

DEVON HISTORY NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE DEVON HISTORY SOCIETY

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1931-2017

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EDITORIAL

Going Digital...

Second class post has just gone up to 56p. Print costs are set to rise as paper imports get more expensive, and we have to cram our News into a set number of smallish pages to stay within budget. The same applies to booking forms and all the other paper paraphernalia that Societies such as ours have long contended with. The transfer of these operations into the digital environment releases cash instantly for improving other services. If you accept the argument - just email the membership secretary on

membership@devonhistorysociety.org.uk and say you are going digital and no longer wish to have paper posted to you. In any case the News will finally transfer into its digital-only existence in August next year, alongside the booking system's transition to Eventbrite. A perfectly seamless transition to digital may be difficult to achieve, so there may be some odd paper mailings while we catch up and patch up on the new systems. The Devon Historian though, albeit its contents may be more readily available to researchers in digital form, will continue to appear as a glorious paper production.

What DHS Council members most need is your support and forbearance while these necessary changes are made.

Chris Wakefield

More from the Membership Secretary

In preparation for the DHS's digitisation strategy and trial of an on-line booking system in 2018, I need to understand which of our members do not have access to "technology". By this I mean not actually in possession of a computer, smart phone or tablet.

Please write to let me know who you are, at 2 St Olaves, Murchington, Chagford, Newton Abbot, TQ13 8HJ

or telephone me on 01647 433492. Many Thanks, **Judy Moss**

CHAIRMAN'S WORD



You will read elsewhere (in the digital edition of the Newsletter) a piece written by the chairman of FoDA (Friends of Devon Archives). The Devon

History Society and FoDA are seeking to work more closely (as we are with the History section of the Devonshire Association). Both co-operations make a great deal of sense and I commend them to our members. We are in the business of working together, not competing.

I have also written elsewhere in the Newsletter about a new long-term research project about the county's field and minor names. Please think about this and how you or your local history society might get involved. The more the better.

One of the endless pleasures of doing your own research is that you never know what lies in wait for you. (Some of you will know that I am particularly interested in Henry Phillpotts, bishop of Exeter, 1831-69, and in the great clash between him and Revd George Gorham over Gorham's presentation to Brampford Speke, 1847-50). Not so long ago I came across four short, formal documents, barely worth a second glance, in a way. But these make a fundamental shift in the Phillpotts story. His clash with Gorham is usually portrayed as

the domineering bishop versus the plucky priest who stood up to the tyrant.

When Gorham's long interview began in December 1847 (he was to be interviewed over a total of eight days), the bishop's secretary took with him to Bishopstowe the four documents, all made out and dated, that constituted Gorham's legal institution to Brampford. In other words (and, to his credit, Phillpotts always maintained this), the bishop fully expected to institute Gorham. It was actually Gorham's prolixity and stubbornness that prolonged the interview rather than the bishop's pursuit of heresy.

The four documents lie buried in the Devon Heritage Centre. So, to you all, happy hunting! You never know....

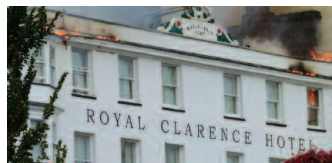
Lastly, you will see that the DHS is hoping to move towards using its website (in collaboration with Eventbrite) for bookings for our conferences and seminars. We realise that not everyone can do this (nor may wish to do this) but it is the way the world is moving and it has the potential to make much simpler the life of our hard-working bookings secretary.

Alongside this, we can now offer membership renewal by BACS. The relevant information will be available from our membership secretary and will be placed on our web-site.

I commend both these innovations to you all.

Andrew Jones

AFTER THE CLARENCE FIRE



In the months which have elapsed since the fire which gutted the Clarence Hotel and damaged a number of neighbouring properties, the slow business of clearing the site has been in hand. AC Archaeology, the local archaeological contractors, have had the task of sorting through all the debris as it has been removed from the site, and have recovered, for example, fragments of the painted Flemish window glass which was formerly displayed in the hotel.

The main discovery, however, is that the clearance has exposed the walls of the building, and enough early fabric is visible to start to put together a structural history of the Clarence. The oldest part, belonging to the 13th or 14th century, is a low range along the street frontage, built of volcanic stone, with a deep cellar below. In the later Middle Ages a substantial wing was extended at right-angles to this into the back of the property, and this stood into the 18th century. The creation of

the Clarence, therefore, was a conversion of a much older house, with storeys added over the earlier ranges.

Further discoveries are also emerging next door to the Clarence at the Well House, where further early structural evidence has been exposed: the remains of two late 15th-century houses separated by a timber frame, on which are fragmentary traces of wall-painting.

Meanwhile, an application has been made to Historic England to undertake a full study of all the old properties of St Martin's parish, leading on to a book which would tell its story since the Anglo-Saxon period. We await HE's response!

John Allan

See inside the Clarence - post-fire pictures in the digital section

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ACCOUNT NAME: Devon History Society

SORT CODE: 56-00-49

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 23046031

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OR SEND A CHEQUE MADE OUT TO "DEVON HISTORY SOCIETY" TO

**THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY, 2 ST. OLAVES, MURCHINGTON,
CHAGFORD, NEWTON ABBOT, TQ13 8HJ.**

Congratulations to Helen Harris

Editor of the Devon Historian, 1985-2004

We all owe a debt of sincere thanks to past executive office-holders of The Devon History Society who laid the strong foundations upon which the organisation has been able, over the last five decades, to flourish and develop.

Past editors of The Devon Historian have played an especially crucial and selfless role for which all members are profoundly grateful. One among those past editors is Helen Harris who this year has been celebrating a very special milestone: her ninetieth birthday.

I am sure that all members of the Society will join wholeheartedly with me in sending warmest congratulations to Helen. And I would like to take the opportunity offered by this wonderful anniversary to pay tribute to her outstanding contribution to the DHS over so many years in a host of ways. For her dedicated, meticulous, and unsurpassed twenty-year record as our Editor, our appreciation is once again acknowledged. Altogether, Helen edited 39 issues of The Devon Historian and, within them, personally wrote some 50 admirably succinct, insightful and unfailingly constructive reviews of publications by other authors. The body of work contained in numbers 31-69 stands as a lasting testament to Helen's indefatigable stewardship of the Society's principal publication. During all that time, she was also always busy with her own numerous research and writing projects that have led to a corpus of much-admired books and other publications. And, meanwhile, she played notable roles in allied county organisations such as The Devonshire Association (not least, its Tavistock Branch), and in the Dartmoor Tinworking Research Group.

A true Devonian, Helen was born in Buckfastleigh and, in the DHS's February 2017 Newsletter; she recalled her vivid experiences of the wartime Blitz when she was a boarder at Maynard School in Exeter. Later (inspired, she says, by her grandmother's large dairy farm) she secured a bursary enabling her to study for her National Diploma in Dairying (NDD) at Studley College in Warwickshire, completing the course in 1947. By June 1948, Helen was employed in North Devon as a milk-production officer with the fledgling National Agricultural Advisory Service (NAAS). Her professional career led both to personal happiness, when she met and later married a fellow agricultural advisor, Desmond Harris, and to her abiding interest and deep expertise in all aspects of Devon's agriculture: contemporary and historical. Helen's other great scholarly passion has been for the field of industrial archaeology. Indeed, her first book describing and explaining the legacies left by industry on Dartmoor set a pioneering benchmark for the burgeoning interest in the subject which has been shared subsequently by many other researchers and authors.

The DHS counts itself unusually fortunate to have benefited for such a long period from the remarkable editorial skills, and the enduring support, of a most distinguished county historian whose own depth of knowledge and understanding of Devon's past commands the widest respect and admiration. Our very best wishes go to you, Helen, in this your very special jubilee year.

Mark Brayshay

Professor Christopher Holdsworth

1931-2017

Professor Christopher John Holdsworth, remembered fondly by many members as a former President of this society, passed away on Saturday, 1 April 2017, in Yarm at the age of 86. He had a private family funeral in County Durham and then, on 1 July, a Quaker Funeral and a Celebration of his Life followed in Exeter.

Christopher was educated at Bootham School in York and attended Clare College, Cambridge, where he was awarded the Greene Cup for General Learning. For his postgraduate work he went on to Oriol College, Oxford. Christopher's PhD dissertation focused upon the Cistercian monastery at Forde Abbey. His research interests developed to centre on religious life in the twelfth century and he became the leading scholar of Bernard of Clairvaux. Christopher's first university position was as an Assistant Lecturer at University College, London, in 1956 and he was subsequently promoted to Lecturer, Senior Lecturer and finally, Reader. Christopher came to Exeter in 1977 upon his appointment as Professor of Medieval History. Seven years later he was elected Chairman of the Department of History & Archaeology. During his career Christopher also served as President or Vice



President of the Royal Historical Society, the Society of Antiquaries and the Ecclesiastical History Society. Most recently he was Chairman of the Devon & Cornwall Record Society.

Christopher was highly regarded in the academic community for his scholarship, teaching and administrative skills but he had significant interests outside academia which won him widespread and lasting respect and acclaim. In 1956 he became active in the Joseph Rowntree

Charitable Trust (JRCTC) and later served as Chairman for seven years. Upon his retirement in 1997 he described his involvement as having been 'one of the most significant relationships of the whole of my life'. As part of that work Christopher was particularly active in the peace process in Northern Ireland. His interest in the JRCTC came through his family background as a member of the Society of Friends. The Holdsworths had been Quakers since the 1600s and Christopher became a key member of the Exeter Meeting. It was also through his faith that Christopher was involved in post-war Germany in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Music was another great interest and

he played the cello in the EMG Symphony Orchestra. Christopher married Juliette in the mid 1950s and they later divorced. Their son, Robert, is also an academic. James, Christopher's elder brother, survives him. In Exeter Christopher met Yon, who was his soul mate, and Yon's early death in 2001 was a blow from which Christopher never fully recovered.

There were many aspects of Christopher's life which members of this society will not have seen. Christopher had a surprising delight in saucy limericks, an infuriating need to be early for any appointment and he was unbelievably untidy: his study's innumerable high stacks of paper were not just clutter but pure chaos. But many members of the DHS will remember Christopher for his extraordinary warmth and kindness. For this he was widely known. He had followed Ivan Roots as Head of History and these two men remade that department. It had been run with considerable authoritarianism under Professor Frank Barlow but Ivan, and then Christopher, were benevolent, altruistic and democratic. Both men were not only exceptionally gifted in their academic abilities but were the most kind-hearted, generous and compassionate individuals that I have had the privilege to know as colleagues and friends. Eulogies often transform individuals into unrecognizably saintly figures but in Christopher it is difficult to under-state his genuine warmth, sincere nature and the integrity of his spirit.

At 2pm on Saturday, 2 September, the Devon History Society and the Devon & Cornwall Record Society will host Christopher's Memorial Lecture which will be given by Professor Julia Crick in Exeter Guildhall. All members are invited to attend.

Dr Todd Gray MBE

What Difference did the War make?

Women, Suffrage, Politics and the First World War

Invitation to an AHRC funded event to commemorate the centenary of the 1918 Representation of the People Act.

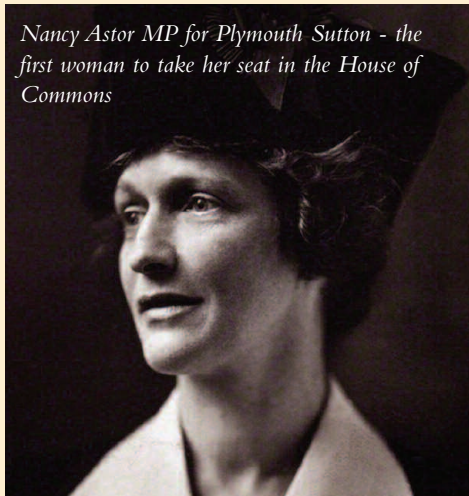
Working with partners at the University of Lincoln and the Parliamentary group, Vote 100, *What Difference did the War Make* will host three one-day events aimed at provoking new debates about women and parliamentary politics a century after the first women voters. The first, entitled Language, Gender and Politics, will be held at the University of Plymouth on **6th October 2017**. Based in the new Senate room of the Roland Levinsky Building, in the afternoon there will be public lectures from: Jacqui Turner (University of Reading) on Nancy Astor; Angela K. Smith (University of Plymouth) on Suffrage and the War

These keynotes will be followed by a round table discussion on the topic of 'Language, Gender and Politics, then and now' including Jacqui Turner, Babs Horton (novelist) and a selection of cross-party MPs and questions from the audience. This event will be free, but advance registration will be required as space is limited. Details of registration will be available later in the summer.

Angela K Smith

Plymouth University

Nancy Astor MP for Plymouth Sutton - the first woman to take her seat in the House of Commons



Devon Manorial Documents Register Project goes live.

The Manorial Documents Register (MDR) is the national statutory register, arranged by county, of the surviving manorial records for England and Wales. Established in the 1920s, the original register takes the form of largely inaccessible paper slips, held at The National Archives. Since the 1990s various counties' information has been extensively revised, expanded, improved, and transferred to an electronic database

The two-year project to revise the Devon Manorial Documents Register, undertaken by The National Archives and the South West Heritage Trust, has now been completed. Containing over 1,300 manors and 11,000 entries for individual records (including court rolls, maps, surveys and rentals) spanning every century from the thirteenth to the twentieth, the MDR can be accessed on the website of The National Archives. Go to <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/manor-search>, or simply search online for 'Manorial Documents Register' to reach it.

Users are able to navigate around the MDR in a variety of ways, depending on their particular research interests. The MDR can be searched by manor, parish, record type, date range and other criteria.

More than half the records listed in the Devon MDR are to be found within the county, at the Devon Heritage Centre, North Devon Record Office, North Devon Athenaeum, Plymouth & West Devon Record Office, and Exeter Cathedral Library. However, Devon manorial records are also located at over thirty repositories beyond Devon's boundaries, including record offices in Hampshire, Lancashire, Cumbria, Warwickshire, cathedral Libraries in Winchester and Worcester; such academic institutions as

King's College Archive, Cambridge, Corpus Christi College Archive, Oxford, and the University of Nottingham Special Collections; national institutions such as the British Library; the National Library of Wales, and, of course, The National Archives.

Further afield, there's relevant material in the USA, at Harvard Law School Library, the Huntington Library in California and the University of Kansas.

Inevitably, further Devon manorial records may well come to light in the future. If anyone does discover any such material in the course of their research, The National Archives would be extremely grateful for notification. Any comments relating to the register generally should be directed to asd@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk. It is perhaps worth noting, though, that any queries relating to the content of a specific record or accessing it need to be directed to the repository where that record is held.

Scott Pettitt

DFHS Secretary receives BEM

The Devon History Society extends warmest congratulations to Maureen Selley, who has been awarded a British Empire Medal in the most recent Honours list, for her services to local history.

Maureen is the current Secretary and a former Chairman of the Devon Family History Society www.devonfhs.org.uk

New online catalogue for Devon's First World War archive collections

Researchers investigating Devon's First World War story can now browse thousands of records in a special online catalogue. The Devon Remembers Heritage Project has developed the new feature within the larger Devon Archives online catalogue. It enables users to search by keyword and to browse relevant collections. You can also search by date from 1900 to the present day, with a clickable timeline showing how many records exist for each month from 1908 – 1921. Visit the catalogue at <http://devon-cat.swheritage.org.uk/exhibitions/devon-remembers>

The collection combines original archive documents and images with new research produced during the WWI centenary period. It aims to provide a central home for material

relating to the First World War that will be invaluable to future researchers. All the material listed is held by Devon Archives and Local Studies Service and is available to view at Devon Heritage Centre.

The Devon Remembers Heritage Project, which is managed by the South West Heritage Trust and funded by money raised by National Lottery players, is running a programme of research, talks, events and exhibitions across Devon to give local people an opportunity to explore the county's First World War experience. The project received a National Lottery grant of £267,400 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), with additional support from the South West Heritage Trust, Devon County Council, Torbay Council and the University of Exeter.

Katherine Findlay
Project Officer



www.devonremembersheritage.org



Cornerstone Heritage and the Courtenay Papers Project

By Professor Daniel Maudlin, Director of Cornerstone Heritage.

Would you like to be part of a new project in partnership with the Earl of Devon and Powderham estate to understand the Courtenay family's Devon estates in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries? We are looking for DHS members who would like to form a small research team with historians from Cornerstone Heritage, Plymouth University's heritage research group. The project will primarily involve archival research on the Courtenay Papers held at the Devon Heritage Centre and Powderham Castle. The Courtenay Papers include accounts, title maps and leases on land and properties that extended far beyond Powderham and the immediate area around Exeter to Dartmoor, Tavistock and Hartland. The Papers also reveal that the family had extensive business interests throughout Devon that ranged from mining to shipping and pubs. Starting this autumn with the DHS it is our intention to analyse these extensive and largely unexplored archival records in order to build a picture of the Courtenay's deep involvement, and investment, in Devon and Devon life in the Georgian period.

The Georgian era is a critical and little understood period in the history of the Courtenays. At the start of the eighteenth-century the family moved to Powderham Castle, from Forde House in Newton Abbot, and began a programme of building and spending on decorative arts and luxury goods – often manufactured by Devon craftsman –

that lasted 150 years, transforming medieval Powderham into the Georgian country house we know today. For the first, second and third Viscount Courtenay building new rooms and buying new things to fill them with was not self-indulgence but part of a wider strategy to secure their status as the leading family of Devon and members of the top flight of England's social elite. This process can be read in the rococo plasterwork in the stair hall, in the genteel Georgian Gothic of the east front or the fashionable, 'polite' interiors of the libraries and Music Room. It can be accounted for in the bills and receipts for this conspicuous consumption held in the archives. What we don't know is how they paid for it? A systematic study of the Courtenay Papers will establish how much the Courtenays earned from their holdings and businesses; it should tell us how much of that income they spent on building and buying things; that is, it should tell us what value they placed on material culture and display.

Cornerstone Heritage is an interdisciplinary research group that brings together staff from across the University of Plymouth working in the field of Heritage (or how we live with the past today). 'Live Projects' are at the heart of Cornerstone's activities. Live Projects engage with community groups and heritage organisations in the co-production of research-led heritage initiatives. Cornerstone is currently engaged with a range of projects across Devon and beyond including Powderham: live projects include Everyday Offending in Plymouth, Underwater Wreck Heritage, Sustainable Cob Building, Folk

Song Collecting and Heritage Trails in Nantes. For more information on Cornerstone and our live projects please see our website: www.cornerstoneheritage.co.uk

The Courtenay Papers project will form part of Cornerstone's wider work at Powderham in collaboration with the Historic Preservation Program at the University of Pennsylvania. We finished our first year on-site in June 2017 when we completed measuring and recording the Georgian interiors within the medieval core and researching and digitizing records in the Powderham archives that have revealed a wealth of information relating to the building and arts spending at the castle as well insights into the life of the family and household. We will be back on site in May 2018 and plan to spend the coming year digging further into the records. We aim to hold a team briefing at Powderham in early October 2017 at which point we will match tasks with members

interests and availability. If you would like to join us please get in touch with Julia Neville at the DHS: j.f.neville@btinternet.com .



Above: Students Julia Cohen, Kate Norley and Liz Trumbull with Prof. Daniel Maudlin. **Below:** students Lee-Jane Giles, Kate Norley and Alistair Stone with Professors James Daybell, Daniel Maudlin and Charlie Courtenay, Earl of Devon



DHS Survey of Members' Interests



Devon History Society aims to promote the study of all aspects of Devon's history and, with this in mind, we'd like to know more about our members' research interests and skills, and their interest in possible future opportunities. After a period when local history was deeply unfashionable in academic circles there is now a growing recognition of its significance. We want to be well placed to work in partnership with Devon's universities when opportunities arise, and knowing more about your interests will help us in this.

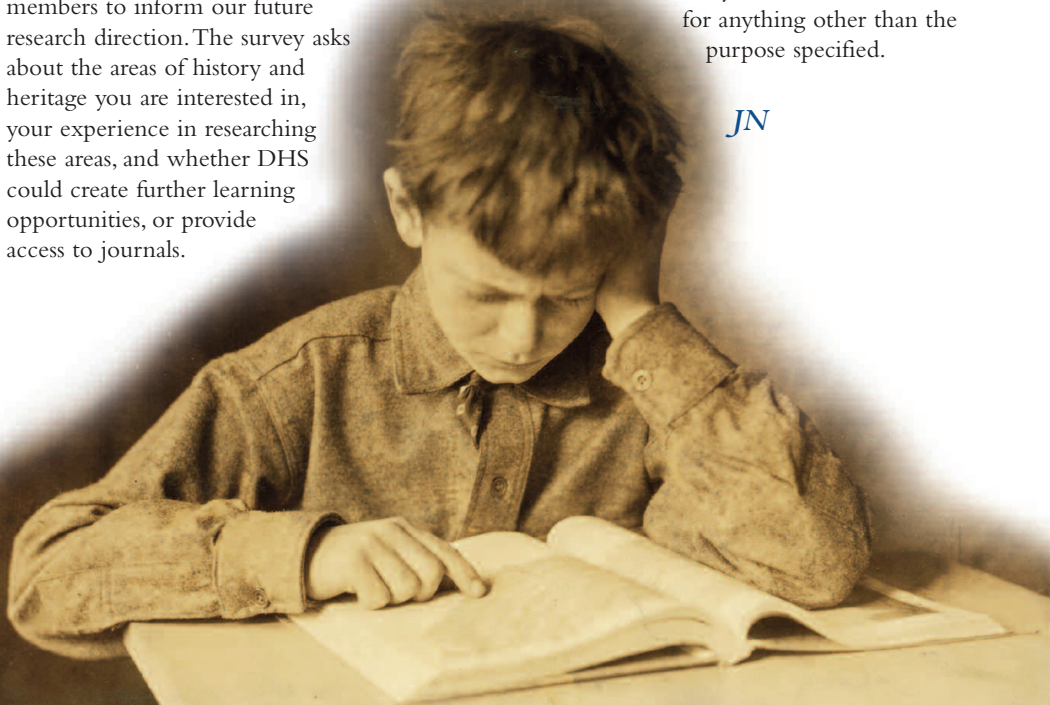
Exeter University's Innovation, Impact and Business Team have very kindly agreed to support us in achieving this objective by offering the support and expertise of Michael Hanley to design and analyse the results of a survey of our members to inform our future research direction. The survey asks about the areas of history and heritage you are interested in, your experience in researching these areas, and whether DHS could create further learning opportunities, or provide access to journals.

We'd like to invite you to spend a few minutes completing the survey. The easiest way is to click [here](#). If you don't have access to a computer but would like to complete the survey, then please contact Julia Neville on 01392-461157 to obtain a paper copy.

The survey is open to all individual, household and young members and also to any member of an affiliated local history society, and we'd like to thank members in advance for completing it. We aim to have the results available this autumn and there will be a full report on them in the next Devon History News.

The data that we collect will be processed and stored securely by the University of Exeter and Devon History Society, and will not be used for anything other than the purpose specified.

JN



New members of the Society ... Getting to know you ... You getting to know us

First of all, welcome to our newest affiliated society, Princetown History Club, one of our ring of affiliated societies encircling Dartmoor. For more information about them, see their entry under 'Local Groups' on the Devon History Society website. Farewell this time to Bratton Fleming History Group, who have decided to disband, and to Lewdown Past who felt that subscribing to DHS was no longer a priority for them.

But what about new individual, family and young members? Should we be publishing your names and giving you the opportunity to tell fellow members about your interests, as some societies do? We don't even capture that sort of information on our application form. Knowing more about you would help us to tailor our programme to what interests you. So please don't hesitate to feed back your views about the Society and what you would like to see.

This time I have two specific suggestions. One, which is for all members, not just new members, is that you should complete our survey about your research interests, described in greater detail on page [to be added] The second is that, if you're interested not just in enjoying our events and publications but in helping contribute to the Society in other ways, you should get in touch with our Secretary,



The DHS offers a wealth of interesting events but there's also practical help on the ground with doing your own local history.

secretary@devonhistorysociety.org.uk, and say what you might be interested in doing. It could be that you've got specialist skills the Society could use. Are you well versed in using social media – could you tweet for us? Or maybe you're interested in becoming a member of the DHS Council and would like come to a meeting and see what happens there before seeking nomination. Or you might like to offer to help publicise our work at other history conferences. Whatever! Get in touch and volunteer if you're interested.

Julia Neville

Annual Conference 2017

Education in Devon

This year the theme of the Devon History Society Annual Conference is a topic of which we all have experience – education. 2017 is the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of what has now become a classic in the history of education, ‘Devon Village Schools in the nineteenth century’, by Roger Sellman. Roger, a former teacher and chief schools inspector in Devon, was also a member of the Council of Devon History Society, and it seems an opportune time to commemorate his landmark demonstration of the way in which detailed local research can shape our understanding of a broader national history.

Dr Jonathan Doney of Exeter University’s School of Education will open the conference with a paper on the 1944 Education Act and Devon, and the conference will close with

Mike Sampson, former Devon History Book of the Year prize-winner, talking about Blundell’s School, a part of Devon’s educational history since the 17th century. In between, members of the DHS Early Victorian Schools project will be reporting on their research into the turbulent forty years that preceded the introduction of compulsory education. There will be case studies from the Devon villages of Shillingford and Throwleigh, from Bovey Tracey, and accounts of how the relationship between work and education changed during the early Victorian period in Devon’s lace industry. Other work on the project will be featured in a poster exhibition in the corridor in Streatham Court. We look forward to seeing you there.

JN





BOOK REVIEWS FOR THE DEVON HISTORIAN

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

Brooks, Tony. *Kelly Mine and the 'Shiny Ore' mines of the Wray valley*. (the author, 2016)

Little, Samantha. *Writing Home to Brixham: Lives Across a Century, Letters home from Brixham men & women serving in the Great War 1914-1918*, (the author, 2017)

Dr M.Auchterlonie

Reviews Editor

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Please email items of interest to
dhsnewsd@gmail.com

THE PROGRAMME FOR

2017

AUTUMN-WINTER

Apart from the AGM and Conference which is described elsewhere in Devon History News, the Society is offering two events in collaboration with other organisations for the second half of 2017. On the evening of Monday, September 5th, we have organised a joint event with the Devon Rural Archive at Shilstone near Modbury, when Ghee Bowman will talk about his research on Crossing the Imperial Colour Bar: Muslim Indian Soldiers in Devon in World War II. The history of Force K6 is little known, but Ghee Bowman has established that during the early 1940s, this group of Indian Muslim soldiers were based variously near Plymouth, near Modbury, and briefly on Dartmoor, while for six months their HQ was at Shaldon. He has undertaken research in South Asia and Europe as well as all over the UK, and his talk of Force K6 will bring to light this little known aspect of Devon during the Second World War. The Devon Rural Archive at Shilstone (<http://www.devonruralarchive.com/>) has a dedicated archive and reference library on rural life and Devon plus a very well equipped lecture theatre and is well worth a visit in its own right.

The second event is also shared, this time in conjunction with the Tavistock Branch of the Devonshire Association. To coincide with a major exhibition taking place at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum in Exeter, Peter Mason will be giving an illustrated lecture entitled: A Wild and Wondrous Place: Dartmoor in Art from the 18th to the 21st Century on the evening of Friday, November 17th. Peter Mason is co-curator of the exhibition and has conducted research into art in Dartmoor and Devon for many years. He has also curated exhibitions for Hampshire and Wiltshire County Councils and managed public art projects for Hampshire County Council and Broughton Millennium Celebrations and is currently Chairman of the Lustleigh Society.

Paul Auchterlonie

Programme Secretary

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BOOKING SYSTEM

In 2018, we shall be trialling an online booking-service, Eventbrite, for some of our seminars and conferences. Along with many similar societies, we hope that, in time, most members will use this online service.

We shall continue to make available a paper booking-form, by post or by a PDF download from our webs-site. If you can, then we encourage you to try Eventbrite. We hope it will make booking easier, both for our Bookings Secretary, and for you.

Clyst Valley parklands await discovery!

Designed parklands are a distinctive feature of the Clyst Valley, and the horticultural legacy of the Veitch family is unique. The 20 km around Exeter retains 30% of the historic parklands found in Devon. Poltimore was first recorded as a fenced deer park on Saxton's map of 1575. In the 19th century, the 1st Baron Poltimore commissioned James Veitch to plant woodlands on rising ground behind the mansion (now part of the Grade II listed gardens). Rockbears is a Grade II listed park and garden, and some of the oak trees were ancient when the park was first set out 200 years ago. There is an early 19th century parkland and gardens surrounding Bishop's Court, Sowton, which itself has a Grade I listed stable and tithe barn.

Simon Bates works for East Devon District Council on enhancements to green space. He has secured Heritage Lottery funding to deliver a two year project in the Clyst Valley, east of Exeter. The project will encourage the public to explore, record and restore the heritage of trees in fields, hedges, parks and orchards across several parishes. A programme of discovery walks will then explore the wider heritage of sunken lanes, flood meadows, and hill forts, for example, leading towards a series of workshops to define an ambitious twenty-five year vision for the fledgling Clyst Valley Regional Park.

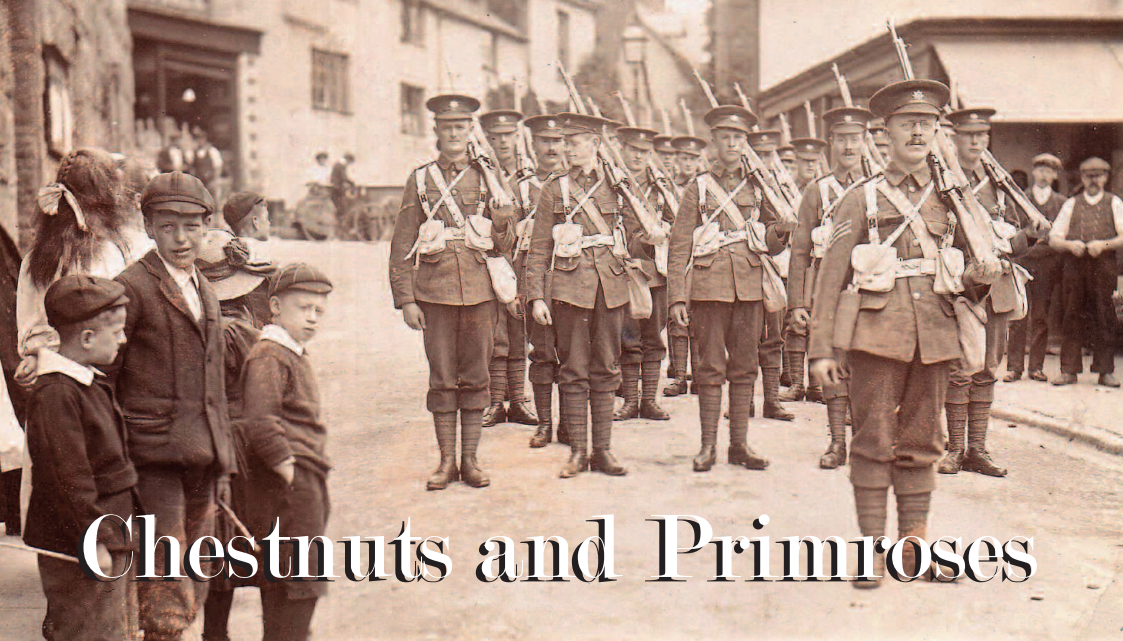
Simon is working with the private owners of these parklands, in particular to restore their tree heritage. He is looking to attract volunteers to research them, and has set up a training day for Monday 14th September 2017. In the morning there will be a session at

the Devon Heritage Centre, and in the afternoon, a site visit to Bishop's Court, giving volunteers exclusive access to parts of this 13th century seat of the Bishops of Exeter. For new members of DHS, this is a chance to learn the basics of historic landscape research and then apply that as part of a supportive team. For established members, it's a chance to access private sites. For both, there is the opportunity to inform restoration plans and then plant trees. Live research, active conservation!

If you are interested in attending, please drop Simon an email at sbates@eastdevon.gov.uk or call him on 07875-280540.

The Poltimore Oak, planted and crowned in 1860 to commemorate the birth of Lord Poltimore's son and heir.
photo: Simon Bates





Chestnuts and Primroses

'Chestnuts and Primroses' is a volunteer led project researching the impact of WW1 on Devon's children, as part of the Devon Remembers initiative. It will investigate living with the loss of fathers, children's war work, health and the role of schools. More than 500,000 children lost their fathers during The Great War and it is hard to imagine the impact this had on health, home life and schooling. How did children come to terms with absent parents, deaths of family and friends and what part did school play in helping them to make sense of the disruption to their lives?

Headteacher's log books, oral histories and newspaper reports from the period 1914-18 are helping to build a picture of children's experiences in some parts of Devon, but we would like to make comparisons between city, town and village life and widen our research base. Have you researched the home front during the Great War in your area? Are you aware of any local research into children's lives? In some areas, young people were collecting eggs, picking primroses, collecting

sphagnum moss, knitting, and making splints for wounded soldiers in their woodwork class. Was this replicated across Devon? Do you know of any evidence which points to effects on children's health or educational achievements? What did children in your locality do for fun during the Great War years? Do you know of any photographs of youngsters during this period? We are aiming to produce resource materials for schools, so any images we can gather would also be very helpful.

If you have any research or information which you would be willing to share, or if you would like more information about the project, please contact Viv Styles, secretary@devonhistorysociety.org.uk

VS

Devon
Remembers
Heritage Project



Todd's Excellent Adventure

DHS's Dr Todd Gray walked and talked his way east to west across the county in May this year. Here's his concluding note...

The trek across Devon in May ended successfully, without getting lost, we were on time and I had no blisters. I wanted to use my year as President of the Devonshire Association to bring our county's history to a wider audience. Twelve lectures on the distinctiveness of Devon were given over the eleven days. There was birdsong continuously from Lyme Regis to Hartland. The countryside was simply breathtaking as one would expect at this time of year - particularly along the coast from Lyme Regis to Sidmouth and then again from Bideford to Hartland. What was perhaps surprising was how different audiences were - in East Devon there were a

greater number of incomers than in North Devon. This had an effect on the reactions to the (same) lecture; each night was markedly different and the questions afterwards reflected this. In the first few days there was little or no memory of the collective nicknames once given to Devonians but in North Devon many people remembered a number of them. It was also striking how interested Devonians – whether born here or having moved into the county – were in their local history. The Hartland and Shebbear audiences were pretty boisterous and this helped coping with sore feet at the end of the day!

Photos from the author, and friends - Previous page: near the start at Sidmouth. Below: Beer Harbour. Right top: On the moor at Hatherleigh. Right below: Working out the route. Overleaf top: A sign near Coleford. Overleaf below: Completion of the walk at Hartland.







Dartmouth then – Dartmouth now

How Dartmouth shops have changed since the 1960s A new publication from the Dartmouth History Research Group.

A new booklet shows how Dartmouth has transformed itself during the last fifty years from a small self-sufficient town based on fishing and maritime services, into a tourist hub with art galleries, restaurants, a marina – none of which existed in the mid 1960s.

In the mid 1960s, Dartmouth was a small self-contained town, based on fishing and maritime trade, with a few tourist boats and the Britannia Royal Naval College. Fifty years later, the fishing has all but gone, the number of tourist boats has exploded and there is still the college. There are also two supermarkets, sixteen art galleries, and only one butcher and one green grocer.

This study compares the number and types of shops and businesses in the mid 1960s with today – fifty years on – and finds that while there are many changes on the surface, the overall number of shops is roughly the same, about 400, although more of them are concerned with leisure – such as the clothes shops and gift shops – the heart of the town is as robust as ever. In this booklet, the authors take the reader along the main shopping streets – Fairfax Place, the South Embankment, Duke Street and Foss Street – looking shop by shop at the changes since the 1960s. The study finds that, even though so much has changed, Dartmouth has retained a sense of self-

sufficiency and vitality. Dartmouth seems to have fared better than neighbouring towns such as Salcombe, with nearly 40% of its homes empty in the winter, abandoned by second homers; or Totnes, which for all its vibrant high street, still has over 10 charity shops in the town centre.

From the earliest trading days, the essence of Dartmouth has always been its relationship with the sea and the river. And the authors conclude that the town continues to thrive because of this relationship – the river continues to be at the heart of Dartmouth life.

More information from the Dartmouth Community Bookshop
<http://www.dartmouthcommunitybookshop.co.uk/contact/>



By Herbythyme - Own work, GFDL,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=9269874>

Introducing the Friends of Devon's Archives

You may already be aware of the Friends of Devon's Archives (FoDA). Perhaps you are also aware that at recent meetings of the FoDA committee and the DHC council, it was agreed that the two organisations would henceforth work more closely together. Hence I am writing now as Chairman of FoDA in order to welcome this union and to introduce FoDA to those who are not aware of who we are and what we do.

FoDA was founded in 1998 in order to promote the preservation and use of historical records throughout Devon and to raise public awareness of their importance for research and education. It is run by an elected chairman and committee. Our activities fall predominantly into four categories: events, the publication of archival projects, acquisitions for archives and, most importantly, acting as a mouthpiece for archives and archival services, and acting as a critical friend to the latter.

The most noticeable of our activities are the two events we hold each year. These normally tend to be an afternoon or full day of lectures on archival or historical themes relating to Devon's history. The plan is to rotate around the north, south west and south east of the county so that at least one of the two events is within reach for every Devon resident every year. Our last gathering was in Exeter in April, at which Professor Robin McInnes spoke on using visual archives for the history of the Devon coastline; Deborah Phillips demonstrated how you should look after your own archives in your own home; and Ian Mortimer introduced the audience to some lesser-known aspects of life in Restoration England. The next event, to which DHS Members are most welcome, will take place in Barnstaple on 30 September. This will consist of a morning session in the North Devon Record Office, after which John Allan will lead a tour around several historic sites in Barnstaple with archival connections.

Perhaps the next most prominent of our achievements is the publication of online resources. Foremost of these was a project to make available whole datasets of eighteenth-century names. Other resources made available include assessments of income for the provision of militiamen in South Devon in 1715; a sample of the freeholders' books for the years 1711-99; transcripts of the tithe apportionments; references to black people in Devon archives, and replies to episcopal visitation queries in 1744 and 1779. These sources may all be consulted freely via the FoDA

website (www.foda.org.uk). In addition, we have published a range of archival guides to help historians. The next to appear will be *Devon Deciphered* by John Booker: a guide on reading and interpreting Devon manuscripts sources from the fourteenth to the eighteenth centuries.

Another key activity is the acquisition of Devon documents that are at risk of being lost to the public. Obviously our funds are not unlimited; nevertheless, in 2016 we helped local repositories to acquire eight collections or items, ranging from a fourteenth-century deed to collections of records relating to paper mills and a manuscript list of bombing raids on Plymouth in the Second World War. In this respect FoDA can sometimes act with great rapidity, saving collections that appear on eBay or in a local auction with just hours to spare.

Least obvious but most important of all, FoDA is the sole organisation speaking up for archives in Devon. In these days of cuts and reorganisation, it is essential that there be an informed, independent eye cast over the proposals of institutions, authorities and grant-awarding bodies. This may cover anything from highlighting areas of weakness in repository lists to commenting on the administration and funding of an entire archive service.

It is particularly with regard to these last two activities that I hope all the members of DHS will join in with FoDA and work with us. We need you, as well as our own members, to be the 'eyes and ears' of the organisation. Even if you never come to a

FoDA meeting, you might hear of a collection of documents that is being sold or thrown out. In which case, contact us with details. Alternatively you might well have a comment about archive provision in the county – in which case, again, contact us. What we can do to help the archival world is really only limited by the information made available to us. As with so many things in life, information is the key.

For those wanting further information about FoDA, may I recommend you take a look at our website and especially our twice-yearly newsletters. These are not as swish in their design as DHS's newsletter but they give a good view of our concerns, contacts and achievements.

*Ian Mortimer BA MA PhD DLitt
FSA FRHistS*

**Chairman, Friends of Devon's
Archives.**



A New Heritage Centre in East Devon

The Ottery St Mary Heritage Society have announced their successful negotiations with the Town Council for a long-term lease on the Old Town Hall building as a Museum and Heritage Centre for the town.

At the Meeting of the Ottery Town Council on Monday April 3, 2017, the Heads of Terms were discussed and agreed in principle.

However, concerned about recent criticisms on social media by some members of the public relating to the new library building, the Heritage Society was asked by the Council to conduct a Public Consultation to assess the level of support for the project. The town responded with huge enthusiasm and over 700 signatures were gathered supporting the project.

Public Consultation Meeting

As part of the consultation process, a Public meeting was held at the Institute Ottery on Friday April 21, 2017;

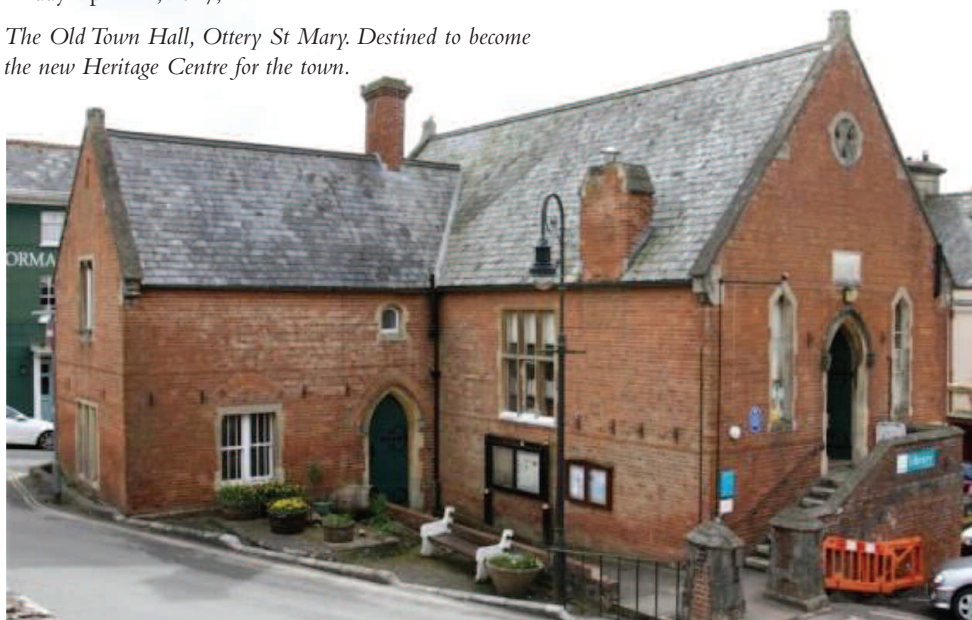
The Old Town Hall, Ottery St Mary. Destined to become the new Heritage Centre for the town.

The welcoming address reviewed the founding of the Heritage Society, its strength of membership, their previous museum, its activities, research, campaigns and projects within the town. A key project in their constitution is the provision of a Heritage Centre for the town.

The Old Town Hall was built in 1859 by public subscription on land originally leased, then later gifted in 1929, by the Kennaway family “for the welfare and convenience of the town of Ottery St Mary” in perpetuity.

The chairman emphasised that “This building is included as part of the Regeneration Project for the town. We want to bring the building back to life, for use by the community.” Work to restore the building is expected to begin soon.

Robert Neal





A Celebration of the Life of Christopher Holdsworth

On Saturday 1st July, at the invitation of the Holdsworth family, Exeter's historic Guildhall was filled by a throng of people who had come to celebrate and commemorate the life of Professor Christopher Holdsworth.

To those who had known Christopher only in the last years of his life, as President of Devon History Society, his conscientiousness, his sense of humour and his comprehensive scholarship had always been evident. The afternoon's celebration brought out the depth of his academic work and new facets of his life: his family and friends and his long-standing commitment to tackling the causes of

conflict and injustice through the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust.

The event, organised by Dr Todd Gray on behalf of the family, reflected all these different aspects of Christopher's life, with memories shared by his family and colleagues from his academic and public life. Woven through it all was the sound of the chamber music he loved, played by members of his family and friends from Exeter's EMG Symphony Orchestra. A joyful celebration indeed. *JN*

Above: Dr Todd Gray and Professor Julia Crick joined family and friends in attendance at the Celebration of Christopher Holdsworth's Life held in the Exeter Guildhall. Photo Ann Bond

DEVON & CORNWALL RECORD SOCIETY

DESERT ISLAND DOCUMENTS

**A Celebration of the
archival work in Devon
of
MARGERY ROWE,
former County Archivist**

**Saturday 21 October 2017
2-3 pm, Exeter Guildhall**

Refreshments to follow

To book, please send (by 18 October)
a cheque for £7 (£5 members)

made out to

DEVON & CORNWALL RECORD SOCIETY

and send to: The Cottage in The Hayes,
Cheriton Fitzpaine, Devon EX17 4JG

Can you help us recreate the History of Devon's Cottage Hospitals

Devon's community hospitals have been much in the news recently, and no doubt will continue to be so, as supporters campaign to keep much-valued local services. But how did they begin? Who were their founders and patrons? What difference did they make to the life of the town? Why were there so many more in Devon than (for example) in North Yorkshire, another large rural county? What happened when the NHS arrived? Devon History Society is planning to celebrate the history of its cottage hospitals at the 2018 Annual Conference. Have you or someone in your community researched the history of your local hospital? Would you be interested in undertaking some research? If you can help, please contact Julia Neville, j.f.neville@btinternet.com.

Below: Lynton Cottage Hospital in 2008.

Photo Courtesy Wikimedia Commons- cc-by-sa/2.0 - © Basher Eyre - geograph.org.uk/p/937224



Heads up for Heritage – a new community asset for Chagford

Chagford has won its bid to create a heritage centre in the town. With funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), supplemented by a grant from the Queen's Diamond Jubilee fund, the Chagford Local History Society (CLHS) is realising an aspiration it has nurtured on behalf of the community for many years. Thanks to money raised by National Lottery players, the HLF award amounts to £32,700 and the Diamond Jubilee grant, which is managed by Chagford Parish Council, is £5,000.

The heritage centre will be located in the Jubilee Hall, next to the new library. It will consist of a reading room and display area and a separate archive room, where the town's extensive collection of historical documents, photographs and memorabilia can be kept safely, following proper conservation guidelines. Part of the project will be to catalogue the archive using recognised professional standards. For the first time this will allow people to access anything in the

collection for the purposes of interest or research. The reading room and display area will be fully open to the library, creating a dual purpose community space.

Another part of the project is a two-year programme of activities exploring and celebrating the history of the Chagford area. Soon several shops in the town will display posters illustrating aspects of the town's past, aimed at stimulating interest in its heritage. The Chagford Show, one of Chagford's major annual events for over 100 years, will be celebrated by an exhibition in the new heritage centre to coincide with the Show this August. The exhibition, organised with the help of volunteers from the Show committee, will be transferred to the Show ground for 17th August.

Alan Deacon, chair of the CLHS, is adamant that the heritage centre is for the whole community:

“We think that the heritage centre and archive, sitting right next to the library will add something really

important and useful to the community and our programme of activities is going to appeal to a lot of people – residents and visitors alike. Chagford has a fascinating and ancient history and the project will open up loads of opportunities for people to learn more about it. For years the archive has been tended by a few dedicated volunteers and now there's an opportunity for more people to get involved in something really exciting. So we're calling on all those with a bit of time on their hands and an interest in the past to

see how they can participate in this great project. There'll be plenty of things to do”

We've lost so much of our past. With the heritage centre and archive we'll now be able to keep track of it and make it available to anyone who's interested, both now and for many years to come.”

More information at
<http://chagfordlocalhistorysociety.org/>

from JM

Dalwood Vicar defrocked...picture needed.

I had the following request from Mike Gunnill

I am writing a feature for Bygone Kent Magazine which will mention Rev Winnifrith the curate for Dalwood. He became involved with a wife of the local mill owner and was sued for divorce. They were both later jailed on perjury charges.

The court cases involving Reverend Alfred Baker Winnifrith and Mrs Rosa Agnes Hern were covered a great deal in national and local newspapers at the time, but no images have been found.

Rosa is from a long established Dalwood/Stockland family. Reverend Winnifrith was a great organiser of church and village events.

He must have had his picture taken for the local newspaper or the like, as he was a great self publicist. I am hoping someone in Devon may be able to assist.

Winnifrith served as a curate at St Peter Church Dalwood. 1892-1894. Previously he was at St Edward's Church, Shaugh Prior between 1887-1892.

Any help or advice welcome...

mikegunnill@mac.com

Ed

Victorian Schools

Early Victorian Schools : Report from the Research Group meeting held on 11 March, 2017

At the final study day of the group, Julia Neville welcomed Mike Sampson who later gave a fascinating presentation on the history of Blundell's School.

Using 'Hoskins's' background to Devon, Julia then outlined the changes which had occurred during the period. It was generally agreed that Hoskins did not really

Below: The former Chudleigh Grammar School

reflect the religious history of the era. It was thought that the jealousies between the Church of England and the Non-conformists were inclined to hamper the growth of elementary education, although some case studies revealed the opposite view.

Jan Wood reported on her two-day visit to the British & Foreign Schools Society archive. She had very kindly photographed a large quantity of material related to Devon schools and in particular, relevant to those schools which individual members of the group were studying. She continued with a talk on the history of the society and showed a broad sample of the records held in the archive.

Members gave updates on their case studies. The schools studied provided a rich



patchwork, situated in diverse locations across Devon. These were either agricultural, maritime, industrial and/or commercial areas. Frances Billinge and Jan Wood both illustrated the way in which the establishment of schools in Bovey Tracey and Dunchideock respectively was affected by the attitudes of the resident aristocracy. Judy Moss described the difficulty in funding the moorland schools of Throwleigh and Gidleigh and demonstrated how she evaluated the quality of the schools by the background of the teachers. Gail Ham charted the development of the schools in Dartmouth and noted the religious and political affiliations of their providers. Sue Dymond and Jackie Bryon's studies revealed the detrimental effect which the silk and lace making industries of Ottery St Mary and Exmouth had on the children by preventing them from attending school.

Accounts of the various grammar and endowed schools in Barnstaple, Dartmouth, and Chudleigh were presented by Mike Blower, Gail Ham and Helen Turnbull. Sue Dymond read a report by Chris Saunders on Kings School, Ottery St Mary. The common factor was that the schools were in decline towards the end of the period under review. The old buildings were costly to repair, the numbers of scholars, particularly boarders, were falling and local inhabitants preferred to send their children to other schools. The endowed schools had not developed to meet the needs of the local inhabitants. Barnstaple farmers preferred to send their sons to the County School at West Buckland and Chudleigh people favoured the Commercial School in the town.

Julia Neville read a report from Ann Bond who had looked at the history of the Kenton Industrial School and Helen Turnbull talked about Devon workhouse schools. It would appear that the guardians' priority for education in each institution was occupational rather than academic.

In the final session Julia Neville informed the group of the various opportunities to present and publish our work. These were: to take part at Conference; to submit papers for inclusion in the History of Education Journal, or the Local Historian; to give a presentation at the Ecclesiastical History Society Conference; or to publish a book. A discussion took place on the type of publication and various members offered to participate in the various options available.

Helen Turnbull

East Devon AONB Landscape Studies

A three year **Legacy to Landscape** project run by East Devon AONB promises a rich harvest of local historical events relating to the landscape history of the Shute Estate, which in 1781 encompassed a large area of East Devon between Colyford and the A35.

The project is taking a broad interdisciplinary approach, to cover the many aspects of landscape studies, from wildlife, geology, history and archaeology to learning to swing a scythe or manage a hedgerow.

A more detailed programme is on the AONB website or click [here](#).

Ed

THE FIELD-NAME PROJECT

I have written before about a possible collaborative project with the Devonshire Association. This now looks as if it is edging towards fruition. A small steering-group met in May to take forward a project to begin the collection of field-names and minor names across the county.

We hope to run a series of pilot studies, in effect a number of 'bore holes'. We hope that individuals and local societies will record field names, starting (perhaps – there is nothing prescriptive in this) with the tithe surveys of the late 1830s and '40s. These have the double advantage of being pretty uniform across the county and of being available on-line as well as in the various record offices. We hope that those involved will then want to work back into the eighteenth century and beyond, using whatever sources are to hand: estate records, manor court records, and so forth. (There is also a great deal of printed source material available to us: the two Devon volumes of the English Place Name Society

were published eighty years ago – so there is a mass of 'new' source material to be quarried.)

At the moment, we are still working on a uniform means of collecting data, and then putting it onto a web-site, either our existing DHS web-site or a new site which will run alongside DHS. But none of this precludes people getting going.

We envisage an initial three-year project, in which material from these 'bore holes' is collected, collated, and compared. After that, who knows? But in the longer term, there is every incentive for DHS and DA to work towards a new Devon Placenames for the EPNS.

If you would like to be involved in the initial stages, please contact me on acjtherectory@btinternet.com.

Andrew Jones

Below: Field names on the Gittisham Tithe map. More often the names only appear in the schedules for each map.

Courtesy of East Devon AONB



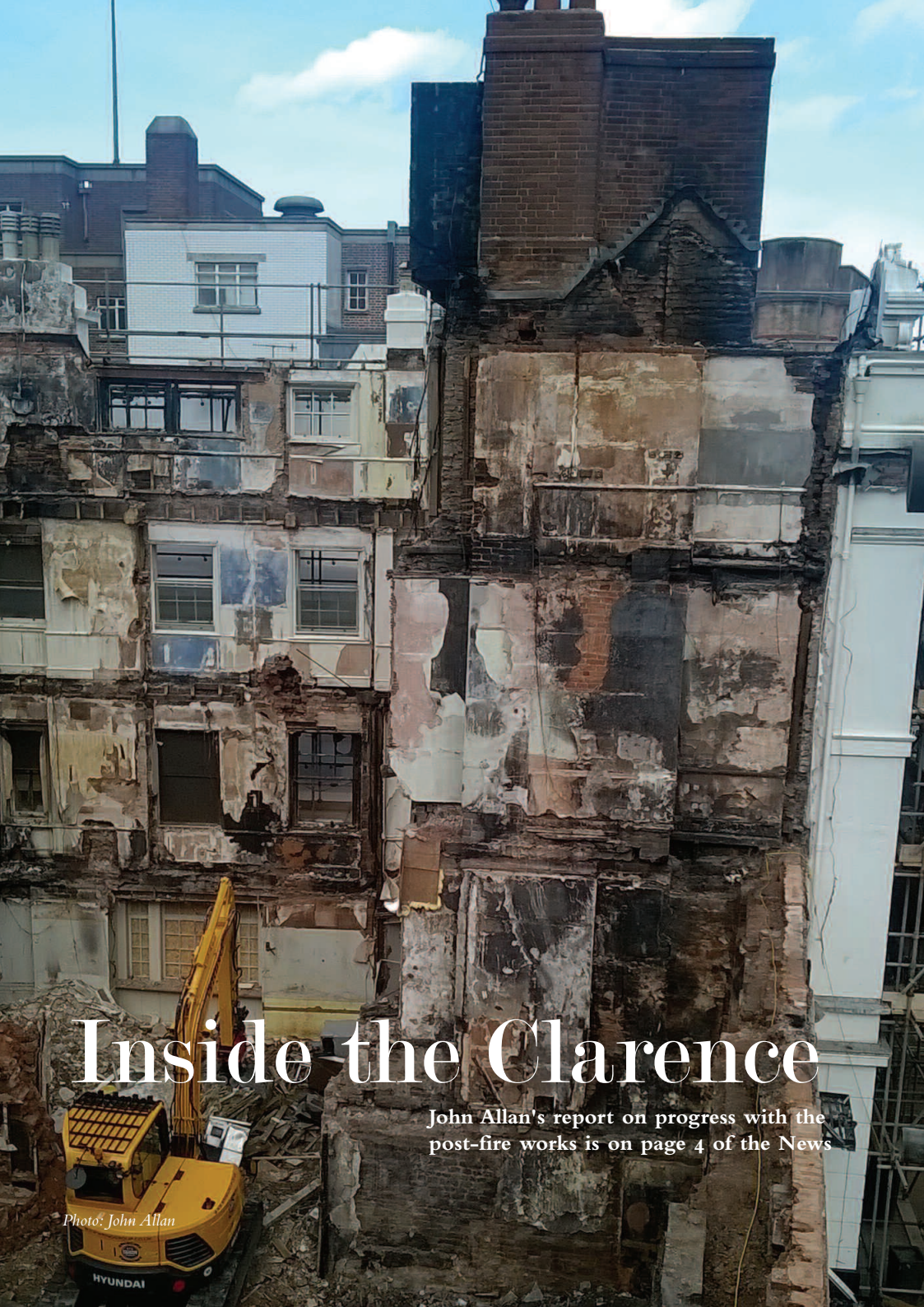
First World War Hospitals in Devon

With the help of the Devon Remembers Heritage project a small group of volunteers have begun to bring together the research going on in Devon to tell the story of how the county helped with the huge task of caring for the sick and wounded in the First World War. Devon had all sorts of war hospitals – the main military hospital in Devonport, specialist hospitals such as that at Seale-Hayne which looked after men with post-traumatic stress disorder, ‘one-off’ hospitals like the American Women’s War Hospital in Paignton, and numerous (over 60) Red Cross hospitals. To complement the exhibitions prepared by some local groups (such as the Exeter exhibition to be held in September, see advert p38), the Devon Remembers Heritage group will be bringing together a Devon-wide story for exhibition next year. We still have some hospitals, that are unresearched, and would welcome contributions of any pictures or documents. If you can help, get in touch with Julia Neville, j.f.neville@btinternet.com or with Katie Findlay at the Devon Remembers Heritage Project, Katherine.Findlay@swheritage.org.uk

War hospital -

IWM non commerial license image no. Q30306





Inside the Clarence

John Allan's report on progress with the post-fire works is on page 4 of the News

Photo: John Allan

HYUNDAI



Photo: John Allan

Exeter Local History Society
presents

**Stories of
Exeter's
War Hospitals
1914-1919**

St Stephen's Church, High Street, Exeter EX4 3LW
September 19-23, 2017

Tue, Wed, Fri: 11.00-16.00

Thu: 11.00-18.00

Sat: 11.00-15.30



An exhibition to commemorate the magnificent contribution made by the people of Exeter and district to the care of the sick and wounded soldiers of the First World War.