

DEVON HISTORY NEWS

Devon History Society Newsletter

August 2021. No. 28



From the Chairman

This is my last Newsletter as chair of the Society. My successor in office, if approved at the AGM in October, will be Katherine Findlay. Katherine introduces herself elsewhere in this edition. I am very grateful to her for agreeing readily to assume the chair.

The year 2015, when I took over from Philippe Panel, seems an impossibly long time ago! The more so as I suspect that the ravages of Covid have 'stretched' our perspective so that 'pre-Covid' now seems another era, a world away. I have assumed that Council meetings would return to 'normal', but I am beginning to think that Zoom is now normal: why should twelve people clock up probably 500 car miles and a round 'trip' of 2-3 hours each, when they can meet for no more than 40 minutes in the comfort of their own homes, at minimal expense? It is an instant 'no-brainer'. What was dictated by Covid becomes by extension a 'green' imperative. Is the same true of our programme meetings? I can imagine that many of you will say 'yes'. I shall be very pleased to hear from members what you think and how you react. The provision of an on-line programme has a massive impact upon our finances – no halls to hire, no travelling expenses, no coffee and tea or lunch to prepare, and no or little charge to the participant. Again, a sea-change not only seems obvious but necessary. Again, please let me know your preferences.



I am grateful to all the Society's members, and its Council, for your ongoing support for the Society and for what it seeks to achieve – enthusiasm for Devon's history as well as expertise. With the end to lockdown restrictions upon us, I hope that the 'Devon in the 1920s' project will gather momentum as we are able, once more, to access archives freely. It will be absorbing and encouraging to see emerging the 'shape' of Devon's post-war history. I wonder if a future generation will pursue 'Devon after Covid' as a similar project – a reminder of just how important the written record is for the historian.

Andrew Jones

acjtherectory@btinternet.com

New Faces on Council

Katherine Findlay

I am honoured to be taking on the role of Chair of the Devon History Society from October and pleased to have this opportunity to introduce myself to you.

Firstly, I must thank the Council for their warm welcome already, especially Andrew Jones who currently chairs the Society with such commitment and clarity. I know that his will be big shoes to fill and I am very glad that the Society will continue to benefit from his knowledge and good judgement.

If we have not met before, some background about me: I am a freelance heritage consultant based near Honiton working in interpretation, project management and policy development for local authorities and organisations. Previously, I worked for the South West Heritage Trust, where I ran the Devon Remembers Heritage Project, and at the Blackdown Hills AONB, where I managed historic landscape projects. Since 2016, I have also been researching the life and impact of Anglo-Icelandic adventurer Pike Ward of Teignmouth and my work to tell his story continues.

I am lucky enough to have lived in Devon since I was 18 and I believe that life here is enriched immeasurably by the traces of people who came before us. This cultural inheritance is constantly expanding and evolving as Devon and Devonians change and fresh discoveries are made. I am delighted to serve an organisation that has such an important role in researching new topics, sharing knowledge and ideas and promoting a vital curiosity about the past.

My experience of working with communities has taught me that local research, carried out by people who know and understand their patch, has value far beyond personal interest. Local historians can unearth truths that challenge regional or national narratives and working together they can establish detailed and significant findings. Most importantly, they can spread their enthusiasm and connect people of all ages and backgrounds with the unique stories of their neighbourhoods.

In recent years, academic history departments across the UK have also begun to engage more deeply with their home areas. I am delighted that Professor Henry French of the University of Exeter is taking on the presidency of Devon History Society and I hope that we can further develop the connections between Devon's



Katherine Findlay

academic and local history communities and encourage more young people to participate.

I have been impressed at the way the Society has continued to function over the last year and a half and offer a fascinating programme in very challenging circumstances. I am sure it has provided a great source of intellectual stimulation and human contact for many people. I am convinced that we can use this experience to enable more members across the county to stay connected with the Society in the future.

In the meantime, I hope that you are enjoying these late summer days and I very much look forward to meeting you in the autumn.

Katherine

Debbie Watson

Writing about yourself is not the easiest thing to do, but here goes.

Nearly Devonian, but not quite. I was born in Hampshire when England won the World Cup. Devon, well, Plymouth to be specific, is definitely my home. I nearly escaped once, but when asked by my father ‘where would you live if you could live anywhere in the world?’, Plymouth was my answer (after a short pause). Why wouldn’t I want to live somewhere that was on the coast, seven miles from Dartmoor, minutes from the countryside, a short drive to the city (when I really need to), and full of great, great history.

In 1997 I couldn’t believe my luck. I was offered the post of Archives Assistant at the Plymouth and West Devon Record Office. I was pretty naïve about the role before I went for my interview. I thought I would be retrieving files for council officials and putting them back again. When I discovered the treasures held there and that I would be hopefully helping to look after them and make them available to the public for research, I was thrilled.

For over twenty years it was an absolute joy and privilege to be working with these wonderful collections. I gradually worked my way up through the ranks and qualified as an archivist in 2016. Over three years prior to the move to The Box, I stock-checked almost the entire strong room and saw virtually every document; not many can say that. Even after that length of time, I discovered many historic documents that I didn’t know we had.

I would say that cataloguing to enhance access to the collections was probably my favourite professional duty, and, as a by-product, lots of palaeography (something I like to do just for fun). Being part of a small team, the role was very varied – from



Debbie Watson

dealing with depositors, to day-to-day budget management and even weeding the car-park and building shelves.

After twenty-two years, the time had come to take the leap and try working for myself as a self-employed researcher and archivist (DW Research & Archive Services). This was something I had been considering on and off for quite some time, and I didn't want to regret not trying. It has been quite a steep learning curve (especially learning about marketing), but so worth it. I have met some wonderful people and had some really interesting research projects. The record office closing for the move to The Box and the Covid outbreak haven't helped, but I have kept working throughout, thanks to fantastic cataloguing by many archive services and digitised collections. When time allows, a decent walk discovering new hidden places is always on the cards, and of course I share these discoveries with my Twitter and Facebook followers. Sharing our heritage with the wider audience is just instinctive.

I am now in my third year of sole trading and can't wait to see what research gems come my way.

Debbie Watson

Editorial

I promised myself I would leave out the lachrymose valedictory from my final edition of the Devon History News. But there is a minor itch I have to scratch just slightly, to mark a period of work in an organisation I hold in great esteem.

Saying farewell to the Newsletter is a bitter-sweet experience. I was nominated to Council in 2014 on the basis that there was a job waiting to be done, to take forward the work of the late Chris Jago, who launched the Newsletter in February 2008 and Ann Bond who took it on from 2011-2014. So I joined knowing that this was heading my way. I have edited and produced newsletters of various types on quite a few previous occasions, and I anticipated the customary struggle to get copy and pictures in from contributors in time for regular publication deadlines. You may imagine my surprise (and delight) to discover that there was unfailing help at hand from colleagues on Council and their contacts – and I have been supported by what has often come close to an editorial team. The prospect of being able to concentrate on production issues rather than endless copy chasing, suddenly opened up the potential for a more rewarding experience as editor. And that's how it turned out, and for that reason it has been a genuine pleasure to serve members in the more immediate and informal way of the Newsletter. Any success is largely due to my colleagues on council over the seven years of my tenure, whose names often appear in the pages of edition numbers 13 – 28. To all those who contributed, my deep thanks, in particular to Dr. Julia Neville, who I hope will excuse my more public thanks for her never-quiet pen, and irrepressible enthusiasm to write about Devon's History.

I think the most important change I have made to the News is to bring about the transition from a printed paper document to a digital document. This has been a painful change, for me as much as anyone – my entire professional life in graphic design was in paper based documents, and leaving that behind was not a joyful process. In the end though, the ludicrously unbalanced cost-benefit arguments for paper vs digital, when viewed in the context of an organisation which was the size and shape of the DHS, made it inevitable in an

age of austerity, that we should effect the change. I should add that it was hard for Council too, to enact the change over – paper documents are just more real for most of us. Which is why The Devon Historian, I believe, will ever be a paper entity. Maybe if the DHS becomes wealthy beyond current imaginings, paper could return for the News – that will be for members to decide.

On the brighter side, I am also much excited about the future of the News, which will now be in the hands of a professional archivist and local historian who has contacts far and wide in Devon's historical community. Brian Carpenter will be able to rethink what the News does and what opportunities the digital format offers to improve the interface and dialogue with members and affiliates. There is a lot to be considered and much work to be done. The DHS was conceived as an educational mission to engage communities in thoughtful and interesting historical work in and about their own localities in Devon. Its own early history was closely linked with the (long gone) extra mural department of the University of Exeter, and the WEA. It pushed back against exclusivity in historical research and sought to popularise local records as a source of undiscovered histories. Long may that continue.

The DHS is still a child in the grown up world of Social Media, and in that area I am entirely unqualified to make proper use of its potential – in that sense I am relieved to let the burden fall elsewhere. So here's my very best to Brian, in the confident hope he will have as much pleasure as I did editing Devon History News and will lead it into new pastures and wider acclaim.

Chris Wakefield

Update from the Devon Heritage Centre

After the third national lockdown in the early months of 2021, the Devon Heritage Centre once again reopened in April, and, since then, everything has gone relatively smoothly. We remain open three days per week (Tuesday-Thursday), with a one hour lunchtime closure to allow the searchroom to be cleaned. Although since Monday 19th July users have no longer been mandated to wear face coverings, we strongly encourage people visiting the public areas to do so and compliance with this request has been very good.

The Archives and Local Studies Service is very pleased to support the *Devon in the 1920s* project. So far this has chiefly been through catering for researchers' visits to the Heritage Centre searchroom, but we are currently embarking on a new element of involvement which promises to be interesting and enlightening to everyone involved.

I have been working with my colleague John French, a Learning Officer based at the Somerset Heritage Centre in Taunton, on a DVD which will be circulated among care homes throughout Devon. Valuable additional input is being provided by Julia Neville, the *Devon in the 1920s* Project Manager, and George Coxon, who has worked in the care sector for many years and is the owner of homes in Exminster and Teignmouth.

The DVD will feature archivists and museum curators from the South West Heritage Trust talking about photographs and documents from Devon's archive and local studies collections, and objects from the collections of the Museum of Somerset. The DVD is intended to be used by care home staff as part of reminiscence sessions with residents, and will expand upon the work carried out in homes by staff from the Somerset and Devon archive services, who regularly take 'reminiscence boxes' into homes.

Selection of material to use has begun, and we will be drawing heavily on the collection of photographs from the 1920s which the DHS has accrued as part of the project.

The DVD will be issued to a small number of care homes before the end of 2021 to enable feedback and evaluation, before being more widely distributed in 2022.

I have also been involved in an innovative project to create a website and app which will enable children at two primary schools in Torquay – Ellacombe and Warberry – to find out more about famous people with connections to Torbay. This has come about as a result of a partnership between the South West Heritage Trust and the University of Exeter, which has generously provided the funding.

We are also currently planning some events to take place this autumn at the Devon Heritage Centre and the North Devon Record Office which will tie in with our participation in the British Library's *Unlocking Our Sound Heritage* project, which is digitising recorded sound archives from throughout the United Kingdom. Details of these will be available via the South West Heritage Trust website (www.swheritage.org.uk) very soon.

I look forward to bringing a further update to members in early 2022, when I will be the new Editor of the newsletter.

Brian Carpenter

Devon Archives and Local Studies Service

South West Heritage Trust

Devon in the 1920s

Project Update August 2021

Our Launch and First Events

During the spring and early summer DHS hosted three events held by Zoom. Two of these were aimed at attracting people to join the project and get involved in some of our research: the Launch in April and the introductory Tourism and Leisure event in June. Both were exceptionally well attended, both by researchers and by a general spread of people who are interested in the 1920s and the project though not (yet) committed to research! The third event was an evening seminar, a case study in exploring water supplies to a village, something of considerable importance in the



Harvesting at Barn Close, Kingsteignton , *courtesy Richard Harris*

1920s. Our thanks are owed to all those who gave their time to preparing the fantastic range of inputs we had to those events.

Our Researchers

As a result of those events, publicity in DHS News and via our Affiliated Societies, we now have a well-established body of researchers – nearly sixty people actively engaged, and we also have benefited from a number of one-off contacts by people with information, family histories, or other notes about their communities, or who have pointed me to websites with interesting and relevant content. I hope such information-sharing will continue.

Headline Topics for Research

Initial discussion of the themes of the project with researchers has highlighted a set of workstreams already under way. The list below summarizes the areas we plan to cover.

Legacy of the First World War

- Provision for ex-servicemen and families – tackling ill-health, tackling unemployment, providing for orphans, providing social support
- Housing – homes fit for heroes (or not)

Growing Up

- Education – schools, teachers & managers, school medical services
- Beyond the School Gate – play, sport, entertainment, outings, first jobs

Rural Life

- Landownership, estates and changing communities
- Farming and agricultural education

Progress and Technology

- Transport in all its forms (we look forward to launching this in Newton's Place, Newton Abbot, on 23rd April next year)
- Design and Technology, both industrial and domestic

Tourism and Leisure

- Development of tourism in the country and on the coast; the different emphases put by different places on their attractions
- Spending spare time: gardens and allotments; sports and clubs; the Women's Institute; the cinema and the wireless.

If any of these areas appeals to you – or if something is missing that you are interested in – do get in touch with me, j.f.neville@btinternet.com .

Aids to Research for the 1920s

Now that access is available again to libraries and archives, I'd like to publicise the very helpful research tools generated by:

- (a) Brian Carpenter of the South West Heritage Trust , covering resources at Devon Heritage Centre, see:

<https://www.archives.swheritage.org.uk/da-ls-research-guides>

- (b) Ian Maxted as part of the Devon Bibliography, in five parts as follows:

- i. [Devon bibliography: Devon in the 1920s. On-line resources. \(devon-bibliography.blogspot.com\)](http://devon-bibliography.blogspot.com)
- ii. [Devon bibliography: Devon Photographs from the 1920s \(devon-bibliography.blogspot.com\)](http://devon-bibliography.blogspot.com)
- iii. [Devon bibliography: Devon in the 1920s. Periodical articles. \(devon-bibliography.blogspot.com\)](http://devon-bibliography.blogspot.com)
- iv. [Devon bibliography: Devon in the 1920s. Manuscripts and typescripts. \(devon-bibliography.blogspot.com\)](http://devon-bibliography.blogspot.com)
- v. [Devon bibliography: Devon bibliography: 1920-1929 \(devon-bibliography.blogspot.com\)](http://devon-bibliography.blogspot.com)

The project's thanks are most definitely owed to both of them for all their hard work on this. You may enjoy browsing the resources even if you are not one of our researchers.

2025 – Festival of Devon in the 1920s

It's not too early to think about the culmination of the project and what we hope to share, so I have also been initiating (or rather, resuming post lock-down) contacts with some of Devon's museums and heritage centres to ask if they would be interested in collaborating over a Festival of Devon in the 1920s during the summer season of 2025. Responses so far have been very positive. If you belong to a group or organization

who you think might be interested in participating in a project for the Festival, again, please get in touch.

Finally ...

The National Lottery Heritage Fund awarded DHS a grant last year for extending engagement on the Devon in the 1920s project. Lockdown rendered our plans unviable, but the NLHF were sympathetic to our proposal to change the terms of the grant. I'm pleased to say that, in conjunction with South West Heritage Trust, we are preparing a reminiscence DVD for use in care homes using images and words from the project. Brian Carpenter describes this in more detail elsewhere.

Collecting Family Histories – More Pins on the map

The markers on our map of Devon showing the family histories we have collected has been expanding. There are a few more in the files awaiting posting, but if you know of anyone else whose family we could feature, please do get in touch.

One of the histories shared in the past few months came from Nancy Frey in Ontario, Canada. Nancy wrote about her family, the Rodgmans, who ran a tailoring business in North Street, Ashburton. Freddie, Nancy's grand-father, with several other members of the family, had emigrated to Canada in 1913. Like many British expatriates he joined up to defend the mother country during the First World War and so found himself back in England in 1914. The girl he was to marry, Mabel, whom he had met in Toronto, followed him and the two were married in Ashburton during 1915.

After the war, in the early 1920s, Freddie, took a further qualification as a cutter at the West End School of Cutting in London, and he and Mabel lived for several years away from the family in Skipton in Yorkshire. In 1924 they came back to Ashburton where the Rodgman tailoring business was still going strong under Frederick senior, and Freddie went back to work with his father.



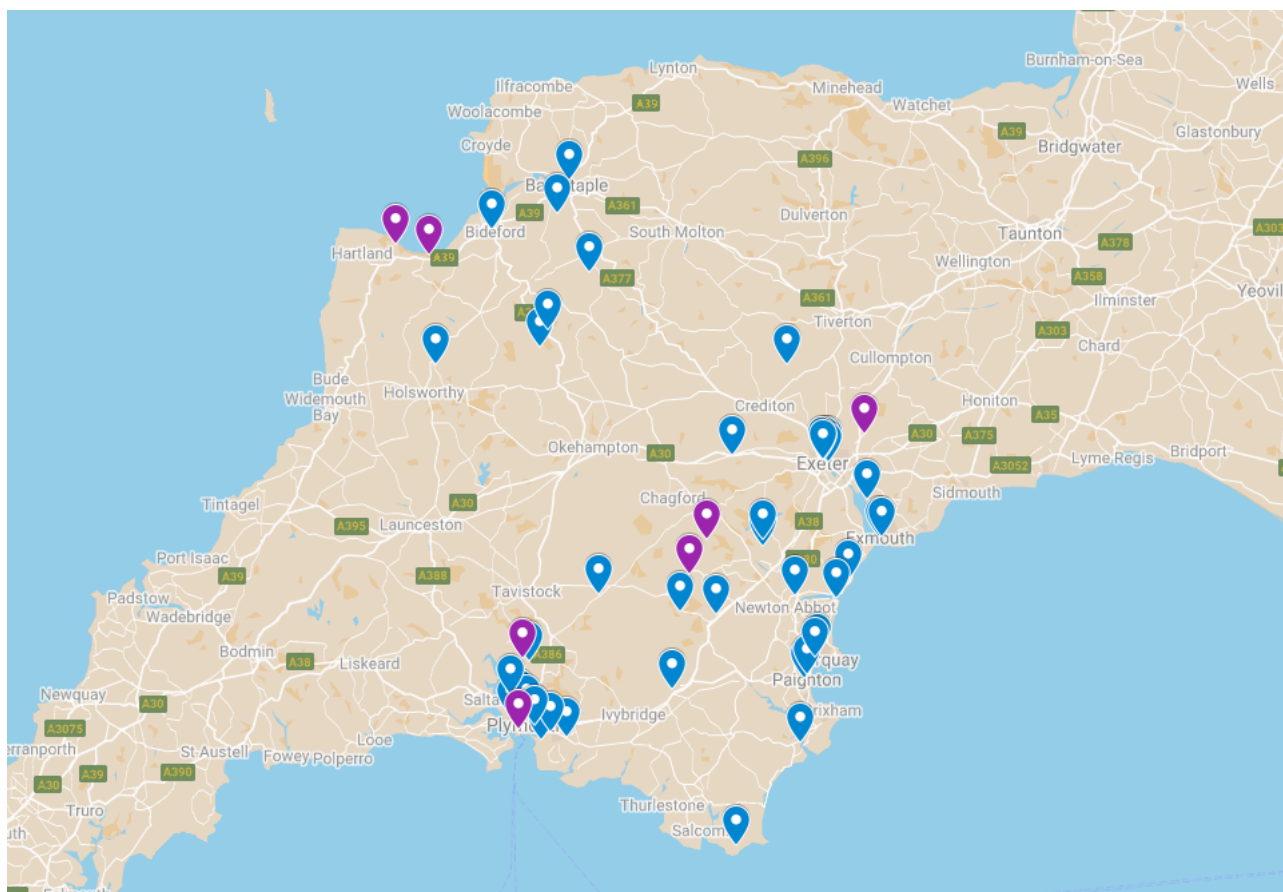
Freddie Rodgman dressed as a tramp -
Ashburton Carnival 1928

They lived initially 'over the shop' as did the senior Rodgmans, but with the three children Elsie (known as Billie), Edgar and Charlie this was probably only ever intended as a temporary arrangement. By 1926 Fred, Mabel and the family had moved to 2 Roborough Terrace.

Nancy has provided us with some great photos of the family. The one featured here shows Freddie dressed up as a tramp for the Ashburton carnival – an event in which all the family participated with gusto.

After a few years back in the family business Freddie and Mabel decided that life in Canada was more appealing. Mabel, who had been brought up as a Canadian, had never really settled in Ashburton. In 1929 they left their home and their family business and sailed off to resume their life in Canada.

A new development of the map is to use it to show



Devon in the 1920s family histories location map at
<https://www.devonhistorysociety.org.uk/research/devon-in-the-1920s/>

‘Notable Devonians’, people who had a national reputation, or one wider than in their own Devon locality. These people are marked on the map with purple pins rather than blue ones. If you would like to suggest anyone we should be pinning on the map, please send your suggestions, together with the details of their address in the 1920s, to Julia Neville, j.f.neville@btinternet.com

Devon in the 1920s Autumn Programme

On Saturday 13th November the Devon in the 1920s Project will be the launch of the ‘Beyond the School Gate’ strand of work, part of our research into ‘Growing Up in the 1920s’. This will be an open event – all welcome – held over Zoom and lasting from 10.00 to 12.15. The detailed programme will be listed in the poster on the Devon History Society website, but will feature introductions to research on children and young people at work (Helen Turnbull and Anne Corry), children’s leisure activities (Ros Leveridge, Tom Browne and Karen Moore) and childhood disability and illness (Julia Neville).

We will also be featuring during the autumn some ‘Expert Witness’ seminars designed specifically for those undertaking research for the project. They provide a general overview of a specific topic which might be of use in different areas of research. They’ll be held by Zoom on the first Thursday of the month at 19.00.



‘The Outing’ (Courtesy Ipplepen Local History Group)

David Parker will lead on Education in the 1920s on 7 October; Julia Neville & Kevin Dixon on Health and Social Care in the 1920s on 4 November, and John Boughton (best known in his ‘Municipal Dreams’ blog) on 2 December. Numbers for these sessions are limited, but open booking will be allowed once our active researchers have had first chance to book in.

j.f.neville@btinternet.com

DHS Bursaries – Devon in the 1920s

Bursaries for a three months’ subscription to the British Newspaper Library Archive to assist in research for the Devon in the 1920s project were awarded in Spring 2021 to:

Anne Goulborn of the Valiant Soldier in Buckfastleigh for a project on Health and Welfare in Buckfastleigh

Penny Lawrence for a project on the Hemyock Calf Club

Rosalind Leveridge for a project on Entertainment in Devon. Rosalind has started with a case study of Torquay

Karen Moore for a project on Swimming in Plymouth. (*See Karen’s separate note below*)

Devon History Society is offering similar bursaries for Autumn 2021. We know archives are reopening, though still not as fully accessible as before lockdown, but local newspapers are a key source for local history in the 1920s. If you are already engaged in a project for which a newspaper search would complement work already done, or if you are hoping to start one soon, please do apply.

Applicants, who need not be members of Devon History Society, should send their proposals to Julia Neville, the Devon in the 1920s Project Manager. The application should be no longer than 1000 words. It should set out the area and aim of their proposed research, and how use of the British Newspaper Archive will further their project.

The successful applicants will be required to provide within three months of the end of the subscription a referenced report on their chosen topic for the Devon in the 1920s project library. If the research leads to a further publication, the applicant should acknowledge the grant and provide a copy of that publication.

Applications should be made by email to **Julia Neville**, j.f.neville@btinternet.com and be received no later than 10 September 2021. Any queries should also be raised with me.

Julia Neville *Devon in the 1920s Project Manager*

Devon in the 1920s Research Project

Bursaries: Karen Moore

I was interested when I saw the project Devon in the 1920s advertised as one of the areas of research was holiday and leisure. I am an independent researcher and a Social History postgraduate with an interest in local history in particular swimming in Plymouth. I researched the history of swimming in Plymouth (1851-1951) for my MA Social History Dissertation with Plymouth University in 2010 but due to the time restriction for submission and the word count I was limited in the information I could find for this period. I knew there was more to be researched beyond this and have been collating information as I come across it ever since on an ad-hoc basis, so, I was pleased and grateful when I was successful in my application for the research bursary of access to The British Newspaper Archives available from the Devon History Society.

Local research would have been drawn from the resources available in the as was, Plymouth and West Devon Records Office, but that had been closed as they prepared to move to the new museum, art gallery and archive in The Box. This was due to open in May 2020 but due to covid restrictions this was delayed until September 2020. With restrictions in accessing the records held, using The British Newspaper Archive has enabled my research to progress and develop and I have been able to uncover more information regarding the 1920s.

This was a highly active period for swimming in Plymouth, the newspaper archive articles have enabled me to establish the swimming clubs that were active during this period and the events they were involved in. There were also key campaigns such as the provision of a purpose-built swimming pool, the suggested site of which from newspaper reports was an interesting location, not the well-known iconic Tinside location. I have also been able to see reports of swimming activity by the clubs as this was widely reported, including the emergence of ladies' sections. The argument for mixed bathing being discussed and the reporting of swimmers being involved in rescuing people from swimming accidents and incidents.



Swimming weather? Karen Moore at the Plymouth Lido

Due to the timeframe being researched, there are very few individuals still alive now who lived through the 1920s, so oral history interviews are very rare. The opportunity to use The British Newspaper Archive has given me an opportunity to have a much wider understanding of the swimming clubs with the individual voices of members coming through in the newspaper reports.

The research I have undertaken has also given me the opportunity to be involved with wider aspects of the project as swimming was a popular activity with children, so I will be able to contribute to the section of the project looking at childhood in the 1920s as well.

I attended the online launch of the project in April and the presentations regarding tourism and leisure in June. I found both very interesting, the contribution of other researchers was very helpful as several subject areas overlapped and with further reading or sourcing recommended by them, including some relevant tourist guides and directories that give a clear picture of the facilities available during this period.

I would thoroughly recommend anyone who is interested to apply for the bursary as it has given me an opportunity to source a whole new avenue of information and knowledge. I am now compiling my research to produce a report that will contribute to the wider project.

Karen Moore

Affiliates News

Newton St Cyres History Group

The Group has managed some activity during the covid crisis.

Two publications were produced in the middle of 2020. The first, by the late Stella Cork, was entitled 'Newton St Cyres in the 1940s and 50s: Memories of the Postmaster's Daughter' and the second, by Jean Wilkins, dealt with an earlier period - 'Newton St Cyres and the Civil War 1642-46'. These are available for £5 each from Jean on 01392 851337.

Towards the end of 2020 our Group was active in the formation of Crediton Area History Zoom. This is coordinated by Libraries Unlimited in Crediton and also involves the Crediton Area History and Museum Society, Crediton U3A History Group and Sandford Heritage Group. A series of six meetings was held at monthly intervals from December to May. These were well supported and included a talk by Julia Neville on the 1920s project that is being coordinated through DHS.

In a move towards normality, our first face-to-face meeting was held on 14 July. This was outdoors and looked at and discussed different features of the churchyard and the outside of the church in Newton St Cyres, with the title 'Some Observations from the Graveyard'. Short contributions were made by several members of the Group, led by Brian Please.

Our winter programme has not yet been finalised, but is likely to involve both zoom and physical meetings.

Roger Wilkins

Lympstone History Society

Like everyone else we had to cancel most of our 2020/21 programme of talks, and a WWIi exhibition has now been postponed twice. Despite this, we did manage to keep ticking over with our regular newsletters and a couple of zoom talks for our members. We have also been able to respond to archive requests thanks to the digitising of some of our items, although we still have a long way to go! Some projects - oral histories for example - had to be postponed, but others have continued: our 'Boards Project' (which has evolved into a project using QR codes instead of bulky interpretation boards) should be completed in the coming year. One new project arose out of the pandemic in response to a rather empty monthly 'Lympstone Herald', and we have been submitting monthly local history items with the help of committee members and a number of local residents - a great opportunity to get more local history down on paper and put in the public domain.

Yelverton and District Local History Society

We ran a series of successful and well attended talks on the Zoom platform in the early part of the year and have been continuing with 3 outdoor walks during the summer. We are now hoping that we can return to our usual haunt in Meavy Parish Hall for our full programme of autumn talks, starting in September. Full details of these can be found on our new website www.yelvertonhistory.co.uk

Way of the Wharves News, Bideford

As with most charities and voluntary groups the last 18 months have been difficult with many activities cancelled. We're now starting a programme of events focused at our community for 2021 and beyond.

Walk the Wharves Heritage Maps reprinted and available free from Tourist Information, Walter Henrys bookshop, Royal Hotel and other outlets

Regular guided walks around East-the-Water every Tuesday during summer. Starting from Tourist Information, The Burton 1030. Duration 1.5 hours not more than 3miles distance. Rain or shine. Numbers limit 10. First come first served.

Bank Holiday Monday 30 August we will be joining ss Freshspring (www.ssfreshspring.co.uk) on Landvisau Walk, Bideford celebrating their 75th birthday and maritime heritage. The ship will be open to visitors and WOTW will have a stand to promote our activities.

A number of local groups have booked walks and talks for later in the year

Re-development of wharves site on Barnstaple Street has started with test bore holes and archeology. Main contractor not expected on site until Spring 2022. Regular updates on our Facebook page (@Brunswick Wharf) and in our newsletter. To sign up to the mailing list please mail wotw.wharves@gmail.com

The delay on other activities did give time to write our book on the History of East-the-Water to be published later this year. Watch this space.

website www.thewharves.org

Reviews

Rosemary Howell, *Splendid Fun : The Story of One Hundred Years of Devon Girl Guides* (Ivybridge: self-published, 2019) 407 pages. Illustrations. Hardback. ISBN 978-0-9559393-1-0. £15.

This book has only recently come to my notice, and although it was published in 2019 I think it does deserve to be brought to the notice of DHS members. In her foreword to *Splendid Fun*, former Chief Guide Gill Slocombe sums up:

Splendid Fun can be enjoyed by anyone, it gives a unique opportunity to glimpse the history and evolution of Guiding against the changing backdrop of society. . . Rosemary Howell has vividly traced the path of the organisation in Devon, from its beginnings up to the present, through the linking of events and individual accounts she illustrates its development, as well as the tremendous support and commitment of all those involved.

It is clear that *Splendid Fun* is a labour of love for Rosemary Howell. She has been a Girl Guide for most of her life, and County Commissioner for Devon from 1978 to 1987. Her book celebrates one hundred years of the Girl Guides in Devon. The very useful timeline at the back of the book tells us that the first Girl Guide company in Devon was started in Exmouth in 1910, but the author does not provide any details on this in the main text. The first chapter 'The Beginning', tells the colourful story of the Girl Guide movement, inspired by the formation of the Boy Scouts by Robert Baden-Powell in 1908. In September 1909 a group of girls turned up, uninvited, at the

first big rally of the Boy Scouts at the Crystal Palace, wearing Scout hats and scarves and carrying staves, demanding to be inspected by Baden-Powell. When he realised they were serious he turned to his sister, Agnes, and together they wrote *Girl Guides: a suggestion for character training for girls* (1909). This was followed by *The Handbook of the Girl Guides, or How Girls can help Build Up the Empire*, written in 1912 by Olave, Baden-Powell's wife.

In 1914, Lady Jane Clinton became first County Commissioner for Devon. Howell describes how the movement spread over Devon, in Exeter, Tiverton, and in Plymouth, instigated by Lady Astor. Local Division Commissioners were often the wives of important Devon landowners like Lady Amory, who would throw open the grounds of Knightshayes for camping and other outdoor activities. During the First World War Devon guides seized the opportunity to “do their bit” for the war effort, knitting socks and balaclavas, opening soup kitchens, working in hospitals, farms and dairies, all activities which could earn them a War Service Badge.

The author highlights the founding of the Sea Rangers in 1920 for girls interested in all activities related to the sea, rivers and canals. Between the wars Devon guides were busy getting involved in community projects, attending camps and meetings all over the world, receiving visits from guides from many different countries, and welcoming Royal visitors to Devon guide camps and events. The Second World War gave the guides further opportunities for service of a similar nature to those undertaken during the First World War, and Howell then devotes successive chapters to the post-war years up to 2010, the most memorable years being 1982, when the new county campsite at Taw Bottom was opened, which was to feature in many of the guiding activities outlined by the author, and 1983, when Devon Girl Guides hosted a three-day visit by the Chief Commissioner, Lady Baden-Powell. In the years following, they continued to go from strength to strength, until 2010, their centenary year, which marks the end of the book. There follow numerous assorted photographs of guiding activities in Devon over the years, which are of varying quality and interest. The book concludes with a selection of personal reminiscences contributed by ex-guides, lists of County Commissioners, Patrons and Presidents, and an index of names only.

I hesitate to recommend this book to the general DHS reader, because it is essentially written for, and of interest to, Devon guides and ex-guides, who will enjoy revisiting past times when they had “splendid fun”. The book may also be of some interest to those who are researching the development of twentieth-century youth movements.

Mitzi Auchterlonie.

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John Marsh and His Visits to Devon

Members will be pleased to know that Ian Graham-Jones has published a revised version of his pamphlet of 2018 which contained an annotated edition of John Marsh's diary extracts relating to Devon. The pamphlet is entitled *John Marsh (1752-1828), Diarist, Composer, Writer: an Account of His Visits to Devon in 1779, 1792 and 1820 from the John Marsh Journals*.

John Marsh's diaries contain 6,700 pages in 37 volumes and recount his life from his earliest memories until a fortnight before his death with a short appendix by his son

Edward recounting his last days. An abbreviated version of the diaries concentrating of Marsh's musical activities was published in two volumes by Brian Robins between 1998 and 2013, but this pamphlet gives instead the full version of Marsh's three visits to Devon with a good introduction and useful annotations which identify nearly all the many people whom Marsh met.

The diaries give an excellent insight into the world populated by Jane Austen's characters: intelligent, gregarious, well-educated, middle-class men and women who loved visiting resorts, going to entertainments such as concerts and the theatre and who enjoyed walks and the "delightful views" they afforded. The diaries also give an insight into the difficulties of travelling and of finding suitable accommodation. Marsh was an excellent organist and was keen to try the organs in the cathedrals and major churches of the towns he visited, so there is much musical information as well.

As for the Devon places Marsh describes, these include Exeter in 1779, Sidmouth, Exmouth, Exeter and Plymouth in 1792, and Heavitree, Exeter, Dawlish, Powderham, and Teignmouth in 1820 with an excursion to Torquay, Totnes, Berry Pomeroy and Ashburton.

Copies of the pamphlet are available from Ian Graham-Jones, Lower Beer, East Town, Kenton, Exeter, EX6 8NH.

Paul Auchterlonie

Exeter: Birthplace of the Skeleton Army

Prompted by the appearance of the Woodbury snippet on the Skeleton Army in the last edition of the News, I am grateful for the following account from Major Nigel Bovey of The Salvation Army.

WEST Street, at the bottom of Exeter's Stepcote Hill, is steeped in history. It is known for the 15th-century 'House That Moved' and the Matthew the Miller clock aloft St Mary Minor Church. It has a third claim to fame. It was here on Sunday 2 October 1881 that the Skeleton Army first appeared on British streets. Its mission was to destroy The Salvation Army.

[Historical note: There are claims – in print and online – that the Skeleton Army started in Weston-super-Mare. My research uncovers the first contemporary press mention of Skeletons in Weston as 23 March 1882, some six months after their appearance in Exeter.]

Based in an old Temperance Hall in Friars' Walk, the 142nd corps (or 'church') of The Salvation Army held its first public worship meeting on Sunday 10 April 1881 under the leadership of Captain Abraham Davey. Five hundred people attended. Davey had moved from Portsmouth, where he had faced opposition from troublemakers. As in any conflict, there is a context.

The Salvation Army was founded in 1865 by itinerant Methodist preacher William Booth, who sensed a strong calling to reach out to those beyond church walls. He preached in East End gutters and packed dance halls and skating rinks. People responded to his gospel message. Many of them turned their backs on Mother's Ruin.

In 1878, Booth changed the name of his organisation from Christian Mission to The Salvation Army. His followers adopted a quasi-military uniform and preached in the

roughest parts of town. The Army targeted those who sought solace in drink, offering them a more liberating lifestyle through faith in Christ. Hundreds responded and saw their lives transformed. Publicans and brewers were hit in the pocket and decided to hit back.

In Basingstoke, on Sunday 20 March 1881, a 1,000-strong brewery-financed gang called the Massagainsians clashed with Salvationists in the Battle of Church Square. The Salvationists received a severe beating – blood, black eyes and broken bones. William Booth wrote to the Home Secretary, asking for police protection and for the magistrates to deal with perpetrators. His case was not helped by the fact that a number of Basingstoke's magistrates were brewers or publicans.

The biggest existentialist threat to The Salvation Army came from the Skeleton Army. Over the next 13 years, the spark lit in West Street would catch to some 70 other towns and villages across the UK.

The Exeter and Plymouth Gazette Daily Telegrams (3 October 1881) broke the story, with 'Skeleton Army' seemingly appearing in newsprint for the first time:

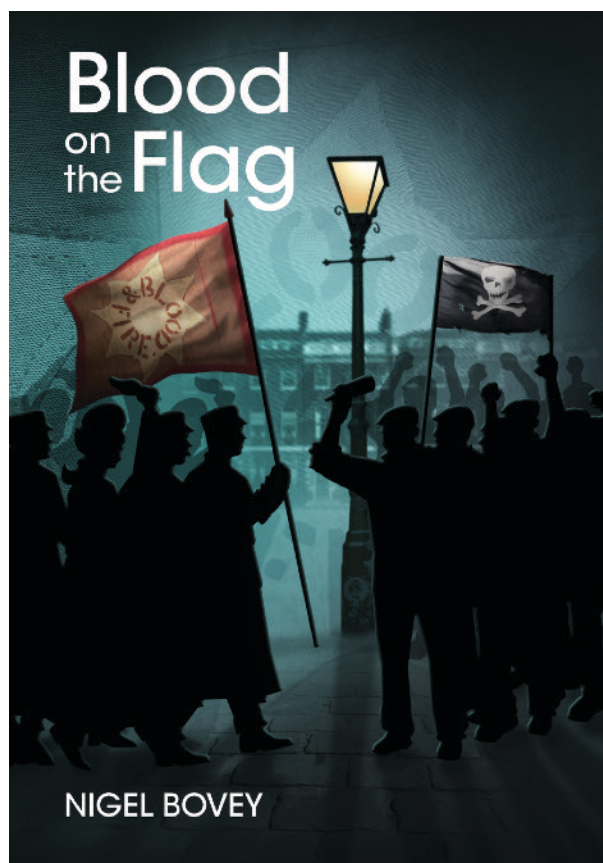
'Yesterday afternoon the Salvationists paraded the streets with their "colours" flying, and in the course of their march passed through West Street, where they were confronted by the "Skeleton Army" – a corps composed of very substantial numbers, all evidently antagonistic to "Captain" Davey and his followers. From the time the two "armies" met, "scrimmages" followed until the Salvation corps reached their head-quarters, into which they retreated.'

Ahead of the following Sunday, the Skeleton Army is recruiting, as the EPGDT reports:

'Cards had been freely distributed in those localities where it was known that they would be well received, inviting those who were members of the "Army", or who it was presumed would be willing to enlist, to attend "A Council of War," to be held on the Ballast Quay. The cards have the heading, "Skeleton Army" and "Death or Glory Boys," and the time fixed for the "parade" was half-past seven o'clock.'

The reporter then describes the Skeleton Army flag, uniform and personnel:

'Here the banner of the "Army" was unfurled, and it was resolved to have a march out. The banner must have cost a trifle, for it is well set up in imitation of that of the Salvationists. In colour it is red, and in the centre is painted a shield with the motto, "Stand like the brave" and above the shield there is a skull and cross bones. Those who appeared to be the leaders of the army were not individuals of prepossessing



The full story – see the authors information at the end of this article



Exeter's blood-stained flag – Ken Bovey BEM

appearance, and may be briefly described as roughs, while the soldiers for the most part consisted of young fellows and lads, ready, apparently, for any mischief. Many wore, either on their arms or caps, badges with the words “Skeleton Army”.’

On Sunday 10 October, the Skeletons undertake a three-mile recruitment march across Exeter, calling in at pubs en route. By the time they reach the Salvation Army hall, there are hundreds of men ready to break into – and break up – the church. Davey sends for help. The police arrive. The mob disperses. The city fathers seek solutions.

The Mayor, Alderman Walter Pring – co-owner of Norman and Pring that runs the City Brewery in Commercial Road – writes to Davey warning that prosecutions would follow if processions do not stop. They stop.

By March 1882, The Salvation Army

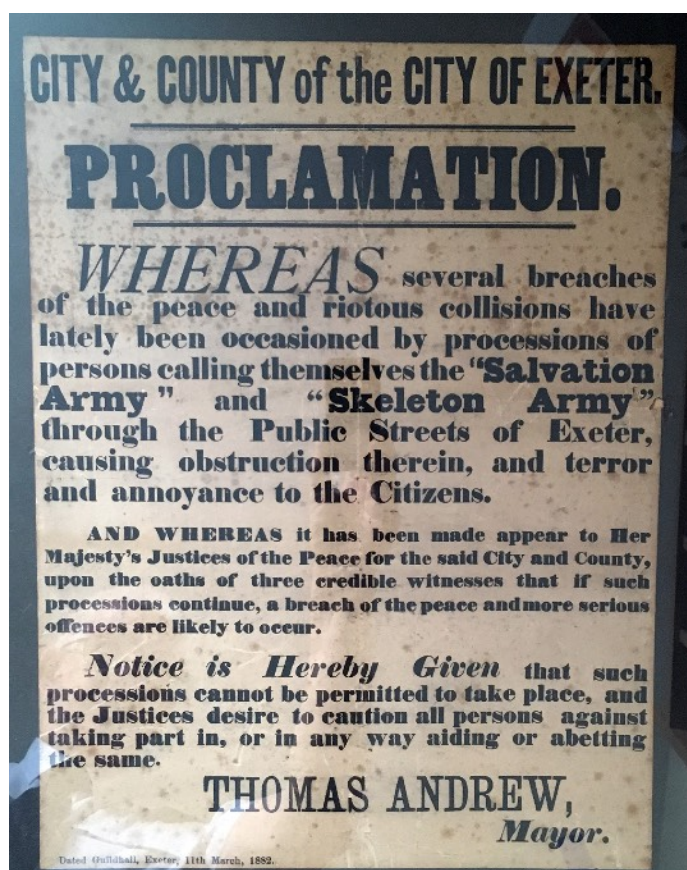
has a new leader, Captain John Trenhail, and the city has a new mayor and chief magistrate, Alderman Thomas Andrew. Trenhail recommences processions and is met by ‘the Skeleton recruits, who hustled the Salvationists, sang counter songs, and threw bags of flour and salt at them’ (Western Times 15 March).

Fearing further breaches of the peace, Andrew issues a mayoral declaration banning processions by both armies.

The following day, Trenhail responds by holding an open-air service in Alphington Street, south of the Exe, where the City police have no jurisdiction. That afternoon, in twos and threes, Salvationists gather for an outdoor service in Cowick Street. There to meet them is a crowd of 100 youths. During the service, a drunk knocks Trenhail to the ground and scuffling erupts. The Salvationists head for their hall.

As they cross Exe Bridge, they are confronted by a crowd of 500 men coming down from the city side. They pelt the Salvationist with mud and beat them with sticks. They threaten to throw a young Salvationist lad into the river. A handful of policemen try to break up the disturbance. By the time the Salvationists reach their hall for their Sunday afternoon service, the baying mob has reached 3,000. Trenhail, meanwhile, is arrested and locked up.

News of the disturbances reaches Parliament. That Thursday, the Home Secretary, Sir William Harcourt, faces questions about the apparent lack of police protection for



Mayor Andrew's declaration banning processions by The Salvation Army and the Skeleton Army in Exeter – Nigel Bovey

Salvationists. Harcourt replies that the maintenance of peace is the responsibility of justices of the peace not of home secretaries.

The following day, Trenhail stands trial before the City magistrates. Trenhail's barrister argues that the declaration banned processions but not the holding of outdoor services. Quoting the Home Secretary's response, Mayor Andrew tells the court that it is beholden to the magistracy to uphold the peace and that it was their intention that the declaration included open-air preaching. With magisterial opinion divided, Andrew asks Trenhail to desist from outdoor preaching and dismisses the case.

By June 1882, Exeter Salvationists are legally permitted to process the streets and hold open-air services. This does not stop the Skeletons.

On Sunday 18 June, they attack a Salvation Army procession in Sidwell

Street and attempt to snatch the flag that had been presented personally by William Booth. In successful defence of the standard, James Pope is injured and his blood stains the flag.

The legal argument for the recommencement of processions – found in *Beatty v Gillbanks* 1882 – stems from Salvationists' confrontation with the Skeleton Army in Weston-super-Mare.

The 5 April edition of *The Times* reports that Captain William Beatty was one of three Salvationists arrested for causing a breach of the peace, after being attacked by 'a band of roughs calling themselves the "Skeleton Army", who maltreated them and seized and destroyed some of their musical instruments'. Initially, Beatty is found guilty. The appeal is heard in the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court, where Mr Justice Field passes down a landmark principle that still operates today:

'Was it unlawful to do a lawful act merely because others made it the pretence for raising a riot? What right have others to resort to force to prevent persons from doing what is lawful? It would come to this, that persons were to be punished for doing lawful acts merely because it led others to act unlawfully and create a riot. The authorities do not support or justify any such view of the law' (*The Times* 14 June 1882).

The case is dismissed and a legal precedent is set: a legal action does not become illegal due to the illegal actions of a third party. Those wishing to oppose the presence of the growing Salvation Army in their towns will, in time, turn to the law for remedy.

Meanwhile, unholy hostilities have reached lace-making Honiton.

On Sunday 8 October 1882, toll-collector George Wood hosts a service at his house in Little Town. Two female Salvationists from the Exeter corps lead the half-mile procession from the town centre to Wood's house. As the group of Salvationists walk, they are pelted with mud, turnips and other missiles. A crowd of some 100 protestors follows them to Wood's house and forces open the gates. Wood is pelted with mud.

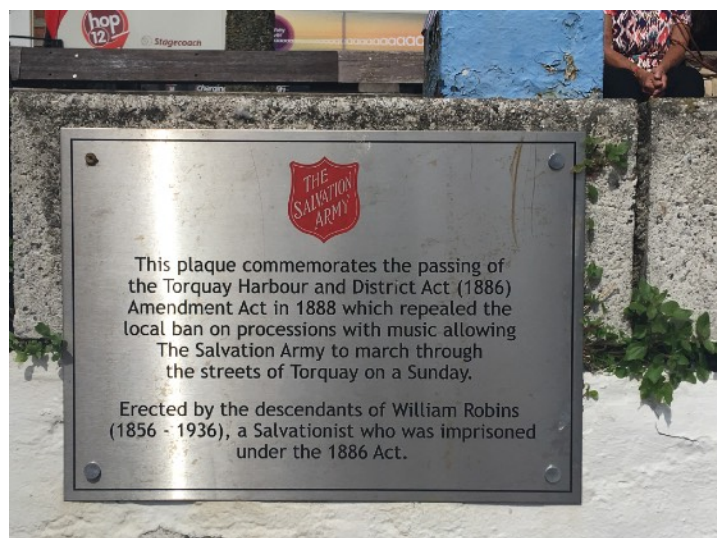
On Sunday 29 October, several hundred people – shouting and singing – follow the Salvationists as they march down High Street, heading for Wood's house. Some of the crowd 'displayed in their hats summonses which had been served in connection with recent assaults on members of the Army'.

At the corner of New Street, the crowd blocks the Salvationists' progress. In the mêlée, several people are trampled on. The mob now numbers some 700. At the

entrance to Union Lane, the crowd demands that the Army stops its processions, and more fighting breaks out.

For the next three months, clashes between Salvationists and Skeletons – reinforced from Ottery St Mary by 50 members of 'The Ottery Light Skirmishers' – becomes a spectator sport with hundreds of people travelling in by foot or train. The Skeletons count two Honiton town councillors, John Spurway and Eli King, among their number.

Honiton is also home to the Skeleton Army's newspaper *The Skeleton*. Priced 1d and published by Hermon C. Clarke of Honiton,



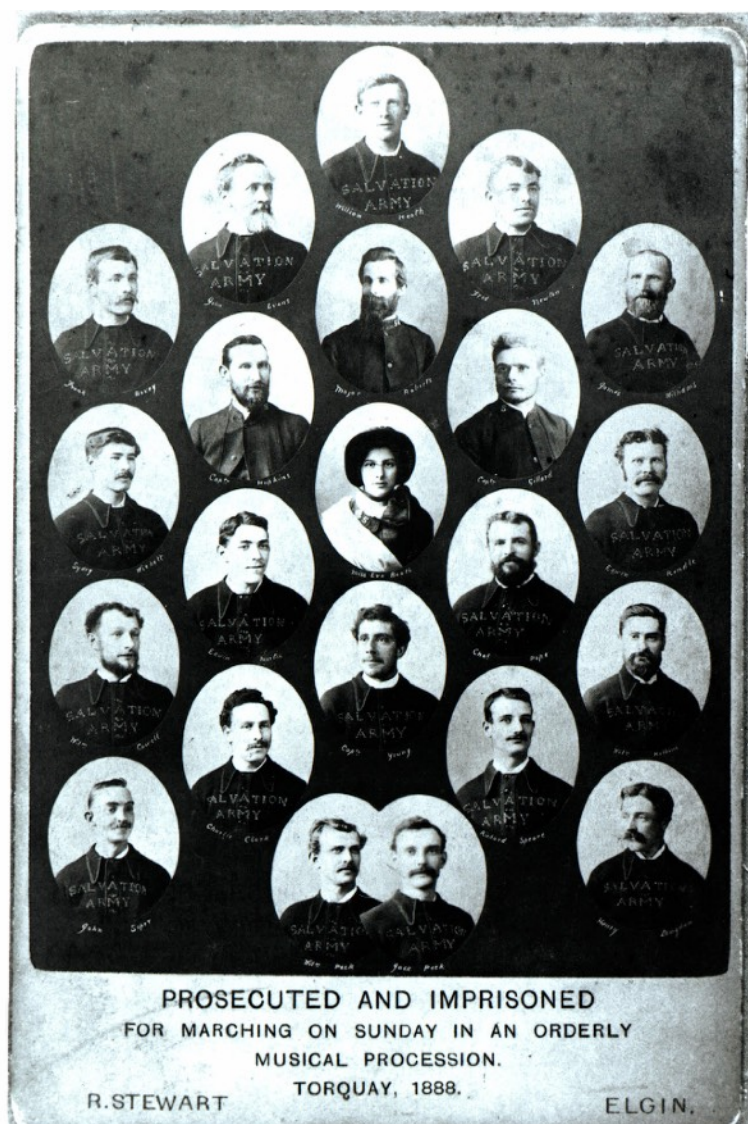
The plaque in Torquay harbour that commemorates the passing of the Torquay Harbour and District Act (1886) Amendment Act 1888, erected in 2018 – Nigel Bovey

the leader of the December issue positions the Skeletons as upholders of moral rectitude:

'You know as well as I do, that our original aim was, and still is, to crush fanaticism, and to uphold the dignity and purity of the borough of Honiton... our whole and sole object is to restore order in Honiton and restore order we will.'

The initial backing of the Skeleton Army comes from a brewing industry that was losing money because converts to The Salvation Army were turning their backs on drink. By the mid 1880s, another industry is feeling the effects of The Salvation Army – tourism.

The arrival of the railways helped turn coastal towns into sought-after health resorts. For London's wealthy set, the likes of Hastings, Eastbourne, Brighton and Worthing



Eva Booth and Devonian Salvationists who were imprisoned in Exeter Prison for marching in Torquay – © The Salvation Army, reprinted with permission.

suddenly became just hours away. Sunday afternoon strolls along the prom were considered a mark of gentility – a marketing selling point that local newspapers were keen to promote.

On Friday 12 September 1884, the Skeleton Army, under the leadership of Captain ‘Numb’ Baker, makes its first attack on Salvationists on Hastings sea front. In response to continued clashes, the town council proposes a Hastings Improvement Bill, which includes the provision ‘to enable the Corporation to deal with the disturbances caused in the streets by the Salvation Army processions’ [sic]. In 1885, Parliament passes the bill and those wishing to ban Salvationists from the streets have a potential legal recourse.

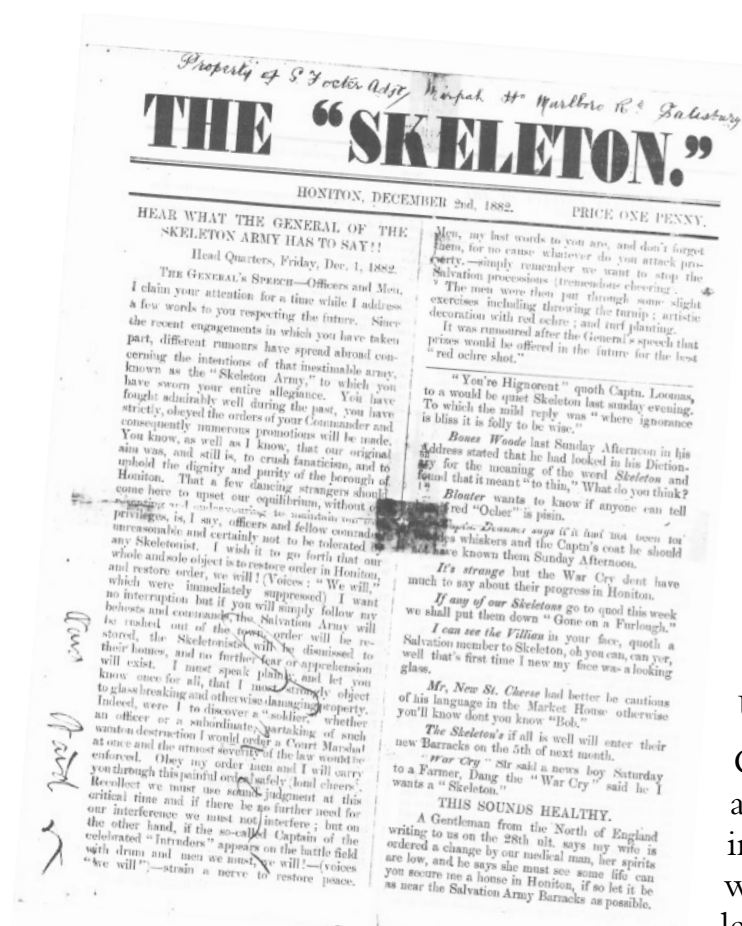
By 1888, there are only two accounts of new Skeleton activity. Both of them are in Devon. (Other Devonshire locations that saw Skeleton disturbances include Crediton,

Plympton, Woodbury and Great Torrington.) While an encounter in Uffculme gleans only passing press mention, the story of Torquay is headlines news.

With similar intent to their colleagues in Eastbourne and Hastings, Torquay councillors get a clause inserted into the Torquay Harbour and District Act that bans non-military musical processions on a Sunday. From January to April, Salvationists are regularly fined or imprisoned for marching and/or playing music in defiance of the Act. In May, William Booth sends his daughter, Eva, to negotiate with the council. After week-long talks, the council refuses to compromise.

On the Sunday, Eva heads a procession and a 2,000-strong crowd gathers at the harbour to hear her. Service over, the Salvationists march to their hall and are attacked by the Skeleton Army.

Eva Booth and eighteen other Salvationists are prosecuted. Although convicted, she is not penalised. Many of the men, including my great-great uncle, Frank Bovey, are sentenced to Exeter Prison.



The Skeleton newspaper, published in Honiton –
© The Salvation Army, reprinted with permission.

not consider them as martyrs.

From 1881 to 1893, the Skeleton War saw fighting in some 70 locations, mainly south of the Midlands. During this period, barely a week went by without a press report of an attack on The Salvation Army. Despite brutal opposition, during this period The Salvation Army opened 1,200 new centres in the UK and expanded its work to 23 countries.

In April 2021, the corps that first faced the ferocity of the Skeleton Army – Exeter Temple – celebrated its 140th anniversary. It is based in the same Friar's Walk hall that the Skeletons repeatedly attacked.

Major Nigel Bovey

Author of *Blood on the Flag* – the history of The Salvation Army's battle for survival against the Skeleton Army. (from sps-shop.com and as an ebook from amazon.co.uk) or you can contact the author for further information on bovey@btinternet.com

Author's note:

1. The official style is **The Salvation Army** not the **Salvation Army**.

In August, the Torquay Harbour and District Act (1886)

Amendment Act repeals the procession ban and Salvationists can freely march and play throughout the town.

Thanks to increased legislative and police protection, by 1893 opposition from the Skeleton Army is fizzling out.

The question is often asked as to where there were any Salvation Army martyrs. In the sense of dying within seconds, minutes or hours of being attacked, I can find no evidence of any such deaths in the UK.

Captain Susannah Beatty was attacked in Hastings in 1884 and died in 1889. The War Cry reports: 'there was little doubt that her death was at least accelerated by the rough treatment received at some of her stations'. Similarly, Captain Sarah Jane Broadhurst was attacked in Shoreham in 1884 and died in 1892. The Salvation Army does

DHS provisional programme for 2021

All to be delivered by Zoom unless otherwise stated.

2nd September Joint FODA/DRA/DHS Ian Mortimer *The Chief Rents of Moretonhamstead 1639-1840*. How to use a problematic source. (19.00) Devon Rural Archive. **Live meeting.**

9th September Chris Wakefield – *Is lack of a discipline essential for Local Historians?* (14.00)

18th September: Joint with Women's History Network (SW and Wales): “*Women in the 1920s*”. meeting now to be conducted by Zoom. See poster on page 26.

7th October. Devon in the 1920s ‘Expert Witness’ seminar by Zoom
David Parker on *Education in the 1920s* 19.00.

9th October Exeter Rougemont Room, Library (10.30–15.00). **AGM and Conference. This may also be available as a Zoom meeting** depending on circumstances draft agenda includes AGM, DHS awards, a talk from **Tim Lomas** on **running an effective local history society** and a number of shorter inputs from societies and a talk from **Andrew Jones** on **the parish as a mental landscape in the 19th century**. Details at <https://www.devonhistorysociety.org.uk>

13th October Mike Sampson – *Early Devon from Welsh history* (14.00)

4th November. Devon in the 1920s ‘Expert Witness’ seminar by Zoom
Julia Neville & Kevin Dixon on *Health and Social Care in the 1920s*. 19.00.

13th November Devon in the 1920s Project: ‘Beyond the School Gate’ an introduction to ‘**Growing Up**’ theme. By Zoom – all welcome 10.00 to 12.15. The detailed programme will be listed on the Devon History Society website.

2nd December. Devon in the 1920s ‘Expert Witness’ seminar by Zoom
John Boughton ('Municipal Dreams' blog) on *Housing in the 1920s*. 19.00.

Please look at the DHS website for further information. Depending on the situation, it may be possible to organise some additional events either face-to-face or by Zoom. This may include some joint events such as with FODA, the Historical Association and the British Association for Local History as well as part of the “Devon in the 1920s” project.

Mrs Frances Rose Troup (1859-1942)

Nomination for outstanding Devon women of the 1920s

During the forty-odd years I have chased the will o' the wisps of local history, I've looked for help to a historian I know little of beyond her difficult, energetic handwriting, and her articles in the Transactions of the Devonshire Association (TDA), in Devon and Cornwall Notes and Queries (DCNQ) and in occasional letters in the Devon Heritage Centre. All of these are shot through with a driving enthusiasm for the writing of history. Mrs Frances Rose-Troup was without question a doughty soul – her contributions to DCNQ and occasional letters to the local press mark her combative style and determination to be heard in a field dominated at the time by old men. Her first appearance was a TDA article in 1903, with a 'Biography of John Bodley, Father of Sir Thomas Bodley', which signals her interest in Devon, and also in Ottery St Mary, which was the home of Thomas Bodley's mother Joan (nee Hone), daughter of a wealthy local clothier Robert Hone, whose almshouses still exist in Ottery.

Mrs RT was an efficient and well qualified historian, a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and President of the Devonshire Association in 1942. Her time in that office may have been brief – it was the year she died and there was no presidential address meeting that year as there was (and is) on every other DA Presidential sojourn. Alongside copious contributions to TDA (especially in the 1930s) she wrote two substantial books – on the Western Rebellion in 1913, and on the Massachusetts Bay Company in 1930. She also made considerable contributions to the English Place Names Society's Devon Volumes (VIII and IX, in 1931 and 1932). But she was not widely applauded. Finberg's 'West Country Historical Studies', published in 1969, unleashes the following critical assault...

In 1929, the late Frances Rose Troup tried to elucidate the boundary (of an Anglo Saxon charter), but her aptitude for the work was not equal to her zeal. [...] The compilers of the Place Names of Devon made a brief note of her findings, but were plainly not impressed by them, and her attempt could safely be ignored...

I rather suspect that if Mrs Frances Rose Troup had not been 'the late', Finberg would not have been so perky in his condemnation. And The authors of the Place Names of Devon – JEB Gover, Frank Stenton and Allan Mawer, all of them impeccable historians, were certainly not short of praise for her help. For example – 'For all points connected with Exeter street names we are greatly indebted to Mrs Rose Troup' (p21) and in relation to the EPNS entry for Ottery St Mary..."Mrs. Rose Troup has had it [Ottery's 11th century charter] photographed and placed at our disposal, together with much helpful comment'.(p603)

She had already published in 1919 (in TDA) a 'Study of Place and Field Names', pre-empting in some fashion the later work of the EPNS and others, and it must have been in the 1920s that she drew together the wide ranging place name information she later passed to Mawer and Co at the EPNS for the Devon Volumes.

So Frances did her utmost to move things along. She made occasional mistakes – who doesn't? And she was doubtless marginalised by the closed ranks of the history old guard of the time. The debt I owe her (as do all Otterians – although they may not know it) for battling her way through some impenetrable medieval documents on Ottery, is beyond repayment. Her papers were difficult to find on first asking at DHC (they had not been catalogued), but they did appear eventually and now have a proper reference. Inside the boxes is a sample (it's obvious there was much more originally) of her tireless enthusiasm and energy for the work in hand, whatever that was at the time. So let us not forget Mrs. Rose Troup or her contribution to Devon's history.

Chris Wakefield

Quotable....

"One of the saddest lessons of history is this: If we've been bamboozled long enough, we tend to reject any evidence of the bamboozle. We're no longer interested in finding out the truth. The bamboozle has captured us. It's simply too painful to acknowledge, even to ourselves, that we've been taken. Once you give a charlatan power over you, you almost never get it back."

— Carl Sagan, The Demon-Haunted World: Science as a Candle in the Dark

A Symposium on Women in the 1920s

jointly presented by Devon History Society
and the West of England & South Wales Women's History Network

Saturday 18 September 2021, 10.30 to 15.30

by Zoom



Chapel outing, courtesy Bovey Tracey Heritage Trust

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 10.30 – 10.40 | Welcome and Introduction to the day |
| 10.40 – 11.30 | Professor Maggie Andrews: 'There are such a lot of things that are so untidy': stressing the local in women's histories of 1920s Britain |
| 11.30 – 12.20 | Panel session – New opportunities in politics <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lisa Berry-Waite on women standing for Parliament• Karen Hunt on Agnes Suttill, first woman town councillor in Bridport• Jane Howells on Women and Politics in Salisbury |
| 12.20 – 13.20 | Lunch, Bookstalls & Slide Show – Women at Work in the 1920s |
| 13.20 – 14.00 | Rozen Whitworth, Hypatia Trust – Women and Craft in the South West in the 1920s, through the Hypatia Collections. |
| 14.00 – 14.30 | Devon and Exeter Institution Research Group members
Women's lives in Exeter's slum quarter in the 1920s |
| 14.30 – 15.00 | Frances Bingham – Reading and Q&A from her new book, <i>Valentine Ackland: A Transgressive Life</i> . |
| 15.00 – 15.30 | Questions, Reflections and Close |

For a link to the meeting please contact Julia Neville

j.f.neville@btinternet.com or visit the DHS website

<https://www.devonhistorysociety.org.uk/news/symposium-on-women-in-the-1920s/>