

DEVON HISTORY NEWS



NEWSLETTER OF THE

DEVON HISTORY SOCIETY

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From the CHAIRMAN



The history of history makes an interesting study. For years, there has been a revisionist current flowing through the history of the Church of England in the 'long' eighteenth century. This current became a flood tide in the 1980s and has continued pretty much ever since as historians have decided that the Hanoverian Church was not the lethargic, corrupt thing that previous generations had depicted. (The Oxford Movement was particularly contemptuous.) Eighteenth century bishops were busy reformers; eighteenth century clergy diligent and orthodox.

Long before the flood set in, Geoffrey Best had rather bravely pointed out that eighteenth century bishops, for all their endeavour and intention, were ineffectual (perhaps an enduring trait of bishops). They sought to counter non-residence, they urged double duty on a Sunday, etc etc but in the end left to their successors exactly the same agendas, exactly the same unanswered problems in the life of the Church. It was not until the 1830s, with reform in the air, and the advent of the Ecclesiastical Commission, that long-standing problems were addressed with any kind of systematic intent.

But, Best's voice was hardly heard above the flood-race. I say all this because I have not long ago alighted on a little mentioned or used source in the diocesan archive at the Heritage Centre. This comprises the complete returns of the clergy to the bishop's enquiries prior to the primary visitation of 1798 (Bishop Henry Courtenay). It gets a scant entry in the catalogues. What makes these returns particularly interesting is that they come barely twenty years before the published returns to Bishop Carey's visitation in 1821. It is at once evident that nothing has changed between 1798 and 1821. In other words, Geoffrey Best, writing in 1965, was quite right.

Revisionist history (strongly influenced by Jonathan Clark's great books in the 1980s) now needs to be revised. All of which will seem a long way removed from the concerns of the Devon local historian. But, for the local historian – here is your parish in 1821, in 1798 and beyond, some with more detail, some with less, some served by worldly opportunists, some served by dedicated ministers. Always, we need to be wondering 'why?' Why were things as they were?

Andrew Jones

Devon in 1920s

An update from the project

Since the last edition of DHS News I'm pleased to say that we've formalised the collaboration mentioned in our August 2019 newsletter. We now have a Steering Group, presided over by our own chair, Andrew Jones. The group also includes Sue Bond from Devon Family History Society, Janet Tall from the South West Heritage Trust and Henry French, from the University of Exeter and a member of the DHS Council, and myself as Project Manager. We've started to engage other organisations with heritage interests to explore what further opportunities there are to collaborate.

We got off to a flying start by appealing for family histories, first at the Devon FHS AGM last October, and subsequently at our own AGM. This has brought to light some wonderful material from across the county. The

featured photograph comes from the first history I received. It was sent to me by Tony Morris and shows his grandfather Charles, the first captain of the Bideford municipal Fire Brigade, appointed in 1920, together with the motor fire engine, christened 'Grenville', that the council bought in 1927. It hadn't struck me until reading his account and the Exeter newspapers of the time just

Below: 'Grenville' at Bideford 1927



how many chimney fires there were in the 1920s, and how devastating they could be; and therefore how councils began then to take on the major role in fire-fighting they continue to play. Other family history contributions have come from across the county, offering stories about a diverse range of experiences. Going dancing in Exmouth, hard lives on local farms, naval families in Plymouth, the lace factory in Barnstaple, medical services in Exeter and a gamekeeper on a country estate all feature. Together they form a rich resource for anyone interested in 1920s research, and we hope to add to them. If you had family in Devon in the 1920s, have you got memories of photographs you could share with us?

In the programme for the year ahead you'll see that we are formally launching 'Devon in the 1920s' at an event on 30 March 2020. I already have a list of people who are planning to come, but the opportunity's there for you too, if you're interested in getting involved in the research, or if you are just interested in Devon in the 1920s. (There's no charge, but pre-booking is essential.) We've got a great speaker from the University of Kent, Dr Stefan Goebel, who's going to ease us into the history of the decade by talking about the Legacy of the First World War. We also have a quartet of Devon speakers who are going to inspire us with local 'vignettes' related to the project's themes. (To remind you, these are the Aftermath of War, Rural Life, Growing Up, Progress and Technology and Holidays and Leisure.) And then we will spend some time discussing ideas for how the project should evolve – our eyes firmly set on celebrating 'Devon in the 1920s' across the county in 2024.

If anything in the account above has piqued your interest, whether as a group member or as an individual, and you'd like to know more or get involved, then do either book a place on March 30th or get in touch with me direct, j.f.neville@btinternet.com

Julia Neville, Devon in the 1920s Project Manager

Request for reviewers

Book Reviews for The Devon Historian

The following books have been received for review in the 2020 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, Devon, EX2 9LU. My e-mail is m.m.auchterlonie@exeter.ac.uk. Remember to give me your postal address. Here is the list:

Peter Mason: Clam bridges of Dartmoor (2019).

Peter Wade: Abbotsleigh Priory, 1861–2018 (Abbotskerswell village history series, 6) (n.d.).

Simon Butler: A Manaton Century: A Dartmoor parish 100 years ago (2019).

Dr M. M. Auchterlonie, (Reviews Editor)

THE PROGRAMME FOR 2020

Non-members welcome**• Monday, March 30th 10.00 – 16.00**

Devon Heritage Centre, Bittern Road, Sowton, Exeter, EX2 7NL

Devon in the 1920s Research project launch

Dr Stefan Goebel on the legacy of World War 1. Other topics include tourism on Dartmoor, the demise of the Haldon estate, positive developments in village life in Hemyock and the freedom of the road. There will also be a guide to sources in the Devon Heritage Centre for the 1920s and a mini poster exhibition.

• Tuesday, April 21st 14.30 – 16.00

Lecture at Mint Methodist centre, Fore Street Exeter EX4 3AT

John Smith HMS Exeter and the Battle of the River Plate in September 1939 (rearranged from November 2019)

• Tuesday, May 12th 19.00 – 21.00

In conjunction with the Historical Association, Plymouth Branch

Lecture Theatre 2, Roland Levinsky Building, University of Plymouth PL4 8AA Dr Robert James, Portsmouth University

The Servicemen's Playground: Seafarers and leisure in southern English port towns, c. 1900-1950 Free to DHS members.

• Saturday, May 23rd 10.30 – 16.00

Spring Meeting at the Watermark, Erme Court Leonards Road, Ivybridge PL21 0SZ hosted by the Ivybridge Heritage & Archives Group

Talks, walk and display on the heritage of Ivybridge.

• Thursday, May 28th 19.00 – 20.00

Plymouth Quaker House, 74 Mutley Plain, Plymouth PL4 6LF

Plymouth Families in the 1920s; real lives from a forgotten decade

A look at some of the family histories of people from the Plymouth area captured for the DHS 1920s project.

• Monday, June 8th 11.00 – 15.00

North Devon Library and Record Office, Tuly Street, Town Centre, Barnstaple EX31 1EL Dr David Stone Skills seminar: An introduction to Palaeography

• Tuesday, June 23rd 11.00 – 15.00

Devon Rural Archive, Shilstone, Modbury, PL21 0TW

Dr David Stone Skills seminar: An introduction to Palaeography

• Thursday, September 3rd 14.30 – 16.00

In conjunction with the Friends of Devon Archives, Devon Rural Archive, Shilstone, Modbury, PL21 0TW

Dr Ian Mortimer Medieval Moretonhampstead

• Monday, September 21st 13.00 – 16.00

Devon Rural Archive, Shilstone, Modbury, PL21 0TW

Symposium for Affiliated Societies: Supplementing income for local societies. Keynote and inputs/case studies from Chagford and Lustleigh as well as discussion session.

• Saturday, October 10th 10.00 – 16.00

Rougemont Suite, Exeter Central Library, Castle St., Exeter, EX4 3PQ

Devon History Society AGM and Conference on the theme of Transport

• Monday, November 9th 10.30 – 15.00

Devon Heritage Centre, Bittern Road, Sowton, Exeter, EX2 7NL

Seminar and Workshop Devon, glorious Devon: the holiday industry in the 1920s, considering Devon's coastal resorts and moorland areas.

• Thursday, November 26th 13.30 – 15.30

Devon Rural Archive, Shilstone, Modbury, PL21 0TW

Workshop: Debbie Watson Researching a house through time. Sources to get people started and avenues for further research.

Full details of all events, programmes and booking procedures can be found on the Devon History Society website: www.devonhistorysociety.org.uk

Editorial

This first edition of an all digital Newsletter will look a little unfamiliar to you. The first four pages contain core information and those members without IT resources or skills will receive paper copies of p1-4 for a limited period (under review by DHS Council). The rest of the News is set out in single column in larger print, with the hope that this is an easier read. The utility of the News as a 'periodical' is open to question in its digital form. Obviously, news items are more newsworthy they are indeed 'new', and the Website already carries regular updates on material that is of more topical interest to members. In time then, it may prove beneficial to publish News items on the website with an alert to members about it, should they want more detailed information. I may experiment with this in the coming months, to see if you approve or not.

The News also has publicity value, so please do pass it on to friends and family, with encouragement to join the Society and thereby benefit from the historical research work undertaken on Devon and published in the annual Journal, along with the interesting items in the News and on the Website.

You may wish to produce as well as consume, and to satisfy this there is endless local history in need of your attention. The DHS works alongside the Devon Family History Society, Friends of Devon Archives, The Devonshire Association, Devon Archaeological Society and indeed anyone who has an interest in any aspect of Devonian History, promoting and supporting your potential input and ambitions.

To Join DHS click this link

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1n5uEwZeiZQMCXXOBfCVThp37YzF-3aAN/view>

To contact Council Members or officers look on page 1 of this edition.

Chris Wakefield

AGISTMENTS: An Early Medieval Echo in the Tithe Survey 1837-1845.

Over the last ten years, I have been examining the Tithe Survey returns for the parishes of Northern Devon, the modern council areas of North Devon and Torridge.

A few landscape historians have claimed that the Tithe Survey allows the medieval landscape to be reconstructed fairly accurately and the boundaries of Domesday manors to be identified. Most would not go so far but there is general agreement that traces of many medieval features may often be found by close examination of the Tithe Map and the accompanying Apportionment. One feature that I have to confess that I had only been dimly aware of when I started my task is the agistment. This is a noun referring to a specific practice and also to land where it occurred. Agistment and agisters, men and women who administer the practice, can still be found in the New Forest. Agistment is the practice of taking in livestock for a summer season on payment of a fee per animal. Unlike commons, where either the whole parish or specific farms within a parish have rights to depasture animals without payment, agistments were open to anyone, wherever they lived, who was prepared to drive stock and pay the

necessary fee. The owner of the agistment then took responsibility for the stock as long as they were present. The practice of agistment allowed farmers to send livestock to summer pasture but to remain at home on the farm.

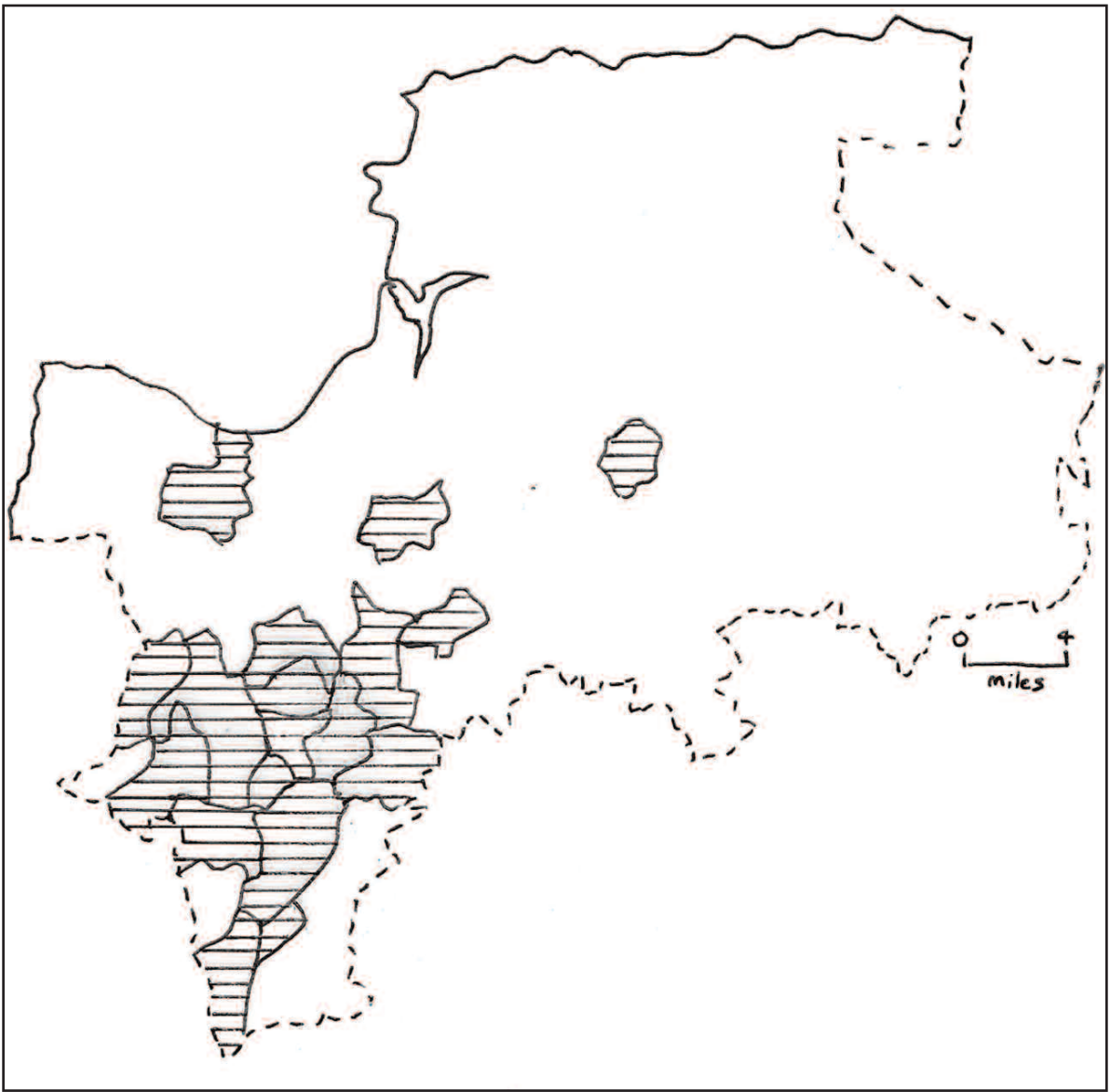
Harold Fox has suggested that various forms of summer seasonal agriculture survived from the Iron Age into medieval times. He notes how the boundaries of many Devon Hundreds have thin arms snaking up to the edge of Dartmoor and suggests that this was deliberate planned to facilitate long distance movement of stock from lowland to summer pasture high up on Dartmoor. Nothing similar seems to have existed around Exmoor, or at least on the Devon side of the boundary. Some of the seasonal agriculture may well have been classic transhumance, where people accompany the livestock to the summer pastures and then live in temporary dwellings away from the farmstead. Whilst this had died out in Devon before the agricultural writers of the late eighteenth century, such as William Marshall and Charles Vancouver could record it, transhumance survived into the nineteenth century in Ireland, where it was known as booleying and many place names perpetuate the memory. Irish booleys are found on hillsides on mountains, and, more pertinently for comparison with Devon agistments, also on the fringes of lowland bogs and wetland

The Tithe Apportionment gives field names and usually also the name of the legal holding of which it was a part. I have field names in my files, but I have not devised a suitable searchable database to find fields called agistment (or one of the common variants of gestment, jestment or justment), although I am aware of their presence. My database of legal holdings has allowed me so far to identify 32 such holdings. However, seven of these are divisions of Veale's Agistment in Pyworthy parish and in Black Torrington and again in Pyworthy, there are two agistment holdings bearing the same name. So it is probably better to note the distribution of parishes where the name occurs rather than to quantify either number or the area of such holdings. It is highly likely that the practice of agistment did not simply stop one year in the past but went into decline over a period of many years and perhaps land previously used as agistment was incorporated into neighbouring holdings. So the area of agistment holdings in the Tithe Survey may well underestimate the peak area given over to the practice.

The sketch map (following page) shows the distribution of parishes with at least one agistment holding. It is immediately obvious that the name has survived only in the parishes on the Culm Measures to the south of Barnstaple and Bideford and indeed, seems to be more prevalent in the west of this area. The Culm Measures comprise sandstones, siltstones and shales of Carboniferous age (c 285 Mya). Where sandstones occur on sloping ground, the soils are moderately fertile and Vancouver referred to these as 'Dun Lands' and noted their quality. However, where siltstones and shales outcrop on plateaus or gentle slopes, then heavy clay soils develop and are often water-logged in winter and can bake to form a hard crust in dry and warm summers. These have always been difficult lands to farm and many areas, especially between Holsworthy and Halwill, were planted up with conifers in the twentieth century. It certainly looks as if most of the agistments are to be found on such difficult land. Being wet, in summer they could offer valuable grazing when the better quality land was suffering from the effects of drought.

The holdings with the name agistment or one of its variants, are frequently around 20-30 acres in size, but the largest that I have so far come across is nearly 118 acres (Walland Agistment in Cookbury). This would make it one of the larger holdings at the time of the Tithe Survey. This, and some of the other rather larger holdings with an agistment name, is more or less indistinguishable from typical holdings in their parishes, with a complex of buildings, orchards and small field around the farmstead and a mixture of arable and grass in the larger fields. However, one should not read too much into this, as land-use c 1840 still had some traces from the efforts made earlier in the century to maximise the arable acreage during the Napoleonic Wars. So right across Northern Devon one can find fields with meadow in their name but with arable as the recorded land-use.

Milton Damerel parish offers some intriguing possibilities for agistments and possible summer transhumance. East and south of the parish church lie Buttermoor and the two farmsteads which also



Sketch map showing parishes with an agistment holding (shaded). Study area boundary shown with dotted line.

have agistments, namely Gidcott and Grawley. Harold Fox speculates that names like Buttermoor suggest summer occupation, perhaps with transhumance. It is curious that this farm and Grawley both lie above an area, even today, shown on the map as wet and rough pasture. Gidcott offers access to the wet valley bottom of the river Waldon. This name may well mean the 'hill slope of the Britons' and is probably a back-formation from a place, now lost, of that name but as the river rises west of Bradworthy and joins the Torridge near Milton Damerel the association with the agistments and Buttermoor should not be pushed too far, no matter how tempting it might be to suggest that the lands once held by Britons became summer pasture for later occupiers.

John Bradbeer

For those interested in historical geography, there are now, under the About/Resource tab of the DHS website, aggregated parish tithe schedules covering all of Devon in two files by parish name: A-K, and K-Z. These are delimited text files that can be read by spreadsheet or database software and interrogated in the usual way to discover frequencies, distributions or correlations of field names, or field name elements as they occur in Devon. These are very large files and may not work (or work at a snail's pace) on your preferred hardware / software setup. Unfortunately, until the DHS's Minor Place Names project can secure resources to repurpose this data to make it more user friendly, there will be no support or advice available for users.



The former Poltimore poor house, courtesy of Jill Fox. Photograph by Peter Child.

Poltimore: The Almshouse and the Poorhouse

The Poltimore Estate Research Society (PERS) has been investigating the buildings clustering round Poltimore church and has started to uncover the history of Poltimore's almshouse and other provision for the poor. There are two buildings on the churchyard perimeter, one on the east side of the gateway and one on the west side (pictured), both of which, in their different ways, made provision for the parish poor.

A first endowment was made by the will of John Bampfylde, the lord of the manor of Poltimore, who died in 1631. He set up a charitable foundation in memory of his wife, Dame Elizabeth, and their son Amyas. Property was bequeathed to the foundation to house 'four poor people', and a 'block of lodgings' was built to the east of the churchyard entrance. The commemorative tablet placed on the original block still exists, though it is now inside the church. It reads:

'Grudge not my laurell,
rather blesse that bower
which made the death of two
the life of fower' ...

A century later Sir Richard Warwick Bampfylde, who died in 1755, left more property to the trust, in order to increase the numbers of the beneficiaries from four to six. Two extra rooms were built onto the original building. Sir Richard's second son, another Richard Warwick, who was Rector of Poltimore and died in 1834, also left funds to the charity.

By the mid nineteenth century there were places for six people in the Poltimore almshouse block, and we know from the census returns that most of the people who had been accommodated there were elderly widows. But the original building had gradually been deteriorating and the second Lord Poltimore, Sir Richard's great-grandson, had it demolished in 1899 and completely replaced with the present building.

By the time of the 1910 Valuation it seems that the new block was only being used by four people. Perhaps expectations about the living space required had changed. However, the terms of the charitable trust required six people to be housed. It seems that Lord Poltimore's solution was to provide two places in separate lodgings on the first floor of the house on the west side of the churchyard. The young gardeners working on the estate were accommodated in the ground floor.

This property had been the village poorhouse before the advent of the Guardians and in 1839 Lord Poltimore had bought it from the St Thomas Guardians to whom it had been transferred at the time of the Poor Law Amendment Act. Recent PERS investigations show that the poorhouse, like the almshouse, dates from the seventeenth century, so it may well have been constructed at roughly the same time as the original almshouse on the other side of the churchyard.

By the 1920s the almshouses were under-used. The introduction of the old age pension meant that fewer people were dependent on charitable provision. The two rooms over the Church Close house were let out, together with the ground floor, to a village family and the other alms-houses occupied by people who, it was reported, did not actually live there but only turned up for the distribution of gifts, such as blankets, to the poor. The building now known as 1 Church Close was eventually sold by Lord Poltimore in the 1950s and is now a private home.

PERS would be interested to learn about any other examples in the county of the poor house and the almshouse side by side in a churchyard. If you know of any, please get in touch with the Society via j.f.neville@btinternet.com or PERS at Poltimore House.

Julia Neville

Sabine Baring-Gould blue plaque unveiling

From Ian Maxted

I would like to alert DHS members to the unveiling of the blue plaque to Sabine-Baring-Gould by the Exeter Civic Society at 2.00 on Friday 20 March on the premises of Gilbert Stephens at 15 Southernhay East, formerly Chichester Place, the birthplace of Sabine Baring-Gould. If the weather is bad it will be possible to assemble from 1.45 in Southernhay Church Hall next door.

Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924) was a pioneering collector of the folk songs of Devon and Cornwall in the 1880s but also a prolific novelist, travel writer, archaeologist, folklorist, biographer of British saints, theologian, hymn writer and also rector of Lewtrenchard, Devon where his manor house can still be visited. Much of his library remains at Lewtrenchard, but there are also significant collections relating to him the the University of Exeter Special Collctions, the Devon Heritage Centre and the British Library in London.

There will be an event for Exeter Civic Society members in Southernhay Church Hall after the unveiling. This will include short speeches/presentations on Sabine Baring-Gould and a recital of some of the folk songs he collected by Wren Music who for many years have worked to keep his heritage alive. There will also be the opportunity to view some of the original folk song manuscripts and other items relating to Baring-Gould which will be brought from the Devon Heritage Centre by the South West Heritage Trust and other displays relating to Baring-Gould and his collections. Tea and biscuits will be available in the hall.

There are nine large tables available in the hall which could accommodate displays, books or other material relating to Sabine Baring-Gould, folk songs of the Westcountry, or Devon's literary heritage. If anyone wishes to display material and/or say a few words about their work, please let me know. We have use of the hall from 12 noon to 4pm, so those wishing to prepare displays or set up equipment could arrive before 2.00.

There will be no charge for this event but Civic Society members wishing to attend the event after the unveiling should contact Ruth McLeish to book a place. Those who are not members of the **Exeter Civic Society** should email ianmaxted@hotmail.co.uk if they wish to stay after the unveiling so that the Civic Society knows how many to cater for. There is only a limited number of places for non-members to attend the event after the unveiling.

The latest issue of the Devon Bibliography newsletter has been posted at

<https://devon-bibliography.blogspot.com/2020/02/westcountry-studies-issue-12-february.html>.

AGM and Conference 2019

Although fading from memory by now, last year's annual AGM and conference was a milestone in many ways, held in a new venue, witnessing a substantial change-over of DHS Council personnel, with wine in honour of fifty years energetic commitment to local history by members of the DHS, as well as an impressive line up of history prizes.

Here is a pictorial summary...



Full house in Rougemont Room, Exeter Central Library, for the DHS 2019 AGM and Conference.



President Mark Brayshay welcomed members to the proceedings, and awarded the Society's 2019 Prizes.



DHS Chairman Andrew Jones set out the day's programme and later leads the celebration of 50 years since DHS's foundation.



Paul Auchterlonie retires from Council after many years as programme secretary.



Tim Lomas joins Council and becomes our new Programme Secretary.



Ann Bond departs from Council after serving as Newsletter Editor, Treasurer and Publicity Officer.



Jan Wood also stepped down from Council after six years of diligent service.



Dr James Davey spoke on 'Devon, the Royal Navy and the French Revolutionary Wars, 1783-1801'.



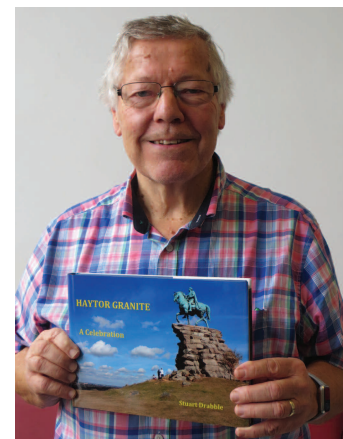
Helen Doe (University of Exeter) spoke on 19th century Devon women in shipping.



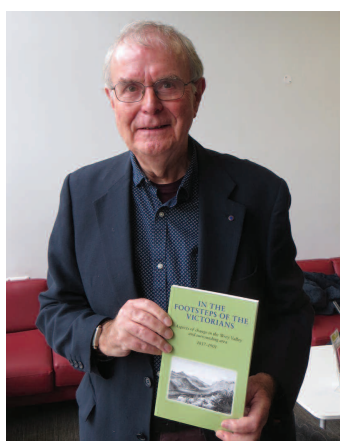
Peter Maunder wins Book of the Year 2019 for 'Tiverton Cloth: The Story of the Town's Woollen Trade, 1475-1815'.



Roger Barrett wins W.G.Hoskins Prize for 'Salcombe: Schooner Port: A Maritime History of Salcombe and its Merchant Sailing Vessels in the Nineteenth Century'. Highly Commended in this category was Stuart Drabble for 'Haytor granite: a celebration'.



Oliver Moore wins the Dissertation Prize 2019 for 'Coming of Age in Time for War A Study of Cadet Classes on HMS Britannia 1882-1892'.

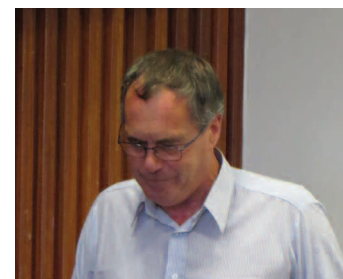
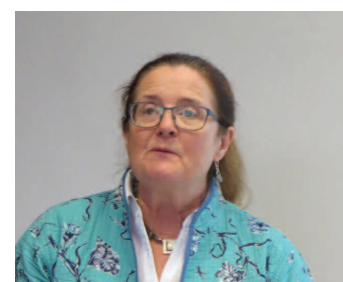
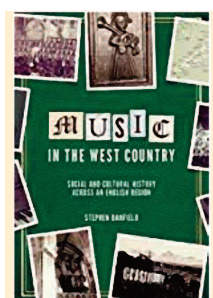


Peter Mason accepts the Local History Society Book of the Year Prize on behalf of The Lustleigh Society for 'In the Footsteps of the Victorians: Aspects of change in the Wrey Valley and surrounding area 1837-1901'. Highly Commended in this category award accepted by Heather Culpin on behalf of Sampford Peverell Society for 'Sampford Peverell during the First World War'.



Left: DHS Book of the Year 2019 highly commended: Stuart Banfield for 'Music in the West Country'.

Right: The conference proceedings were informed and entertained by contributions from three affiliated Societies: From the top: Gail Ham, (Dartmouth History Research Group) who told us about 'The Snapdragon Affair: Privateering in Dartmouth in the Late Eighteenth Century'. Mike Teare (Way of the Wharves) spoke on 'Marine Heritage on the Torridge Estuary' and Jenny Moon (Lymington History Society) recounted 'A Devon Village Life, 1590'.



DEVON IN THE 1920S

TO ALL LOCAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS:

HAVE YOU GOT AN ICONIC IMAGE THAT EXPRESSES THE ESSENCE OF THE COUNTY IN THE 1920S?



Family Picnic on Dartmoor, courtesy of Alick Lavers

The 'Devon in the 1920s' project is looking for iconic images to use in publicity for the project during the next four years. Have you got in your archives any reproducible photographs or illustrations that really encapsulate the atmosphere of the 1920s ?

If so, and if you would be willing to permit their use by 'Devon in the 1920s' in project publicity, please send them in to Julia Neville, Devon in the 1920s Project Manager, j.f.neville@btinternet.com by April 30 2020. The top three images will each win a £30 prize for the organisation from which they come.



Whose history is it anyway?

I recently attended a very interesting seminar, organised by the Dartmoor National Park Authority at Parke, about the differences between archives held by local history groups on and around Dartmoor and their relationship with professional archives. The session, entitled ‘Whose history is it anyway?’, featured nine talks from representatives of national, regional and local heritage organisations, and then finished with a panel discussion about future development of community archives.

The seminar considered:

- 1) the different approaches to archiving local history
- 2) the statutory responsibilities for collection and curation
- 3) how material is collected
- 4) the standards of care
- 5) public accessibility

Each of these issues present challenges to those looking after community archives, and it was both reassuring and encouraging to learn about the ways in which the different organisations, including some of our own affiliated groups, tackle them. Overall, the day highlighted the value of the community archives in our county and reinforced the importance of working collaboratively to collect, conserve and present the material in our custody.

We are lucky, that here in Devon, there are plenty of opportunities for our heritage groups to work together, whether through research, such as the new 1920s project, or by going to events, like the one I attended, to seek advice, share knowledge and solve problems. One such event will be the annual Dartmoor Local History Day which will be held on Saturday 30th May at the headquarters of the Dartmoor National Park Authority, Parke, Bovey Tracey. Full details will be available in March from the DNP.

Looking ahead to the autumn too, the DHS council will be hosting a seminar for our affiliated members to explore the different funding options available to local community groups, and how to create successful applications. There will be more details available in due course, and I hope it will be a useful session for all our colleagues.

Abigail Gray

Dr David Stone (far left) chaired the panel discussion with an impressive line-up of speakers after an inspiring and informative day. Dr Nick Barratt gave the keynote address followed by presentations from local archives and the view from the professionals.



Have a look round Devon in the 1920s on these Pathe movie clips, available free online

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7SYDVuB4nQ4>

This archive has been around for a while but it's easy to forget what a wealth of material it has, and quite a bit on Devon too. Obviously the tourists of the day didn't mind which side of the road they drove on. Something comes the other way at the end of this clip...



Placenames Postscript

I have mentioned Keith Brigg's maps at various times and places over the last decade, but even now, as we contemplate a new age in analysis of huge amounts of data that didn't exist in the English Place Name Surveys that drove these maps, his work from ten years ago is still valuable. These pictures tell us something important, but what is it? Left: Showing the distribution of place names ending in '-ton.' Right is the distribution of placenames in '-worth' and '-worthy'. Both maps show some significance for Devon's location in the country and its unique history.

CW

The maps are included here with the author's permission.

