscombe 1280-1340: A Medieval Landscape', *The Devon Historian*, 82 (2013) 35-50; *Waterwheel* (Oversteps Books: 2013, poetry). ppa ■

*Jane Bliss*

## A New Look for the 2014 Annual General Meeting and Conference

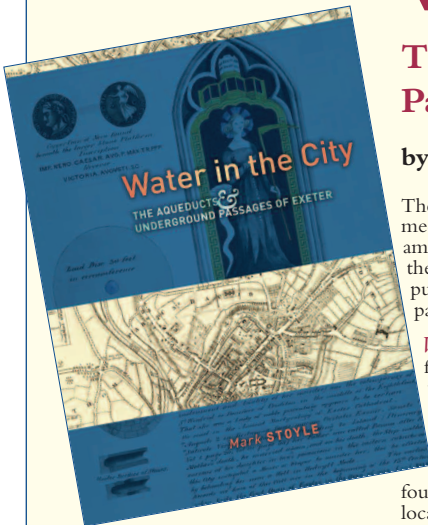
Over the last few years the day of the AGM and Annual Conference has taken the form of a conference broken in the middle of the day by the AGM and ending with the annual awards. This year, as an experiment, we are going to hold the AGM first at 10.00 a.m., concluding with the annual awards. Our First World War conference, 'The Cruellest and Most Terrible War that has ever scourged Mankind', will then follow after a short break.

As well as our keynote speakers, acknowledged experts in their fields, this year's conference will include two sessions where members of our affiliated societies present some of the research they have done. This will include research both on those who

served in the fighting forces and on what life was like in the different parts of Devon during the war. Additionally, outside the lecture theatre there will be an exhibition of some of the First World War research undertaken by our affiliated societies which those attending the conference will have a chance to browse through and compare notes about.

The programme enclosed with this newsletter gives more detail about the content of the conference. Members of the Council hope you'll approve of the new format and the inclusion of local voices and local work.

*Julia Neville*



## Water in the City: The Aqueducts and Underground Passages of Exeter

by Mark Stoyle

The city of Exeter was one of the great provincial capitals of late medieval and early modern England, possessing a range of civic amenities fully commensurate with its size and importance. Among the most impressive of these was its highly sophisticated system of public water supply, including a unique network of underground passages. Most of these ancient passages still survive today.

*Water in the City* provides a richly illustrated history of Exeter's famous underground passages - and of Exeter's system of public water supply during the medieval and early modern periods. Mark Stoyle shows how and why the passages and aqueducts were originally built, considers the technologies that were used in their construction, explains how they were funded and maintained, and reveals the various ways in which the water fountains were used and abused by the townsfolk. Available from local bookshops and from University of Exeter Press website [www.exeterpress.co.uk](http://www.exeterpress.co.uk).

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'The cider of  
the South  
Hams...is  
everywhere  
famous'<sup>1</sup>

# Cider

The term 'South Hams' here seems to have referred to the whole area south and south-east of Dartmoor, but this information concentrates on the parishes of the Dart valley and eastwards.

In 1794, an agricultural labourer's wages were said to be 1s plus a quart of cider a day; at harvest time much the same but with as '...much cider as they chuse to drink.'<sup>2</sup> Female farm labourers also drank a pint or one and a half pints of cider a day as part of their wages in the early nineteenth century.<sup>3</sup> Cider was an important article of the local economy, with farmers supplying themselves and families, workers and selling the surplus to a cider merchant. Cider production appears to have undergone expansion in the 1790's and into the nineteenth century.

As early as 1622, Devonian Whitbourne's list of victuals for a ship to undertake a voyage to Newfoundland included '26 tun of beere and Sider' at 53s-4d per tun.<sup>4</sup> Two centuries later, when Newfoundland had a permanent population, about a third of them from Devon, merchant William Codner of the Teign estuary, advertised for sale in St. John's various foods and 'Prime Devonshire Ale and Cider'.<sup>5</sup>

▲ *19th Century Cider press, Jersey.*  
*Photo: Wikimedia Commons*

More details about the distribution and quality of cider production, including the names of some apple varieties, are available from the returns to Dean Milles' enquiries of the mid eighteenth century.<sup>6</sup> Not all parishes gave the acreages of cider orchards, but Staverton returned 200 acres and Paignton 300 acres. Paignton tithed cider at 8d per butt. The nineteenth century tithe returns also show these two parishes as having 8 per cent or more of land under orchards. Parishes south of the Teign estuary had slightly lower figures, as in Abbotskerswell and St. Marychurch.

More frequently given were the quantities and/or the value per hogshead of the cider. The prices varied from 5s to 12s-15s per hogshead and a few even higher. Dittisham cider was 'not extraordinary for want of care but chiefly ye rough sort'. The better type was sweet, very good cider, such as that produced by Coffinswell from its White Sour and Bitter Sweet apples, which was valued at 18s per hogshead. In 1724 the yield of apples was so heavy in Coffinswell, that they did not finish pounding until 8th



February 1725.<sup>7</sup> The highest values were claimed by Staverton and St. Marychurch, the latter up to 25s. From its high acreage, Paignton could produce as many as 4000 hogsheads of mostly very good cider, especially from the Good Hoard fruit, although the incumbent also admitted that some cheaper cider was 'very bad'. Some cider was sent to London and Newfoundland. The garden of the former Bishop's Palace also was converted 'now' into an orchard.<sup>8</sup>

Production appeared to be spreading. From Kenton it was reported that apples had been planted for some years past, Chudleigh was producing cider worth 1gn a hogshead and in 1794, it was reported that gentlemen were planting nurseries and giving the plants to tenants to enclose land for an orchard.<sup>9</sup> Perhaps this was in response to the opening of Henley's cider works at Abbotskerswell in 1791. Another factory was opened in Totnes.<sup>10</sup> By 1808, it was said that almost every valley had orchards and that improvements were being made in the pruning of the trees.<sup>11</sup>

One roundel of Newton Abbot's pedestrian area records Henley's cider; another represents the Newfoundland fisheries, in which some members of the Henley, Codner and Whiteway families had an interest.<sup>12</sup> There was a link, since cider helped to victual the voyages and was a small part of the trade supplying the residents there.

In an area with a shortage of agricultural labour, due to 'the propensity of the young men to go to sea, in the Newfoundland and other ... fisheries and commerce', it was also a useful coincidence that the apple harvest came later than that of cereal crops.<sup>13</sup> Those who returned from Newfoundland in October might have assisted with cider production and, in Paignton, with the commercial winter cabbage crop. St Marychurch's economy comprised the Newfoundland trade, cabbages, 'other garden stuff' and cider.<sup>14</sup> Autumn and winter

agricultural production fitted well with the availability of labour.

A combination of good physical conditions for apple growth, labour availability, an evidently increasing market and local enterprise appears to have encouraged the extension of the orchards so helping to make the area the principal cider district of Devonshire, producing cider which had a 'richer flavour of the apple than any ... tasted in other counties'.<sup>15</sup> ■

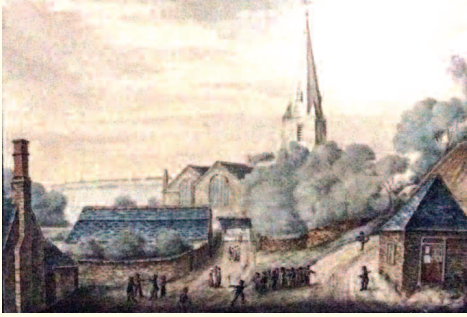
## Marion Hardy

### Notes

1. W. Gilpin, *Observations on the Western Parts of England* (London 1798; Richmond 1973), p.258.
2. R. Fraser, *General View of the County of Devon* (London 1794; Barnstaple 1970), p.43.
3. W. Clowes, *Reports of Special Assistant Poor Law Commissioners on the Employment of Women and Children in Agriculture* (London, 1843), p.93.
4. G. T. Cell, *English Enterprise in Newfoundland* (University of Toronto Press, 1969), p.151, Appendix D, quoting Whitbourne's *Discourse Containing a Loving Invitation* (of 1622).
5. W. G. Handcock, *So longe as there comes noe women* (Breakwater Books, St. John's, NL, Canada, 1989), p. 147; T. N.A., P. R. O., CO194, inserted copy of Public Ledger and Advertiser 15. 6. 1824, no.152.
6. D. H. C. Dean Milles parochial returns, 1. (Micro-fiche)
7. D. H. C. Coffinwell Parish Register, fly leaf of the volume 1674 onwards.
8. Dean Milles 1.
9. Fraser, *General View*, pp. 67-8.
10. E. V. M. Whiteway, *Whiteway's Cyder* (Newton Abbot, 1990), p.15.
11. C. Vancouver, *General View of the Agriculture of the County of Devon* (1808, David and Charles Reprints, 1969), pp. 238-9.
12. See for example: K. Matthews, 'A "Who was Who" of families engaged in the fishery and settlement of Newfoundland 1660-1840' (M. A. thesis, Memorial University of Newfoundland, 1971) (Copy in D. H. C.); D. H. Prowse, *A History of Newfoundland* (London 1895; Boulder Publications, N. L. Canada, 2002)
13. Fraser, *General View*, pp. 24-25.
14. Dean Milles 1.
15. Fraser, *General View*, p. 67. (In contrast, Marshall, 1796, thought the Herefordshire cider superior.)

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 our liaison officer Julia Neville on [j.f.neville@btinternet.com](mailto:j.f.neville@btinternet.com)

## What is going on in Modbury?



DHS News was contacted by **Barry West** with a question about a painting he had discovered. He writes...

*'This painting raises many questions for me. It is said to be an original, painted by Charlotte Stackhouse, daughter of the vicar of Modbury, in 1830.*

*Is this the one and only painting attributed to her? Is this the only one she did of the church? Is there a bigger painting somewhere? What is going on in the painting - there is a man with a stick and what appears to be a crowd being managed. Is it the Modbury riots or something else?'*

The picture has been passed around among Council members but so far nothing dramatic has emerged. The Rev. Stackhouse made a deposition to the authorities about the riots, so Charlotte, as his daughter, would most likely have known all about it, even if her father hadn't discussed it with her directly (see in DRO: FLP, D1262M/L50, L53). On her standing as an artist we can say little at present. Any input welcome, or contact Barry West directly on [barrycwest@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:barrycwest@hotmail.co.uk) ■

*cw*

## Footnotes follow-up: Hederland puzzle teased out.

The response to the first Historical Footnote query could hardly have been more rewarding. Within a week, I had an outline article from Jeanne James, now of Llantwit Major but with Devon history still in her heart, which sets out the definitive case for Hederland. It was in length and character more suitable for publication in *The Devon Historian* where it awaits your attention in the forthcoming edition. I was tempted to summarise the article here, but it would spoil the fun (and in truth it is not easily summarised).

Jeanne read History at Exeter and did her MPhil (on Medieval Chapels of Devon) supervised by Professor Nicholas Orme. ■

*cw*



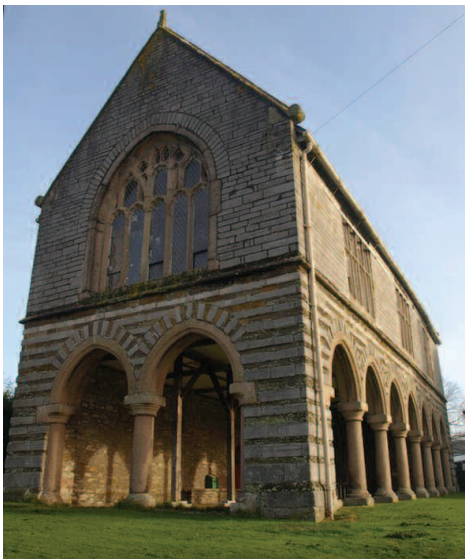
▲ Peter Orlando Hutchinson - confused about Hederland. photo courtesy of East Devon AONB

# Devon's Oldest Schools?

Do you have a photograph or a copy of a sketch of a school in your local community whose building dates back before the days of compulsory state education (the 1870 Education Act)? If so, would you be willing to share it with Devon History Society?

We're planning some research next year into schools in use in Devon during the early Victorian period – in which we hope many of you will get involved – and we'd like to start off with a set of images of the diversity of schools in Devon. They needn't still be in use as schools. They needn't even have been designed as schools – perhaps they were just someone's home, a 'dame school', a town 'academy', or a room in a building with

▼ *The Old Grammar School, Plympton St Maurice, founded 1658. Painter Joshua Reynolds attended school here. Photo Derek Harper, Wikimedia Commons*



▲ *The Old Boys' School, Yonder Street, Ottery St Mary. Established in the 1840s.*

another purpose. They might have been founded by charitably-minded patrons many centuries earlier, or they might have been promoted by more recent Anglican or Nonconformist local or central initiatives. We'd like to show the range of provision that existed within the county, both in the towns and in the countryside.

We'd also like to hear from any of you – individuals or local societies – who've already undertaken, or are undertaking at present, work about a school or schools in your community for the period 1837-1870. And from anyone who thinks they might be interested in contributing to the DHS project. This won't be the last opportunity to join, as we will be providing more detailed information with the newsletter in February 2015, but if this is a topic that would particularly appeal to you, we'd like to know. Please get in touch to let us know about your work and your findings. Contact in the first instance Julia Neville on [j.f.neville@btinternet.com](mailto:j.f.neville@btinternet.com) or 01392-461157. ■

*Helen Turnbull and Julia Neville*





# Interested in Garden History?

Devon gardens are a glorious part of Devon's history. Their diversity includes early landscaped hunting parks, the formal gardens of historic mansions, gardens designed or redesigned for established families and for the nouveaux riches, and the humbler allotments, cottage gardens or municipal parks in our village and town communities. There may be as many as 1300 gardens of historic interest in Devon, including 54 on the English Heritage Register and 180 in the Devon Gardens Trust gazetteer.

The DHS programme this year included a seminar in May run by Dr Clare Greener, who is Vice-President and Leader of the Research and Recording Group of Devon Gardens Trust, on the topic of garden history. Those who attended were given a thorough introduction to the resources and techniques of researching all aspects of a garden's history, and it was evident that many of those present wanted to pursue the opportunity to explore the history of a garden or gardens in more detail.

▲ *Claud Lorrain - Apollo and the Muses on Mount Helion. Paintings like this inspired 18th century garden designers. photo - Wikimedia Commons*

After further discussion with Clare and the Devon Gardens Trust, DHS Council have agreed that we should hold a joint event to bring together those with an interest in the study of garden history in Devon. The purpose of this event would be to hear from a speaker with an established reputation as a garden historian, to share information about researches in progress, to see if and how participants wanted to develop their skills and expertise, and to consider possible priorities for Devon-wide collaborative research. We'll also take stock at that first meeting on whether there would be interest in making this a recurrent event.

The event will be open to members of Devon History Society (and affiliated societies) and Devon Gardens Trust, and invitations to join it will also be extended to groups known to be working on garden



history, such as that at Lupton, to organisations managing homes with historic gardens, such as the National Trust, and to other societies with relevant interests, such as the Devon branch of the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies.

Are you researching a Devon garden or gardens? Would you be interested in taking part in a Devon Garden History Forum? We plan to hold the first event in March next year, before the practical period for garden research on the ground gets under way. This will be very soon after the publication of the 2015 programme, so if you want to hear more about the event in advance, and get early warning of a date to put in your diary, then please contact Julia Neville by email at [j.f.neville@btinternet.com](mailto:j.f.neville@btinternet.com) or by phone on 01392-461157. ■

## Julia Neville

▼ *Autumn colours in Dartington Hall gardens, Devon, UK in late light. photo by Herbythyme Wikimedia Commons*



# Opinion

## Worrying Business

For those of you with abiding memories of old style public service, the unseasonably prompt transformation of what we fondly remember as the DRO (Devon Records Office) first into the Devon Heritage Centre, and now into the Southwest Heritage Trust, may well send a few shivers down your spine. Especially as the new Trust (very new, much talk of 'steep learning curves' among the new trustees) has embarked, almost as its first breath is drawn, on a 'Business Plan'.

Language like that flags up a now familiar paradigm shift in the service concerned. What was previously paid for communally and accessed universally, is increasingly paid for privately by the individuals accessing it. There is not room here (neither should there be, in fairness) for a disquisition on the political and social merits of market values in the public sector, but it is well to remember that there is another way, even though you have to be at least 80 years old to remember its post-war implementation and over 50 years old to remember how it worked in practise. It may well be beyond the ability of the Trust to avoid what has now become a commonplace in public services. They could try though, and I hope the first move in that direction is to rename their Business Plan a 'Management Plan', and to talk about sustaining their public service in the best interest of the wider community.

It does happen still, and I hope I won't be considered too partisan if I point to some projects in East Devon that have digitised records and made them freely available on the internet. The Trust might find willing hands to help them achieve something similar. People might prefer that to reaching for their credit cards. ■

*Chris Wakefield*

# 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 News, but the editor would welcome any discoveries that members make, and wish to share with others. just email [dhsnewsd@gmail.com](mailto:dhsnewsd@gmail.com) with a note about the resource and a link.**

## **Ian Maxted writes...**

The Exeter Working Papers on Book History website <http://bookhistory.blogspot.co.uk/> has international scope but is especially rich on Devon.

Its latest initiative is the Devon book trades imprint registers (see link below) listing books, pamphlets and ephemera with a Devon name anywhere in the imprint. It is arranged by place and publisher and currently extends to 1800 with work in progress to continue it into the 19th century and beyond.

Other pages of interest are also listed at the bottom of this page:

EWP also aims to supplement the work of the Devon Heritage Centre which seems to be facing problems in documenting Devon's

printed and digital heritage. The Devon bibliography lapsed after 2005 but this has been partially revived by EWP, particularly for the years since 2012 when coverage has been particularly poor. Pages are draft only and the compiler would be pleased to receive records for items missed. In 2001 the Westcountry Studies Library started a listing of Devon websites. The version currently on the Devon Heritage Centre's website was last significantly updated in 2004. The Devon digital archive page (link below) is an attempt to take this forward, referring not just to current websites but also increasingly links to archived versions, aiming to focus on sites with significant content which are frequently lost in the digital soup of keyword search results. It should be emphasised that archives of websites do not always provide access to the entire contents of a site, for example where there are search pages linking to databases, but they do give a view of the development of a site over time. This digital archive is in the early stages of development and any suggestions would be gratefully received, including references to other sites which might fulfill this function better.

## **Exeter Working Papers on Book History**

Devon book trades imprint registers:

<http://bookhistory.blogspot.co.uk/2014/02/devon-imprints-introduction-and-key.html>

Bibliography of Devon newspapers 1704-2004:

<http://bookhistory.blogspot.co.uk/2009/10/devon-newspapers-1704-2004.html>

Biographical dictionary of the Devon book trades:

<http://bookhistory.blogspot.co.uk/2006/12/devon-biographical-dictionary.html>

History of the book in Devon:

<http://bookhistory.blogspot.co.uk/2007/01/devon-book-introduction.html>

The Devon digital archive page

<http://bookhistory.blogspot.co.uk/2013/12/devon-digital-archive.html>

## Peter Orlando Hutchinson diaries and sketchbooks.

Alongside much else, a landmark transcription effort was undertaken by East Devon AONB's 'In the Footsteps of Peter Orlando Hutchinson' project which ran from 2010 to 2013 as a continuing part of the East Devon AONB's work on historic landscapes. 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.

## John Leland's itineraries

From Google Books there are several editions of Leland's tours and related commentaries in multiple formats. Finding the part you might want isn't easy, but the Westcountry tour was in 1542 and is in Volume 3 of Thomas Hearne's 1744 edition. This link should find it

<http://google.co.uk/books?id=Y2QGAAAQAAJ>



John Leland - Image Wikimedia Commons

## Orchards Project database

The final compiled version of the work undertaken by the Devon History Society on Orchards is available on the DHS website <http://www.devonhistorysociety.org.uk/2014/01/devon-orchards-parish-summary-report.html>

## Historic weather resources

If you've ever wondered what the weather was doing in the past (as long as that's from mid 19th century onwards), the Met Office has historic station data posted online in text files you can copy and paste into a spreadsheet for analysis, or just look up for a weather 'feel' for your project reports.

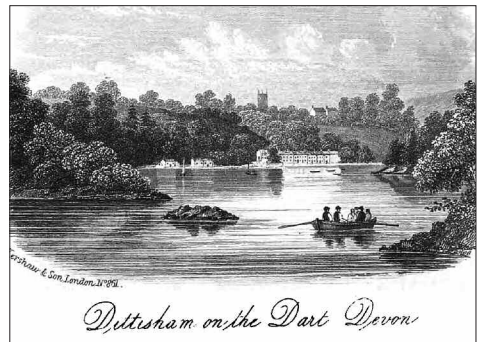
The Southampton data has a good range - 1855 - 2000, (not too distant from Devon). Chivenor runs from 1951 onwards.

[www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate/uk/stationdata](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate/uk/stationdata)

## Travel guides

There are a multitude of tourist guides to Devon dating from the late 18th century onwards downloadable from Google Books or other online digital sources. These contain much useful historic data and illustrations not found elsewhere. Go to the Google Books home page and paste the titles into the search window (the url addresses are a mile long so wouldn't fit well here). *The Panorama of Plymouth* (Samuel Rowe 1821); *A Guide to Ilfracombe and the Neighbouring Towns* (1855); *A New Guide to Sidmouth and the Neighbourhood* - Peter Orlando Hutchinson 1857, and so on - advice on more of these most welcome. ■

*cw*



▲ Engraving from Matthews Hand Book for Torquay 1856

# DHS EVENTS

## PROGRAMME FOR 2014

**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 are included with this issue. Speakers to include *Prof. Jeremy Black, Dr. Bruce Coleman and Dr. Richard Batten*.

**Saturday, 1 November 2014 2.15 pm**

### **The Christopher Jago Memorial**

**Lecture at the Guildhall, 2.15pm:**

### **'The Prayer Book Rebellion of 1549 and the siege of Exeter'**

Professor Mark Stoyale

Tea to follow. To apply for a complimentary ticket (one each per DHS member) please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Bookings Secretary, 2 St Olaves, Murchington, Chagford, TQ13 8HJ. **Please note that the seating capacity at the Guildhall is limited and that after 1st October the lecture will be opened up to non-DHS members.**

**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 included with this issue.

**Wednesday, November 12th, 2pm-4pm.**

### **Exploring the Historic Landscape of Devon**

Emma Rouse (Wyvern Heritage). Seminar at Mint Methodist Centre, Fore St., Exeter. Free to DHS members. Booking arrangements included with this issue.

## Other events

**September 26th 2014, from 16.30 to**

**20.15. at Police Headquarters**

**Middlemoor, Exeter, EX2 7HQ**

The Friends of the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary Heritage and Learning. Two illustrated talks - *Angela Sutton Vane BSc.MRs*, and *Simon Dell OBE*. More details on the Friends web site [www.fdcchl.org.uk](http://www.fdcchl.org.uk) where tickets can be purchased. Alternatively you may wish to call 01837658414 (Mon, Tue, Wed only) for further information. ■

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## Booking Secretary

In the past we have tried our best to accommodate late bookings, but it has become increasingly difficult to administer as the number of late bookers rises, particularly when catering is involved. Please may I remind everyone that bookings for events should be made by one week before the date of the event, and that late booking will no longer be accepted.

In future, for the avoidance of doubt, confirmation of booking will be sent out to those who supply an email address: if you would like confirmation but have no email address, please send an SAE with your booking forms. ■

*Judy Moss*