

DEVON HISTORY NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE DEVON HISTORY SOCIETY

**War Stories:
2014 AGM and
Conference**

**John Allan
A Future for
Roman Exeter?**

**Lympstone's
map detectives**

**At war on the
Moor**

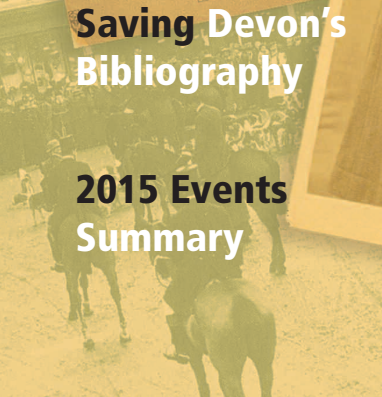
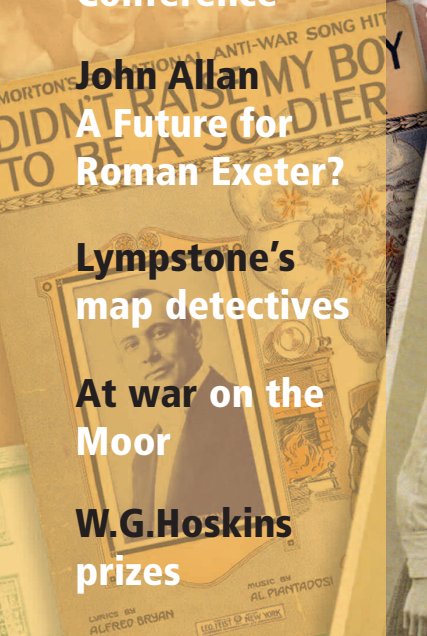
**W.G.Hoskins
prizes**

**Saving Devon's
Bibliography**

**2015 Events
Summary**



Cover photos courtesy of Ottery St. Mary Heritage Society



Contacts

President:

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

Chairman:

Philippe Planel 07929 023378
Philippeplanel@gmail.com

Secretary:

Viv Styles 07929 023378
vivstyles@btinternet.com

Treasurer:

Ann Bond 01626 890736
treasurer@devonhistorysociety.org.uk

Membership Secretary:

Judy Moss 01647 433492
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
jbbhistory@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

Webmasters

Ray Girvan ray@raygirvan.co.uk
Martin Smith martin.a.smith.t21@btinternet.com

CHAIRMAN'S WORD

If a society's newsletter is a guide to the health of that society – and it certainly should be, then the current issue of Devon History News is



extremely encouraging. There was perhaps some doubt as to whether the last 'bumper' edition of the newsletter could be sustained, but it clearly can be. Although this is in some degree attributable to the skills of the editor, it also has to do with the copy which is submitted to the editor and of course the activity which generates the copy. Council has been discussing whether to send the newsletter to members in electronic form. For my part, I want to hold these pages in my hands and keep them on a shelf with all the others, so I shall be voting for a dual approach, with a printed option for those who want it for as long as we can reasonably afford it.

The current newsletter reflects the healthy mix of commemoration, reflection, celebration, research and sheer enjoyment of history which characterises the DHS. Also evident is a balance between academic history, as witnessed at the AGM conference and

the practice of local history on the ground. We welcome more newly affiliated societies (over 60 now) and new members to the society, and look forward to another very active year with, on the one hand, research projects (such as the Garden History Forum and the Victorian Schools project) and, on the other, a chance to visit two of our further-flung affiliated societies at our spring and summer meetings. The events programme also includes seminars where members can hone their historical and organisational skills, and there is once again this mix of the local and the contextual of which the DHS can be particularly proud. We do, however, have our concerns: we know we are not reaching schools and teachers, although we are actively engaged in remedying this. We are also aware of changes in the landscape of history, as well as the historical landscape – we follow, among many things, the deliberations of the South West Heritage Trust Advisory Forum with keen interest and we look forward to contributing to its further development. ■

Philippe Planel (Chair)

EDITORIAL

No room for idle gossip in this edition. I am delighted to make way for more rewarding contributions. ■

Chris Wakefield

Viv Styles takes over as DHS Secretary



Q&A: Viv Styles

(With apologies to The Guardian newspaper)

Born in Birmingham in 1958, I began teaching Humanities in Wolverhampton in 1980 and remained in the education sector for 30 years, mostly in schools, but also partly in administration. Since moving to Devon in 2002, I have been a volunteer with Bovey Tracey Heritage Trust and am currently Chair of the Trust.

When were you happiest? *The day I married my husband Tony.*

What is the trait you most deplore in yourself? *I'm bossy and always think I know best!*

What is the trait you most deplore in others? *Rudeness and bad manners of any kind.*

What is your most treasured possession? *My beautiful Albion Press, made in 1865 from cast iron and brass and still in perfect working order.*

What would your super power be? *To turn weapons into paint brushes.*

What is your favourite quotation? *'Only put off until tomorrow what you are willing to die having left undone.'* (Picasso)

What is the worst job you've done? *Education Officer with responsibility for Exclusions and Appeals.*

If you could edit your past, what would you change? *I'd have gone to Art College.*

How do you relax? *I go for walks with my dog, I paint, draw, cut into bits of lino or wood and make prints.* ■

Affiliated Societies

First of all, it's good to welcome two new affiliated societies who have joined us since the last Newsletter in August 2014. They are Bovey Tracey Heritage Trust and the Friends of Hoar Oak Cottage. You can find out more about them initially by looking at their websites www.devonmuseums.net/bovey-tracey-heritage-centre/Devon-Museums/ and www.hoaroakcottage.org, and, we hope, meet their members at future events.

I can't let this opportunity pass without mentioning the great contributions made by so many of our affiliated societies to the Devon History Society Conference on the First World War last October. It would be invidious to single out individuals or specific societies for their particular contributions and perhaps it was anyway an occasion where the whole was greater than the sum of the parts. The impact of seeing and hearing the products of researches into the First World War by such a wide range of Devon's diverse communities both reinforced our understanding of the way the war pervaded all aspects of everyday life and also inspired members with ideas for new avenues of research.

How do we follow this? We'd like participation by local societies, and indeed by individual members, in the annual conference to become an established feature of the way we work. This means finding themes that have already attracted research by a number of different societies. For October 2015 we propose a conference based on the interface between rural and urban communities in the 'long' nineteenth century. We are sure that many of you will have looked at migration, or changes in patterns of transport, or the start of suburban sprawl, or changes to local markets or shops. If your society would like to contribute something to the day, please get in

From the Membership Secretary

The Treasurer and I are still working to bring Membership payments into line. Some of you will find enclosed a pink slip describing your arrears situation and requesting remedy by 1st May, the date fees for 2015 -16 become due. Please could all members who pay by cheque make a note of this due date!

The Society is seeking to reduce printing and postage costs. We would like to deliver future newsletters in electronic format to as many Individual and Family/Household members that are happy to receive it this way. In addition we would like to have up to date email addresses for as many members as possible, as this would also reduce administrative postage costs. The Membership List which I took over in May 2013 included email addresses for well under half the members: many of these addresses do not work any more; I have emailed several people about payment arrears and received no reply. Please could I ask you to return the enclosed green slip to inform me about the format in which you would like to receive future Newsletters and events booking information, and even if you still want it in hard copy, write clearly your email address for future administrative use. You may of course email me this information. The Devon History Society respects the Data Protection Act by using the Bcc tab to send the same email to a number of people, such that people cannot see the email addresses of others. ■

Judy Moss

touch with me, j.f.neville@btinternet.com or 01392-461157. I'll be writing round with more details as we confirm the principal speakers and their topics. ■

Julia Neville

2014 AGM and Conference



Shamed by my lack of input to the organising and running of this event, I volunteered as a gofer, to fetch and carry as required at the start and the finish. And there was a deal of that to do such was the number of local history groups that turned up to erect display material relating to their first world war projects at this joint AGM and WWI Conference.

AGMs can be irredeemably dull, but arranged as a simple add-on to what was shaping up to be an interesting day, it slipped painlessly by with hardly anyone noticing they'd had one (results, annual report etc are on the website). Which left plenty of time for the conference.

We kicked off with the presentation of the DHS's W.G.Hoskins prize, which this year went to David Parker's magisterial social history of WWI in Devon (see article p6). In addition, the judges were unable to let things lie without a special commendation prize to Alex Woodcock's beautiful record of the (largely hidden) sculptural treasures in Exeter Cathedral (see article p7).

Then followed (for me anyway) the highlights of the show - three lectures, one each from Dr. Bruce Coleman, Professor Jeremy Black and Dr. Richard Batten, the first two keen to caution against sentimental histories of the first world war, and inject some hard nosed realism into the mix, and the last to see what happened to Devon's tourism industry during the war.

▲ *Presentations from members (Left to right) Lesley Sharp (Brixham), David Pinder (Wembury), Sandra Bond (Teign Valley), Jim Woolley (Ottery St. Mary). Peter Mason (Lustleigh). DHS president Dr Bruce Coleman, chaired the session.*

Dr Coleman's sketch of pre war social and political turmoil was a powerful purgative of anything remotely Downton Abbeyish about this period in history (assuming any of you are devotees). Similarly, professor Black's assertion that boredom at the front was a major preoccupation of the troops, enlivened with the occasional bloodletting jamboree, shocked the audience and set us to reflect on our own work on the war and how well we were doing (or not doing) as historians. It was a hugely stimulating couple of hours.

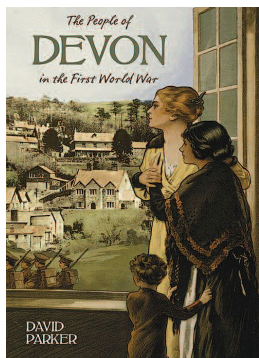
It was some relief, then, to have our confidence restored by the concluding presentations from local groups. Allowed a meagre 10 minutes apiece, they all had interesting and varied things to tell us, with no detectable level of sentimentality apparent.

The whole thing made me think I'd want to come again if DHS AGMs are this good. Members owe a considerable debt to Paul Auchterlonie and his helpers on Council for organisation this excellent event. ■

Chris Wakefield

W.G.Hoskins Prize

Authors David Parker and Alex Woodcock tell the News about their new books - both recognised in his year's W.G.Hoskins award.



The People of Devon in the First World War is available from the publishers, The History Press:
www.thehistorypress.co.uk

'The People of Devon in the First World War'

The book explores the variety of responses of men, women and children to an unprecedented global war that touched, tormented

and twisted so many lives across the county. In 1914 Devon was not the remote county as it has been so often described, but well connected with a web of railways and coastal routes transporting thousands of tourists and a host of goods. From the outset of war the trains started their never-ending journeys conveying troops to training camps and embarkation ports, and bringing thousands of casualties to the county's numerous emergency war hospitals. Devon sailors and ships were commandeered for perilous service as patrol vessels and minesweepers, and shipping just off the Devon coast forever risked attacks by roving German submarines.

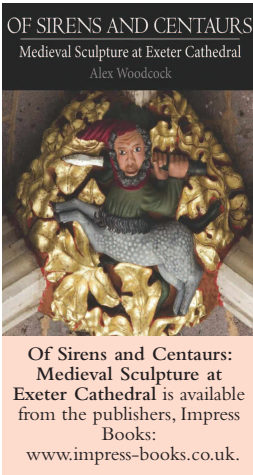
As elsewhere, Devon men flocked to enlist in the early autumn of 1914. Many were already in Territorial or Naval Reserve units. However the rush quickly died away and Devon became one of the lowest counties for volunteering. Posters, patriotic rallies, white feathers, emotional articles in newspapers, noisy recruitment marches through towns and villages, and the public naming and shaming of particular communities, did little good. It took conscription to drain the

county of its able-bodied men, and there were thousands of applications for exemption from those with key businesses to run, large or elderly families to support, or, more controversially, religious and ideological objections to engaging in battle. The book explores the issues, and a number of personal stories.

Women supported the war effort in many ways, not least overcoming the stress of maintaining homes and families without menfolk. Many, mainly but not exclusively middle class, were members of Devon's Voluntary Aid Detachments and served in the war hospitals. Others knitted and sewed, helped at fetes, bazaars and concerts, rattled collection boxes for an amazing range of war related charities, and sorted, wrapped and dispatched parcels to local battalions and ships across the world. Several women rose to unexpected – and controversial – prominence working with casualties and refugees, many of them in the militant Women's War Workers Committee. Their greatest conflict was with Devon farmers, most of whom hated the thought of employing females outside their families. They much preferred older schoolboys, and even prisoners of war. The farmers had a difficult time, though. They lost many young workers, and they were fighting a losing battle against the government's draconian order to plough up thousands of acres of pasture and restore production to what it had been in 1870 before the great rural depression. The book examines the whole range of attitudes, and the bitter controversies.

Children were, of course, caught up in the mixed horrors and excitement of war. The sights and sounds excited them, and school days were enlivened by patriotic lessons, Empire and Trafalgar Day, charity concerts and collections, visits from Old Boys in uniform, and the enjoyable times out collecting horse chestnuts

continued on next page...



‘Of Sirens and Centaurs’

I wanted to bring the hundreds of outstanding Gothic sculptures that exist at Exeter to a new audience, to think about them in terms of their

physical and social contexts, and to consider them as the unique and significant works of art that they are. It was, from the beginning, a highly visual project, which was realized with the help of photographer and artist Mark Ware. In the course of my daily work at the cathedral as a stonemason (where I was for six years) I had a privileged perspective, and was often able to view the carvings at close quarters. My background is in archaeology: prior to becoming a stonemason I wrote a PhD on medieval sculpture and had

The People of Devon in the First World War /continued

and soft fruit for the army. All the time they waited for news from their own fathers, uncles and brothers. School records tell fascinating tales. And so do the humanitarian campaigns and parliamentary debates that eventually ensured the nation that had suffered such slaughter of its young men at last did something to reduce the similar numbers of infants and new-born babies lost through disease and malnutrition. The book pays particular attention to the country’s hopes for a better future. ■

David Parker

continued to write on the subject, publishing Gargoyles and Grotesques with the Oxford based publisher, Shire, in 2011. Conrad Donaldson, chairman of the Friends of Exeter Cathedral, saw this book and asked me if I would be interested in writing one on the work at Exeter. I was happy, if a bit daunted, to accept: there are over 350 carved roof bosses in the cathedral alone, and in putting the book together the main problem was what to leave out! In the end the best approach appeared to be a thematic one, with the chapters each discussing a specific group of images, prefaced by a discussion of more general topics – how the chronology of the building was related to the sculpture, and on the lives of the stonemasons and carvers at Exeter in the Middle Ages. The intention was always to produce a work that was accessible to the general reader but based upon sound research, to stand as an introduction to the sculpture that is there but also to offer some fresh ideas. ■

Alex Woodcock



▲ (Left to right) W.G.Hoskins Award prizewinners Alex Woodcock and David Parker with DHS President Bruce Coleman and Chairman Phil Planel.

South West Heritage Trust Advisory Forum

By now I imagine most of our members are aware that Devon County Council's Devon Heritage Centre is being managed by a new voluntary trust, the South West Heritage Trust, which also looks after former Somerset County Council Heritage Services. You can read more about them at www.thesouthwest-heritagetrust.wordpress.com.

As one of the ways of keeping in touch with all the many people who use its services and care about the preservation of local records and artefacts from the past, the Trust has decided to create an Advisory Forum. The Forum exists, as the Terms of Reference state, to provide support and challenge (as a 'critical friend') to the board of the Trust and to make sure that a wide range of voices and perspectives are available to the Board. It will be a sounding board for future plans and its members will have a chance to discuss how well the service is performing and what improvements the Trust could make. (But it is not a channel for resolving day-to-day problems. These should always be raised in the first instance with the staff.)

Membership is on a personal basis rather than by particular organisations, and I'm pleased to tell you that I have been invited to be a member for the next two years. The Forum will be meeting quarterly, so if any of you have 'first impressions' of the changes the Trust introduces, or of what you think priorities for development should be, please let me know at j.f.neville@btinternet.com or on 01392-461157.

Other members from Devon for this first two years are Canon Ann Barwood, the Canon Librarian at Exeter Cathedral; Peter Best from the Friends of Devon Archives; Professor Henry French of Exeter University, who is also a Devon History Society council member; and Maureen Selley from Devon Family History Society. ■

Julia Neville

Research Opportunities with Devon History Society

For members who are interested in taking their local researches a bit further we are offering three varied opportunities this year.

(i) Devon Garden History Forum

A forum for those interested in how a garden in their locality evolved and its impact on the community around. We are fortunate to have the distinguished garden writer and historian, Tim Richardson, giving the keynote speech at the event on March 21st, but there will be plenty of opportunity during the day to look at current research and to agree new areas of research interest we could tackle jointly. This event is being booked via Devon Gardens Trust, so please return that special booking form separately to the address shown on that booking slip.

(ii) Early Victorian Schools in Devon

Thank you to those who responded to our appeal in the last newsletter for images of school buildings in use in Devon before the advent of compulsory education, and to those who have offered to help in other ways. We'll be following up those leads between now and the workshop planned for 9th May. If you are interested, please use the relevant section of the enclosed booking form for DHS events. If you are unable to attend that particular day, do get in touch with me in any case. You may remember we had a brief discussion at the AGM about involving school students – perhaps we might consider how we could use this project to work with schools on the history of the school(s) in their community. All ideas welcome!

(iii) Food and Farming in Devon during the First World War

DHS is supporting an Exeter University project which is part of a two year WWI project at the National Engagement Centre at the University of Hertfordshire. This project will look at 'Food and Farming in Devon in 1917-8', bringing together people with local knowledge about changes in farming and fishing communities in Devon, the growing of vegetables, the impact of food shortages with specialist historians to build

The Devon Manorial Documents Register Project

Manors were for centuries at the heart of local government, societies, and economies throughout Western Europe. Few records offer as comprehensive a window into the past as the documents they generated; they include those created by the manor courts (these enforced local justice, and oversaw tenancy changes), rentals, surveys, accounts, and maps. As evocations of the lives of ordinary people in the pre-modern age, manorial records, some of which date back to the thirteenth century, are without equal, enabling us to understand the prevailing social and economic structures within our towns and villages, and illuminating a host of other fascinating topics; for example, the role of women in wider society and the impact of plague and pestilence. They also provide a thoroughly entertaining, but occasionally harrowing, compendium of sex, violence and death, illustrating Chaucer's bawdy and dangerous world in primary colours. Beyond this, they constitute an immensely valuable genealogical resource, especially for the period pre-dating the advent of parish registers. However, it would be misleading to imply that

continued from p8

up a picture of how people in Devon helped beat the U-boat blockade.

The University has appointed James Wallis to lead the project. James is now in post and beginning to make contact with groups and individuals who have already registered an interest via Devon History Society or the Devon Remembers project. If you or your group would like to join that list, or receive further information about the detail of the project, please register your interest with me. ■

Julia Neville.

You can contact me about any of the projects above by email on J.F.Neville@btinternet.com or by telephoning 01392-461157.

manorial records are solely of interest to medievalists. In many areas the manorial system survived until the twentieth century. The Somerset Manorial Documents Register contains records dating from as recently as 1972, and a good many manors have records spanning the best part of 700 years. All in all, though manorial records might initially appear forbidding, they are among the most diverse and exciting to be found in archives.

Paradoxically, they also remain among the least known. The Manorial Documents Register (MDR) Project aims to rectify this state of affairs. The MDR is the national statutory register, arranged by county, of the surviving manorial records for England and Wales. Established in the 1920s, the original register takes the form of largely inaccessible paper slips, held at The National Archives. Since the 1990s various counties' information has been extensively revised, expanded, improved, and transferred to an electronic database (this can be viewed at <http://apps.nationalarchives.gov.uk/mdr/>). Following my completion of the Somerset MDR (which I began working on in June 2013), I have now commenced on a two-year project to make the Devon register available online. The work is funded by The National Archives, but I am employed directly by the new South West Heritage Trust.

A project of this ambitious scale, involving the records of well over 1,000 manors, cannot be successfully completed to a challenging timetable without assistance from other people with experience of historical research, and knowledge of the manorial system and/or medieval documents. I should be delighted to hear from anyone who might be keen on researching the histories of individual manors, or working with the original records; I can be reached at scott.pettitt@swheritage.org.uk ■

Scott Pettitt

Devon Manorial Documents Register Archivist

A Bright Future for Roman Exeter?

The potential for re-excavating the remains of the Roman bath-house in Exeter's Cathedral Close and making them a visitor centre has been the subject of much local news coverage. The idea, keenly supported by Jonathan Draper, the Dean of Exeter, has been met with support from a range of local people, and is now being actively explored by the Cathedral Architect Camilla Finlay, the landscape designer Robert Myers and others, including the Cathedral Archaeologist.

The discovery of the Roman legionary baths under Exeter's Cathedral Close in the early 1970s was surely the most memorable event in the archaeology of the city, and for many people this was perhaps the most exciting find in the entire archaeology of the county. The excavations uncovered about half the main building of the baths complex, which consisted of the three parallel vaulted halls through which the bather would pass – the cold, tepid and hot rooms (frigidarium, tepidarium and caldarium). In the 1970s the

entire caldarium was exposed, with almost half the tepidarium and a small part of the frigidarium. The two heated rooms were raised over a hypocaust basement, whose tile stacks and flues were a striking feature of the excavation.

The bath-house was erected around AD 60. It is therefore one of the very earliest monumental stone buildings known in Britain (perhaps the second earliest after the Temple of Claudius in Colchester), and a major monument in the story of architecture in Britain. As Paul Bidwell's fine report on the excavations showed, the building's design is of the greatest interest; it belongs to a distinctive form of bath-house associated with legionary fortresses. It operated to full capacity only until c. AD 75, when the legion removed to South Wales. After the departure of the legion

▼ *Excavation of Cathedral Yard in 1972. The extent of the Roman remains cast a new light on the local, regional and national history of Roman Britain.*



the site was converted to use as the basilica of the newly founded town of Isca Dumnoniorum, whose massive walls overlay the remains of the baths. The basilica was succeeded in turn by a Post-Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval cemetery, itself subject of great archaeological importance.

When the remains were first exposed Arup Associates were invited to draw up a scheme which would provide a cover building for the monument, with an adjoining underground interpretation area. This proposal was submitted in 1973 but in the mid-1970s it fell victim to Ted Heath's spending cuts; the baths were backfilled with sand, and broad steps ('the processional way') were laid over them until resources could be found to allow the baths to be reopened. In subsequent years a number of further schemes aimed at displaying the baths have arisen, but they have all foundered. One promoted by Exeter City Council in 1989-90 was the subject of a detailed costing by the international consultants KPMG, which concluded that a new baths museum would be financially viable and would contribute significantly to Exeter's economy.

In 2009 an unexpected complicating factor arose; the processional way of the 1970s, which overlies part of the baths, was itself regarded as being of such significance that it was listed at Grade II*, alongside the cobbled square in front of the west front. These features were constructed in 1976 by the Gundry Dyer Partnership, drawing on outline plans by the distinguished landscape architect Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe; Sir Edwin Lutyens' Devon County War Memorial was listed with them.

The baths are a magnificent monument – not only the best Roman remains we are ever likely to see in Devon or Cornwall but arguably a monument of equal significance in the story of architecture in Britain to the cathedral itself. They are the only part of the

legionary fortress of Exeter which could ever be displayed, and the most impressive testament to the Roman army we could appreciate anywhere in South-West England. They have great educational potential, and could provide an exciting new visitor attraction for the city. Lying in the most public part of Exeter, they are in many regards ideally placed for a major tourist destination. That said, a difficult mix of structural, technical and procedural hurdles arises. It may prove impossible to achieve a design in which the baths could be exhibited in a manner which does justice to the monument whilst respecting the historic landscape setting of the cathedral. The exposure of the ancient structure of brick and tile to modern atmospheric conditions may raise questions of environmental control which prove insuperable. English Heritage may advise that the Gundry-Jellicoe steps of the 1970s are so significant that they must never be disturbed.

At this stage it is not certain that a project to re-open the baths will proceed, but for the first time since the 1970s the Cathedral Chapter (the landowner) has real enthusiasm for investigating what might be done with the baths, and has assembled a team of energetic people who might carry through a major scheme. The possibility of creating an imaginative modern building to present the evocative remains of this mighty building in its historic setting is very exciting, and I would like to think that members of the Devon History Society will support with enthusiasm a scheme which could display one of the most splendid early Roman monuments in the country to a new generation. ■

John Allan

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

Lympstone historical mapping workshop

The East Devon HEAP (Historic Environment Action Plan) is funded by English Heritage through the East Devon AONB. It is a community based project, a 'bottom up' approach, encouraging communities to assess the character and significance of their local historic environment. Initially involving two Parishes (Branscombe and Woodbury), Lympstone became involved through a ripple effect. Lympstone's first contact with HEAP was through a mapping workshop. Mary Turner takes up the story.

We were lucky enough to be given the opportunity to get involved in a mapping exercise with the help of the HEAP project. The process we followed has helped us to draw out new information about our village, and also to identify local documents, images and sources that could have been lost. We were very lucky to have help with what we did, but the process could be easily replicated by others.

How did we do it?

First of all we invited Phil to come and talk to us about the HEAP project, and a pleasant evening was had, involving members of the history society and other key people in the village who were invited because of their specific interests such as our historic houses group, with its focus on Lympstone's listed buildings. At the end of this informal evening, we decided we would like to take it further with our own mapping event. A few of us arranged to attend similar events in Woodbury and Woodbury Salterton to familiarise ourselves with the technique.

Our first historic mapping event was held in June, and it was attended by history society members and village residents. Emma Rouse supplied us with 3 sets of maps covering clearly marked, square sections of the village:

1. Copies of current Ordnance Survey Maps (on which to draw)
2. Copy of Ordnance Survey Map of 1888
3. Copy of Tithe map (land use c1840 – fields, orchards, woodland and properties)

It takes a while to 'get your eye in' and those who had been to other sessions were able to support those who were new to the process to get going more quickly. There are a few things you need to know, like how features like orchards and woodland are shown on the maps (orchards are shown as trees in neat rows).

We worked in pairs to compare 1840s Lympstone with the parish in 1880, while other pairs worked on comparisons between 1880 and today. Fine-nib coloured pens were used to indicate things that have stayed the same, and things that have changed. At the end of the morning each pair fed back what they had found – we noticed the loss of a great many small orchards throughout the village and hedge loss, and that a number of properties had retained the same footprint throughout the years.

In September we held a second mapping session, this time focusing on the centre of the village and the waterfront, as our village sits right on the Exe Estuary and has a long economic history bound up with the sea. The same process of comparing maps was used, and many of the same people joined us again, with some new people as well. Some of our members had visited the County Records Office in Exeter to look at maps of the planned railway route, and had discovered brand new information about land use and

ownership at the time, in the form of a 'referendum' in which planners listed all those affected by the proposed route.

What next?

In October we had another informal evening meeting with and we discussed a variety of ways of moving forward over a glass of warm punch (thanks Jenny). As a result of this meeting we found out about lots of valuable sources of information that could help us in our research, and we now have some plans to move forward in a number of complementary ways:

- by beginning to digitise some of our local historic information (starting with our historic display boards and information uncovered during this research phase)
- research by individuals on topics of interest to them such as the history of our 'Darling Rock'; the impact of the railway on the local economy; the sailing history of the village,

and how the village has been represented by artists over the years.

We hope to involve more village residents, including children and families, through activities and events as we uncover more and more information to share about our local history.

Useful web links

East Devon Tithe maps and apportionments (c1840) at <http://www.eastdevonaonb.org.uk/dro/>

Devon-wide tithe apportionment originals: <http://www.devon.gov.uk/tithemaps.htm>

HEAP Project contacts – Emma Rouse, Wyvern Heritage and Landscape Consultancy
01747 870810 email emma@wyvernheritage.co.uk ■

Mary Turner – Lympstone History Society

▼ *Map analysis work in Lympstone.*



Dartmoor Life in the First World War



When I was asked to provide one photograph to illustrate this article I had to give the question a lot of thought. How could I illustrate everything that took place on Dartmoor during the War in one image? I then thought of this photograph. This was taken at the wedding of Louisa Endacott to Sergeant William Hooper Weekes at Clannaboro Farm, Throwleigh on 23rd June 1917. After a short honeymoon, he returned to his duties as a medicine dispenser in the Royal Army Medical Corps in France, dying of exhaustion on 21st March 1918, aged 31. His widow re-married but she never forgot Will, paying to have flowers put on his grave at Tourgeville Military Cemetery.

As well as being a moving story the photograph illustrates one aspect of the mood that prevailed throughout the War – despite people being concerned about what was happening in the War and frustration over wartime shortages and government

regulations, there was a determination that life should, as far as possible go on as normal. In the words of the Reverend Herbert Johnson, Rector of Lustleigh: “*The home and the family life must still go on... Nay if home life is always of high importance, perhaps it is the case that now, and in the early future, it is, and will be, more important than ever.*”

Every village and town raised money during the War for a wide variety of causes including hospitals, wounded soldiers, and War Bonds. Numerous concerts, flag days and raffles were organised. Every village on Dartmoor is likely to have hosted at least one Belgian refugee family. Any call to collect materials for the War effort was readily responded to with children making a major contribution, often in school time. These saw massive quantities of eggs, waste paper, blackberries, whortleberries, foxglove leaves and horse chestnuts collected. The collection of sphagnum moss probably took the most voluntary effort with one of the

largest collection centres being in Princetown. Women volunteered as nurses and driving instructors, and there is even an instance of a poacher being sworn in as a special constable to patrol the Okehampton to Tavistock railway line!

Some machinery, such as that used for threshing corn, began to appear on farms before the war but farming was still labour intensive. With younger men joining up, and being conscripted after February 1916, farms came to be dependent on older members of the family, children, wives and sisters. Additional labour was required and this was met, at least in part, by prisoners of war and soldiers. Great Bidlake Farm, near Bridestowe became an all women demonstration farm and, although not universally welcomed, some farmers took on members of the Women's Land Army.

Dartmoor communities played their part in looking after wounded soldiers in second line VAD hospitals in Buckfastleigh, Chagford, Ivybridge, Okehampton, and Tavistock and at Manor House, near Moretonhampstead. But they did more than this – there are several reports of wounded servicemen being taken on outings to Dartmoor. For example, in 1915 the Newton Abbot Shilling Fund organised an outing for 300 wounded servicemen to Dartmoor which ended at Manaton with tea being served and the men being entertained by an Italian band and a magician.

In March 1917 the prisoners were moved out of Princetown and over the next two years around 1,000 Conscientious Objectors (COs) were sent there as one of the 'Work Settlements' that were established. The COs were expected to undertake hard work, the best known being the construction of what became known as 'Conchies Road'. However, the inmates had

the freedom to come and go and the decision to house them at Princetown caused a furore that lasted until the end of the War. Examples of this include a group of COs being surrounded by a crowd in Tavistock which led to them being banned from the town. Moretonhampstead Parish Council condemned the '*loathsome and pretentious humbugs*' and the Bishop of Exeter refused them use of the prison chapel despite the fact that many of them were members of various religious sects.

News of the Armistice, which was agreed for the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918, reached Dartmoor towns and villages slowly. For example, the people of Cornwood on the southern edge of Dartmoor realised something was afoot when they heard the distant church bells of Plymouth and the sound of ships' sirens in Torbay. The Peace Treaty wasn't signed until July 1919 when further celebrations were held around the country to mark this occasion.

To help understanding of the significant impact that the First World War had on Dartmoor Life, the Dartmoor Trust in partnership with the National Park Authority and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund is presenting an Exhibition in the National Park Visitor Centre, Princetown from 7 March to 9 September 2015. This exhibition has principally drawn on the collections of community archives and the research done by local history groups. In parallel, a web based educational package, supported by the Your Dartmoor Fund, is being prepared by the Dartmoor Trust to resource teachers and help students understand the impact of those turbulent times, the way people lived 100 years ago and the legacy of the War. ■

Peter Mason

The bibliography of Devon's heritage

Ian Maxted plots the work of Devon's bibliographers from the mid nineteenth century and points to worrying trends in bibliographical support for Devon's historians.

The first Devon publisher was Martin Coeffin of Exeter active from about 1505. The first Devonian to get into print was Alexander Barclay of Ottery in 1509. The first book to be printed in Devon left the press in Tavistock in 1534. The first printed item about Devon is probably a broadside ballad relating to the Western Rebellion in 1549. Since then there have been many thousands of books, pamphlets, broadsheets, newspapers, periodicals maps and prints relating to Devon – and more recently digital records.

The first person to attempt to get a grip on this printed output was James Davidson, whose *Bibliotheca Devoniensis: a catalogue of the printed books relating to the county of Devon* appeared in 1852, with a supplement in 1861. Davidson's Sector Library at Axminster contained a wealth of material relating to Devon and the Westcountry Studies Library held manuscripts adding to his bibliography. Later bibliographers such as T. N. Brushfield and John Ingle Dredge undertook work in particular fields, Dredge on early imprints and Brushfield on Walter Raleigh for example, but the main additional sources for the bibliography of Devon were the printed catalogues of the public libraries in Exeter and Plymouth and the series of catalogues of the Devon and Exeter Institution's library as well as Plymouth Athenaeum's 1894 Catalogue of the Davidson collection of pamphlets etc in the library at the Athenaeum. These are particularly important in view of the effects of the blitz in Plymouth and Exeter.

All these sources, as well as catalogues of national collections and booksellers' catalogues, were trawled through by Burnet Morris of Teignmouth, the recorder in bibliography for the Devonshire Association from 1915 to 1940.

Unfortunately for bibliographers (but perhaps fortunately for historians) Burnet Morris confused a bibliography with an index and the vast majority of the 1,000,000 plus cards in the massive index now sprawled like a stranded bibliographical leviathan in the search room of the Devon Heritage Centre are to single line references in larger works.

Some attempt was made to continue the index after 1940 when Burnet Morris passed it to Exeter Central Library but little was done until Allan Brockett, working with Exeter University Library, started work on the Devon union list, basing his listing on the catalogues of the main libraries in the county. He had a hard task. In Exeter Central Library the bulk of the local collection survived the Blitz but, although collecting continued after 1945, little had been done to reconstitute the public catalogues which had been destroyed in 1942. The situation changed after local government reorganisation in 1975 and the establishment of the Westcountry Studies Library, which began to tackle the immense backlog of cataloguing. In 1977 the University of Exeter published *The Devon union list* : a collection of written material relating to the county of Devon, compiled by Allan Brockett. Of the 8,300 titles listed the majority were from the Westcountry Studies Library.

In the hope of continuing this record the Devon History Society initiated the annual Devon bibliography. This was compiled by Geoffrey Paley, largely from information supplied by the Westcountry Studies Library, until his death in 1984. From 1985 it was taken over by Devon Library Services but was discontinued in 2004 on the retirement of the County Local Studies Librarian.

Since then there has been a gradual decline in the documentation and collection of Devon's printed heritage, and this has become particularly apparent since local government cuts began in 2011. From the 1980s the catalogue of Devon's local studies collections have been mounted on a digital database, so it is possible to chart the changing coverage of the collections over the centuries in the tables below. These show that today's acquisition levels are at the level of the 1880s, and that the effect of the cuts has been worse than the two world wars. To fill this gap the Devon bibliography was restarted on the Exeter Working papers in Book History website during 2013, but this is not really the answer. With the Westcountry Studies Library closed and no designated library staffing for the transferred collections in the Devon Heritage Centre to undertake the searching through the 100,000 items published each year and no realistic bookfund to acquire those that might be located, there seems to be a need for an alternative base for the maintenance of Devon's bibliography. There is a range of possibilities. The

Devonshire Association could once more take up the mantle, the Devon History Society is another candidate, the Devon and Exeter Institution as the main library actively collecting in this area, the University of Exeter – or could this be a function for the new heritage centre under consideration in Plymouth? But each of these has its disadvantages – the coverage of Devon's printed heritage is not just about history but also about all aspects of the county today: community, economy and the natural environment, not forgetting the need to get a grip on the massive digital record. The best solution would be to campaign for adequate funding and staffing in the Devon Heritage Centre within the new South West Heritage Trust. ■

Ian Maxted

NB Ian Maxted is giving a lecture and seminar at Exeter Central Library - 'Of the Making of Many Books there is No End' on the Bibliography of Devon, Past, Present and Future. Tuesday, July 28th 2.15 pm-4 pm.

Table 1: Books, pamphlets and ephemera in the local studies database by centuries and decades.

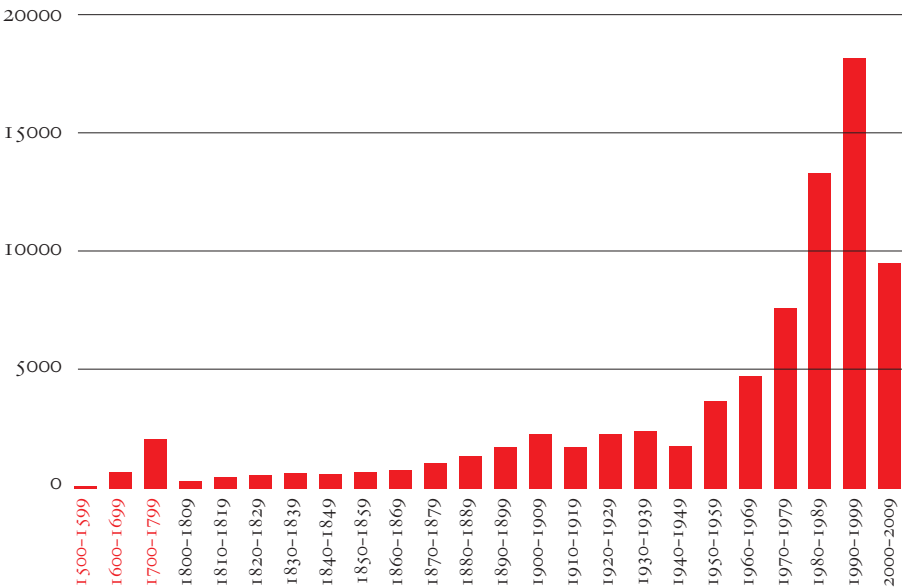


Table 2. Books, pamphlets and ephemera during the two World Wars.

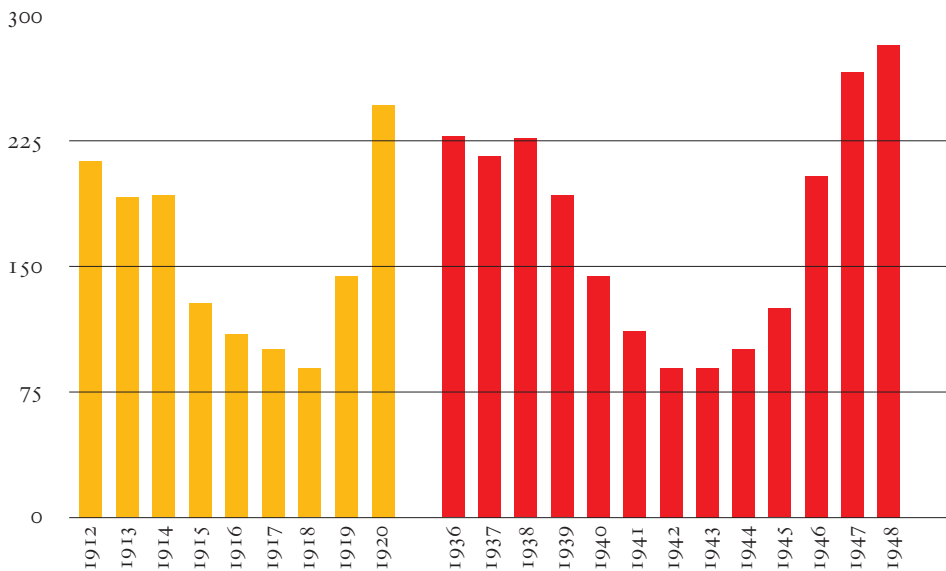
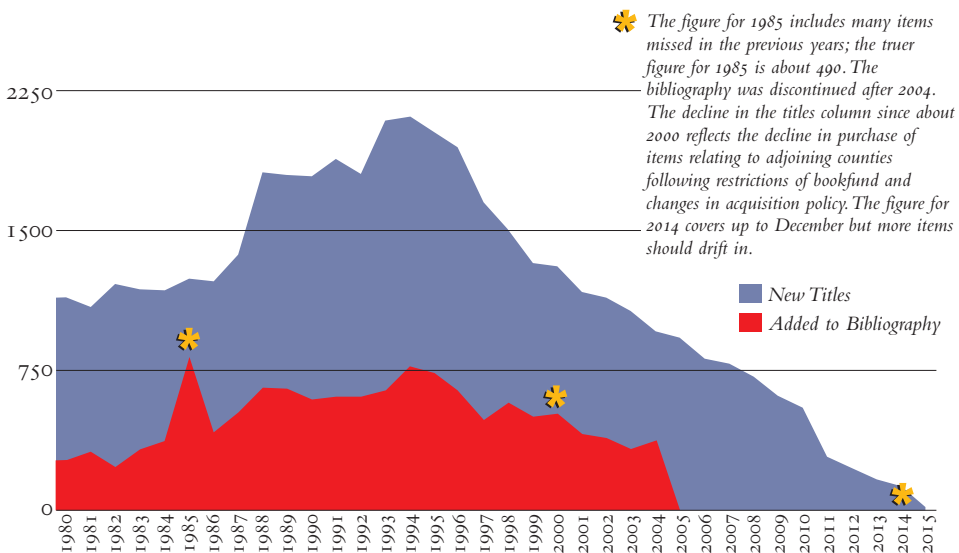


Table 3. Titles for each year since the establishment of the Devon bibliography in 1980.



The Christopher Jago Memorial Lecture

On 1st November last year Professor Mark Stoyle gave a lecture to a capacity audience in the Guildhall, Exeter in memory of Chris Jago, the DHS's Secretary from 2012 onwards, who died after a short period of illness in May last year. The Prayer Book Rebellion of 1549 and the siege of Exeter were his subjects – and as practically anything to do with Exeter's history is close to Prof. Stoyle's heart, the audience was assured of a comprehensive treatment of the issues. The event was attended by Chris's widow and his two daughters. ■ *cw*



▲ Christopher Jago Memorial Lecture, in the Guildhall, Exeter: (right to left) Angela Jago, Nicola Needham (n. Jago), Professor Mark Stoyle, Mary Jago, David Needham, Dr. Bruce Coleman (DHS President).

Internet resources for historians

please email dhsnewsed@gmail.com with new finds including a note about the resource and a link.

War Horse

Cynthia Snowden from Northam (who is 85 years old) has very kindly allowed us to publish a link to her video of her grandfather's recollections about training horses for army use in WW1. Well worth a look!
<http://youtu.be/FOnb1HVOvV4>

Kingsbridge resources

Charity Scott Stokes advises of two ebook resources for the Kingsbridge area: 'Kingsbridge and its Surroundings', 1874; and 'Kingsbridge and Salcombe with the Intermediate Estuary', 1819; available online as Google eBook at (respectively)
<https://archive.org/details/kingsbridgeitssuoofoxs>
<https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=tqgwAAAAYAAJ>

For King and Country

Marion Hardy advises of a 12 minute WW1 community video commemoration from Broadclyst Primary School, filmed at the National Trust's Killerton House.
<http://vimeo.com/101571576>. ■

DHS EVENTS: PROGRAMME FOR 2015 (March - July)

New Charges for 2015

The Society has with regret decided to introduce registration fees for some events in 2015. The cost of hiring venues and postal charges continues to increase annually at considerably more than rate of inflation, and although the Society has reduced costs by sharing events with other organisations this year such as the Devon Gardens Trust, the Parliamentary History Group and the History Section of the Devonshire Association, in order to maintain a wide variety of events for members to enjoy, registration fees of £2.50 for a half-day event and £5.00 for a full-day event have been introduced in some cases. The AGM and Conference, and the Spring and Summer Meetings, as well as the Skills Seminar and some other training events have no fees attached for full members of the Society, and it is intended to maintain this policy in future years.

DHS EVENTS PROGRAMME FOR 2015 (March - July)

Monday, March 9th, 2 pm-4 pm.

Lecture and Exhibition at the Devon Heritage Centre, Sowton, Exeter.

Dr. Kayleigh Milden - From the Grassroots: the Political History of Devon since 1945

Saturday, March 21st, 10.30 am-4 pm

Conference at Rowe Hall, Mint Methodist Centre, Fore St. , Exeter. Devon Garden History Forum: Inaugural Conference.

Conference promoted jointly by Devon Gardens Trust and the DHS. Booking via Devon Gardens Trust

Thursday, April 9th, 2 pm-4 pm.

Seminar at Mint Methodist Centre, Fore St. , Exeter.

Emma Rouse - Exploring the Historic Landscape of Devon.

Saturday, April 25th, 10 am-4 pm.

Spring Meeting at Blackawton Village Hall, hosted by Blackawton with Strete History Group.

Tuesday, May 5th, 10 am- 1 pm

Visit to Shobrooke Park, with lecture and guided walk (Promoted jointly by DGT and DGS).

Saturday, May 9th, 10am-3pm

Study Day at Mint Methodist Centre, Fore St. Exeter: Early Victorian Schools in Devon. Initial Meeting.

Saturday, June 6th 10 am-4 pm

Summer Meeting at Chulmleigh Pavilion hosted by Chulmleigh Local History Society.

Monday, June 22nd, 10 am-4 pm

Conference at Devon Heritage Centre, Sowton, Exeter. New Researchers in Devon History. Conference organised jointly by the Devonshire Association, History Section and the DHS.

Wednesday, July 8th, 2 pm- 4 pm

Lecture at Mint Methodist Centre, Fore St. , Exeter.

John Smith - The Battle of Britain over Devon

Tuesday, July 28th 2.15 pm-4 pm

Lecture and Seminar at Exeter Central Library. Ian Maxted - Of the Making of Many Books there is No End : a Seminar on the Bibliography of Devon, Past, Present and Future.

More events are planned for the second half of the year

For the full list of events, programmes and booking forms, see the DHS website.■

Paul Auchterlonie (Programme Secretary)

Book Reviews for The Devon Historian

The following books have been received for review in the 2015 edition of The Devon Historian, but 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, EX2 9LU. My e-mail is M.M.Auchterlonie@exeter.ac.uk Remember to give me your postal address.

- **Plymouth in the Great War.** Tait, Derek (2014)
- **Exeter: Remembering 1914-18.** Parker, David (2014)
- **Prelude to D-Day: Devon's role in the storming of Hitler's Europe.** Wasley, Gerald (2014)
- **Devon Great Consols: A Mine of Mines.** Stewart, R.J (2013)
- **Fish and Fisheries of the River Exe.** Solomon, David (2012)
- **The Minor Clergy of Exeter Cathedral: Biographies, 1250-1548.** Orme, N (2013)
- **The Chancery Case between Nicholas Radford and Thomas Tremayne: the Exeter Depositions of 1439.** Kleineke, Hannes, ed. (2013)
- **Abbotskerswell during World War I The Story of a Devon Village at War.** Abbotskerswell History Society (2014).■

Dr M.Auchterlonie (Reviews Editor)