

DIGITAL EDITION

DEVON HISTORY NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE DEVON HISTORY SOCIETY

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Fire

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2016 report

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Cover: The Royal Clarence in Exeter at about 10am on the morning of 28th October 2016. The fire had begun at 5.30am.

EDITORIAL

There are some changes in view for the News that are aimed at improving the overall services to members. These are set out in more detail by the Chairman in this edition (see p6), and if you have any points you wish to make, you can email me at dhsnewsed@gmail.com or write to the Secretary (email left; address at the foot of p20). The basic idea is simple – more cash spent on history events for members, less on paper and postage.

As years go, 2016 can hardly be called dull in historic terms. The end is nigh for near a half century of attachment to the rest of the continent, and an unlikely businessman is now in charge of the top nation. These events have already sparked a growing publishing boom, and there is plenty of work for historians in the making; which is I suppose, a reason to be cheerful. You can do your own local research if you enjoy tackling live national or international issues – for example, how the local press across Devon reflected opinion before, during and after the referendum debate. How that compares with the national press, and how it all fitted with actual results perhaps. On the other hand you may prefer involvement in something less current – the upcoming place name project is shaping up as a considerable technical and logistical challenge and potentially a big step forward in resources for research in history, geography and archaeology – and that may suit you perfectly. More details later this year.

Finally, although it's a bit late, may I wish all News readers and members a happy and historically rewarding 2017.

Chris Wakefield

CHAIRMAN'S WORD



Gradually, the Society is edging into the twenty-first century – a new website (which I hope you have visited and like), this newsletter available increasingly on-line,

and sometime over the next twelve months we hope to move towards on-line booking for our annual programme. The last-named should make a big difference to the work-load of the Society's officers, simplifying the admin and the movement of cash.

Last autumn, I attended the Devonshire Association's 'President's Symposium'. For me the most memorable thing was a cluster of people surrounding Dr Oliver Padel, the first speaker (and an expert on place-name studies). Whenever there was a programme break, Dr Padel was besieged. People love place-names.

Between us, the DHS and the Association are hoping to establish some kind of joint working-party to take forward the study of place-names in the county. (To up-date readers, the English Place-name Society published a three-volume survey of the county over eighty years ago. Inevitably, at the level of parish, village and hamlet, there is a wealth of unexplored material available – sources simply unavailable in the 1930s.)

There are two areas of place-name study which DHS members and societies might like to take up: one is the study of coastal names (an area of place-name studies which has been all but ignored); and the other, probably more accessible, is field names. Here, an obvious starting-point are the tithe surveys of the late 1830s and 1840s. As far as we know, little if any work has been done on a systematic record of field names and, arising from that, the beginnings of comparative study, to correlate field-name to topography and to soil-type, and to detect the recurrence of forms of field-name over neighbouring parishes (or any group of parishes).

Two things arise. First: if your local society has undertaken a survey of nineteenth-century field names (from whatever source), please let me know so that we can begin to build up a picture of what has been done and what remains to be done. Secondly, if your society would like to be part of a wider project to study field names in your locality, again, I'd be very pleased to know.

Lastly, all this reminds me of a subject I touched on in the last newsletter: people's names. Hand-in-hand, with place-names, there is such a lot of work to be done on the emergence of surnames in the late medieval and early-modern period – another good project for society or individual to take up.

Andrew Jones

AGM & Conference 2016

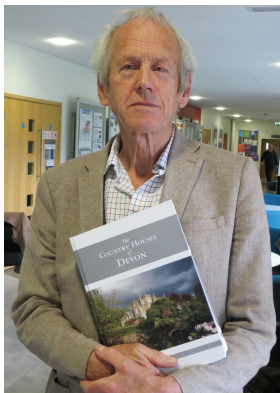


The 2016 AGM and Conference was held on 8th October in Streatham Court as previously, and again proved popular with members, who filled the Lecture theatre with no room to spare.

The AGM saw an orderly redistribution of responsibilities, most importantly from Bruce Coleman to Mark Brayshay as the new DHS President. There are also some new faces on the Council: Brian Carpenter, whose name you will know already, (*and since conference, a co-option of Michael Sampson, archivist at Blundell's School.*). A thoroughly deserved life membership was conferred by the Chairman Andrew Jones on retiring president Bruce Coleman.

*Above: Much ado in the concourse between lectures.
Below left: Hugh Meller. right: Derek Gore*

The AGM complete, members turned their attention to the DHS prizes for books published in 2015. There are more details about these on the website [here](#), but in brief the W.G.Hoskins Prize went to Hugh Meller



for his opulent *The Country Houses of Devon*, and Matthew Kelly took the Devon Book of the Year award for his Dartmoor profile *Quartz and Feldspar*. Highly Commended in the Hoskins category were Michael Rhodes' *Devon's Torre Abbey*, and Nigel Browne's remarkable *Six Centuries of Organ Building in Devon*. Highly Commended in the Devon Book of the Year category were John Allan, Nat Alcock and David Dawson's *West Country Households, 1500 - 1700* and Derek Gore's *The Vikings in the West Country*. I would have bought the lot, had I a spare £200 on me, but I went for Derek Gore's Vikings and put the rest on my Christmas and birthdays wish list.

The Conference got started just before lunch with Michael Winter's engaging canter through the last seventy five years of farming politics and economics in Britain. He was followed by Bette Baldwin from the Friends of Fair Oak Cottage, who gave a fascinating account of Scottish shepherds brought to Exmoor to improve the sheep husbandry there.

After lunch Henry French introduced the WW1 Food and Farming project contributions from Paul Cleave, Penny Lawrence, Roger Wilkins, and Ted Hitchings, all of them with new thoughts on how we coped in the bleakness of early 20th century wartime Britain.

A free booklet detailing the work of the project was available to members at the Conference. Copies are still available and if you would like one, please contact Henry on H.French@exeter.ac.uk

The session was rounded off by Josh Rhodes' extraordinary story of a struggle between two estate agents. Set in the 1860's against a backdrop of the magnificent Rolle estate in East Devon, a paralysing rivalry developed

between two men competing for control over the management of the estate. It would make, with a little rewriting, a rivetting TV costume drama! Members with literary ambitions please note.

After tea Janet Tall of SWHT concluded the day's events with an introduction to the Acland family's contribution to agricultural education between 1850-1914. The Aclands were an unusual family and deserve more attention in my view.

The day was long but ultimately rewarding, and members thanks are due to the indefatigable programme secretary and his team (few in number) of organisers.

cw

Affiliated Societies

Welcome to our latest affiliated society, **Lifton Local History Group**, and to the merger of the Petrockstowe and Merton groups, now to be known as **Merton and Petrockstowe Heritage Group**, Merton was not previously an affiliated society so this has added a new geographical dimension. We're always looking for new societies to affiliate so perhaps if anyone reading this knows of a neighbouring society not yet affiliated to Devon History Society, why not suggest to them they might like to join? Farewell, sadly, to Bradninch History Society who have decided their numbers have just shrunk too far for them to continue. Some societies have been sending us their programmes for 2017 for inclusion as a link to their page on our website, and we'd welcome others, particularly from societies who don't have websites of their own.

Julia Neville
Affiliated Societies Link

DHS News - future developments

Dear Member

As part of your Council's strategic planning, the Devon History News is undergoing a transformation over the next few years to make it easier and cheaper to produce and distribute. The current costs absorb a good chunk of your annual subscription, and it will bring a general benefit to members if a proportion of that cash could be redeployed to support other member services.

Council recognises that the paper edition is popular, and is anxious to provide a service with which you are satisfied and which continues to fulfill the functions of the News – to inform member about upcoming events, to distribute booking forms and other relevant paperwork, to report on past events and to entertain with short articles of a general, usually Devon-based, historical interest. The aim is to move the News into the digital sphere with a reduction in the number of paper copies, but at the same time to continue to support those who do not have the option of receiving or viewing a digital copy. So that the process proceeds without unduly disrupting member's preferred habits, the News will enter a quite lengthy transitional phase, where the following arrangements will apply...

All members currently receiving paper copies will continue to do so pro tem (but see below) and all members who have supplied an email address will receive the Digital Edition as well. This edition (Feb 2017) will be supplied a couple of days after the paper copies are mailed out.

The paper copy will continue in production until August 2019 (edition No 24) and members will be encouraged (as they are at the moment), to switch to digital-only copies – which will contribute to savings on print and postage costs through the transition period.

The Digital Edition may contain more content than does the paper edition. The zero cost of extra pages in the Digital Edition means we can produce a larger and more varied News, in the clear hope that you will feel able to pass up the paper copy before the deadline of 2019 and switch to Digital-only. There will be reminders in every paper edition to ask if you're ready to make the change-over.

After 2019, paper editions (No 25 and onwards) would be supplied, but only with a surcharge, although the details on this will not be available until nearer the change-over date.

Those members who have a particular problem using digital media, and who will be unable to make the transition in 2019, will continue to be supported by individual arrangements to be made at the time of the change-over. More details on that will also be available closer to the date.

There are a couple of administrative issues that arise in conjunction with the above.

The first is our incomplete set of members' email addresses. To benefit fully from the planned services we shall need to have an email address for you. The new application forms, both paper and digital, will include a standard Data Protection waiver. This is to make it clear that the DHS will continue to

manage your personal details that it keeps on computer, in line with best practise for digital media retained by such organisations as ours – that is to say we regard it as confidential information available only to bona fide members of the Council for use solely to serve the aims and projects of the Society. In cases where you have already supplied an email address – unless you specify otherwise we shall make the assumption that we have your permission to use it to send you DHS materials or links to such. If you have not supplied an address and wish to receive DHS material by **email**, please contact the Membership Secretary, Judy Moss, confirming your wishes. –
membership@devonhistorysociety.org.uk

Finally – the Newsletter belongs to members and your input is key, not just in supplying suitable content, but in shaping the way the document develops. So your comments are always welcome on this matter.

Council's feeling is that more money spent on active local history – to encourage you to contribute, to learn new research skills, to listen to leading historians, both professional and amateur, who can shed light on your own interests, no matter at what level you feel you want to explore – and to keep you up to the minute on all these developments – this is better than spending money unnecessarily on postage and paper.

Regards

Andrew Jones

Chairman

From the Membership Secretary

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE 1ST MAY

You are reminded that subscriptions are due on 1st May. Please diarise this if you pay by cheque. Reminders are not sent.

Individual members rate is £15.
Household membership is £22.50
Please make cheques to **Devon History Society...**

& send to
**Membership Secretary,
2, St Olaves, Murchington,
Chagford,
NEWTON ABBOT TQ13 8HJ**

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/about/join/>



Fire at the Royal Clarence Hotel

By now few Devon historians will not have heard that on the morning of 28 October of this past year fire destroyed the Royal Clarence Hotel which stood in the medieval heart of Exeter.

Two buildings were destroyed, three others were substantially damaged and a considerable number of adjoining properties were scorched. The feeling of shock and loss was immediately palpable in Exeter and two months later hundreds of people are still coming every day to Cathedral Green to see the damage for themselves.

Early that Friday morning I had a telephone call from Hamish Marshall of BBC Spotlight asking me to come to the green in order to provide a historical background. Fortunately I had a research interest in a number of Exeter buildings and had just acted as general editor for Jannine Crocker's recent edition of the Elizabethan Orphans' Inventories which contains relevant information. I hadn't realised that over the following few days this would increase to more than 50 interviews nor did I anticipate that it would become a major national news story. I was not able to do much other work for twelve days but it is, I feel, terribly important that a historian acts responsibly and is available to

provide an independent historical context during such a disaster.

There are now legal processes in hand – the fire service has its investigation into the fire itself, keen discussions are no doubt happening with and between insurers, and rebuilding will take place after the current stages of salvage, clearance, archaeological investigation and planning. We have lost an important part of Exeter's built heritage but it needs to be remembered that firstly, no one died and secondly, the fire was prevented from destroying not only the two buildings which form the Well House but also the adjoining row of early buildings along the High Street.

We have to go back to the early 1970s, to the Roman Bath dig, to find an event which has triggered such a profound public interest in Exeter's buildings and in its history. During that first weekend I was asked by Exeter City Council to give a public lecture. This evolved into a bigger event at the Barnfield Theatre and the response was overwhelming: it had to be repeated and even then more than 100 people were once again turned away. Building archaeologists John Allan, Richard Parker and John Thorp (each of whom had worked on these buildings) also volunteered their time. This was able to happen within a few days of the

outbreak of the fire. What emerged was a reminder of the pressing need to record our important buildings and to cherish those that remain. The immediate focus is on St Martin's Island, the block of buildings bounded by Cathedral Yard, Broadgate, High Street and Martin's Lane. Hopefully years of research by a number of specialists will now come to fruition and help to explain the importance of these and other historically significant structures in the city.

I am currently in discussions with a range of parties in an attempt to see how we can all work together and meet the very keen public interest that the fire has generated. These discussions will hopefully start to firm up by the time this newsletter reaches DHS members. No doubt this society will again play its proper role over the next few years while rebuilding is completed and we shall keep members informed of developments. Perhaps the most encouraging part of this unfortunate event is the public response: we have all seen a level of support which should surprise us but is nevertheless highly encouraging for all of us who seek to promote the study of history.

Dr Todd Gray MBE



Researchers wanted – Devon Women and the Vote

DHS is working in collaboration with the University of Plymouth on plans for the commemoration in 2018 of the centenary of the passing of the 1918 Representation of the People Act. This is the act which extended the franchise for the first time to women – though only those over 30 and with a stake in a property. As part of that conference, we want to tell some of the stories of Devon women and their work to change the status quo. Would you be interested in helping research the lives of some of the women involved? We'll be providing a seminar to introduce researchers to the topic and offer guidance about how to proceed. If you're interested, even if you don't have a specific woman in mind as a research subject, see the booking programme or contact informally Ann Bond, bond499@btinternet.com

Ann Bond

Photo far left: The ruins as they looked a month after the fire. Left: Todd Gray addresses the assembled multitude at the first of the post-fire public meetings at the Barnfield Theatre. below: the queue outside the Barnfield for the public forum meeting on 1st November.





Report from the Research
Group meeting held on
September 10 2016

Early Victorian Schools

Julia Neville opened the proceedings by welcoming our 'critical friends' guests Dr Bruce Coleman and Dr Rob Freathy. They listened with interest to the progress of our studies.

Our collection of case studies now covers sixteen communities. We have also undertaken a number of thematic research topics. Ann Bond spoke about her researches into the industrial school established at Kenton by Lady Courtenay. Helen Turnbull presented her researches into the development of education in Tiverton, influenced by the Heathcoat family and associated with their Tiverton lace factory. Helen also discussed the 'lace schools' run in villages in East Devon, and Sue Dymond and Jackie Bryon shared the information they had researched about lace schools with particular reference to Branscombe and Exmouth. Julia then discussed her work on non-elementary schools, and the review of endowed schools by the 1867 government enquiry which provided some evidence for private schooling.

The report of the enquiry also revealed how examinations and county schools had developed since the late 1850s. Finally, our Chairman Andrew Jones introduced the data-base he had compiled of curates since many curates took responsibility for organising and teaching in schools.

In the afternoon Dr Freathy expressed great interest in and enthusiasm for the work that the group is doing looking at what he described as the 'differentiated and complex system of schooling that prevailed during the Early Victorian period'. He urged us to read more widely in a range of sources, even including fiction; to think what it was like to teach and learn and to consider what influenced the curriculum and even the architecture. Dr Freathy suggested making use of resources such as those provided by the History of Education Society. Dr Coleman challenged us to be thinking about the big research questions our work might help to answer. To consider the influence of political interest by MPs which could

be seen in local affairs. How did education affect social mobility? What influenced the judgements made by the inspectors or commissioners? He suggested we should look beyond records of schools, e.g. consider population census material and the entries in the 1851 Religious Census.

Our proposals for action were discussed and after reflecting on what our guests had said, we agreed that a big theme that comes out from our work is that the variations we observe in opportunities to children are linked to the power structures in different communities and we should try to tell the story. Julia reminded us that the Devon History Society will be holding its conference next year on the theme of Education which will provide an opportunity to present our work.

Helen Turnbull

First World War Farming, Fishing and Food Supply Research Project

At the final workshop in November the group said farewell to Dr James Wallis, the research fellow who has been supporting the project. We also reflected on the successful publication of our booklet of short essays, produced for the Arts and Humanities Research Council's national Everyday Lives in War conference held in September. This is now available on the DHS website via

<http://www.devonhistorysociety.org.uk/archive/food-farming-fishing-devon-first-world-war/> .

Members of the group have now moved on to write up their researches for presentation at the symposium to be held on May 13th 2017, Oats, Sprats and Barley Bread (see information on the 2017 programme elsewhere) and will also be producing articles for a farming-themed edition of *The Devon Historian* this autumn.

Julia Neville



Dressed to till (but were they really Land Girls?)

The photo above is from c.1917-18, and shows Faith and Patience Lowe, daughters of the rector of Throwleigh, dressed in Women's Land Army garb. Faith's diary for 1918 survives in the Throwleigh archive, and has now been transcribed in its entirety by Judy Moss (DHS's membership secretary). The detail therein tells us a lot about Faith's daily life on the farm. Although she is not described as a Land Girl, the work she did was broadly similar, interlaced with the expectations of a rector's daughter in a small rural community. A summary analysis of Judy's work is included in the WW1 project book (see conference report p4) and the full story will be in the *Journal* this Autumn, with a preview talk on May 13th at the project Symposium to be held at Exeter University.
cw



The Exeter Blitz

Above: Signboards advertising new locations of shops that once stood on Exeter High Street before their demolition following the Blitz on the city in April and May 1942.

Photo from Imperial War Museum (licensed by IWM under share and reuse collection © IWM D 16649)

I was at the Maynard School during the war and in the early years a boarder in one of the two then houses, Summerlands, which occupied 39-41 Heavitree Road, opposite the end of Spicer Road on the former site of modern housing development. Because of an earlier raid which had cut off water and gas our summer term return was delayed until Sunday 3 May. During that night, we were roused at around 1 a.m. By the warning whistle and all proceeded quickly to the shelter in the garden, close to the house. Soon the noise began, of loud, shattering explosions all around. There were around 30 of us girls there, plus three staff. After a while the house mistress looked out and said that there were green flares all over the

garden and that the house was on fire. I was seated near the door and could see the flames shooting up, including from the room where I had been sleeping, and which held my possessions – clothing and – I realised – all my study notes for School Certificate.

As the actual raid ended an ARP warden came to the shelter and said we must move because of the fire's proximity, and we were led to a terrace house in Lower Summerlands where the occupants were most kind and gave us tea and cake. Soon, however, we had to move again as one of the neighbouring houses was on fire, so we trooped over to the main school shelter where the girls from the other house were still installed.

When it was daylight, at around 6.30 a.m., we were told we were moving to Exeter School and we proceeded – in 2 x2 'croc' – up Magdalen Road. Having had almost no sleep we were conducted to a dormitory, which the boys had vacated for an early breakfast, and directed to get into their (still warm) beds, two girls to each. None of us slept.

We soon rose, and were given breakfast. During it my father arrived from Tiverton. He and my mother had anxiously watched the distant blaze in the sky and he had set off early, driving over broken glass and hoses before general road closures. When he reached Summerlands his eyes were met by the smouldering ruin. Fortunately a notice had been posted on the gate saying that all girls were safely evacuated to Exeter School. He took me home and then, aged 15, I completed my Maynard school days as a day-girl, travelling by train on the then still-existing Exe Valley line.

Helen Harris

(The Alphington History Group (see next column) have their own Blitz memories to share. These are in the Digital Supplement - Ed).

East Devon Local History Workshop

The seventh meeting was held on Monday 5th December 2016 at Kennaway House, Sidmouth.

An exchange of information on local activities by East Devon Societies and a resume of landscape projects was introduction to three speakers: Penny Lawrence on 'Hidden treasure in agricultural records', Julia Neville on 'Farms and the War Agriculture Committee in First World War Poltimore', Stelios Lekakis, on 'Recording farmers' perceptions of the landscape and cultural heritage', and John Torrance on 'The Life and Death of the Three Horseshoes', (on the A3052).

Full report in the digital edition.

Alphington On-Line History Group

Several years ago the Alphington History Group moved from a conventional style of history society to an on-line group which is now run through the e-mail system.

Instead of having to go out in all weathers to attend meetings members can now receive regular newsletters containing articles on Alphington's history and old village pictures. They can join in the discussions and snoop their own memories of Alphington at their convenience and from the comfort of their own home.

Other advantages of an on-line group are membership is now not restricted to residents of Alphington and the surrounding area, people can join where ever they live and with no administration or hiring of venue expenses being incurred membership is free

This format has not only enabled the group to continue on an historical theme but has also brought some old friends back together again after many years. An historical and reunion group all rolled into one, a wonderful combination.

Rowena

e-mail: rowena57jay@yahoo.co.uk

If you have a short article about how your group deals with the pleasures and/or pains of running a history or heritage society, please get in touch. The spread of good ideas is a vital part of DHS's job. Write to dhsnewsed@gmail.com, or contact the DHS liaison officer Julia Neville on j.f.neville@btinternet.com

Todd Gray's

Excellent Adventure

DHS's Dr. Todd Gray has thought of a novel way to mark his Presidency of the Devonshire Association. He writes...

From 12 to 22 May I will be walking from Lyme Regis to Hartland in a ten day 'walk and talk' tour across Devon as President of the Devonshire Association. The intention is to promote interest in the history of Devon. Each night I will be giving a lecture (open to the public) to a local group and the topic will be 'The Distinctiveness of Devon'. I am hoping that some people join me for part of

the Trek, perhaps for the morning or an afternoon or just for a mile or so.

I am also keen to learn of any local knowledge of the collective village names which used to be so common in Devon. This will be one of the topics of the lectures. These collective names were recorded by Victorian and later Devonians and I am hoping that I might learn of additional names to those that I already know. I have pulled together a list of 112 places in Devon that had these nicknames recorded but there were probably another 400 for which I have as yet



no record. Devon people as a whole were sometimes known as 'Devon Dumplings' and also as 'Janners', a term more commonly used today to describe someone from Plymouth but there are a number of contradictory explanations for that word's use. I am more interested in the names given to villagers in a collective sense.

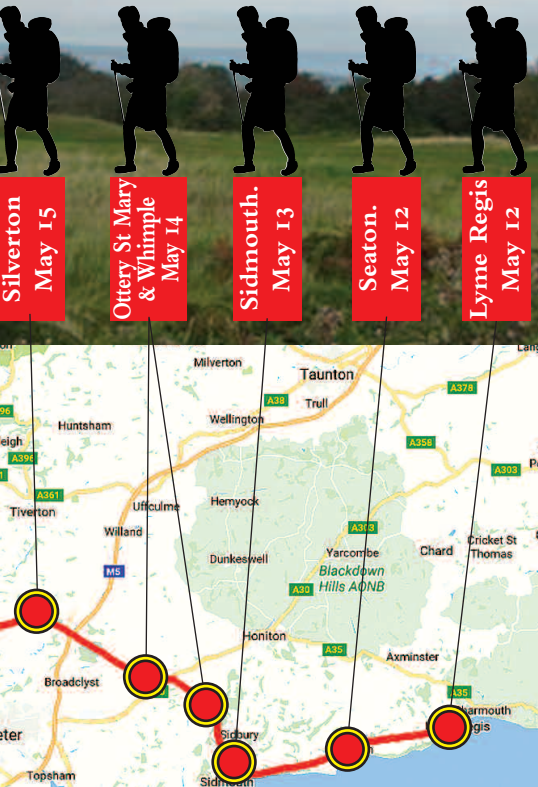
In some places the nicknames were used as part of a rhyme:

*Cadbury cocks,
Cadeleigh hens,
Poughill cuckoos and
Cheriton men.*

Are any of these terms still in use? I am also interested to know if there are others that I do not have. I can be contacted at

t.gray@exeter.ac.uk or at History Department, Amory Building, Rennes Drive University of Exeter EX4 4RJ. I am keen to know if these additional terms were written down or if they are memories of what was said. (*A larger text version is repeated in the Digital Supplement - Ed*).

Alswear, Guinea Pigs
Alwington, Bulldogs
Appledore, Potwollopers
Ashburton, Ladies & Gentlemen
Ashbury, Fish Bones or Ladies & Gentlemen
Ashreigney, Dog Eaters
Ashwater, Tattie Grubs
Barnstaple, Bulldogs
Beaford, Blackberries
Beesands, Owls
Bishop's Nympton, Brags or Bone Pickers
Bovey Tracey, Black Ducks
Bradford, Horniwnicks (lapwing plovers)
Bradworthy, Horniwigs (lapwing plovers)
Brentor, Cramp-Eaters
Bridgerule, Fools
Brixham, Dabs, Trawlers or Fish Strings
Buckfastleigh, Rats or Lads
Buckland, Bulldogs or Roughs
Budleigh, Crabs
Cadbury, Cocks
Cadeleigh, Hens
Chagford, Chuggy Pigs
Challacombe, Horniwnicks
Chawleigh, Boars
Clannaborough, Candlesticks
Cheriton Fitzpaine, Men or Owls
Chillington, Rooks
Chittlehampton, Lambkins
Churchstow, Dogs
Churston Ferrers, Liver Eaters
Clannaborough, Candlesticks
Clawton, Men
Clovelly, Row Dogs or Herrings
Clyst St Mary, Pretty Maids
Coppelstone, Faggots
Cornwood, Robbers
Credton, Bloody Backs or Bulldogs
Dartmouth, Dicky Birds
Dawlish, Hags or Mackerel
Denbury, Cats or Ladies & Gentlemen
Dolton, Ducks
Dowland, Geese
Exeter, Jail Birds
Exeter (St Sidwell), Grecians
Exeter (Exe Island), Algerines
Farringdon, Badgers
George Nympton, Nugget Eaters
Gidleigh, Rats
Harford, Gads
Hartland, Guinea Pigs, Jackasses or Men
Hatherleigh, Rumps
High Bickington, Pretty Maids
Hockworthy, Hogs
Holcombe (nr Teignmouth), Rags
Holcombe Rogus, Rogues
Holne, Revellers or Rams
Holsworthy, Fops
Iddesleigh, Rats
Ivybridge, Lads
Jacobstow, Gentlemen
Kenneleigh, Candlesticks
Kingsbridge, Cats or Ladies & Gentlemen
King's Nympton, Stags
Kingsteignton, Ram Roasters
Kingswear, Turks
Knowstone, Sheep Stealers
Lapford, Cheese Eaters
Lustleigh, Owls
Manaton, Merry-makers or Tattie Diggers
Mariansleigh, Bread Eaters or Barley Bread Eaters
Mary Tavy, either Over Downs or Outer Downs
Meeth, Poor Stumps
Meshaw, Mumheads
Monkehampton, Mice
Morchard Bishop, Bread Eaters
Moretonhampstead, Tattie Eaters or Roundheads
Newton Abbot, Dolls
Northam, Potwollopers
North Bovey, Bees or Fond of Bread & Cheese
North Molton, Monkeys, Brags or Magpies
Paignton, Pudding Eaters or Flat Poles
Pinhoe, Pigs
Plymouth, Janners
Poughill, Cuckoos
Pyworthy, Men
Rose Ash, Whitepot Eaters
Salcombe, Smock Hole Folks
Sandford, Pigs' Ears, Cheese Eaters or Barley Bread Eaters
Shaldon, Grecians
Shobrooke, Bread Eaters
Sourton, Boars
South Brent, Pretty Maidens
South Milton, Stars
South Molton, Molton Images or Jolly Boys
South Pool, Harriers
South Tawton, Rats
South Zeal, Pretty Maidens
Staverton, Treacle Miners
Stickepath, Boars
Stockleigh Pomeroy, Mice
Sutcombe, Pigs
Tavistock, Lambs
Topsham, Dabs
Torquay, Dickey Birds
Totnes, Horse Heads
Trusham, Haymakers
Ugborough, Lubbers
West Alvington, Rats
West Woolfardisworthy (Woolsery), Nanny Goats
Widecombe-on-the-Moor, Toughs
Witheridge, Boars



Book Reviews



Angela Coles, edited by Harland Walshaw

(2015)

The Shops of Lymptone,

Lymptone Historic Houses Group, 88pp., 54 b/w photographs,

Softback; ISBN 978-0-0569837-2-5, £6.00

The Shops of Lymptone utilises an interesting methodology in its approach to a work of local history, combining as it does elements of social, architectural, and oral history, and guided tour. Produced by the Lymptone Historic Houses Group as a companion piece to an earlier volume The Houses of Lymptone this volume incorporates the memories of long-time village resident, Alfred Langmead. Mr Langmead's recollections of his childhood in the village before the First World War were recorded by local historian Herbert Trump in 1972. The recordings form the basis for a tour of the village. Shops long since converted to residential properties are described, along with their proprietors, their customers, and their physical remains in the form of bay windows once used for displaying goods for sale, shop doorways, and 'ghost signs'.

A story emerges of village life from the late Victorian period almost to the present day. The thriving, self-reliant community, which was typical of many such in the period before car ownership was commonplace, is the most evocative aspect of this volume. The Lymptone of this volume was in many ways the archetypal community of one hundred years ago, where day-to-day life could be conducted without the need for regular shopping trips further afield. And yet The Shops of Lymptone is not merely an exercise in nostalgia. Some consideration has also been given to the social changes which precipitated the changing nature of the retail environment. Ms Coles has charted how many shops have changed uses over time, from grocery to pharmacy to hairdressers, and how businesses relocated within the village as with the post office.

As well as the shops, there are the many public houses and inns, tea rooms and restaurants, the Lord Roberts Institute, once the meeting place for the temperance society, and the banking and insurance offices. All add to the rich picture of a diverse economy catering to a

population which was able to support a surprising number and range of local tradespeople.

The final section of the book looks at some of the trades and occupations on which Lymptone depended for its prosperity, but which did not depend on physical business premises. Occupations carried on within the home, such as lace making; those who operated from premises that would not be considered retail, such as lime burning; and those functioning from the village's estuarine shore, such as fishing and whaling, are all given space. There is even a short piece on smuggling, although this is largely speculative. Perhaps this trades and occupations section could have been used to develop the theme of home working into the present day, with some space given to the many small internet-dependent businesses which no doubt function nowadays, as they do in many other rural communities within Devon and beyond.

The inclusion of some delightful period photographs is undoubtedly a great strength of the volume but the author has not fallen into the trap of producing a simple collection of 'then and now' comparisons. Rather, the photographs have been used to enhance and illustrate the text and serve to record both everyday life and 'high days and holidays.'

The cover picture of a char-a-banc outing setting off from outside Croft's Stores is a charming evocation of both the shop and of community life.

The book could have been greatly enhanced by the inclusion of a map to guide those less familiar with the village and its topography. Although a bibliography has been included, for this reviewer at least, more explicit referencing would have been appreciated. However, writing in a conversational style, Angela Coles' volume is an enjoyable journey through Lymptone over time. She has drawn on a good deal of primary resources during her research, including census returns, trade directories and newspapers and is to be congratulated for her endeavour. *Ann Bond*



David J Solomon

A History of Fish and Fisheries of the River Exe

(Fluvial Books, 2012; 124 pages, maps, tables, colour and b/w photographs.

Softback ISBN 978-09574276-0-0)

Dr David Solomon is a fisheries scientist and angler whose first contact with the Exe was as a student at Exeter University in the 1960's. He has brought a combination of rigorous science and his passion for

the river and its fish to produce a wonderful book of interest to anyone interested in local history, fishing and the impact of man on a major river. By coincidence this is being written when the river is getting its own back by flooding the main Exeter to Paddington railway line.

The book opens with 'An Explanation' in which the author writes:

'I recognise that producing this volume represents unalloyed self-indulgence, but I will be happy if it catches the interest and imagination of even a few of the many people who I also know have a love of the Exe... I hope there is something in here for anyone who has an interest in the river and its fisheries, even if they know the river as well as I thought I did.'

This undersells the value of the book which extends beyond the river and its fisheries into a valuable contribution to our understanding of the history of man's impact on a valuable natural asset – local history meets geography and sociology in a thoroughly readable way.

The breadth of the book is best illustrated by a selection of some chapter headings:

- Man and the River Exe
- Early fisheries history
- Salmon in the later Victorian era
- The recent history of the Exe salmon fishery
- A case history – goings on around Cowley Bridge and Pynes
- The future

The chapter on the recent history is especially fascinating as it includes a summary of the radio-tracking of adult salmon carried out by the author in the 1990's. Your reviewer had the pleasure of working with the author at this time and is happy to confirm that the enthusiasm and commitment he showed then is reflected throughout the book.

The use of many maps and photographs from the 19th century to the present throughout the book support the text in exemplary fashion. Dr Solomon's personal experience and love of the river protect the book from the curse of many such books which are simply the product of desk research – all too easy in the era of Google and Wikipedia. In short a thoroughly researched, readable volume from an author with a genuine interest in his subject. *Roger Furniss*

Book Reviews 2017 for The Devon Historian

The following books have been received for review in the 2017 edition of the Devon Historian, but they need to be allocated a reviewer. If anyone would like to offer to review one of them, please contact me by e-mail or post at the following address: 41 Broadway, Exeter, EX2 9LU. My e-mail address is: M.M.Auchterlonie@exeter.ac.uk

Devon Parish Taxpayers, 1500-1650. Volume 1: Abbotskerwell to Beer & Seaton. Todd Gray (2016)

Elizabethan Inventories and Wills of the Exeter Orphans' Court. 2 volumes. Jannine Crocker (2016)

Food, Farming and Fishing in Devon during the First World War. University of Exeter/Devon History Society (2016)

Heart of Oak: Letters from Admiral Gardner (1742-1809). Francis Davey (2015)

Heavenly Harmonies: Organs and Organists of Exeter Cathedral. Malcolm Walker & David Davies (2014)

Dr. M. Auchterlonie (Reviews Editor)

The Internet Historian

This column is still open for business – please send in links to whatever you find useful. Wordsmiths among you may already be aware, but a revelation for me is the discovery of all six volumes (over 5000 pages) of Joseph Wright's astonishing English Dialect Dictionary on www.Archive.org (link below), and also access to the OEDs Historical Thesaurus via your library card. Joseph Wright is here <https://archive.org/details/englishdialectdiorwrig>

Free OED access via your library card is here <http://www.oed.com/loginpage>

cw

Mark Brayshay: An Introduction



Conscious that space in the Newsletter is precious, I hope nonetheless that I may be permitted briefly to introduce myself to the membership of the Devon History Society and to acknowledge the great honour that I feel on being elected to serve as the Society's president for the coming three years. I imagine that I will have an opportunity to meet and talk with many members at forthcoming DHS events but meanwhile it may be of interest to know just a little about me.

In 2015, I retired fully from my post as an historical geographer at the University of Plymouth and now, as an emeritus professor, still with a base in the University, I enjoy the luxury of pursuing (with undiminished enthusiasm, but far less pressure) my own research interests. Currently, I am working on a variety of projects including inter alia the history of pursuivants, messengers and overseas couriers who served Tudor and Stuart governments; the pivotal role played by

Devon's emigration agents in Victorian times; and planned settlement schemes for English emigrants in Western Australia in the interwar years.

As your President, I will give my full support to the various ways in which the Devon History Society provides encouragement for contributions to knowledge and understanding of Devon's extraordinarily rich history. New ventures that encourage engagement with local history in Devon schools are much to be welcomed. The story of this county's past is our shared passion and the Society is uniquely well-placed to spread enthusiasm for local and county history whenever and wherever there is an opportunity to do so.

William Lambarde, in his *Perambulation of Kent* (1576)... 'containing the Description; Hystorie; and Customes of that Shire', remarked (after suitably lauding the work of other historians and chorographers who had previously published studies that encompassed the entire realm) that he was '...neverthelesse ...assured that the Inwardes of each place may best be knownen by such as reside therein'. Lambarde's eloquent endorsement of inquiries that focus on the history of individual counties, and the places within them, carried out by their own residents, is surely as pertinent as when he wrote it, almost 450 years ago. I think his words validate the endeavours of all those who engage with, and study, county history and, if I may say so, they powerfully legitimise the continuing activities of the Devon History Society.

Mark Brayshay

THE PROGRAMME FOR

2017

Those of you who enjoyed the themes explored during the 2016 AGM and Conference, particularly those surrounding the First World War, will be pleased to find two events in our 2017 programme which look in more detail at Food, Farming and Fishing during the Great War. The first, organised by Devon Gardens Trust, as **“Feeding the Nation in World War One: From Paeonies to Potatoes”**; will take place at **Seale Hayne, near Newton Abbot**, on the afternoon of **February 18th**, and the Trust have generously offered DHS members the same registration fee as members of the Devon Gardens Trust. The programme for the event is available on the Trust’s website here (see back cover for full URL) but booking for Devon History Society members is via our own Bookings Secretary. The second event entitled **“Oats, Sprats and Barley Bread: Feeding Devon in World War One”** has been organised jointly by the Devon History Society, Devon Remembers Heritage Project and the University of Exeter and takes place on **May 13th at the University of Exeter**; places are free but in limited numbers, and, in a departure from our usual procedures, booking is available through the professional company Eventbrite.

Another example of collaboration is the kind offer of the **Historical Association Plymouth Branch** for DHS members to

attend one of its lectures without charge – this is your chance to hear **Todd Gray** talking on **“Slanders and Insults in Elizabethan Devon”** on **May 9th**, but our most ambitious joint project is the whole day conference to be held in collaboration with the **British Association for Local History at the University of Exeter on April 29th**. Entitled **“From Domesday to Today: How Devon has been Governed over the Centuries”**, this offers anyone interested in the history of Devon a unique opportunity to hear academics from a variety of universities (including the Society’s current President Professor Mark Brayshay, and its past President Dr. Bruce Coleman) discussing the nature of governance in Devon from the Normans to the twentieth century. If you have ever wanted to know the historical context of who held power in Devon and how they exercised it, and how the relationship between the county and the other powerbrokers, such as the King, Parliament and the Church varied over the centuries, this is your opportunity to find out. The conference concludes with case studies taken from the history of Devon including **Dr. Tom Greeves** on **“The Great Courts or Parliaments of Devon Tinnors”**, **Mike Sampson** on **“The Rotten Borough of Tiverton”**, and **Dr. Julia Neville** on **“The Queen of St. Budeaux, and Other Early Women Councillors in Plymouth”**. On the afternoon before the conference, on **April 28th**, there will be a chance to visit **Exeter Cathedral Library** and to view some of its treasures with an expert guide – but be warned numbers are limited.

2017 is the seventy-fifth anniversary of the **Exeter Blitz**, and to mark this, the Society has invited **John Smith** to talk, not about the damage done to the city, but how the German aircraft were able to break through the British air defences in the first place.

DHS EVENTS

Anyone who was fortunate enough to hear John's knowledgeable and dynamic talk on the Battle of Britain and the South-West two years ago, will enjoy hearing him again at **the Mint in Exeter on May 22nd**. On June 5th, there is the opportunity to hear a talk on a very different topic: **Mark Hailwood** of the University of Exeter's History Department has been involved in a national project on **Women's Work in Devon** and will be discussing the results of the project as they affect women in Devon **on June 5th at the Mint**. Mark says that "the talk should serve as a guide to a range of sources that can be used by anyone interested in the history of work, and in particular will stress the value of depositional material, which survives in abundance in local record offices, for

exploring not just work, but a whole range of aspects of everyday life in the past. It will also touch on historical debates about gender roles, and will involve plenty of interesting material and examples from around Devon." For more information, see the project website here (full URL below).

The final study day on "**Early Victorian Schools in Devon**" will be held on **March 11th at St. Sidwell's in Exeter**.

The first half of the programme concludes with our **Summer Meeting**, which this year will be held in the ancient town of **Bovey Tracey on June 17th** courtesy of the Bovey Tracey Heritage Trust.

Paul Auchterlonie.

Events Summary

Feb 18th pm. Feeding the Nation in World War One: From Paeonies to Potatoes; at Seale Hayne, near Newton Abbot. <http://www.devongardenstrust.org.uk/?q=node/487>. Book from membership@devonhistorysociety.org.uk.

March 11th - The final study day on "**Early Victorian Schools in Devon**" St. Sidwell's in Exeter.

May 13th. Oats, Sprats and Barley Bread: Feeding Devon in World War One. University of Exeter.

May 9th. Todd Gray on Slanders and Insults in Elizabethan Devon Plymouth Historical Association. 7.00 p.m., and are held in: Theatre 2, Roland Levinsky Building, University of Plymouth, Free to DHS members.

28th April. pm visit to **Exeter Cathedral Library**.

April 29th. British Association for Local History and DHS: **From Domesday to Today: How Devon has been Governed over the Centuries** at the University of Exeter.

May 22nd. John Smith on The Exeter Blitz of 1942: Why Did the German Bombers Get Through? at the Mint in Exeter

June 5th. Mark Hailwood: Women's Work in Devon at the Mint in Exeter. More at <https://earlymodernwomenswork.wordpress.com/>.

June 17th. Summer Meeting at Bovey Tracey DHS is the guest of Bovey Tracey Heritage Trust.

From DHS Affiliates....

There is a great deal of interesting material that DHS affiliated groups produce for their own consumption, that has wider interest for the rest of Devon. Sometimes these articles appear in the Journal, but more often the additional work required to meet the Journal's exacting academic standards means that they pass un-noticed by the wider DHS membership. The News hopes to remedy that loss by re-publishing some of this work, starting with one of Huntsham's publications on its church cross. If you have material in your newsletters or publications that you think merits greater exposure please contact me at dhsnewsed@gmail.com or Julia Neville at j.f.neville@btinternet.com

A Missing Church Cross

David Wall



The web site www.flickr.com already has many photographs of the Huntsham area, old and new. Marian Webster alerted me to one of particular interest submitted by Alan Roseveare. The attached note reads:

'A surviving Churchyard Cross;
Huntsham Churchyard Cross (old base)
standing by the path, in parish of
HUNTSHAM (MID DEVON
District). Located by steps to the south
porch of the church, positioned on the
corner of a grass area. Only the base is
present; this of a sedimentary rock I
think and half has shattered, presumably
due to water freezing in the socket
hole. It looks late-medieval, having
some ornamentation on the corners.
There was a modern cross in this when
Masson Phillips saw it. NGR is ST 1400
2045; not Listed.' Masson Phillips'
survey was published by the Devon
Association in 1937 and 1938.

This intriguing statement, implying that there might be a medieval cross in the churchyard, led to an examination of the site described and a hunt for the missing cross.

A square plinth rests loosely on a damaged, moss-covered circular base about 30cm (12in) high. On top of the plinth is a short metal pin with an uneven tip (not sawn) that protrudes by 2cm from the surface. The flanged sides of the plinth are finely dressed and it measures 20cm (8in) each side.

There are inscriptions on three sides of the plinth, of which the one in latin, facing west, is very clear.

West side inscription: Beatis Parentibus

The meaning of Beatis is: 1. happy, fortunate, bringing happiness or 2. rich, wealthy, copious, sumptuous. Parentibus means parents.

Below: West side inscription





East side inscription: F August 4 1856
This is less clear but a charcoal rubbing helped to decipher it.

North side inscription: A June 5 1857. A charcoal rubbing also helped to decipher this.

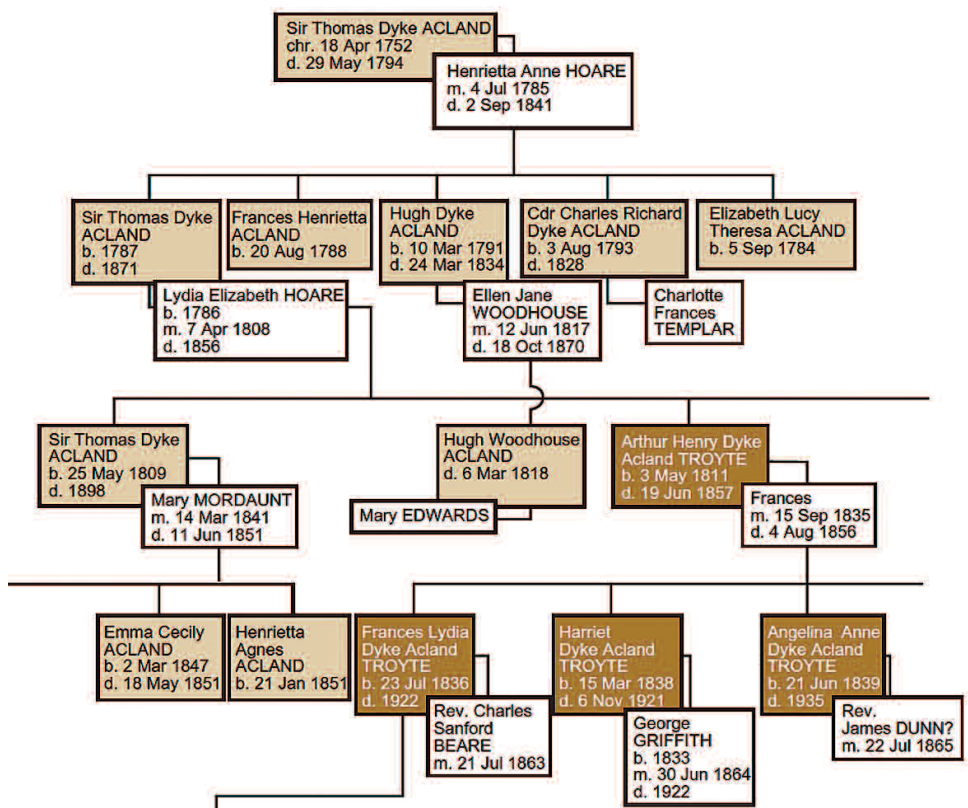
No inscription is visible on the South side.

To solve the puzzle of what the latin inscription and the initials and dates mean it is necessary to take a close look at the complicated family tree that spreads over pages 26 and 27 of The Huntsham Book.

*Top: East side inscription
Above: North side inscription*

Here, following the line of descendants of Sir Hugh Acland and Cicely Wrothe of the early 18th century, and after four generations, there is the marriage of Arthur Henry Dyke Acland Troyte and Frances Williams in September 1835. Frances died from tuberculosis on August 4 1856 and Arthur a year after on 5 June 1857, aged only 46 and leaving nine children.

'Arthur Henry Dyke Acland was living in the family home of Killerton when in 1852, aged 42, he heard that he had



Above: the Troyte family's place in the Acland dynasty.
 Right: Gravestone of Arthur Acland Troyte, (1865-1883)

inherited Huntsham Estate from an old friend, the sporting parson Rev'd Edward Berkely Troyte. Arthur was a highly principled and devoutly religious man and immediately began the transformation of Huntsham from a neglected and derelict hamlet with illiterate and poor occupants to a thriving country estate village. Among other improvements he rebuilt the church and a new rectory as well as





Left: Iron grave memorials engraved 'A' and 'F' in Huntsham cgrchyard.

much-needed new roads to the north and south, but he inevitably succumbed to ill health from serious financial worries and anxiety'.

It seems, therefore, that the plinth at least is not part of a medieval church cross after all but the base of a later cross in memory of Arthur and Frances Acland Troyte that was erected on the remains of an earlier cross. Their graves are nearby, two of four simple iron crosses with an embossed A and F, not to be confused with the grander pink granite grave dedicated to 'Arthur Acland Troyte born March 30 1865 died March 30 1883' who was their grandson.

So where is the cross itself? At first no one could suggest where it might be but then Gerald Foxford, who helps keep the churchyard tidy, remembered

seeing the tip of a 'piece of concrete' protruding from the ground behind the churchyard wall near the lychgate.

When he investigated it turned out to be a granite shaft 86cm (34in) long with a cross section at the wider basal end of 20cm x 20cm (8in x 8in). The chamfered edges are finely dressed but otherwise there are no decorations. In the unchamfered base is a central circular hole about 2cm deep that would have received a locating pin. This detail and the shape and measurement of the base exactly fit the slightly raised part of the plinth surface. It can be safely assumed, therefore, that this is indeed the missing shaft of the cross.

As of this date (November 2013) we do not know where the crosspiece is, in or out of the churchyard.



Above: 34" granite shaft discovered by Gerald Foxford

We do know, however, what it looks like as Joyce Foxford remembered that one of her 1963 wedding photographs with Gerald was in the churchyard. It shows amongst the guests a little girl in a white dress with her raised foot on the plinth of a plain lichen-covered stone cross. The cross pieces are



A 1963 wedding photo shows a cross in the churchyard. Photo courtesy Joyce Foxford

chamfered and the top would have stood about 180cm (6ft) high.

The story does not end here because the base is equally intriguing, in spite of being half disintegrated. Masson Phillips, in his 1938 survey of Devon crosses, tersely described the one at Huntsham as 'A modern cross erected upon the ancient base', to which Alan Roseveare added in 2010 'the corners have some ornamentation', and suggested that it could be late medieval.

A close examination shows that there is no 'ornamentation' in the sense of sculptures or engravings but what can be seen beneath a thick layer of moss is that the whole base is geometrically shaped. The top quarter that the plinth rests on is octagonal but beneath this to ground level it is wider and square with distinctively rounded, bevelled corners. The whole base appears to have been shaped from one piece of rock that has weathered to give a deeply pitted surface. This and the shapes of the

fractured fragments of the disintegrated half are typical of basalt.

There are two suggestions to explain the damage to the base. Alan Roseveare thought it may be due to water getting into the hole, freezing and then expanding, while Joyce Foxford suggests that the base may have been damaged by a tractor a long time ago that was used to dig graves. Either or both are feasible.

The plinth is simply resting on the flat top of the base and if it is lifted up it reveals beneath it a wide and deep, 15 x 30cm (6 x 12in), roughly circular hole, easily large enough to have received the shaft of a cross. Unlike stone crosses, however, that have rectangular- or square-section shafts this hole is round in section and its diameter would be too large for a metal shaft. Thus the round cross section and roughness of the hole imply a wooden shaft rather than one made of metal or stone. There are pale remains of what looks like cement under the base of the plinth and around the lip of the hole.

If the cross could eventually be reassembled it would be a fitting recognition of Arthur Acland Troyte's heroic labours in rebuilding the church and initiating the flourishing of Huntsham.

End piece

Just outside the west churchyard wall near the lych gate there is a heap of half-buried stone fragments which I scratched through last winter looking for more cross fragments, without success. Gerald Foxford has, however, scratched through more diligently as in late May, 2014, he discovered another, shorter and broken piece of the shaft. From its overall shape and design at one end it appears to be the upper part of the shaft to which a crosspiece was attached. This has revived the hope that the crosspiece will ultimately be found.

All photographs by David Wall unless otherwise stated.



HUNTSHAM SOCIETY

East Devon Local History Workshop



The seventh meeting was held on Monday 5 December 2016 at Kennaway House, Sidmouth.

Present: Barbara Farquharson, John Torrance (Branscombe); John Cochrane, Jasmine List (Colyton); Shan Merritt (Newton Poppleford); Martin Smith (Otter Valley); Sue & Trevor Dymond (Ottery St Mary); Julia Neville (Poltimore & DHS); Rab & Christine Barnard (Sidmouth Museum); David Rastall, Margaret Burrough (Whimble); Roger Stokes, Gill Selley, Patrick Dillon (Woodbury); Penny Lawrence (Hemyock, Blackdown Hills AONB); Chris Woodruff (East Devon AONB); Philippe Planel (DHS); Stelios Lekakis (Newcastle Univ.).

Apologies for absence were received from Mike & Dee Tracy, April Marjoram, Dee Woods, and Chris Wakefield. The lower than usual attendance was probably due to the date having been changed to December, and it is hoped to return to early November next year.

1. Chris Woodruff (Manager, E. Devon AONB) reported that DEFRA had agreed four years funding for the AONB. Grants from the sustainable development fund (AONB only) are still available for projects up to March 2017. Grants from the LEADER fund are also still available to East Devon organisations and communities for cultural and heritage projects. Details at www.makingitlocal.org.uk.

Current AONB activities are the 'Legacy to Landscape' project at Shute (details provided); an East Devon Farmers Group with 53 farmers signed up, giving the AONB a new role in environmental stewardship; and the continuing link with Professor Sam Turner's project on community involvement in historic landscape characterisation, hosting Dr Stelios Lekakis.

The AONB historic landscape conference 2017 will take place at the Lockyer Observatory, Salcombe Regis, probably on 22 April.

The AONB was thanked for its continuing support for the Workshop, and Kennaway House for providing facilities and refreshments.

2. Brief reports on activities were received from societies. Exhibitions and events connected with the World War I centenary continued at Whimble, Sidmouth Museum, Poltimore and Ottery St Mary (with publication of J. Woolley, *Ottery's Sacrifice*). Whimble's wassail will be held on January 17; Sidmouth Museum intends to move its documentary collections into new premises over the former Trumps shop; Poltimore is studying early schools and a water feature. It was pointed out that the Newton Poppleford history society includes groups at Tipton and Venn Ottery. Ottery St Mary refurbished a roadside memorial to Bishop Patteson, and are finishing recording and transcribing gravestone inscriptions;

Woodbury are producing three films about a farming family and scanning parish documents, eventually intended for their website; Otter Valley have submitted their list of heritage assets to EDDC, but inaction has followed the departure of the council's conservation officer; Branscombe produced an interactive digitised map of villagers' 'favourite places', shown in an eclectic 2016 exhibition entitled 'Village Lives', from which two booklets are in progress; Colyton have received lottery funding for digital equipment in their heritage centre and for transcribing and digitising the Feoffees' and other records, also the gift of two rapiers and a sabre found in a cottage roof.

3. **Penny Lawrence** gave a presentation on 'Hidden treasure in agricultural records', demonstrating how the Inland Revenue 'Domesday survey' of 1910 (under IR58 at Kew) and the agricultural valuation books 1911-1919, in the DHC, can provide

extraordinarily detailed information on farm buildings, farm practices and the farming economy of the period.

4. **Julia Neville's** presentation on 'Farms and the War Agriculture Committee in First World War Poltimore' showed how it was possible to extract from statistical records a lively picture of interaction, sometimes tense, between authorities, landlords and farmers on the question of what sacrifices, e.g. of unploughed pasture or

deerpark, their patriotic duty required of them.

5. **Stelios Lekakis**, on ‘Recording farmers’ perceptions of the landscape and cultural heritage’, presented his experience in interviewing farmers in Woodbury and Branscombe. He emphasized the different ways in which farmers evaluate historic farm buildings, both for use and for conservation, and the frequency with which they explain their attitudes by reference to their parents.

5. **John Torrance** gave a presentation on ‘The Life and Death of the Three Horseshoes’, a pub on the A3052, recently demolished after a history of about 185 years, based on ongoing research on pubs for the 2018 Branscombe exhibition .

John Torrance

Below: Looking into courtyard of derelict ‘Three Horseshoes’ hotel on north side of A3052, Devon, between Sidford and turn-off going south to Beer
Photo © Copyright John Copleston and licensed for reuse under Creative Commons Licence
original at - <http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/2250733>



Devon Violets Under Threat from the Potato



The Strand Centre in Dawlish have published a leaflet, History of Dawlish Violets, which describes how, in the corner of the South Devon coast around Cofton, Dawlish and Holcombe, the cultivation of the Devon violet became a commercial activity at the beginning of the twentieth century. Edwardian ladies wore sprays and corsages of violets, sent by express train to the London markets at Covent Garden. Boots the Chemist began to sell the 'Devonshire Violets' perfume, made by Young's of Torquay in 1910. Violets were a great favourite of Queen Mary, and Devonshire violets were regularly sent her on her birthday.

The History of Dawlish Violets makes only a brief reference to the First World War, describing how the retail price rose as high as nine [old] pence per bunch. Research into the workings of the War Agricultural Committee in Devon, however, show that there were those who considered this too frivolous a trade to be conducted in war-time, and who wanted to see the violet beds dug up and replaced by potatoes.

At the South Devon War Agricultural Committee in early 1918 Mr J. Nicholls, a councillor from Dawlish's neighbouring town of Teignmouth who had been a member of a committee investigating land use in the area, drew attention to the extensive cultivation of violets being grown by smallholders, almost three acres in open ground and four to five acres under the trees. He said that while the landlords,

including the Earl of Devon, supported the view that the tenants should sacrifice their violets for potatoes, there was no clause in the leases to allow enforcement of a change of crop. The tenants had ignored their request and had even planted an extra acre with violets.

A compulsory order for the immediate cultivation of potatoes on half the open ground was immediately issued and notice served that after 1918 violets must not be grown at all under the trees where vegetables could be grown. Fortunately for the violet growers the end of the war meant no more ground needed to be sacrificed and the Dawlish violet trade went from strength to strength in the years between the wars.

References:

Strand Centre: Accessed 19 November 2015. [Read the source here](#)

Devon and Exeter Gazette: 2 April, 16 April, 3 May 1918.

This note was first published on the University of Hertfordshire's 'Everyday Lives in War' website, <https://everydaylivesinwar.herts.ac.uk/?p=2142> , and is reproduced with permission.

Julia Neville

WW1 Food and Farming Symposium 13th May Exeter University

Todd Gray's Excellent Adventure

To mark his presidency of the Devonshire Association, DHS's Dr Todd Gray has set himself to complete a historic walking tour of the County from East to West, combining lectures, research and exercise in equal measure.

Anyone interested in the history of the County especially in local nicknames for places can take part, either by joining Dr Gray on a short section of the walk or by sending him anything you know of local naming traditions on t.gray@exeter.ac.uk You can find a preliminary list of town and village names below or on the website. You will also be welcome at any of the lectures at the following venues...

Lyme Regis to Hartland: An Eleven Day Walk with Talks, 12- 22 May

- 12 May 7.30pm, Seaton Town Hall
- 13 May 7.30pm, Cellar Bar, Kennaway House, Sidmouth
- 14 May 2pm, The Institute, Yonder St., Ottery St Mary
- 14 May 7.30pm, Victory Hall, Whimble
- 15 May 7.30pm, Village Hall, Silverton
- 16 May 7.30pm, Boniface Centre, Crediton
- 17 May 7.30pm, Congregational Church Hall, Bow
- 18 May 07.30pm, Old Schools, Hatherleigh
- 19 May 7.30pm, Lake Schoolroom, Shebbear
- 20 May 7.30pm, tba
- 21 May 7.30pm, Church Hall, Clovelly
- 22 May 7.30pm, Methodist Hall, Hartland

Placenames and their local nicknames (either for the place or the residents therein).

Alswear, Guinea Pigs
 Alwington, Bulldogs
 Appledore, Potwollopers
 Ashburton, Ladies & Gentlemen
 Ashbury, Fish Bones or Ladies & Gentlemen
 Ashreigney, Dog Eaters
 Ashwater, Tattie Grubs
 Barnstaple, Bulldogs
 Beaford, Blackberries
 Beesands, Owls
 Bishop's Nympton, Brags or Bone Pickers
 Bovey Tracey, Black Ducks
 Bradford, Horniwinks (lapwing plovers)
 Bradworthy, Horniwigs (lapwing plovers)
 Brentor, Cramp-Eaters
 Bridgerule, Fools
 Brixham, Dabs, Trawlers or Fish Strings
 Buckfastleigh, Rats or Lads
 Buckland, Bulldogs or Roughs
 Budleigh, Crabs
 Cadbury, Cocks
 Cadeleigh, Hens
 Chagford, Chuggy Pigs
 Challacombe, Horniwinks
 Chawleigh, Boars
 Clannaborough, Candlesticks
 Cheriton Fitzpaine, Men or Owls
 Chillington, Rooks
 Chittlehampton, Lambkins
 Churchstow, Dogs
 Churston Ferrers, Liver Eaters
 Clannaborough, Candlesticks
 Clawton, Men
 Clovelly, Row Dogs or Herrings

Clyst St Mary, Pretty Maids	Morchard Bishop, Bread Eaters
Copplestone, Faggoters	Moretonhampstead, Tattie Eaters or
Cornwood, Robbers	Roundheads
Crediton, Bloody Backs or Bulldogs	Newton Abbot, Dolls
Dartmouth, Dicky Birds	Northam, Potwollopers
Dawlish, Hags or Mackerel	North Bovey, Bees or Fond of Bread &
Denbury, Cats or Ladies & Gentlemen	Cheese
Dolton, Ducks	North Molton, Monkeys, Brags or
Dowland, Geese	Magpies
Exeter, Jail Birds	Paignton, Pudding Eaters or Flat Poles
Exeter (St Sidwell), Grecians	Pinhoe, Pigs
Exeter (Exe Island), Algerines	Plymouth, Janners
Farringdon, Badgers	Poughill, Cuckoos
George Nympton, Nugget Eaters	Pyworthy, Men
Gidleigh, Rats	Rose Ash, Whitepot Eaters
Harford, Gads	Salcombe, Smock Hole Folks
Hartland, Guinea Pigs, Jackasses or Men	Sandford, Pigs' Ears, Cheese Eaters or
Hatherleigh, Rumps	Barley Bread Eaters
High Bickington, Pretty Maids	Shaldon, Grecians
Hockworthy, Hogs	Shobrooke, Bread Eaters
Holcombe (nr Teignmouth), Rags	Sourton, Boars
Holcombe Rogus, Rogues	South Brent, Pretty Maidens
Holne, Revellers or Rams	South Milton, Stars
Holsworthy, Fops	South Molton, Molton Images or Jolly
Iddesleigh, Rats	Boys
Ivybridge, Lads	South Pool, Harriers
Jacobstowe, Gentlemen	South Tawton, Rats
Kennerleigh, Candlesticks	South Zeal, Pretty Maidens
Kingsbridge, Cats or Ladies &	Staverton, Treacle Miners
Gentlemen	Stickepath, Boars
King's Nympton, Stags	Stockleigh Pomeroy, Mice
Kingsteignton, Ram Roasters	Sutcombe, Pigs
Kingswear, Turks	Tavistock, Lambs
Knowstone, Sheep Stealers	Topsham, Dabs
Lapford, Cheese Eaters	Torquay, Dickey Birds
Lustleigh, Owls	Totnes, Horse Heads
Manaton, Merry-makers or Tattie	Trusham, Haymakers
Diggers	Ugborough, Lubbers
Mariansleigh, Bread Eaters or Barley	West Alvington, Rats
Bread Eaters	West Woolfardisworthy (Woolsery),
Mary Tavy, either Over Downs or	Nanny Goats
Outer Downs	Widecombe-on-the-Moor, Toughs
Meeth, Poor Stumps	Witheridge, Boars
Meshaw, Mumpheads	
Monkokehampton, Mice	

Some Memories from Alphington Village

during the Exeter [Baedeker] Blitz 75 years ago

(Collected from Alphington residents)

The following piece appeared in Alphington's Parish Magazine dated June 1942.

'The early hours of Monday May 4th 1942, will be remembered by everyone living now and go down in history as disastrous for the City of Exeter. The calm fortitude of the citizens amid the bombs and widespread fires destroying

Children in a wasteland. This scene was repeated in dozens of British cities like Exeter in the Blitz years. Photo courtesy Wikimedia Commons



all that was dear to them is a subject that ought also to be recorded.

As one of the nearest neighbouring villages to the City, almost all our houses provided help and accommodation for the homeless and many homes were crowded.

At this time, as in the former raid, the splendid help of Mrs Earle and her band of helpers, especially Mr Toms in providing for the refugees in The Institute was beyond praise'.

After this raid on Exeter some villagers remember the many homeless families walking quietly along Church Road carrying what ever they had managed to salvage from their bombed out homes. All the villagers made their homes available to provide help and accommodation for those bombed out.

There are many memories of the terrible noise during the raids, from the drone of the German aircraft flying over the village and from the high explosives that were dropped over Marsh Barton. The shock waves caused china to rattle around on table tops, glass in greenhouses to shatter even a door of a cottage was blown in. Several craters were left from the explosions, one a few hundred yards from Devon

Terrace was filled in fairly quickly. A much larger crater a few fields away was left and eventually it filled with water and became home to an abundance of pond life. The field where this crater was situated became known locally as Crater Field. One other crater was so large you could have fitted six double-decker buses in it. The air-raid siren was placed on the chimney of the Crawford Hotel and one villager told me even to this day if he hears a siren on the television the hairs on the back of his neck stand up on end.

Many incendiary bombs were dropped around the village. The Cottage situated in Ide Lane opposite the entrance to Midway Terrace was hit by a stick of incendiary bombs and the thatched roof had to be dragged off into Ide Lane to help control the fire. However, the building was completely gutted and the walls were levelled to about six to seven feet to make it safe.

Fires were started by incendiaries in two houses in Shillingford Hill, one was easily put out. The second incendiary bomb went through the roof of a house and landed in a feather bed and was smothered by the feathers. A few days later the lady of the house returned home after being away to discover the mess.

When Mr Rossiter threw out an incendiary bomb that had landed on his cottage in Midway Terrace he burnt his hands so badly he had to be taken to hospital. The ambulance, which was in reality was a laundry van, lacked springs and Mrs Coles, the ambulance

attendant, had to sit on the end of his stretcher to keep it in place as they drove over the numerous hose pipes; most of Exeter was alight that night. Mr V. Sercombe was the ambulance driver.

Fire watchers would gather in the area where Veitch Nurseries use to be situated. They were armed with stirrup pumps, which they used to put out the incendiary bombs.

One villager during one of the raids tied a garden spade to the crossbar of his bike and cycled into Exeter to help dig out the casualties from the bombed buildings, he eventually arrived home dirty and dishevelled; I have the impression he did not tell anyone about the sights he witnessed that night.

When Exeter was burning everywhere in the village smelt of fire, one lady remembered there was so much ash in the air it looked just like a snow storm. Another memory was of all the blackened burnt paper falling from the sky and a charred piece of the Lord's Prayer landing on a garden path of Devonia Terrace.

Rows of buses, ambulances and fire engines would park in Alphington's Lanes each evening ready for use during the raids.

Barrage balloons were in place over the village playing fields and an ack ack gun was situated at the far end of the Clapperbrook Allotment Gardens. A German plane was brought down and crashed some where close to Ide Lane.

Some villagers would walk from the village centre up the Shillingford Hill into Markhams Lane and sit in the hedge until the all clear sounded. People from Exeter also walked to the village and up Mill Lane to get as far away from bombs as possible.

There are memories of Alphington having its own way of trying to confuse the German bombers by setting up Operation Starlight right out at the far end of the Parish in a field in the Markham and Polehouse Lane area. I assume by lighting up the field the bombs would fall in the countryside rather than on the City.

There are also several lighter memories that have been related to me.

It was quite common for people from different families to gather in one persons house while the air raids were taking place. In one particular house the head of the household always sat under the stairs. He would never allow any one else there, not even the cat in case it purred and the gentleman mistook it for a German plane overhead. The rest of the people in the house had to shelter under a sturdy table.

The members of the ARP had to report for duty immediately the siren sounded warning every one of the approaching German bombers. One particular

gentleman would cycle along the roads of the village shouting,

"Is that the siren I can hear".

Villagers standing outside their houses answered back,

"No, it is the all clear".

Apparently, he was always too late when reporting for duty.

A member of the Exeter Platoon of the 14th Moorland Division of the Home Guard called into The Admiral Inn for a drink. He was in uniform and carrying his 303 Lee Enfield rifle. He sat on a bench with his rifle between his knees forgetting that the rifle was loaded. He accidentally pulled the trigger and the gun fired and the bullet went through the ceiling, through the floor of the landlord's bedroom, through the mattress on the bed, through the bedroom ceiling and then lodged in the thatched roof. During the bullet's journey it also went through a chamber pot. The landlord was really annoyed because of the damage and confusion that had been caused and he also wanted to know who was going to replace his favourite chamber pot! This day became locally known as 'the day a jerry was shot in Alphington!!

Rowena

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Ill-at-ease with Ekwall? A Place= name question arises

The following letter arrived a few weeks ago at the DHS. The writer is author of a book on medieval manuscripts, and he raises a question about the provenance of 'Totnes' as a Devon place-name. He was referred to the standard work on English placenames, and advised that this was the most authoritative answer to his question. On the other hand some of you may know something more. Comments please. [Ed](#)

I am writing to you because it seemed to me that the following might be of interest to your members. As a specialist in Middle English I have worked for some years now on historiographical texts, mostly in ME but also in Anglo-Norman or, occasionally, Latin, e.g. on the various versions of the Prose *Brut*, or Robert of Gloucester's chronicle. One of the manuscripts that I came across appeared to contain a Latin version of the Prose *Brut* that I had not seen before and that wasn't known to any of my colleagues either. Unlike most other versions it skips the wanderings of Brutus, and straightaway begins with his arrival in England, at Totnes. In all texts we read that after Brutus and Corineus have slain the giants, Brutus builds a city on the banks of the Thames: Nova Troia. But in this manuscript Brutus begins by looking for a place where he and his men can relax and feel at home. He decides that Totnes, the place where they first landed, will suit that purpose. The explanation he gives you'll find below this message, and is quoted from my

contribution to a book that appeared earlier this year.

I would be interested to hear if this explanation of the name Totnes is at all known to you.

Yours,

Erik Kooper

Et inde scrutatus est Brutus loca insule vbi villam edificaret ad quietem ipsius et suorum; et primitus disposuit edificare in Deuonia in quodam loco vbi quando venit ad insulam applicuit vbi ipsem cum suis deliciose fuerant recreati vnde et locum illum nominauit sic Tout en Ese, quod sonat totum in quiete, vulgariter dictum Totenesse in Deuoneschire. Sed fertilierem et situ nobiliorem inueniens locum super Riuum et nobilem Thamesiam; tunc illuc edificauit Ciuitatem .ccc tis lxx:xx. annis ante constructionem vrbis Rome, quam ipse appellauit Ciuitatem Noue Troie, in memoriam illius Troie vnde ipse venit cum eius progenia.

(‘And then Brutus looked for places on the island where he might build a city for the rest and peace of himself and his followers. And he decided to begin by building in Devon at the selfsame place where he had first set foot on the island and where he and his men had felt pleasantly relaxed, for which reason he called the place thus Tout en Ese, which means “Completely at Ease”, or in the vernacular “Totenesse”, in Devonshire. But having found a more fertile and more noble place at the noble river Thames, he built there a city 390 years before the establishment of Rome, which he named the city of New Troy, in memory of that Troy from which he himself and its progeny had come.’)

If you have a short article about Devon history please get in touch. Write to dhsnewsd@gmail.com, or contact the DHS liaison officer Julia Neville on j.f.neville@btinternet.com

THE DEVON NEWFOUNDLAND STORY

A celebration of historical & cultural connections



PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 3rd – 16th April 2017