



# Devon History News

Number 30

August 2022

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## From the Chair, Katherine Findlay

Welcome to the August 2022 edition of Devon History News, in what has turned out to be an exceptionally warm and dry summer. As our climate changes, history and art have vital roles to play in recording and exploring the adaptations in our landscape and ways of living with the weather. I am delighted to hear from Andrew Jackson (page 23) about two exhibitions celebrating the paintings of Robert Bevan, one of the Camden group of artists closely associated with the Blackdown Hills, my home patch. As Andrew points out, Bevan's art was infused with the rich greens of Devon under a gentle sun. The hills are now parched and brown and I wonder how future generations of Devonians will relate to these lush depictions of early 20th century summers.



Art and history come together again in the wonderful photographs of Chris Chapman, whose subject is rural life on Dartmoor. In place of the Camden painters' vivid colours, the black and white of his images gives a timeless quality to the human stories he captures. On page 14 we have news of an exhibition of his work at Throwleigh.

The history of Torbay can sometimes be neglected in the wider story of Devon so I'm particularly pleased to hear from Brian Carpenter on page 11 about the South West Heritage Trust's successful bid for funding to catalogue the Cary family collection and the triumph of the Torbay Discovery Trail in the Alan Ball Awards for local history publications. Congratulations to all those involved in both these brilliant projects.

I hope that these and the many other fascinating articles in this edition provide some engrossing reading material for the last days of summer. Soon Devon's colours will change again to the rich reds and oranges of autumn, but in the meantime enjoy the newsletter and please let us know your comments and contributions for the next edition.

## Editorial



As I type, the sun is beating down outside, genuine, heavy, persistent rain (as opposed to the odd shower) is a distant memory and the grass everywhere has long since turned brown. This is starting to feel like one of those summers – 1976, 1995 and 2018 come to mind – which will linger in the memory and become a defined part of social and cultural, as well as meteorological, history. And, with what summers like this say about the potential future effects of climate change, its influence on our longer term behaviour may be more far-reaching than simply exercising care in the sun and being careful about how much water we use.

In my day job at the Devon Heritage Centre I am fortunate enough to share an office with staff of the Met Office archives, so it is easily possible for me to find out exactly what the weather was like in a particular place in a particular year, or even on a particular day. However, their systematic records only go back to the middle of the nineteenth century, so it's not possible to say what the weather was like in Bideford when the plaque which Dr Teresa Tinsley describes on pages 18 and 19 arrived on these shores. Whatever the case – and, as in so many instances of this sort, the truth may ultimately be unknowable – Teresa's fascinating piece illustrates the type of physical relic which still comes to light more frequently than one might expect, inevitably setting in motion the process of historical enquiry and research which so many of us enjoy pursuing.

In addition to the articles mentioned by Katherine, elsewhere in this edition we have valuable updates on the *Devon in the 1920s* project, obituaries of two former members of the Society's Council, news of a range of future events, both online and in person, and information about several new books. In the era of perpetual flux in which we are now embroiled – first a pandemic, then a war in Europe, now an incipient economic crisis – the value of historical study as a means not just of temporary escape from the myriad concerns of the present, but as a way of illuminating the future, is clear and valuable.

It goes without saying – but you would expect an archivist to say it anyway – that historical research is best carried out through the use of original sources where they are available. During the course of this year, as a result of taking a more active role in the Society and needing to find out more about its past, I've occasionally been wondering about our archives. At the Devon Heritage Centre we have complete runs of *The Devon Historian*, most if not all issues of *Devon History News* and a few sundry items in various collections, but none of the official records of the society, such as minutes of meetings. This contrasts with the Devon and Cornwall Record Society and the Friends of Devon's Archives, for which the Centre holds quite substantial collections. So, do any readers – especially those who have been members of Council in the past – have any records themselves, or know of their whereabouts?

If anyone has any information I can be contacted at the Devon Heritage Centre.

**Brian Carpenter**

## Devon in the 1920s

*The Society's programme of research and events tracing the history of Devon in the decade which followed the First World War continues to go from strength to strength under the stewardship of Julia Neville. In this edition we have reminiscences about growing up in Bampton in the 1920s, a report from Julia on a particular contribution to the symposium on transport held at Newton Abbot Museum in April, an appeal for information about 1920s houses and a look ahead to the next event in September.*

### Donald Gould – a Bampton Teenager in the 1920s

*Ken Mills, curator at Bampton Heritage Centre recently shared with the Devon in the 1920s project a record of life in a farm cottage at Bampton written by Donald Gould. Part of what he describes is the work, unpaid and paid, that he undertook every day.*



*Bampton Station – closed in the 1960s – where Donald used to catch his train to senior school in Tiverton*

Donald Gould was born in 1909. He was brought up in the Mill Head cottages by Jane Gould, whom he regarded as his mother, not realizing that he was actually the son of her eldest daughter. His grandfather, John Gould, died when he was four, and most of his memories are of the time after that, when he and his brothers (as he thought they were) were growing up in the house at Mill Head, Bampton, under Jane's eagle eye.

He describes his contribution to the household tasks. 'I seem to have acquired the job of doing the shopping for the household, and I never remember having to buy any vegetables – we just went to the allotments and got them...grown-ups usually cooked the main part of the meals but us children generally picked and prepared all the vegetables: peeling potatoes, slicing beans etc. and were instructed now to cook and were checked that all was well done! Frying bacon, eggs, potatoes etc. – all of us could do this – and had to'. Donald also had to feed the pigs that his eldest brother kept in a sty at the top of the allotment. 'I hadn't far to go for the meal at the mill. This would be mixed with potato peelings and other scraps.'

Locals could bring along their Sunday dinner to be cooked by Bampton bakers, who needed to keep their ovens fired up on a Sunday. 'This was my job: I had quite a large baking tin with a large joint in the middle and garnished around with enough potatoes to feed a family. I would take this to the baker's on the way to morning church (as I was in the choir) and call for it after church with a large tray and cloth and my two pennies for the cost of baking'.

'When I was 10 years old I got a job taking the local dairy's cows after milking in the evening to a meadow at Chiltern, a good mile from Bampton. This would be about 6 p.m., and the next morning I would collect them and bring them in to Bampton dairy premises by about 7 a.m. For this I received a magnificent 3/6d a week...looking back now I cannot remember feeling hard done by...and I used to walk that mile to Chiltern on a dark winter's morning with no qualms. Mr Gooding (my employer) really paid me well and would give me an extra 6d when I fetched his horse in ...the 3/6d was a great help to mother

and a loss when I went to school at Tiverton and had to give it up. However, I still managed to do a paper round in Bampton before catching the 8.40 a.m. train to school. Admitted, the train guard kept the train standing when the other boys gave the warning that I was approaching fast! For my paper round I got 1/- a week.

### **Transport in the Twenties – a Devon in the 1920s event**



Newton Abbot Market (By courtesy of Richard Harris)

Devon in the 1920s researchers will already have received a brief note about the symposium on Devon's 1920s' transport held at Newton Abbot Museum in April at the kind invitation of the museum. A highlight of the day was Professor Colin Divall's masterly overview of the issues involved, entitled 'The Roaring Twenties: Consuming Mobilities in Devon, 1918-1919.'

Colin introduced us to a 'continuum of mobility', starting with everyday movement around the home and the amenities in the immediate neighbourhood; regular longer trips for business, family and social activities; cyclical mobility e.g. for seasonal working, moving house or taking holidays; and life-changing mobility like migration. In the 1920s the mobility mix of pedestrians, cyclists, equestrians, public transport passengers and motorists changed radically with the introduction of motor vehicles.

Public transport changed with the extension of bus services in rural as well as urban areas. Although the rail network was at its peak, competition was beginning to be felt. The reorganised rail companies began to market mobility by advertising the wonderful places to which trains could take you and coach companies were swift to respond, both by advertising excursions and longer-distance travel. Freight traffic by rail or sail came under threat from the growth in lorries and vans, able to deliver direct to business premises and people's own front doors.

Meanwhile motor car ownership, to say nothing of motorcycle ownership, rose rapidly until probably 10% of households owned a car by 1930. Expansion was largely amongst the middle-class and largely amongst



men, although some women valued the freedom it offered them and learned to drive. Motorists were supported by the new motoring organizations such as the AA and RAC which lobbied to secure changes such as the abolition of antediluvian speed limits and improvements to roads and roadside amenities.

The 'Roaring Twenties', Colin Divall challenged us, involved more mobility, more motorisation and more choice – but did this make Devon a better place to live?

How can we assess this complex picture? Walking was so commonplace a mode of mobility that we tend to forget it, but did the alternatives mean that people had more free time? Exeter City Councillor Challice regretted the decline in walking and reminisced that in the old days a man would walk from Broadclyst to Exeter for work. 'In those days, men had legs', he declared. Many men (and some women) had learned to drive or ride a motor-bike during the First World War. Those new skills gave them opportunities for new jobs, or made it possible for them to get out and about for trips and excursions. The village bus edged the carrier out of place, and services ran on into the evenings giving young people from the village the chance to go dancing in town, or to the cinema, much to the disapproval of some members of older generations. But there was a price to pay too. Traffic accidents rose, and so did deaths and injuries resulting from them. The shoeing business of the village smith declined. Passenger traffic switched from the rigidity of rail to the flexibility of motor vehicles.

Would you be interested in helping us research the question of the impact of increasing motorisation on Devon in the 1920s? If so, please contact Julia Neville, [j.f.neville@btinternet.com](mailto:j.f.neville@btinternet.com)

### **Do you live in a 1920s house (in Devon)?**

The 1920s saw all sorts of house-building and house renovation and we're looking for people who live in some of those houses to help us with our researches.



You might live in the very grandest...

*Gidleigh Park, near Chagford*

*completely rebuilt by Australian sheep-farmer Charles McIlwraith in the 1920s*

Or you might live in one of the council houses that local authorities were putting up...



*Council houses off Dowell Street, erected by Honiton Borough Council*

Or in all sorts of other houses built in the 1920s, urban and rural, built by private developers, housing associations or employers like the Great Western Railway.

Whatever your 1920s house is like, the Devon in the 1920s project would like to hear from you if you have photographs or any information, perhaps from title deeds or your own researches, about your house. Please get in touch with Julia Neville, [j.f.neville@btinternet.com](mailto:j.f.neville@btinternet.com)

### **P.S. Our Picture Puzzles**

Just a reminder that we are trying to track down some Devon in the 1920s cottage locations. Devon County Council helped fund the 'reconditioning' of a number of rural workers' cottages during the 1920s. We have 'before' and 'after' pictures of several of them, but no indication of where they are. Please look at our page and see if you can help identify any of them for us! Our DHS website <https://www.devonhistorysociety.org.uk/devon-house-search/> should take you there.

## **Vegetable, Fruit and Flower Cultivation in the 1920s:**

### **Continuity and Change**



The Devon in the 1920s project is hosting a Devon History Society/Devon Gardens Trust joint event on Saturday September 10<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to welcoming you to a Symposium on Saturday 10 September in the Rougemont Room at Exeter Central Library, EX4 3PQ, when we will be discussing what was happening in the 1920s in an area of great importance to the Devon economy – growing flowers, fruit and vegetables.

This is the programme for the day:

10.00

### **Welcome and Introduction**

10.10 to 10.50

### **Market Gardens and Nurseries – a continuing tradition**

**Market Gardens and Orchards in the Bere Peninsula:** Frances Howard and Clive Charlton

**Business as Usual in Topsham Market Gardens:** Gill McLean

10.50 – 11.30

**A New World or a Waste Land? Rural Devon in the 1920s:** Paul Brassley

11.30 – 11.45

Short Break

11.45 – 12.45

### **The Impact of the First World War**

**Returning servicemen and the growth of smallholdings:** Clare Greener

**W.J. Godfrey, an Exmouth nurseryman:** April Marjoram

**Joe Rowland and Richard Morrish of Plymstock: from market gardening to property development:** Anne Corry

12.45 – 13.30

Lunch (bring your own, buy in the café, shop in town)

13.30 – 14.10

### **Change and development in floral fashion**

14.10 – 14.30

### **Winners and Losers in 1920s vegetable fruit and flower cultivation**

**Evidence from 1920s' family histories:** Julia Neville

14.30 – 15.00

### **Reflections and Future Plans for Research**

15.00 Close

Bookings (£10 per ticket) to be made via Eventbrite. See [Events | Devon History Society](#) for further details. Contact [bookings@devonhistorysociety.org.uk](mailto:bookings@devonhistorysociety.org.uk) in case of queries.

Car parking is not available at the Library although cars may drop off passengers. Exeter Central Station is a few minutes' walk away and Park and Ride buses stop in the High Street close by. Information on Exeter car parks can be found at [Find a car park - Exeter City Council](#).

Come and join us – and meet fellow members from both our organisations – for an exploration of the way in which Devonians in the 1920s were coping with the need to adapt to changes in the environment in which they operated: consumer preferences, an economic downturn, the arrival of the motor van and the motor lorry, to name just a few.

**Clare Greener and Julia Neville**

### **Joint Organisers**

## **Devon History Society Autumn/Winter Programme 2022**

### **IN PERSON SYMPOSIUM PRESENTED JOINTLY WITH DEVON GARDENS TRUST**

**Saturday 10th September 2022, 10.00 to 3.30pm**

**Rougemont Room, Exeter Central Library**

### **Vegetable, Fruit and Flower Cultivation in Devon in the 1920s: Continuity and Change**

A symposium with contributions from local groups and independent researchers presented as part of the Devon in the 1920s project.

All Tickets £10

### **IN-PERSON TALK**

**Saturday 8th October 2022, 11.15am to 12.15pm (following Annual General Meeting, 10-10.45)**

**Rougemont Room, Exeter Central Library**

### **The Dissolution of the Monasteries in Devon, James Clark, Professor of History, Exeter University**

Perspectives from the new investigations of postgraduate research students at the University of Exeter

DHS Members FREE, Non-members £4



## ONLINE TALK

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022, 7.30-8.30pm**

**‘What every gentleman should know’: Learning French in Medieval Devon**, Dr Tom Hinton, Senior Lecturer in French, Exeter University

An introduction to recent research on an early French textbook produced as an aid to ‘social climbing’, and known to have been owned by a Buckfast Abbey monk and an Exeter Cathedral canon.

DHS Members FREE, Non-members £4

## ONLINE TALK

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022, 7.30-8.30pm**

**Lighting up a Devon Community: The Story of the Calf Club Centenary Lantern Parade**, Penny Lawrence, local historian, and Liz Gregory, Hemyock Lights Parade organiser

Discover more about a grassroots celebration of the centenary of the Calf Club, a catalyst for the Young Farmers’ Club movement.

DHS Members FREE, Non-members £4

## ONLINE TALK (DATE TO BE CONFIRMED)

**January or February 2023**

**Whitbourne, Crout and Berry: Three Devonians in Early-Modern Newfoundland**, William Gilbert, Newfoundland archaeologist.

DHS Members FREE, Non-members £4

## NEWS FROM LOCAL GROUPS

### **The Lustleigh Society**

As well as the Annual General Meeting of the society at the end of November, the Lustleigh Society has two very interesting talks in the autumn which are open to everyone. The first is a talk by **Felicity Goodall** on **Lost Devon** on Wednesday 28th September. Felicity’s illustrated talk, drawing on her book on the subject, will provide a fascinating insight into Devon’s history and what has been lost.

On Wednesday 19th October, Britain’s leading expert on JMW Turner, Professor Sam Smiles, is giving an illustrated talk on **JMW Turner in the West Country**. Professor Smiles will discuss how Turner captured the essence of the charm of Devon’s unique landscapes.

Both talks take place in Lustleigh Village Hall starting at 7.30 p.m. with refreshments available from 7.00 p.m. Entry for non-members is £3.

## **Teign Valley Museum & Archive Trust**

The Teign Valley History Centre celebrated the first anniversary of its digital archive by upgrading the system to allow people to upload their own material. This means that users can share their photographs, house deeds, letters, posters, programmes and memories and have them preserved for posterity at [www.tvhistorycentre.org](http://www.tvhistorycentre.org).

With over 5,000 pieces now on the site and over 10,000 visits, Teign Valley Museum and Archive Trust Chair, Graham Thompson said “Thanks to the fantastic efforts of our webmaster, Nick Kirkland, and our archivist, Tristan Deane, as well as great support from the Trustees we have made a great start. We need more 100 Club members to allow us to forge ahead so if anyone feels that they can help financially then please sign up on the website.”

We have had a lot of interest from attending the Valley’s shows and have received some great new collections that will soon be up on the site. We keep meeting people who don’t know we exist but each new contact helps to spread the word.

We are currently hard at work updating our five year plan and designing a moving exhibition for the Valley this autumn.

**Graham Thompson, Chair**

[www.tvhistorycentre.org](http://www.tvhistorycentre.org)

## **Way of the Wharves, Bideford**

2021 finished with the publication of our book ‘A History of East-the-Water, Bideford’ in December. A big event for our group and something that has also taken up a lot of time and effort subsequently with attendance at local events and presentations to local and Devon groups, sales and administration. At the Appledore Book Festival on 15 September WOTW will be presenting 'Maritime Heritage on the Torridge Estuary' as part of the ‘Our seafaring past, present and future’ day along with the Devon & Cornwall Fish Company ‘Fishing past, present and future’ and Harland & Wolff ‘Shipbuilding present and future in Appledore’.

Working with the Burton Museum and Gallery in Bideford, we are helping curate a cabinet themed around Bideford and the river. The topic will be leatherworking, which in addition to being an important employer for shoemakers and saddlers, also made fortunes for some in the bark industry. At the end of the 19th century, before the development of chromium processes, oak bark was used for tanning leather. As a result, mature trees were taken for bark with consequences for the availability of timber for shipbuilding. A newspaper report, long after the event, referred to a fortune of £18,000 made by Thomas Tapp in the late 18th century exporting bark to Ireland from Clarence Wharf, East the Water. The cabinet is due to be completed by the end of July.

The adopted phone box in Torrington Street has some artwork in preparation and we will be creating the audio archive so that, using a smart phone and QR code, visitors will be able to access the phone box stories that have been collected.

In March, WOTW made a presentation to Bideford Town Council about the need for a heritage centre in the town, ideally on the re-developed wharves site along Barnstaple Street, to celebrate the quantity and depth of industrial and maritime heritage in the town. Councillors were unanimous in support for this initiative and a steering group has been formed.

The wharves site along Barnstaple Street, East the Water has been cleared as the re-development proceeds. Work is about to start on repairs to the sea wall and the building work will take up to three years. The archaeological survey has been completed and did not find anything startling. The full report is available on the Way of the Wharves website <https://thewharves.org/archaeology-report-wharves-site-barnstaple-street/>

### **Devon Archives and Local Studies Service**

In April and May an exhibition was staged at the Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon celebrating creativity in North Devon and the influence of the Arts and Crafts movement. The exhibition is one outcome of the *Creative North Devon* project, which is a partnership between the North Devon Athenaeum, the South West Heritage Trust and the museum. The North Devon Record Office also made a contribution to an exhibition of royal memorabilia staged to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in early June, and a small exhibition of documents was staged at the Devon Heritage Centre in Exeter.

At the Devon Heritage Centre a major project to provide improved accommodation for the West Country Studies Library collection is progressing well. Internal modifications to the building will ensure that the collection is stored in more environmentally stable conditions and is more easily accessible to staff, enabling smoother production of items for researchers.

We have recently learned that the Trust has been successful in obtaining a grant from the National Archives to enable us to catalogue the archives of the Cary family of Torquay. The Carys, who lived at Cockington Court and later Torre Abbey for almost 300 years from 1662, were significant landowners in Devon, served as MPs, intermarried with leading West Country families and were active at the royal court. The Devon Record Office acquired the majority of the surviving papers of the Cary family – comprising manorial records, deeds, rentals and legal papers – in the 1980s, but the opportunity to comprehensively catalogue them has never arisen until now. In addition to the original deposit of records, the Devon Heritage Centre has also recently acquired a further collection relating to the management of the family's estates, which had been in storage in Paignton for many years. This includes a remarkable set of architectural records – including coloured drawings, elevations and floor plans – of Torquay and its environs, maps and plans depicting the development of Torbay, and deeds, testamentary documents, more legal papers and some personal papers, which together comprise the major archive for the development of Torquay as a tourist resort. An archivist will soon be appointed to begin work in the autumn.

Brian Carpenter, Community Outreach Officer, has spent much of the year collaborating with staff of Exeter Rugby Club and the Royal Albert Memorial Museum on a major exhibition to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the club, which, as the Exeter Chiefs, has been so successful in recent years. The exhibition is currently running at the museum and is open until Sunday 28th August.

Since the early part of the year we have been running monthly online 'Coffee Time Talks' covering such subjects as the Met Office archives, Barnstaple architects and the development of tourism on Dartmoor in the 1920s.

We were very pleased that the Torbay Discovery Trail was named the best e-publication in the Alan Ball Awards for 2021. The awards were established in 1985 to encourage local history publishing by public libraries and local authorities. The Devon Archive Team and the Trust's Learning Team worked with the University of Exeter, 1010Media and two Torquay primary schools to create the online trail. It features notable people connected with the history of Torquay and is aimed at Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils.

**Brian Carpenter**

*Two people who made notable contributions to the work of the Society passed away earlier this year . We are grateful to the family of Elizabeth Maycock and to Todd Gray for the information about her life, and to Paul Auchterlonie, himself a former member of the society's Council, for the obituary of his late wife Mitzi.*

### **Elizabeth Hester Maycock**

**1924-2022**

Elizabeth Maycock was born in a Bognor Regis maternity home, the third child of Ernest and Grace Maycock; as a child she contracted polio and subsequently walked with a limp. During the Second World War she drove an ambulance in London and also worked at Bletchley Park.

Her mother Grace lived at Bicton Place in Exmouth and after Grace died Elizabeth spent most of her adult life there, regularly attending Holy Trinity church. She worked as an assistant to a vet in Exmouth for many years and subsequently at Danby Motors, where she was a company director.

Elizabeth Maycock was a keen First Aider and in the 1960s was awarded many certificates for First Aid, nursing and maternal and child welfare plus a medal for proficiency in nursing for the Red Cross. She was fond of cats and had a huge Ginger cat called Benjy.

In later life she became a keen historian; she was elected to the Council of the Devon History Society in 1999, was Programme Secretary (initially jointly with Robin Stanes) from 1999 to 2007 and Vice Chairman from 2001 to 2008. She was also one of the three co-editors of *Aspects of Devon History*, the Society's 40th anniversary book.

She is survived by her youngest sibling, Anne.

### **Mitzi Auchterlonie**

**1945-2022**



Mitzi Auchterlonie was the Book Reviews Editor for the Devon History Society from 2008 until her death on April 5th 2022, and the forthcoming 2022 volume of *The Devon Historian* will be the sixteenth consecutive issue for which she commissioned the book reviews. With the Devonshire Association's recent decision not to include more than two book reviews per annual issue of the Transactions, *The Devon Historian* (and, to a lesser extent, *Devon History News*) are the only publications to offer full and scholarly analyses of a wide range of publications on the history of Devon. In all, during Mitzi's tenure, The Devon Historian published around 180 reviews by 70 different reviewers.

Mitzi was born in 1945 in Barnes in South-West London, but grew up in Streatham, where she went to the Streatham & Clapham High School for Girls. After an abortive year reading sociology at Keele University, Mitzi got married to John Warren, and had her only child, Kate, in 1967. The marriage broke down in 1972, and Mitzi moved to Devon, to live with John Warren's mother, who, with her two daughters, was restoring Hill House in Loxhore, near Barnstaple.

In 1974, Mitzi began a BEd degree at Rolle College in Exmouth, specialising in religion and philosophy. She completed her course in 1977 and was appointed to teach religious studies at a school in Bideford. After two years she decided that teaching was not for her, and moved to Exeter in 1980, where she worked for ten years as an accounts clerk for the NHS. The 1980s were a very busy decade for Mitzi, who played a very active role in NALGO, was chair of the local Amnesty International group (and served on the UK council of Amnesty as representative for all AI South-West groups), and took Open University courses in English drama and poetry. She was also a dedicated member of Exeter Film Society and it was through their mutual love of the cinema, that Mitzi met Paul Auchterlonie, who became her second husband in 1989.

After her marriage, Mitzi decided to return to academe, becoming a member of the first group of students at Exeter University to study for an MA in Women's Studies, graduating in 1992. Despite her previous interest in religion, philosophy and literature, it was while doing a course in women's history with Dr Moira Donald, and specifically after reading *War is Good for Babies & Other Young Children*, by Deborah Dwork, that Mitzi decided to become a historian. In the mid-1990s, Mitzi began her PhD in the Department of History at Exeter University. She chose as her topic what, if any, was the Conservative Party's contribution to the campaign for women's suffrage. She found that, contrary to popular opinion, there were numerous Tories in favour of votes for women, and that the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association was at one time the third largest women's suffrage group in England. She submitted her thesis in April 2002, and turned it into a book, *Conservative Suffragists*, in 2007. This had been preceded in 2000 by the *International Encyclopaedia of Women's Suffrage*, which she had written with two of her friends from the Women's History Network, June Hannam and Kath Holden.

While writing up her PhD at the beginning of the new millennium, Mitzi had been invited to join the Department of Continuing Education at the University of Exeter as a Teaching Fellow and Online Tutor, and she particularly enjoyed the face-to-face teaching of the BA in History, although she also taught online modules. Indeed, there are several distinguished members of the Devon History Society who studied with her. When the Continuing Education Department's degrees were phased out, she taught short online non-credit bearing (NCB) courses on her favourite topics such as the English Country House, the Victorian City and the Edwardians. She also taught courses in Parish and Village History which she took over from Dr Andrew Jackson, when he moved to Lincoln, and it was Dr Jackson, the then editor of *The Devon Historian* who invited Mitzi to become the journal's Book Reviews Editor.

Mitzi suffered a serious stroke in November 2011 which caused constant nerve pain down her left hand side, affected her sight and hearing, and limited the amount of time she could read and study. She was also left with reduced mobility, but Mitzi faced these physical challenges with fortitude and determination. During the 2010s, she attended as many of the Society's AGMs and Conferences as she could, and played a significant role on the committee which selected the Devon Book(s) of the Year. She continued to teach her NCB courses until these too were abolished by Exeter University in 2016, much to Mitzi's regret. In 2019, she was commissioned by the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* to write entries on the leading suffragist and Liberal politician, Eleanor Acland of Killerton, on Edith Pratt, a senior civil servant in the Department of Agriculture who grew up in Exmouth, and on Lady Trustram Eve, a member of London County Council and President of the National Council of Women, 1931-33.



Mitzi's health began to fail at the beginning of the 2020s, but shortly before her admission to hospital in December 2021, Mitzi was delighted to witness the culmination of a longstanding project for her and three of her friends from the Devon History Society, Julia Neville, Ann Roberts and Helen Turnbull. This was to write a book on Devon women and Mitzi's last public appearance was at the book launch of *Devon Women in Public and Professional Life, 1900-1950*, in September 2021, a book for which Mitzi co-wrote the chapter on Eleanor Acland with her husband.

Mitzi was proud of her publications, but even prouder of being a teacher of history, and nothing gave her greater pleasure than to see her students graduate, unless it was writing references for them to go to do higher degrees, which many of them did. Mitzi wanted to improve people's lives, and felt that the best way to achieve that was through the teaching of history, in her case by teaching adults rather than younger students. Her passion for history remained undiminished even in her final years, and her legacy is the love of the subject that she passed on to her students.

**Paul Auchterlonie**

### **Exhibition of Dartmoor photographs at Throwleigh**

A unique collection of Dartmoor photographs is on show in a 180-year-old West Devon chapel this summer.

The well-known Dartmoor photographer Chris Chapman, who lives at Throwleigh, has been taking pictures of life around the moor for fifty years. Over this time he has built up a nationally important archive of photographs.

With the support of a grant of £9,647 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the members of Providence Methodist Chapel, Throwleigh, are mounting a special exhibition of Chris Chapman's photographs during a series of open days between June and October.

Ian Crawford, the chapel's project coordinator, said: "We are delighted to be opening our doors this summer to give everyone the chance to see Chris Chapman's wonderful Dartmoor photographs. We look forward to welcoming local families and visitors from further afield, including walkers along the new Archangel Way."

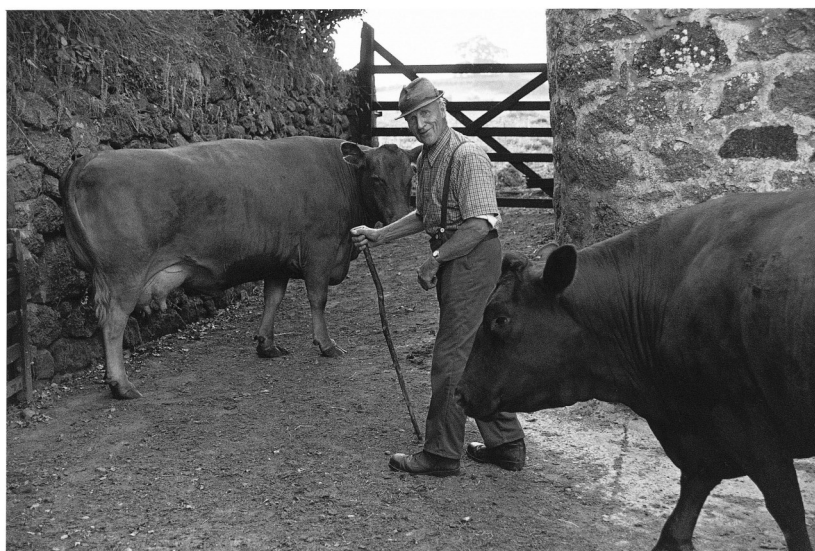
The chapel's heritage project is also being supported by the Methodist Church and Devon County Council. James McInnes, County Councillor for Hatherleigh and Chagford, said: "This is an important project. Chris Chapman captures the essence of Dartmoor and its residents. It's a rare gift and this project will bring his pictures to a wider audience."

Alongside the exhibition, Providence Methodist Chapel is hosting a series of talks and running a project to discover more about the families who have been connected with the chapel going back over eight generations to 1839.

Anyone interested in helping with this project is welcome to contact Ian Crawford at Providence1839@gmail.com.

### **About Chris Chapman's Dartmoor photographs**

More information about Chris Chapman and his work can be found at [www.chrischapmanphotography.co.uk](http://www.chrischapmanphotography.co.uk)



*One of Chris Chapman's Dartmoor farm photographs. Copyright: Chris Chapman*

### **Devon Photography Symposium**

**Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter**

**Saturday 1st October 2022**

Readers of the February 2022 issue of the newsletter (No. 29, pp 21-2) will recall that the Society unveiled a blue plaque in September last year at Chulmleigh in honour of the North Devon documentary photographer, James Ravilious (1939-1999). This year marks 50 years since James first started taking photographs in Devon, having been appointed the resident photographer at the Beaford Centre in 1972. 2022 also marks 50 years since another master photographer, Chris Chapman, first started taking photographs of Dartmoor.

To celebrate this joint anniversary, Beaford is organising a day symposium on The Art of Documentary Photography in Devon at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum in Exeter on Saturday 1st October 2022. As well as discussing the history of documentary photography and the continuing impact of Ravilious's and Chapman's work, the day will look at future priorities for commissioning new photography in Devon.

The symposium is open to all and the programme and booking details can be found through this link: <https://beaford.org/symposium>.

A Photographic Friendship, a new book, for the first time publishing the work of both these photographers side-by-side, is due to appear in the autumn. Details of this book will be available from September at <http://www.chrischapmanphotography.co.uk>.



*The two Devon master photographers, James Ravilious and Chris Chapman, together on Bristol Temple Meads station, June 1997 (Photo: Simon Timms)*

### **Devon Tithe Maps and Apportionments**

Some 30 maps were the first Devon tithe maps to be digitised, as part of the East Devon AONB Parishscapes project (2007-2010), a community project that worked to make all tithe maps for the East Devon AONB parishes available for public use.

In partnership with the Devon Record Office under John Draisey, the maps were photographed and digitised whilst project volunteers transcribed the relevant apportionments into MS Excel spreadsheets. A small group of volunteers were then trained by the East Devon District Council IT department to geo-reference the maps and fully link them with the apportionment data for each field or plot. These maps were made available on the AONB website as one of the project outcomes.

The Devon Record Office subsequently asked Phil Planel and Martin Smith to co-ordinate volunteers from all over Devon to transcribe the rest of the county's tithe apportionments in a standardised form. This involved nearly 500 parishes and for parishes where it was not possible to find volunteers, a group of the most enthusiastic volunteers fortunately emerged who were also willing to transcribe parishes other than their own.

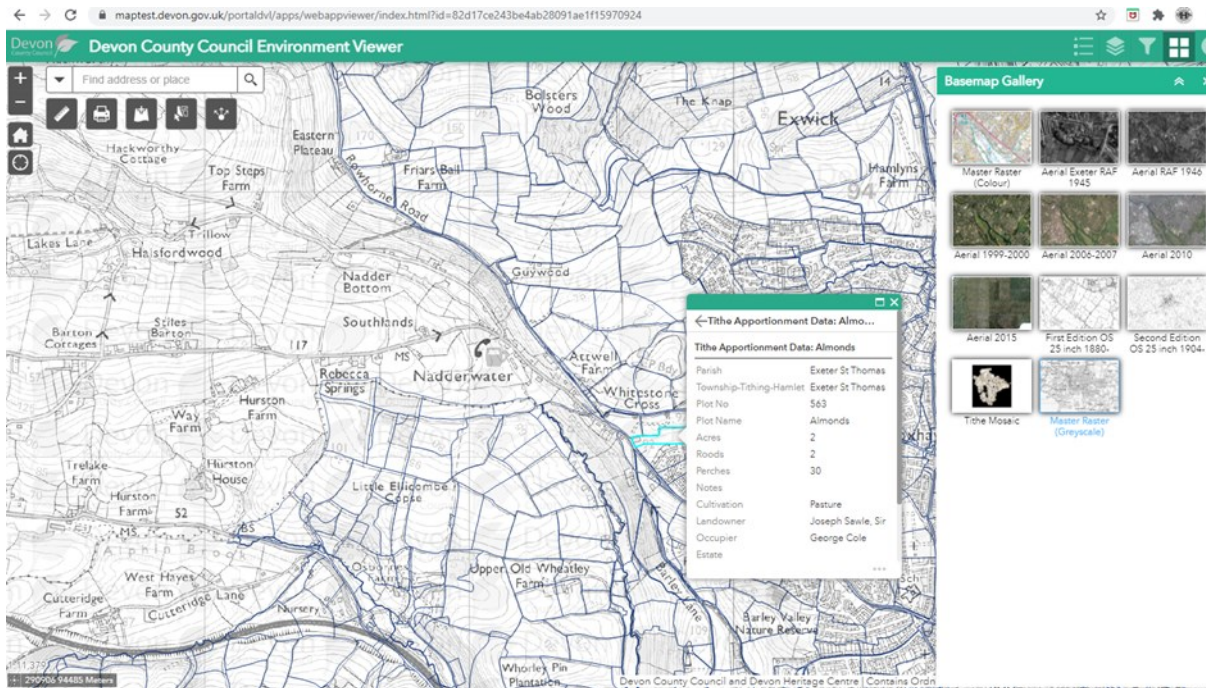
The Devon Record Office, by this time the Devon Heritage Centre, then embarked on photographing and geo-referencing all Devon's tithe maps – no mean feat since very few cameras are large enough to scan these maps which, as local historians will know, can in some cases cover several square metres. The ap-

portionments were rechecked for errors by further group of volunteers.

The scanned maps, original apportionments (PDFs) and the transcribed apportionments (in the form of spreadsheets) were posted on the Devon Historic Environment Record website for public use at:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/historicenvironment/tithe-map/>

Now the scanned tithe maps have been stitched together to form a seamless layer that can be viewed on the Devon County Council Environment Viewer. The apportionment data has been linked to each tithe plot and that too can be viewed on screen.



Click the 'Basemap Gallery', the fourth icon on the green bar, top right of the screen.

Select 'Tithe Mosaic'

Click the 'Layer List', the second icon on the green bar top right of the screen.

Select 'Digitised tithe map polygons' and 'Tithe polygons' and 'Comments', de-select 'Public Access'.

Zoom to the area of interest and select a tithe plot.

To view the apportionment data click on the arrow in the black circle on the 2 pop-ups as they appear.

Other base maps can be selected as required by clicking the 'Basemap Gallery'.

All of the tithe apportionment transcriptions have been merged into a single file which can be found on the Devon History Society website under 'Research' and 'Resources - Mapping'.

**Martin Smith**

*Editor's Note: The tithe maps are also available, together with a range of other cartographic resources and aerial photographs, on the Know Your Place website:*

[www.kypwest.org.uk](http://www.kypwest.org.uk)



**A relic of Bideford's relations with Spain?**



Although the so-called 'Armada guns' in Bideford's Victoria Park have been definitively proved NOT to have originated in sixteenth century Spain, another relic from the Tudor period found in a house in East-the-Water may bear witness to the town's connections with Spain. The item, made of oak and measuring 133 x 44 cm, is currently displayed as a wall plaque but is believed to have been part of a Spanish sea chest. The carving depicts, in its centre, the coat of arms of the Spanish Monarchs, Isabel of Castile (1451-1504) and Fernando of Aragon (1452-1516). At the base of the shield there is a small pomegranate, which is the emblem of Granada. This indicates that the shield was carved after 1492, when the Muslim kingdom surrendered to the so-called Catholic Monarchs. The shield also includes, in its second quarter, the arms of Navarre, which was acquired for the Spanish crown in 1512. As King Fernando died in 1516, the item can therefore be dated quite precisely to the period between 1513 and 1516, when this version of the coat of arms was in use.





Of interest also are the initials F and Y at either end, over which sit crowns. These stand for the names of the two monarchs whose marriage brought the medieval kingdoms of Castile and Aragon together under their joint rule - Isabel being spelled with a Y in those days. The emblems sitting between the initials and the coat of arms, surrounded by scallop shells (the symbol of Saint James, the patron saint of Spain's battle against Islam) are also significant. According to the chivalric customs of the time, each monarch chose a device to represent them beginning with the first letter of their spouse's name. For Isabel this is a sheaf of arrows or *flechas*, believed to symbolise strength in unity but also the power to mete out justice. For Fernando it is the *yugo* – a double yoke, symbolising shared power. The yoke is accompanied by cut ropes, which contain a further allusion – to the classical legend of Alexander the Great and the Gordian knot. The story involves a yoke tied to a post with such an intricate knot that no one could undo it. An oracle declared that whoever managed to untie it would become ruler of all Asia. When Alexander arrived, being unable to unravel the knot, he simply cut through it with his sword – a early example of 'thinking outside the box'? Or perhaps determination to seize power at all costs.

The question is, of course, how such an object arrived in Bideford and ended up fixed to a wall in a house in East-the Water. The house is old, but not that old! The plaque must predate it by about three hundred years. Is it too fanciful to think that the sea chest may have arrived with one of Sir Richard Grenville's 'prizes' – Spanish ships captured in the Atlantic or the Caribbean which are known to have been brought back to Bideford? The heraldic carving clearly identifies the object as having royal or official status. It dates from the time when the Spanish monarchs' daughter Catherine of Aragon was Queen of England as the wife of Henry VIII. Perhaps it was part of a diplomatic cargo salvaged from a Spanish ship, wrecked somewhere off our coasts. Whatever the truth, it is something to treasure here in Bideford, reminding us of our long seafaring heritage and our connections with the world beyond our shores.

If anyone has any thoughts to offer or would like further information, please get in touch with me at [teresa.tinsley@gmail.com](mailto:teresa.tinsley@gmail.com).

**Dr Teresa Tinsley**

### **History Alive in Great Torrington**

On Saturday 10th September 2022 the town of Great Torrington will be holding an event called 'History Alive' to showcase the town's rich heritage. which dates back to the 8th century AD.

The town will be buzzing with plenty of free, fun, educational and interactive activities to highlight important milestones experienced by our relatively small but hugely significant northern Devon market town throughout the ages. Activities will include living history re-enactments, guides dressed in period costume positioned around town ready to talk to visitors about notable characters who lived in Great Torrington, a costumed bowls competition, talks and guided tours of the Rolle Canal and Tarka Valley railway, displays and exhibitions, a costumed market day and an oral history project focussing on the town's industrial history as a glove-making centre.

In addition, visitors will have free entry to Dartington Crystal's Visitor Centre which showcases the history of glass making in Great Torrington, and the Landmark Trust's Cawsey House, an elegant late-Stuart town-house, will be open to the public as part of Heritage Open Days 2022. A free shuttle bus will be running between the town centre and RHS Rosemoor where the Wardour Garrison, a 17th century living history group will be stationed for the weekend.

Come and join us in September and experience some of the fascinating history Great Torrington has to offer! More details can be found in the August/September edition of The Crier (<http://great-torringtoncrier.co.uk/>) and programmes will soon be available for collection from the Town Council, Tourist Information Centre and various other outlets across the town.

## News from East Devon

### Coleridge's Place in Devon

In October this year a major event takes place in Ottery St Mary's local history. This is the return of a distant traveller - the poet/philosopher Samuel Taylor Coleridge who, in July 1782 at just nine years old, was sent from Ottery to London in the wake of his father's sudden death in October the previous year. Samuel was the youngest of the Reverend John Coleridge's large family and the last to be still a child at home.

The alacrity with which Coleridge's mother dispatched him to the Christ's Hospital School in London, left its mark on him – as we would imagine – and today we might think it a little brutal. But it was not uncommon for families of Coleridge's middling social rank to look to future settlement of children that would sustain them in secure and more or less genteel circumstances. The chance of a place at the prestigious Christ's Hospital School for an obviously able child, which fell open to Ann Coleridge on the death of her clerical husband, was an opportunity she would have been hard pressed to pass up, whatever the personal pain of disposing of her youngest son. So Coleridge took his childhood dreams of Ottery away with him to London and drew on them later in some of his finest poetry. As far as Ottery itself was concerned, that was that: the vicar's boy disappeared after the vicar died, and was seldom thought of again. As far as his Ottery family was concerned, STC's occasional re-appearances in Ottery were usually a matter of embarrassment, and concern that his wayward behaviour would imperil the family's social standing. That was the way it stayed, and the shade that stalked the poet during his life pursued him beyond the grave into future generations.

Genius most often comes at a cost, and Coleridge's equivocal performances as husband, father, friend, or (sometimes) even writer, would be the source of much media comment of the day. He was addicted to laudanum at a time when the physiology of addiction was little understood. He stood accused of plagiarism, more particularly after he died (although it was within the nature of his genius that an explanation probably lay). His family, into the generations that succeeded him, included passionate supporters and uncertain doubters, as if STC, no matter how long deceased, might spring other surprises to blight the family name. But none of this can obscure the visionary heights to which his best poetry lays claim, or impugn the international acclaim that has arisen in response.

Though long in gestation, a fulsome appreciation of Coleridge is now readily accessible in numbers of biographies and in continuing discussion of his life and work by academics, subscribers to supportive institutions and many others. Modern studies often conclude that additional work would be required to reach reliable conclusions, itself a consequence of Coleridge's chaotic habits of mind: 'a man whose intellect was only fitfully within his own control' as the historian Edward Thompson describes him. STC's contemporaries (with the notable exception of Charles Lamb) would sometimes call him 'poor Coleridge', referring to his inability to meet the practical and self-regulating demands to produce that which was expected of him as a writer and teacher. But as the decades have passed, Coleridge has had a better press. The abundant evidence of an irresistible allure to hear him talk – the evenings at Highgate where in his dotage he would riff for hours on end to small groups of established or aspiring writers and artists, on contemporary cultural dialectics, having read everything there was to read – which in STC's case was very near the truth – these evenings were legendary and widely reported. And of course his best poems are still a living part of our literary inheritance. The Rime of the Ancient Mariner still holds us 'like a three years child'; Kubla Khan can still spin its magic in our imaginations and the conversation poems conjure a vitality and immediacy that transport the reader directly to Coleridge's Romantic heart. His critics will never be short of material, but in general Coleridge richly merits our close and sympathetic attention.

That things were stirring in Ottery to reappraise their local treasure survives in a letter to the editor of the Exeter and Plymouth Gazette in September 1882:

*Sir - Does it not seem strange (to say the least of it) that, literally crowded as are the Church and churchyard of Ottery St Mary with memorials to various members of the Coleridge family, there is yet neither brass nor marble to commemorate him who was (in my humble opinion at least) the most illustrious of all who bear or have borne the name. I mean Samuel Taylor Coleridge, the author of "The Ancient Mariner" and of "Christabel"!*

This is signed "The Motto of Exeter", with Ottery St. Mary as the address of the correspondent. A mere 140 years further on and we have finally (dare I say it) made something permanent to remind Otterregians and anyone else who comes to our town, that they might do well to remember a genius who was profoundly influenced during his childhood here by the green valley where the river Otter threaded its way to the sea, by the ancient manse and farms which punctuated Coleridge's boyhood walks accompanying his father on pastoral duties, and by the narrow lanes and high hedges of Devon's agricultural landscape.

On October 21st 2022, which is the 250th anniversary of his birth in the town, the first life-size statue of STC anywhere in the world, will be unveiled in the churchyard of the Parish Church in Ottery St Mary. It has taken 188 years to summon the wherewithal to achieve this seemingly obvious need. Coleridge adored being at the centre of a group of admirers. I hope you will indulge him with your company on 21st October next, and regularly thereafter.

**Chris Wakefield**

Coleridge Memorial Trust - [www.coleridgememorial.org.uk](http://www.coleridgememorial.org.uk)



*Coleridge as a young man (23 years old). Painted by Peter Vandyke. The work was commissioned by his Bristol friends.*

**East Devon Local History Workshop**  
**Hosted by East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**

**Tuesday 15th November 2022, 9.30-12.30**

**Kennaway House, Sidmouth**

**Provisional Agenda:**

Reports on activities of societies

Presentations: *Homes fit for Heroes in East Devon* – Phil Planel

*The parish as a mental landscape in the 19th century* – Andrew Jones

For further details, please contact Nigel Hyman ([nigelhyman@live.co.uk](mailto:nigelhyman@live.co.uk))

**Annual John Torrance Talk**

**Monday 7th November 2022, 7.30 p.m.**

**Branscombe Village Hall**

Experiencing life in the summer pastures: ancient and modern transhumance from Cornwall and Dartmoor to the Outer Hebrides.

By Pete Herring, Cornish archaeologist (formerly of English Heritage)

**Admission Free**



## How many greens are there in a Devon landscape?

### Some paintings by Robert Bevan

In a gallery through to 11 September, if in another county, viewers of a Devon landscape are currently being asked: ‘How many greens can you count?’. The question is included in the descriptive panel set under ‘Fields at Applehayes’ of around 1922, by Robert Polhill Bevan (1865-1925). The painting is held at the Brighton Museum and Gallery, and is on display there at present, together with two other images of Devon by Bevan: ‘Rosemary la Vallee’ of 1916, and an earlier ‘A Devonshire valley, No. 2’ of around 1913. The latter is probably a preparatory study for ‘A Devonshire Valley, No. 1’, held more locally within the collections of the Royal Albert Memorial Museum in Exeter.

Among the collections of The Box in Plymouth, meanwhile, can be found another painting by Bevan, ‘Green Devon’. The image is an ideal portrayal of the landscape of our county and one of the aesthetic and cultural qualities highly valued by us, Devon’s greenness. In April 2020, when we were struggling with ‘culture in quarantine’, the gallery searched among its holdings for images to illustrate each colour of the rainbow. ‘Bevan’s Devon’ was, and is, a perfect and very fitting image to represent the characteristics of the colour green.

The exhibition in Brighton, *Down from London: Spencer Gore and Friends*, includes paintings by the Camden Town Group, and their representations of the landscapes and townscapes of London, Sussex, and elsewhere, including Devon. The Group was established in the capital in 1911, and came to comprise a membership of sixteen artists, including Bevan. The work of Bevan and some of his contemporaries is especially associated with the Blackdown Hills. However, the landscapes that they produced are representative of much of the lie of the land more broadly across the county – of a gently rolling and quintessentially ‘green’ Devon.

This article draws on research blogs produced for Brighton’s Royal Pavilion Museums, Exeter’s Royal Albert Memorial Museum and Art Gallery, and Plymouth’s The Box, and a short article for *Devon & Cornwall Notes & Queries*.

**Andrew Jackson**

### The Baring-Gould Library

In June 2022 a new catalogue record was added to the Devon bibliography:

Maxted, Ian. The Baring-Gould Library, the books at Lewtrenchard : a shelf list and guide including the Shacklock Collection / compiled by Ian and Jill Maxted for the Baring-Gould Corporation. — Exeter : Exeter Working Papers in Book History, 2022. — 91 pages : illustrations ; 30 cm. — ISBN [not assigned]. — Exeter working papers in book history ; 27a. — Draft for limited distribution. —

Copies: WSL ; DEI ; EXU ; EXC ; PLY. —

Subjects: Devon. Lewtrenchard. Private libraries. Baring-Gould Library. Catalogues.



It represents work undertaken over many years on a little-known collection of books by and relating to Sabine Baring-Gould and his family, hidden in the depths of the West Devon countryside in Lewtrenchard Manor Hotel. The 3,400 items listed form part of a library built up by six generations of the Baring-Gould family from the 18<sup>th</sup> century until 1931 when the family left for the United States. The collections there have been added to since, notably by David Shacklock, the founder of the Sabine Baring-Gould Appreciation Society who donated his extensive collection in 2018. The survival of the Baring-Gould Library is something of a miracle. During his lifetime he gave several thousand broadside ballads and a collection of Icelandic saga manuscripts to the British Library and folksong manuscripts to Plymouth Public Library. Other items were dispersed after 1931 and in the 1970s more than 3,000 volumes were moved to grace the shelves of the library at Killerton. In 2011 these were removed by the National Trust and have been split between the University of Exeter Special Collections, which has 2,000 items and the Devon Heritage Centre, which has 1,500 items including the folk song and popular literature items. The University material has been properly catalogued and included in the online catalogue and box listings are available for the material in the Devon Heritage Centre, but this is the first time that the books at Lewtrenchard have been listed in printed form. They have a rich and wide-ranging coverage, rich in folklore, social life, travel and history both of the British Isles and Europe, especially Germany, France and Iceland. As it is still an interim version, it has not been provided with an ISBN. Copies have been distributed to libraries in Exeter and Plymouth and to the copyright libraries. A limited number of copies is available price £10.00 from the compiler. Email [ianmaxted@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ianmaxted@hotmail.co.uk).

### **Magdalen Road, Exeter, through time**

The row of shops along Magdalen Road, Exeter, which is locally known as Mount Radford village street, has achieved an almost iconic status. The Magdalen Road Exeter through time project is being undertaken in conjunction with Studio 36, an art gallery run by Veronica Gosling, a dynamic woman in her nineties, who during lockdown set up a series of community boards in the front garden. The project seeks to stimulate creativity – artistic, historical and literary – by charting the occupants of each property over the past two centuries. It is in the early stages and more dates need to be filled in, which may clarify the various changes in property numbering over the years, in part the result of gradual infill and also redevelopment after bomb damage in 1942. The parade of shops has already been the subject of several studies, for example one for the Historical Association for primary school pupils in 2010. It certainly provides an interesting way of using a range of overlapping historical sources to build a detailed picture of a local neighbourhood, matching Ordnance Survey and other maps with census returns, trade directories and for recent years, digital resources such as Google Streetview. It is hoped to enlist the participation of shop owners, shoppers and passers-by to gather photographs, anecdotes and artworks to form a highly localised community archive accessible to all.

### **Two recent plaques**

It is not simply the Devon History Society, the Exeter Civic Society and similar heritage groups that are in the business of erecting plaques. On 19 June 2022 no less than two were unveiled in Exeter. One was dedicated by the Exeter Labour Party to former mayor of Exeter Ivy Johns, champion of the Burnthouse Lane Estate, known as "Mrs Wonford" who died in 2007. It can be seen on her home at 1, Holly Road where she lived for more than fifty years. The other was put up by Exeter School and honoured a little-known local hero, Andrea Angel (1877-1917). As this is not located in a public area and can only be seen by arrangement with the school, it is described in more detail here. Appropriately, the plaque is located at the entrance to the Science Centre of the School, where Andrea Angel was a pupil from 1890 to 1896. He won an Open Exhibition to Christ Church, where he graduated with a First in Chemistry in 1899. A brilliant researcher, he went on to become a lecturer, first at Brasenose and Keble, and finally at Christ Church College where he ran the laboratory as a tutor and lecturer in chemistry. At the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, he volunteered to go to the Western Front, but due to his knowledge and experience, he was sent to work in the Brunner Mond munitions factory in Silvertown as chief chemist and manager. The old factory had been reopened during the war, despite its location in the heart of London's docklands.

On 19 January 1917, a fire in the melt-pot room led to the explosion of 50 tonnes of TNT. The Silvertown explosion totally destroyed 900 houses and damaged 70,000. A total of 400 people were seriously injured and 73 died. The death toll would undoubtedly have been higher if it were not for the bravery of Andrea Angel who stayed at his post directing the evacuation of workers and organising fire-fighting, knowing that the factory could explode at any minute. He helped save many lives but lost his own when the factory blew up. He was awarded the highest civilian award for his bravery, the Edward Medal, later replaced by the George Cross.

### **Exeter's freed slave : in search of Delia Graham**

Not all worthy cases can receive a blue plaque. Not only should there be an identifiable building on which it can be placed, but permission from the planning authorities and the owner must be obtained. Unfortunately the Exeter Civic Society could not achieve this, so the research undertaken on her life must remain her memorial.

In 1854 a reporter under the pseudonym of "The White Slave" published a series of reports on the poorest classes of Exeter in the *Western Luminary* of which a file is held in the Devon and Exeter Institution. In the "Exeter workhouse - its inmates their occupations and treatment", the fifth in the series, published 18 April, 1854, page 3, columns b-d, he briefly interviewed a woman he named as Dahlia Graham:

"The Aged women's-ward [...] has 13 beds occupied now by 14 persons: at one end, separated by a partition, is the Day-ward for the same parties. At the moment we entered they had congregated round the fire-place, and their appearance was somewhat grotesque. We approached and observed one old lady seated in a cane-wrought chair with considerable ease and dignity. She saluted us blandly, and we soon observed that she was of African blood. A novel sight in our Union-house! Around her head was bound a many-coloured kerchief, in the fantastic style that obtains in tropical climes. She was somewhat eloquent; exceedingly happy, and very grateful. She told us that her name was Dahlia Graham, given her by an English family, to whom she was sold by a slave-dealer in the West Indies, of that name. She was the eldest of four children, and was very young when placed in the bonds of captivity. From the hands of Mr Graham she passed to those of Mr Wardrobe, who was, when she was sold to him, a large plantation holder, but the policy of our governments towards the West India planters having beggared many, the Wardrobe family have been sufferers, and Dahlia rejoices in her present happy position. Such are the mutations of sublunary things! Dahlia, kidnapped in Africa, endured the horrors of the middle passage, was sold into bondage in our colonies, and now at the patriarchal age of 93, she has a mansion to live in, gardens to live in, and the lieges of the Queen of England to minister to her wants! Fortunate Dahlia! How different an end to that which would, probably, have awaited her in her own country!"

There are several inconsistencies in this tantalisingly brief account which could be due to the faulty memory of Dahlia or the carelessness and haste of the reporter.

By the time of the 1841 census (HO107/263/6 folio 6) Dahlia (or Delia as she is more often named) had certainly arrived in Exeter and is recorded in Premier Place, St Leonard in the household of Harriett Wardrobe, described as a female servant aged 75. The household is described as "foreign". The fact that no surname is given might indicate Mrs Wardrobe's perception of her status at that time when reporting to the enumerator.

Delia Graham appears again in the census for 1851 (HO 107/1869/7 page 6) at Rose Cottage, Hills Court Road, now 13 Pennsylvania Road. Her age is given as 76, she is now accorded a surname and is qualified as "general servant upper" as distinct from the younger servant. Less than two years later she was removed to Exeter Workhouse. Delia Graham's death was registered in the March quarter, 1855 (Exeter, 5b, 79) and she was buried in St Sidwell, Exeter.

The statement in the 1851 census that she was born in Senegal may seem unlikely as Senegal, with that part of the slave coast including the notorious island of Gorée, was a French possession. However in 1758 during the Seven Year' War it had been captured by the British. From 1763 Gorée reverted to French control, returning to Britain in 1779 and it was only finally ceded to France by the Treaty of Paris in 1783. This falls within the period when Delia was a young girl, so she could well have been transported from Senegal to the West Indies on a British slave ship.

There were several planters named Graham in the West Indies, but it has proved impossible to identify any that may have moved to Georgia or indeed any members of the Wardrobe family who were active as planters in the West Indies. The Graham, Baillie and Wardrobe families all had Scottish roots, as did many of the slave owners in the New World. If Delia was passed directly from the Graham family to the Wardrobe family, this would probably have happened after 1810 when Lieutenant-Colonel William Wardrobe arrived in Georgia after retiring from the British Army. It is perhaps more likely that she had been acquired by the Baillie family and passed to the Wardrobe family on the marriage of Harriet Louisa Baillie.

It has been possible to discover a considerable amount of information about the American families in Georgia where Delia worked first as a slave and later as a servant and this has now been placed [on the internet](#).

The death of Delia's mistress Harriett Louisa Wardrobe is recorded in the September 1856 quarter (RG Exeter 5b, 53) and her burial was in St David, Exeter. The death of her niece Eliza Houston Baillie is recorded at Exeter in the December quarter of 1856, so any residual legacy would have reverted to Eliza's sister Harriet Louisa Baillie whose death was registered in Exeter during the March quarter of 1883.

Thus Delia, the oldest of the four, was the first to die, but two of the four died the following year and may well have been too ill to retain the services of an aged servant. But, having spent most of her life working for others, first as a slave and then as a servant, she may well have been relieved finally to be looked after for the last few years of her life, even in the less than ideal conditions of the Exeter workhouse. Perhaps the observations of "The White Slave" in 1854 on her "exceedingly happy, and very grateful" state of mind were not so wide of the mark.

**Ian Maxted**

*An appeal from Mike Dalby:*

I have recently had published in the MG Car Club *Triple M Yearbook* a piece on the 1932 1000 mile Royal Automobile Club car rally to Torquay.

Cars had started from nine different towns and cities all over the UK and from each town each had to drive a different 1000 mile route, over three days, to finish in Torquay. The following day each car had a driving test on the promenade, followed on the Sunday by a 'Concours d'Elegance' competition.

I would be interested to know if any other members have any relations or friends that had any associations with the event.

Many thanks.

**Mike Dalby**

*Some members may be familiar with Kit Batten's name as a result of the three excellent publications on maps which he authored in collaboration with Francis Bennett. He writes:*

As an ex-Torquinian (I live in Germany) I bought my first map in Exeter almost thirty years ago and since then I have collected a substantial amount of Devon-related cartographic material. Initially I searched in vain for a 'Stanley Gibbons' of Devon maps and soon realised there was none. I then began compiling my own lists and was fortunate to meet Francis Bennett; we collaborated on three books, listing all Devon county maps and Exeter maps printed in volumes up to 1901. They are unusual in that every single map mentioned is also illustrated.

This urge to write has continued and I have since written a number of articles on a number of topics. I noticed that there seemed to be two John Cookes and established that they were one and the same person: an engraver from London who moved to Plymouth and produced a number of maps and plans there.

Plymouth was fortunate to have a directory published by the Eyre Brothers. There is no record of this company and I researched their output and produced a listing of all their known works to date.

Two London publishers decided simultaneously to publish serial monthly publications on Devon with first issues coming out on the same day: 1st September 1829. I compare their production history and illustrate all their views.

The original two publications were made available to all collectors via websites but dedicated sites incur annual charges so I turned to the 'blog' format. I currently have thirteen separate blogs devoted to Devon material and a number of others, mostly on map-related themes.

If I have whetted your appetite, please visit the blog at:

<https://welcome-to-kits-blog.blogspot.com/2021/12/blog-post.html>

**Kit Batten**

## **NEW BOOKS**

### **The Land Between the Moors Essays in Culture, Environment and Agricultural Change Edited by Michael Winter with Tim Wilkinson, Matt Lobley and Robert Fish**

This book of essays focuses on how a particular rural landscape and its communities have evolved and changed, and the problems and prospects associated with managing the landscape sustainably.

It provides an important new exploration of the many roots of, and routes through, the 21st Century's challenges to the 'Land Between the Moors' of Dartmoor, Exmoor and Bodmin, looking in detail at the area's rich history, its farming, its nature and its people.

The publication is illustrated throughout with photographs from the Beaford Archive.

**Recommended Retail Price: £18.00**

Retail outlets wishing to stock this book should contact [archive@beaford.org](mailto:archive@beaford.org) for more information.

### **COMMON FORM by John Booker Published by John ML Booker, Exeter, 2022 ISBN 978-1-3999-2625-6**

**Cover Price: £10, plus £2.80 for postage and packing (within the UK)**

This is a formulary, for archivists and historians, of records frequently found in local repositories. It is essential when faced with a daunting document, say 500 years old and in Latin, to know what it is, how useful it might be, and what parts of it are common to all other records of that type. Some researchers may be surprised to learn that up to 70% of the text in certain types of deed is invariable. So once the 'common form' has been spotted, the effort of interpretation can focus on the names, places, properties and transactions which are unique to that deed alone. But it is not only deeds which are covered: formulaic analysis extends to other areas including Quarter Sessions, Letters Patent, IPMs, manorial records and wills. As well as indicating defining phrases, the author discusses the historical significance of each record type because appearances can be deceptive.

Dr. John Booker read Classics at Durham University before taking research degrees in early modern history and architectural history at Durham and York respectively. Having qualified as an archivist at UCL, he began his professional career as an Assistant Archivist at West Sussex Record Office in Chichester. He later worked as Deputy County Archivist at Essex Record Office in Chelmsford before becoming Chief Archivist to the Lloyds Bank Group in London. Since retirement over 20 years ago he has volunteered on

a regular basis at the Devon Heritage Centre in Exeter where he also teaches medieval and early modern palaeography. He is the author of numerous works of biography and social history as well as many articles in major reference works and scholarly journals.

*Common Form* is intended to complement the author's book *Devon Deciphered*, published by the Friends of Devon's Archives in 2017 and also available from the Devon Heritage Centre at the same price, plus postage and packing. That work (ISBN 978-0-9957994-0-0) is a text book of palaeography incorporating a guide to symbols used as marks of abbreviation and has a nationwide relevance despite the chosen examples emanating from Devon.

To order your copy of *Common Form* and/or *Devon Deciphered* send a cheque made out to 'South West Heritage Trust Trading Ltd' to Devon Heritage Centre, Great Moor House, Bittern Road, Exeter EX2 7NL, or pay by credit card over the telephone or via PayPal. The contact number is 01392 888700 (Tuesday-Thursday 10-5). Alternatively, the email address is [devonarchives@swheritage.org.uk](mailto:devonarchives@swheritage.org.uk).

## BOOK REVIEWS

### The Henry Bagwell Story

by Margaret Rice

Margaret Rice's *The Henry Bagwell Story* is the first-ever published biography of a prominent character related to the Accomack Plantation in Virginia and a fascinating journey into the hard life of the pioneers of the 17th century. Bagwell was born in Exeter, Devon, in the south west of England in 1589, and after leaving his homeland to move to America, he became the first clerk of the Accomack Plantation. He recorded the events he experienced, thus writing the oldest records in English-speaking America. Through careful research of the sources, Rice portrays this man and his contemporaries, giving us an idea of their living conditions and hindrances. With attention to even the smallest detail, *The Henry Bagwell Story* is a fascinating representation not just of a single man but an entire group of people.

I am fascinated by history, and having the chance to learn more about those who helped make America the nation it is today makes me understand at what cost this country was created. Margaret Rice is to be praised for her research and especially for the way she used the material. Starting from the trips to America before Bagwell's and concluding the book with the stories of his descendants, Rice has given us a thorough and accurate picture. I was thrilled by reading *The Henry Bagwell Story* because of Rice's detailed information, which gave me the impression of seeing the places and the dwellers' lives. I recommend *The Henry Bagwell Story* to readers interested in 17th century American history and who value painstaking historical research.

Astrid Iustulin

**Ian Pykett. *The Life and Times of Revd John Reddaway Luxmoore (1829-1917), with Special Reference to his Renovation of Holy Trinity Church, Ashford-in-the-Water*** (Storrington, West Sussex: Spiral Publishing in association with Country Books, 2022). 284 pp., illustrations. Softback. ISBN 978-1-9-910489-82-6. £15.00.

The Luxmoores are an ancient Devon family, tracing their origins back to Jordan de Lukesmore, who is mentioned in the Manor Rolls of Lydford, in 1297. This well written and information packed biography traces the life and career of one of the lesser-known Luxmoores, John Reddaway Luxmoore, who was born in Jacobstowe in 1829, to Samuel Luxmoore, a yeoman farmer and Patience Luxmoore, née Reddaway. The first thirty pages trace the various branches of the Luxmoore family in west Devon and their relationship to other families such as the Yeos and Bickles in Inwardleigh, Germansweek, Sampford Courtenay, the Curworthy and Burdon estate, and Orchard Barton in Lewtrenchard.



This section also includes a description of the infamous case of John Yeo, who was taken to court in 1851 “for unlawfully assaulting Charles Luxmoore, knowing him to be a destitute person of unsound mind” (p. 39). Charles Luxmoore, having shown “violent and unusual behaviour” (p. 40) was confined to a cell, with a chain fastened round his leg, for nine years by his grandparents. When his grandparents were taken seriously ill, John Yeo of Orchard Barton kept him locked up for a further four years, before the Commissioners of Lunacy brought charges against John Yeo. The case at Exeter Crown Court excited national interest and is still quoted today (Sarah Wise, *Inconvenient People: Lunacy, Liberty and Mad-Doctors in Victorian Britain*, 2013). John Yeo was found guilty but given a very mild sentence by Mr. Justice Coleridge, while Charles Luxmoore was transferred to Devon County Asylum at Exminster where he died in 1880.

Having first explored the sources of John Luxmoore’s modest family fortunes (pp. 46-51), John’s biography proper begins when John “rather than follow in the footsteps of so many of both his mother’s and father’s ancestors, by continuing the tradition of farming or an allied trade, our John’s guaranteed future ownership of the properties at West Week and Risdon provided him with the opportunity to choose a different path” (p. 52). John left the family home in 1848 and took out a mortgage on Peards Acre, at South Zeal, moving three years later to study with the Revd Samuel Feild of Hatherleigh. In 1855, Luxmoore began his studies at St. Bees Theological College in Cumberland, being ordained in 1858. His first curacy was at Smalley in Derbyshire; after a year there he moved to Ross-on-Wye, where he met Rosalie Stonhouse-Vigor, who was the daughter of a well-connected clergyman and the great-granddaughter of the 11<sup>th</sup> Baronet Radley. John and Rosalie married in 1861, the same year as he was appointed vicar of Holy Trinity Church in Ashford-in-the-Water in Derbyshire (p. 67), a post which he retained for the next 52 years.

The rest of the book deals with John Luxmoore’s fulfilling but relatively unexciting life in Derbyshire. Much of his time was taken up with parish duties, and his struggles to retain his flock in the face of dissenting sects, and increasing secularism. The book also has substantial sections devoted to his wife’s relatives, the Stonhouses and the Bennetts, as well as looking at the careers of several other prominent families from Ashford, such as the Birleys, the Shores, and, above all, the Brushfields, one member of which, Thomas Nadauld Brushfield (1828-1910), “was in the vanguard of a remarkable improvement in the treatment and care of the mentally ill” (p. 132) and who retired to Budleigh Salterton, where there is a blue plaque dedicated to him. Brushfield was a leading authority on Sir Walter Raleigh, and published regularly in the *Transactions of the Devonshire Association* of which he was elected President in 1893-94. “Brushfield’s extensive collection of Raleighana reached Exeter City Library and now forms part of the Westcountry Studies Library at Devon Heritage Centre” (Ian Maxted, *The Story of the Book in Exeter and Devon*, p. 159). Dr. Pykett’s book concludes with the “Renovation of Holy Trinity, Ashford-in-the-Water” (pp. 151-199), “The Vicarage” (p. 200-215), “Ashford-in-the-Water in Revd Luxmoore’s time” (pp. 216-226), and “A history of the dissenting chapels in Ashford” by David Windle (pp. 231-254).

While it is clear that this book is principally a contribution to the local history of Derbyshire, it is, nonetheless, an interesting portrait of a typical vicar of a rural parish, and there must be many parallels between John Luxmoore’s life and those of his Devon counterparts in the second half of the nineteenth-century. There is also considerable material of interest to Devon historians in the early sections of the book which deal with the family history of the Luxmoores, the Reddaways and the Yeos of West Devon. Occasionally, the book does lose focus, and there are cameo appearances from Bishop Phillpotts and Samuel Sebastian Wesley (and Clifton Suspension Bridge) which are not particularly relevant to the main thrust of the book; in addition, the author does sometimes speculate about relationships for which there is no direct evidence, e.g. on p. 63 where Dr. Pykett suggests that John Luxmoore gained his post in Ross-on-Wye, through “judicious networking”. Nevertheless, this is a worthy portrait of a Devon-born priest who remained in the same parish post for 52 years because “he had a true empathy with his parishioners’ often difficult lives” and “endeared himself to everyone in the parish because of his abiding sense of loyalty” (p. 229).

**Paul Auchterlonie**

## HISTORY EVENTS AUTUMN 2022

SATURDAY 10 SEPTEMBER

### DUNCHIDEOCK CHURCH

#### St. Michael & All Angels

##### EXHIBITION

from 10.30am to 6.00pm  
Refreshments throughout the Day

##### MUSIC

12.30pm to 1.30pm  
Musicians: The West Gallery Quire  
'Country Church Music in Dunchideock  
and Surrounding Area, 1770 to 1850'

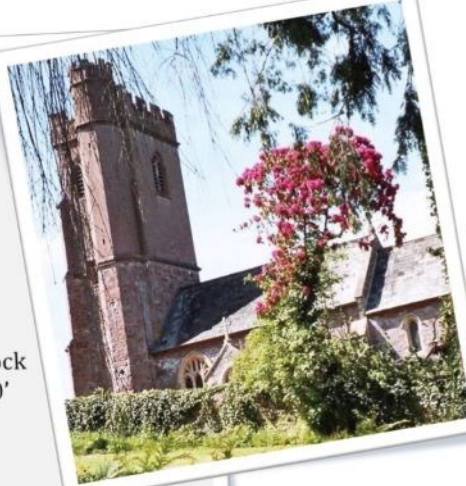
##### TALKS

2.30pm to 3.30pm  
Speaker: Jan Wood  
'The History of Dunchideock Church & Its Parish'

Refreshments: Tea/Coffee and Home-made Cake

4.00pm to 4.30pm  
Speaker: Peter Michelmores  
'The Ancient Tradition of Church Patronage and  
Its Modern Day Significance to Dunchideock'

4.35pm to 5.30pm  
Speaker: Hugh Harrison  
'Herbert Read & the Dunchideock Church Rood  
Screen  
& The Read Family & St. Sidwell's Artwork'



**An Amazing  
Programme  
throughout  
the Day**

FREE ENTRY : Visitor Donation box : Refreshments small charge

Contact: Steve Cook: 01392 832332 email: [tvhchurches@gmail.com](mailto:tvhchurches@gmail.com)

More details about Dunchideock History Events: [www.dunchideockhistory.com](http://www.dunchideockhistory.com)

## DUNCHIDEOCK HISTORY EVENTS AUTUMN 2022

**Sunday, 25 September : Treacle Mine Open!**



**DUNCHIDEOCK HOUSE  
GROUNDS**

**2.30pm to 5pm  
TREACLE MINE OPEN!**  
Meet the MINERS  
Listen to their STORIES

**TOUR OF GARDENS & LAKE**  
with PETER GOODCHILD

**REFRESHMENTS**

Free Entry : Visitor Donation Box  
All proceeds to Marie Curie and  
Village Hall

Refreshments small charge



**BOOK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**  
**Saturday, 15 October**  
**The Lord Haldon Country Hotel**

**3.45pm to 5.00pm**  
**CHILDREN'S TEA PARTY : all ages**

**£5.00 per Family**

**FANCY DRESS  
and PARTY GAMES**

**CONTACT: TINA COOK 01392 832057**  
**[www.dunchideockhistory.com](http://www.dunchideockhistory.com)**

**Saturday 1 October : Dunchideock Village Hall**

**EXHIBITION**

Dunchideock Village Life in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

**Open 2pm to 5pm**

**TALK**

**2.30pm to 3.30pm**

**Speakers: David Lovell & Madie Smith**  
**'Dunchideock in the War Times to 1990'**

**Refreshments: Tea/Coffee Home-made-cakes**

Free Entry : Visitor Donation box  
Refreshments small charge

**BOOK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**  
**Sunday, 16 October**

**The Lord Haldon Country Hotel**

**7.30pm to 10.30pm**

**TREACLE MINERS 'ANNUAL' DINNER**

**Black Tie / Suit**

**2-Courses £17.50 or £21.50**

**To Book: Lord Haldon Country Hotel**  
**01392 832483**  
**[www.lordhaldonhotel.co.uk](http://www.lordhaldonhotel.co.uk)**

**FULL DETAILS IN OCTOBER ISSUE OF:**

**3-Day Event:**  
**The Lord Haldon Country Hotel**  
**Friday 14, Saturday 15 to Sunday 16 October**

**Exhibition: From the Stone Age through to**  
**the Pitmans, Palks and Modern Times.**  
**Displays \* Speakers \* Films \* Books \*  
Maps plus...**

**FULL DETAILS NOW on Website:**  
**[www.dunchideockhistory.com](http://www.dunchideockhistory.com)**

## FRIENDS OF DEVON'S ARCHIVES

The Friends of Devon's Archives (FoDA) was founded in 1998 to promote the preservation and use of historical records throughout Devon and to raise public awareness of their importance for research and education. It provides financial support for the acquisition of Devon documents, arranges a programme of lectures and volunteer projects, and liaises closely with the local record offices in Devon to improve standards of care and availability of the county's written heritage.

FoDA are currently offering a 50% discount on membership for local history groups that are already affiliate members of the Devon History Society. To subscribe for just £10 a year please visit their website: <http://www.foda.org.uk>

## AND FINALLY...

This contribution, via Todd Gray, would have appeared more prominently but it arrived a matter of hours before this edition went 'to print'.

## Appeal

The Museum of Barnstaple & North Devon Development Trust has launched an appeal to support the publication of *Barnstaple, 1640–1670*, a collection of 23 essays by 20 specialists who introduce this 'unknown' map and explain the town it depicts. It is edited by Todd Gray & accompanies the exhibition running from 12th November 2022 to 18th February 2023.

Patrons: Are invited to contribute £250, in return for which their names will appear in the opening pages and receive a signed copy, plus an invitation to the pre-view and 2 years' membership of the Friends of Barnstaple & North Devon Museum.

Supporters: Are invited to contribute £25.00, in return they will receive a signed copy of the volume, a copy of Elizabethan Devon and an invitation to the opening lecture on 12th November as numbers permit.

The deadline is 30th September 2022. To make your payment please go to: <https://barnstaple-and-north-devon-museum-development-trust.sumup.link/> or visit the museum's website where the link can be found on the Friends' membership page.

