

DEVON HISTORY NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE DEVON HISTORY SOCIETY

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Returns to
Plymouth**

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1921-2015**

**Tombstones and
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**2015 AGM and
Conference
programme**

**Devon Rural
Archive &
Project Donn**



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EDITORIAL

During my eighteen month term as editor of the News I have so far published obituary notices of five people whose lives have been central to the wellbeing of the DHS. Robin Stanes, who was a founder member; Malcolm Todd and Ivan Roots, both past Presidents; Chris Jago, our Secretary, and most recently Ray Girvan our webmaster. At the heart of their service to an organisation like the Devon History Society, was a passion for the DHS's drive to develop the huge potential of amateurs from all backgrounds to discover and write our local history.

The DHS had close links in its early days with the University's Extra Mural Department and the WEA (Workers Educational Association, an organisation whose very name, in an age of class-free aspirational individualism, now has an old-worldly feel to it). Since the foundation of DHS in 1970, the social apparatus to promote a genuinely inclusive educational environment is rapidly in decline, some would say long gone already. The University's Extra Mural Department is a fading memory; the WEA is still around but it struggles to maintain a profile. It's vision is stated on its website: "A better world - equal, democratic and just". It's a big aim, and a worthy one, but it is reasonable to ask just how much progress we have made in that arena since the founding of the WEA in 1903.

With the death of Ivan Roots, as with Malcolm Todd and Robin Stanes before him, the DHS has lost a champion of tolerance and co-operation who felt that education was a duty rather than a just a job. We can ill afford to lose those who have the skills to tell us how we arrived at where we are, and perhaps to warn us where we might be going.

cw

Main cover picture: 'Napoleon on Board the Bellerophon' by Sir William Quiller Orchardson (1880). Orchardson depicts the morning of 23 July 1815, as Napoleon watches the French shoreline recede.

CHAIRMAN'S WORD



Our 2015 Spring meeting was hosted by Blackawton and Strete (B&S) History Society; our summer one by Chulmleigh and District History Society. The two meetings served once again to exemplify

both the diversity of Devon's history and the diverse ways of celebrating it. Both communities have suffered loss; the former due to the evacuation of all its residents during WWII and the latter through losing its historic position on a communication route when the main road and railway were built in the valley below. But that is where the resemblance ends: B&S is a community (it used to be a single parish) with an ever-present maritime influence, Chulmleigh presides over the extensive upland landscapes of Mid and North Devon; B&S introduced us to their evacuated landscape in minibuses, Chulmleigh walked us around their built heritage; B&S fed us in medieval style, Chulmleigh in modern (though in both cases the food was, refreshingly, prepared on the premises); B&S majored in fine map analysis and remembrance, Chulmleigh in iconography and photography.

These two meetings served to remind us that we create our own history, not of course in the sense that we make it up, but in the sense that we have a multitude of, often very creative, ways of presenting it. The local societies spend weeks and months preparing to host these very enjoyable gatherings but, lest other affiliated societies be frightened off

by the prospect, they are also, in the reassuring presence and assistance of our programme secretary, not left without guidance.

As this newsletter goes to press we commemorate the passing of Professor Ivan Roots, former president of the DHS, with a memorial lecture at the University of Exeter, and we celebrate new research in Devon, with a day conference at the Devon Heritage Centre. New research projects are seeing the light of day, both those championed by other bodies (Remembering the Mental Hospital; Food and Farming in WWI; Devon Remembers; Devon Gardens trust) and by the Devon History Society (Victorian schools).

DHS council members and affiliated societies organisers were amongst the participants at a very lively and positive workshop at the University of Exeter Innovation Centre (April 27th) on Parish maps and the legacy of the Common Ground project. There was a reminder that whilst local history is innocently blossoming at grass roots level, at a more distant, higher level, local history and heritage are now included under the broad heading of 'ecosystem services' and are, rather ominously, subject, in order to assist in decision-making, to an evaluation of their economic worth.

The ability of the DHS to celebrate both local distinctiveness in our summer meetings and to be involved in workshops and debates at our universities, with whom we have ever closer links, highlights the key role our society plays in the cultural life of Devon. We would welcome more academics at local history days and more local historians at university seminars, for local history is nothing without context and, pace Amato, all history is, in the last analysis, local.

Philippe Planel (Chair)

From the Membership Secretary

My never ending task of chasing people for non-payment of membership fees, or for underpayment by standing order continues. In the past, the society has been over generous with the amount of grace people have been given to bring their payments up to date or into line with the current membership rates. This incurs the costs of the newsletters and journals and their postage which we continue to despatch, plus the arrears letters which the Membership Secretary has to send. Standing order payers continuing to pay at the pre-2012 rate are being removed from the Membership List, and their payments will be treated as donations to the society. Cheque payers seriously in arrears have been notified of intention to drop them from the Membership List, and those who have not paid that due on 1st May 2015 will find a letter included with this newsletter.

Judy Moss

Not yet a member of DHS?

If you are someone who stops to think about the **times** in which we live and the **places** and **people** around you every day, and then wonder what on earth it all **means... we don't have all the answers. But we do have some of them** - (probably the most interesting ones). So stop wondering and start finding out. Visit our website, <http://www.devonhistorysociety.org.uk/> and click 'Membership'.

Affiliated Societies



Welcome to Axminster Historical Society, our newest affiliated society. Details for their meetings and contact arrangements are on the Devon History Society website. Over the last few months

I've had the chance to meet members of some of our societies at events and through research group meetings, which has been great. It's also been interesting to be kept in the loop by some of our societies about what's going on locally, and I hope more people will share what their societies are doing, as Holsworthy and Ottery St Mary have done in this issue. Phil Planel, our chair, remarked to me after our very successful Summer Meeting in Chulmleigh, that there ought to be scope for a 'knowledge exchange' between societies about the research work they are engaged in. I learn from Feniton History Group that they are thinking about early roads and road traffic, which has chimed in with some of my own interest in a piece of work for Poltimore Estate Research Society. Have any other groups done work on the roads through their parish? If so, do get in touch with me, j.f.neville@btinternet.com

Julia Neville

Illustration at head of article: King Aethelstan presents a book to St Cuthbert. Aethelstan founded a college of priests in Axminster in C10th so dignifying the town name with '-minster'. (pic - courtesy of Wikimedia Commons)



Ray Girvan

We sadly announce the death, on Tuesday 30th June, of Ray Girvan who was for many years the DHS webmaster. His funeral was held on 16th July at Exeter Crematorium. Our thoughts are with Ray's family.

Ray's health had been failing for some time and Ray and his successor, Martin Smith, had worked closely together in recent months to ensure a smooth transition to a new webmaster.

Ray's contributions to the website and his ultra rapid response to requests to upload new material were legendary. He had recently been awarded life membership of the DHS as a token of the society's appreciation of his work. Ray never courted publicity but was always present in the background. He will be sorely missed.

Phil Planel

photos right: top - a view over the ornamental bridge and lake

bottom: - John Shelley describes the former house to DHS guests, both photos courtesy of Judy Moss

Visit to Shobrooke Park Gardens

On 5th May members of DHS and Devon Gardens Trust enjoyed a rare opportunity to visit Shobrooke Park Gardens, The Gardens tour was led by Simon Bonvoisin of Nicholas Pearson Associates, who have drafted a plan for the restoration of the Park and Gardens. The restoration work has been to long term project of the Shelley family, whose relatives have been owners and occupiers of the property since its founding in 1845. The house which once complemented the estate was destroyed by fire in 1945, and the ensuing 80 years has seen the efforts, especially since 1968, to restore the Park and Garden. ■

Ed



Stolen Torbryan Rood Screen restoration

Following a national fundraising campaign, The Churches Conservation Trust (CCT - a national charity saving historic churches at risk), recently announced it has reached its target of £7,000 in public donations to conserve the priceless rood screen panels hacked from Holy Trinity Church in Torbryan by thieves in August 2013, and later recovered by the the Metropolitan Police Art & Antiques Unit after being spotted by a private collector in an online sale.

In a double blessing for the church, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has also

Medieval roodscreen from Torbryan church. Stolen in August 2013, recovered by the Metropolitan Police Art & Antiques Unit in January this year. photo courtesy of The Churches Conservation Trust



awarded a £47,000 grant for a two-year project to tell the history of the building and the surrounding village and countryside, adding imaginative new on-site interpretation and events.

A fundraising campaign was launched in May 2015 to pay for vital restoration work after the two priceless 15th century oak panels - bearing paintings of St Victor of Marseilles and St Margaret of Antioch - were recovered.

Crispin Truman, Chief Executive of The Churches Conservation Trust said:

“This is truly fantastic news. The theft of the Torbryan rood screen panels was a real blow to The Churches Conservation Trust, but thanks to the generosity of the public, where once we were faced with a tragedy, now we are celebrating victory. Not only will the panels now be returned to their rightful place at Holy Trinity Torbryan, but also a community project supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund will encourage local residents and schoolchildren to learn their fascinating story. I’m truly grateful to all those who offered their help in restoring this priceless masterpiece, and encouraging the world to enjoy their beauty.”

Nerys Watts, Head of HLF South West, said:

“The Torbryan rood panels are finally back where they belong. Once treated so badly by a few it is the passion and generosity of the many which has ensured a bright future for this beautiful piece of our heritage. Though the two panels are currently being safely stored off site, once the restoration work has taken place, they will be returned to the church, and the public will not only be able to observe the newly-restored rood

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A Thousand Years of Pottery from the Gardens of Bovey Tracey

Devon History Society members Frances and Malcolm Billinge have been digging in gardens in the historic borough of Bovey Tracey.

The pottery coming to light starts from the early Norman period, but the bulk is from the seventeenth to eighteenth centuries when North Devon and South Somerset pottery appear to have dominated the market. Bovey Tracey's own potteries were active from the mid eighteenth century to the 1950s, and their wares are well represented. Over 20 gardens have contributed so far and the project is ongoing. A more detailed report will be available next year, but for those interested in the project, please contact Frances Billinge on fbillinge@btinternet.com.

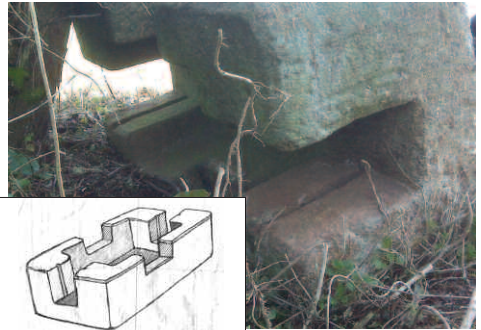
Ed

screen, but also to learn the hidden histories of Torbryan".

A programme of events will also be developed to encourage local people, schools and organisations and tourists to visit the church throughout the year.

Local residents are being invited to volunteer, taking part in conservation and undertaking further research into the history of Holy Trinity and Torbryan. Anyone interested in volunteering can register their interest now by emailing cctbristol@thecc.org.uk. ■

Mystery Object from Shobrooke



This granite 'trough' was discovered by Phil Keen of Shobrooke Local History Group. Its purpose is a mystery to date in spite of some local publicity and various enquiries including the Museum of Rural Life in Reading. Suggestions have ranged around the milling and cider pressing industries, or some sort of measuring device. Phil and the landowner, Tom Shelley are both keen to find out what it is, so if you have any ideas, or can suggest someone who might, please contact Tom on tomhshelley@btinternet.com or Phil on 01363 777691.

Information requested

'The Shepherd's Cottage, Beer' (below) by Arthur W Clayden has no date. Clayden was possibly a geologist in the area and published a local book 'The History of Devonshire Scenery' (1906). Any more information most welcome please by email janeywilson@me.com.



Ivan Roots 1921-2015



Professor Ivan Roots.

Dr Bruce Coleman, President of the Devon History Society, writes

Ivan Roots, Professor of Modern History in the University of Exeter from 1967 to 1986, sometime President of our Society and a leading authority on seventeenth-century Britain, died earlier this year.

As a historian, Ivan was eclectic, not bounded by dogma and theory, always ready to look at new information and ideas. The Great Rebellion was notably free of deterministic narrowness. It allowed for personality and contingency. The great regret of his career must be the absence of the life of Cromwell which he was so well equipped to write. Perhaps his approach was too inclusive and open-minded. He was a collector (and not just as a bibliophile who lined and eventually filled his garage with book-shelves). He was noted for adding new material to his lectures, so that they grew in length and richness but struggled increasingly to finish the period

they were supposed to cover. Ivan was always open and generous to the new but perhaps not ruthless enough to excise and discard the old. He said once that if you were a serious and open-minded historian, you would end up seeing history as so complex, so multifarious and many-sided that it became almost impossible to write.

Where he always shone was as a teacher, a publicist for his subject and his discipline. He was a frequent lecturer to Historical Association branches as well as serving as president of the Exeter branch (and, of course, of the Devon History Society). When the HA celebrated its centenary in 2005, it appointed a small number of Association Fellows; Ivan was one and the citation said that few if any speakers had given so many talks to HA branches as Ivan had done through his career and indeed into retirement. His last talk to our local branch was only some five years ago. The Fellowship was a recognition much appreciated by a man who, unlike many academics, was indifferent to and had never sought honours and awards. He was for many years a regular reviewer of history works for the Daily Telegraph, a role which required a generosity of spirit to match its socialism.

Colleagues who knew him would concur in seeing him as, in that old phrase, 'a lovely man', but there was more to it than a superficiality. Love there was - as a husband, as a father and family man, as a practitioner of a discipline he adored, as a colleague and a friend. The personal warmth, the tolerance and enjoyment of others, was unmissable. He had strong loyalties and loyalty came from others in return, including his postgraduate students. He was a distinguished figure in a good department in an improving university, but there was no swank, no pomposity or 'side'. He didn't pull rank on even the most junior of colleagues.

"Though he was never forward in condemnation, there were developments later in his life that saddened him. The politics of recent decades were not his own. The latter-day university – where the mantra is 'A university is a business' – is a culture which he would not try to understand, let alone sympathise with. He was of his post-war generation. The last year of his life was blighted by health problems, as well as by worries for Tegwyn. Perhaps for the first time his optimism about life was dented as hope diminished. Let us, though, see through that difficult closure and celebrate Ivan's life as we were privileged to know him – as historian, family man, colleague and friend.

Dr Anne Duffin, a former postgraduate student at Exeter University, writes

In Spring 1984 I turned down an offer to work with a rising star at Cambridge University, to study instead with Professor Ivan Roots at the University of Exeter. Many people found this surprising – nobody turned down Cambridge! But from the moment I met Ivan the die was cast – I was overwhelmed by his passion for his subject, his erudition, and by his warmth and gentleness. I never doubted or regretted that decision. As a PhD supervisor, Ivan was my mentor and my inspiration. He was constant in his support and encouragement for my research and writing, always inviting me to accompany him to events where he was speaking about Oliver Cromwell, and introducing me to other leading academics, all of whom held him in the highest esteem. Ivan was also a great family man, he and his wife Tegwyn often holding wonderful parties at home for University colleagues and students. From the outset he welcomed me into the heart of his family, creating a deep friendship which has endured to this day.

Dr Todd Gray has written:

Ivan has been a major figure amongst Devon historians for nearly 50 years. Many local people knew he stood out from many of his Exeter University colleagues not simply because The Great Rebellion demonstrated his superior scholarship but also through Ivan's skill as a speaker. He thought that acquiring knowledge was only the first step: for him it was equally important to communicate it as effectively as possible. While many other academics droned on from ancient yellowed notes, Ivan thrilled his students with compelling lectures. He regularly spoke to local audiences, without notes, for an hour. He had them spellbound while exploring complicated histories of the mid 1600s.

One of his favourite subjects was the life of General Monck. Not long ago he stood below the famous portrait in Exeter Guildhall and explained the complicated events that had led to Monck restoring Charles II to the English throne. A group of Royal Marines was there because Monck had founded the Coldstream Guards. They were astonished at how interesting history could be and were astounded at the ability of this man in his nineties. Afterwards they gather round, eager to press him on details, drawn by his charm, natural warmth and sincerity. He remained one of the most gracious and honest men that Exeter University has produced.

His humanity is remembered across Exeter today because he treated everyone equally whereas, when he arrived in 1967, there was a fierce hierarchy already at odds with outside society. It survived for far too long in academic life but Ivan treated his students, fellow academics and support staff equally. The words 'a true old-fashioned gentleman' has been repeated to me endlessly. It has been a privilege to not just know one of Devon's great historians but become his friend. I know that the sense of profound loss that I feel is shared by countless others across Devon and far beyond its borders. ■



Napoleon Returns!

An article that first appeared in the *The Devon Historian, has been reprinted to accompany an exhibition at the Plymouth Museum.**

'*Fallen Emperor: Napoleon in Plymouth Sound in 1815*' is on now at Plymouth Museum and runs until 26th September 2015. A partnership between Plymouth City Council, Arts Council England and the Devon History Society arranged for the article *Napoleon in Plymouth Sound* by Quentin Bond Spear which was first published in the 2014 TDH (Volume 83), to be reprinted and sold through the museum shop and other outlets in the city.

DHS's Ann Bond, who represents the The Society on the Plymouth Heritage Consortium and Jane Bliss, editor of *The Devon Historian*, attended a private view of the exhibition on the evening of 4th June. The guest of honour at the event was Monsieur Charles Bonaparte who is chair of the European Federation of Napoleonic Cities and a direct descendant of Napoleon Bonaparte.

<http://www.waterloo.be/en/vie-pratique/european-federation-napoleonic-cities-3171>

M. Bonaparte addressed the audience about the Federation, which is a non-profit making organisation. It endeavours to unite European cities whose history was influenced by Napoleon. More details about the Federations work is available on the Waterloo website (address on the foot of this page)

Plymouth Museum's exhibition is centered round the popular painting by Jules Girardet which is in the museum's permanent collection. 'Fallen Emperor: Napoleon in Plymouth Sound in 1815' shows Napoleon standing on the deck of HMS Bellerophon while hundreds of local people in rowing boats flock to catch a glimpse of him. Napoleon had been defeated at Waterloo and surrendered himself into the care of the Royal Navy. While the Government deliberated about what to do with him, HMS Bellerophon, with Napoleon on board, sheltered for ten days in Plymouth Sound.

During the wars, 'Boney' had been portrayed as a 'monster' and 'disturber of the peace' – yet he was a folk-hero to the lower classes of all nations, even those he fought against.

The exhibition explores the differing perceptions of Napoleon on his journey to Plymouth. It also looks at the ship (commonly known as the 'Billy Ruffian') and the scenes in Plymouth Sound.

Deputy Leader of Plymouth City Council Peter Smith said "This exhibition relates to an extraordinary episode in Plymouth's history when the French Emperor, a long-time enemy of Britain, was actually here – defeated at the Battle of Waterloo and a prisoner on board HMS Bellerophon" ■

Ann Bond

The Devon Rural Archive and Project Donn

If you are planning to study the history of your home or indeed any of Devon's buildings there is no better place to begin your research than the Devon Rural Archive (DRA). Whether historic or modern, humble or grand the archive's unique collection and its expert team will help you unlock the secrets of your home.

From its purpose built facilities in the grounds of Shilstone House near Modbury in South Devon the archive is dedicated to promoting a greater understanding of the architecture and landscapes of this great county. A growing reference library of books, journals, periodicals, historic documents, maps and images as well as a special collection of artefacts and unpublished material makes the DRA an invaluable resource for Devon's historians.

Furthermore the library is also the sole repository for the ongoing research project into the history, significance and development of Devon's manor houses and associated landscapes by the DRA's archaeological team. 'Project Donn' was launched in 2006 and uses the 1765 map of Devon by Benjamin Donn to identify sites for inclusion in the study. More than six hundred and fifty gentry' seats were represented by Donn and to date the DRA team has visited, surveyed and recorded over one hundred and fifty of these.

The premise of the project is that by the latter half of the eighteenth century these high status houses were unlikely to have been constructed on greenfield sites. Instead they occupied long established dwelling sites which could hold evidence from the later medieval period but possibly even pre-conquest data as well. By studying these sites, the standing structures and environs, the DRA is able to reveal the evolution of architecture in Devon through the last millennia and ensure the information is preserved for future generations.

Shilstone, the home of the DRA, is a prime example of the project's success as here there is evidence of occupation from later prehistory to

the present day. The earliest known dwelling on the site was an Iron Age farmstead, followed later by a high status stone hall house of 3-room cross-passage plan which was at the centre of the site by the 14th century and, along with 16th and 17th century additions, was the structure recorded by Benjamin Donn. This house was demolished in the early nineteenth century and replaced by a courtyard mansion that was heavily truncated only a few decades later. In the last fifteen years the current owners have sympathetically restored the house using the findings of the DRA research project.

The archive is privately funded by the Fenwick Charitable Trust (registered charity number 1007957) and open to the public on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday between 11am and 3pm (excluding Bank Holidays). There is no charge for using the resources and it is not necessary to book just drop in during opening hours. For more information please visit our website or alternatively call 01548 830832 or email office@dra.uk.net. ■

Abi Gray, Resident Archaeologist, Devon Rural Archive, Shilstone, Modbury, PL21 0TW.

*below: Researchers working with the archives.
photo: Abi Gray*





In edition No. 1 of the Devon Historian (1970) Professor Walter Minchinton outlined the 'Tasks for Devon Historians' (p9). Item six was headed 'Tombstones', and he sets out the case for recording local gravestones. This work continues, as in these two projects in Holsworthy and Ottery St Mary.

Holsworthy

Holsworthy Museum approached the Holsworthy History Society to ask if we would be interested in helping plot, and record, the gravestones in the three cemeteries that we have in the town. All obviously subject to the

weather conditions and the volunteers available time.

The cemeteries are located at 1) to the rear of the Methodist chapel in Bodmin Street, 2) the area surrounding the Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul and, finally, 3) the cemetery situated on the edge of town on the road towards Holsworthy Beacon.

Not having attempted anything like this before, we decided to do the smallest one first to iron out any problems before tackling the larger areas, hence the decision (after obtaining permission from the Minister) to start on the Bodmin Street Methodist chapel. This proved the ideal choice as the headstones were easily accessible although not always easy to read. This we overcame with damp sponges and wetting the surfaces of those

Grave concerns - transcribing your local churchyard records.

that weren't easy to read, and also by sheer grit determination of recording what we could and then enlarging the lettering through photography. However, recording and photographing of the headstones was finally achieved, including a memorial to John Henry Perkin, a victim of the sinking of the Titanic on 14 April, 1912.

The final part of the project was to 'tidy up' the records, quality checking the content, before creating both a digital and paper-based copy which is now held within the Museum's Service Point for any interested party.

Next on the "To Do" list is the Parish Churchyard. Originally recorded by members of the Holsworthy History Project – a Manpower Services funded project – in the

1980s, only essential details were recorded, whilst no photographs were taken. Although we have those original 1980s records as a starting point, this one is proving to be no mean task. Initially, before we even started recording the stones, the whole area was accurately and digitally plotted into manageable portions and, as the area is quite overgrown in places we have had to carry out (with the permission of the PCC) an amount of clearing and gardening work.

So, if you see people walking about Holsworthy going towards the Church you know where they are headed! Things have stuttered a bit on the project as a whole over the last few months due to the damp weather something we know only too well about living here! But we will achieve come what may.

As you can see from the foregoing this is very much a work in progress. We do hope that when finished we can send out the detailed recordings to both the Devon History Society and to the Devon Family History Society.

Lynda Vickery

(Holsworthy History Society are hosting the DHS Summer meeting on 18th June 2016)

Ottery St Mary

In spring of 2014 Sue Dymond and Jane Gawler, Ottery St Mary Heritage Society members, began a project to record the older gravestones in the churchyard. We were aiming to set our time-frame from the earliest graves up to the end of the Victorian era; this also rather neatly coincides with the addition of a newly consecrated area of burial ground opposite The Priory in February 1901, and so that area has not been included. Many areas of the churchyard, whilst mainly containing nineteenth century and early twentieth century stones, have a number of more modern ones as well. These are included to give complete coverage of any standing stones. We have not included any of the cremation stones, which are all modern and in good condition.

Old gravestones have a beauty and fascination aside of being markers for those buried or remembered there, but they are at the mercy of time and the elements. Many of the gravestones

are covered in lichen, eroded, or have lost their lead lettering. A few covered in ivy or moss are completely impossible to decipher.

We felt it was important to photograph the stones and transcribe them, and make this information available for others to use for family and local history research. Our goal is to produce online photographs of every grave accompanied by a transcription, or as much of one as is possible.

Plans of the churchyard are necessary to enable people to find particular graves. Producing these can be very time consuming as older gravestones are not always in straight lines. Fortunately around the turn of the millennium Tom Pomeroy had meticulously plotted out the gravestones into Excel spreadsheets, given them reference numbers and on additional documents given helpful information where possible. His work is available in the church for visitors to use to locate their ancestors. We have used Tom's work, with slight amendments and additions, to guide our project. Tom was contacted to discuss his work and was more than happy for it to be published on the Internet. Sadly he has died and will not see our finished results, but we are very grateful for his permission to use his work and publish it; our project has been greatly aided by all his efforts.

How did we get started? Tom Pomeroy had divided the churchyard into sections and drawn up plans based on this. We found his sections a useful framework to work with. Firstly we photographed all the gravestones and then transcribed the text from the photographs where possible. Some stones can be read quite easily, or read by enlarging the image on a computer. However a good number were more problematical; these were stones covered in lichen. There are several sophisticated methods using computer software and multiple camera shots that make even the most difficult to read stone perfectly clear, but a simple mirror on a sunny day, angling the sunlight onto a gravestone to show up the text by creating shadows where the hollows of the mason's tool has pecked into the stone, can be as good as anything. For mirror work, a clear blue sky with no clouds is essential.

Most stones are inscribed on only one side, some on both sides so morning or afternoon sun is



Damaged gravestone of William Henry Godfrey, died 1893 (photo Sue Dymond)

needed at times. Most stones feature text in capital letters. Many Biblical quotes are often italicised and may be of a smaller size, text in flowing cursive style that is shallowly etched features on some; these latter can cause problems, as can text that now lies below ground level.

In recording we were conscious that not everyone buried would have had a gravestone. There are areas with few stones, but plenty of mown grass. Caution is needed in making any sort of social comment based on gravestones. Generally speaking gravestones were too expensive for the working classes in Victorian times, and the west side of the churchyard in particular reflects a middle class domain.

The Coleridge family graves can be found close to the north wall of the churchyard. The style of gravestone varies and some are very difficult to read. Documents given to the author at the start of the project, which are over one hundred years old, contain transcripts of the Coleridge vault headstone, which is difficult to decipher due to shallow inscriptions. (



Scull and timer on John Jones's stone (photo Sue Dymond)

Whilst this project is one of recording the gravestones without analysis of styles or iconography, for example, we have noticed the ostentatiousness of some and the simplicity of others.

The churchyard is not static as evidence from old photographs reveals; there were many footstones in the past which have now mainly been removed and many instances of railings surrounding a plot. Kerbstone style graves are easily lost in the grass, and are now a thing of the past. Ease of mowing and strimming has become a consideration in many churchyards, humped earth over graves has now largely disappeared.

We are grateful to the Parish Church Council for permission to carry out this recording. We intend to offer a printed copy of our work to the Parish Church on completion.

Sue Dymond



The Early Victorian Schools Research Project Group

The Group had its first meeting in May when we gathered, appropriately, in a former school classroom at the Mint in Exeter. Some members had already undertaken work on their local schools, and some were complete beginners, but we were all able to read with fascination a number of the entries about Devon schools in the parliamentary Education Enquiry of 1833.

The illustration – which gives the entries for Manaton and Mariansleigh – shows the burgeoning growth of schools in the 1830s, the different denominational interests ('faith academies' are nothing new) and the continuing role of the Lord of the Manor. Other entries in the county survey reference the role of local people in endowing or teaching in the schools and even, on a couple of occasions, note a refusal by the school authorities to answer the nosy questions the overseers had been forced to put by government decree.

Group members are now following up the history of schools in individual parishes in their neighbourhood to see what changes took place between this 1833 baseline and the introduction of compulsory education in the 1870s. We plan to put on a symposium next year to bring these stories to life and encourage others to take on the research in their own communities. But if you're interested now, it's not too late to join. Get in touch with me at j.f.neville@btinternet.com or just fill in the appropriate section on the booking form enclosed with your DHS News.

Julia Neville

Above: George Cruikshank's schoolroom 1839 (wikimedia Commons). Below: short extract from 'Abstract of Returns from the 1833 Education Enquiry, Vol. 1, Parliamentary Papers 1835, p.192'.

MANATON Parish (Pop. 435.)—*One Day and Sunday School* (commenced 1828), containing 14 males and 8 females, of whom 9 males and 5 females (daily scholars), are paid for by subscription; the remainder by their parents. All the children are instructed on Sundays at the expense of the Rector, and books for their use are obtained from the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge.

MARI-ANSLEIGH Parish (Pop. 282.)—*One Daily School*, wherein 5 males and 18 females, receive instruction at the expense of their parents.—*Two Sunday Schools*; in one, supported by subscription, are 5 males and 9 females, who attend the Established Church; the other (commenced 1830), is maintained by Presbyterians, and consists of 7 males and 13 females.

Bad Apples

Late thoughts to add to the DHS's orchards project.



picture: Wikimedia Commons

Worst Case Scenario:

The archetypical bad apple story arises from Genesis chapter three, but oddly enough, the apple isn't necessarily the culprit - it's the 'fruit' of the tree of knowledge that is mentioned in the text. An answer lies in our use and misuse of language.

At the 2013 meeting of the East Devon Local History Workshop, Michael Gee, the former chairman of Orchards Live, gave a talk about his own experience in preserving and rebuilding orchards. One of the questions with which he challenged the audience concerned the history of orchards and cider drinking. I don't think as a group we managed anything respectable by way of answer, so a hasty research session in the wake of that embarrassment revealed not so much the specific answer Michael Gee required, but an interesting sidelight on the history of apples and orchards in general.

In view of the DHS's now completed orchard work, I thought these notes could refresh our minds about the project (results available online on the DHS website, see below) and add an end paper with which to close the file.

'Apple', etymologically speaking, is fundamentally Germanic (*appel*), but there are some alluring parallels with words in Old Norse, Old Irish, Gallic and a few other obscure European tongues, which suggests that we should not hope for any single definitive root for the word. Its early usages indicate it meant more than just apples - For

the Saxons, dates were *fingeræppla*, literally 'finger-apple'. A banana, in middle English, was *appel of paradis* and a OE for cucumber is *eorþæppla* ('earth-apple').

A similar conflation of related words stand behind our modern 'orchard'. The Germanic here is more firmly in charge than is the case for 'apple', with Old English *orceard* or *ortgeard*, meaning simply a vegetable or fruit garden.

Oddly, our modern word 'cider' is from late 13th century Norman French *cidre* or *cire*, which is indeed cider as we know it today. Now surely it would be more than a little galling (or possibly Gauling) to find that the name of our favourite westcountry tippie is a French import. What was wrong with a good Old English word '*æppelwín*'? One answer might be that the Celtic tribes of the Westcountry and northwest France – whose shared cultural affinities stretch back at least as far as the Iron Age – also shared terms for cider that survive in Irish '*saghdar*' and Welsh '*seidre*', and Breton '*sistre*', which then became a loan word ('*cisdre*') for Old French, and which was re-imported to this country with the Norman accession, pushing out poor old '*æppelwín*'. It may even be that in the Westcountry the old Celtic term never entirely disappeared during the Roman or Anglo Saxon period, and was comfortably accommodated in the Norman regime by its phonetic similarity to the terms used by the invaders.

So with a generalised notion of apple as simply 'fruit', we can touch on apple-inspired symbolism and history.

Among the bad news for the apple is its frequent characterisation in many religious traditions as a mystical or forbidden fruit. Since 'apple' was an undifferentiated term for all kinds of fruits (and nuts), the 'fruit' of the forbidden tree, unspecified in the original, became by default an apple in derivative translations. The association with evil is said to

be a lexical confusion between the Latin terms *mālum* (an apple) and *mālum* (an evil).

In consequence the apple enjoys an unequalled reputation for causing trouble, and where better to exploit such dramatic potential than Greek mythology – as for example in the following tale. Eris (goddess of chaos and discord), miffed at the lack of an invite to the wedding of Thetis and Paleus, came up with a scheme aimed at ruining the happy day. Knowing there were in attendance some fairly high-octane beauties – Hera, Athene and Aphrodite (or Juno, Minerva and Venus, depending on your source), Eris inscribed an apple with the words "To the Prettiest One..." and lobbed it into the festivities. Paris, elected to choose a winner, picked Aphrodite (Venus), deeply offending the other two, so indirectly triggering the Trojan Wars, which Eris would have regarded, we imagine, as a result.

The larynx is your Adam's apple because of course the forbidden fruit stuck in his craw. The apple of Samarcand (in Arabian Knights) can cure all ills – which is why perhaps an apple a day keep the doctor away, and the worst sort of upset is that of an apple cart. A bad apple can cause problems for the rest in the barrell, and not two feet from my nose as I write this, is an apple symbols with a bite removed, as if I needed a reminder of the frequently evil intent of the machine it emblazons. All this, and I haven't even mentioned wassailing! No other fruit enjoys quite such a prominent and varied reputation.

The orchards project summary data is available on the DHS website at <http://www.devonhistorysociety.org.uk/2014/01/devon-orchards-parish-summary-report.html> More detailed data for local analysis is available on request to Martin Smith on webmaster@devonhistorysociety.org.uk

cw

Internet resources for historians

please email dhsnewsed@gmail.com with new finds including a note about the resource and a link. This column is open to any resource of interest to a broad range of history related disciplines, so if you find anything that helps in the wider local studies area, please let us know.

Brewers Dictionary of Phrase and Fable.

It's not mainstream history, but anyone who has an interest in the relationship between language and history will probably have a hardcopy of this on their shelves. Now you can have a searchable pdf too. Download from archive.org/details/brewersdictionary000544mbp

(it ought to be prefaced with <http://>, but key the above into Google and you'll get to the right place).

A West Somerset Word List

In much the same vein as the above, and subtitled 'A Glossary of Dialectal and archaic Words and Phrases Used in the West of Somerset and East Devon' - this brings hours of distraction for anyone interested in local dialect with plenty of phonetically presented 'spoken language' if you want to sharpen up your Devon dialect. The book was published in 1886 and the author, Frederick Thomas Elworthy was an expert in the field, so it does have an authenticity lacking in more folksy renditions. Searchable too.

<https://archive.org/details/westsomersetwordoelwouoft>

Exeter Book app

Exeter University Modern Languages Dept is developing an ipad app to make some of Devon's important medieval documents widely accessible online. More details at <http://humanities.exeter.ac.uk/research/react/projects/exetermanuscripts/>

Old Plymouth

The Old Plymouth Society website has an excellent collection of interesting (and searchable) articles on the city's history. Recommended.

<http://www.oldplymouthsociety.net/articles.php>

Old maps

As one of the most accessible routes into local history, maps offer a treasure trove of local detail that is always intriguing and full of opportunities for useful research. Until recently I have used the rather low resolution images available on the commercial [www.oldmaps](http://www.oldmaps.com) website. Now I use the quite wonderful National Library of Scotland's Maps website <http://maps.nls.uk/index.html> which has a lot about Scotland for sure, but also fulsome historic OS data for the UK as a whole.

History of English Law (Pollock and Maitland)

Not for the fainthearted, but you'll have to face it (or bits of it) at some point if manorial or parish history is your preference. For serious medievalists (and landscape historians), Pollock and Maitland's weighty 2-volume tome is a fundamental resource. Both volumes are on www.archive.org, but I had to work a bit to find volume 1, and only volume 2 is searchable (unless you can offer a better copy of volume 1.

<https://archive.org/details/historyofenglishoopolluoft>

Latin

Alongside the above you may want a Latin wordlist. This is a downloadable dictionary application for Mac or PC. It can't cope with all the medieval words, but its a quick way to establish a sense of what you're reading.

<http://ablemedia.com/ctaveb/showcase/whitakerwords.html> *Ed*

The Tinworking Landscape of Dartmoor in its European Context

Prehistory to the 20th Century*
Tavistock, Devon, 6-11 May 2016

The tinworking landscape of Dartmoor is arguably the finest in the world for its extent, completeness, chronological range and accessibility. Most of it falls within Dartmoor National Park and much is on open moorland to which there is unrestricted public access. Although always closely connected historically to the Cornish tin industry, Dartmoor's tinworking landscape is quite distinct, as it lacked the deep tin deposits of its neighbour and also had an abundance of water resources. In the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries Dartmoor tinworking was on a relatively small scale. Consequently, archaeological remains of these and earlier periods (especially AD 1300-1700) are still of outstanding extent and quality.

Historically, the industry generated significant wealth for the county of Devon, being ranked as more important than seafaring in about AD 1600. Much tin was exported to Europe and beyond.

To mark the 25th anniversary of the Dartmoor Tinworking Research Group (www.dtrg.org.uk), and to coincide with the 10th anniversary of the UNESCO World Heritage designation of the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape (www.cornish-mining.org.uk) this conference, an exciting programme of lectures and full day field excursions.

A detailed programme for the conference, and costings, will be available on the website of the Dartmoor Tinworking Research Group (www.dtrg.org.uk) from the early Summer of 2015. To register an interest in this conference, or for further information, please send an email to [Dr Tom Greeves at tomgreeves@btconnect.com](mailto:DrTomGreeves@btconnect.com) www.dtrg.org.uk

Below: Buddle Boys at Golden Dagger Tin Mine c.1910 (T. Greeves collection)



AGM & CONFERENCE

**City, Town and Country in
Victorian and Edwardian Devon**



The highlight of the autumn programme is the AGM and Conference which will be held at the University on 10th October. The conference explores how even Devon, remote from the heartlands of the Industrial Revolution, was shaken by changes that affected the traditional relationships between urban and rural society. The keynote speakers are **Andrew Jones**, 2011 winner of the W.G. Hoskins prize and **Clare Maudling** of Exeter University, and there are contributions also from members of the DHS and affiliated societies.

**University of Exeter
Saturday October 10th
2015**

www.devonhistorysociety.org

Other DHS events

Other events are the second study day on **Early Victorian Schools in Devon** to be held at **St. Sidwell's Community Centre, Exeter on Saturday, September 19th**;

...a seminar by **Professor Barbara Bender** on **How to Engage More People in Your Community in the Work of Your Local History Society** to be held at **Ashburton Town Hall on the afternoon of Wednesday, October 28th**

...and the replacement for the cancelled seminar by Emma Rouse on Exploring the Historical Landscape of Devon to be held at the **Mint Methodist Centre, Exeter on the afternoon of Monday, November 16th** (those who booked for the earlier seminar and have already paid, need not apply again, but there are a few places left for new bookings).

The third **Local History Skills Seminar** will be held on **Monday November 9th at the Devon Heritage Centre, Sowton, Exeter**, where there will be presentations by experienced members of the Heritage Centre on How to conserve your documents, How to read old documents, the Use of estate maps, and the Devon local studies collection.

The full programme for each event and booking details are available on the Society's website and on the inserts accompanying this edition of Devon History News. ■

Paul Auchterlonie
Programme Secretary.