

Colyton Parish History Society Newsletter September 2014

roger.hutton1@btopenworld.com

TV historian Tony Robinson walks through history of Colyton

TV historian Tony Robinson visited Colyton on Monday, 1st September to film an episode of his documentary series "Walking Through History".



The programme, to be screened in the New Year on Channel 4, features the West Country rebels who supported the Monmouth Rebellion and Colyton's role as the "most rebellious town in Devon". One hundred and five Colytonian men joined the Protestant Duke of Monmouth (more than from any other town) while troops loyal to the Catholic King James II were also active and present in the valley trying to prevent others from joining the rebellion. Scenes for the documentary were filmed around Colyton's historic streets and bridges. The episode will follow the story of the rebels on their journey from Lyme Regis, where the exiled Duke of Monmouth - the illegitimate child of the former King Charles II - landed in June 1685, hoping to raise an army to overthrow his uncle, King James II. It follows the rebellion through the West Country to their defeat at the Battle of Sedgemoor. Many rebels were subsequently hanged or sent into slavery. Sir Tony, well-known for playing Baldrick in comedy series "Blackadder", was accompanied by singer-songwriter Billy Bragg whilst in Colyton and was also spotted in Lyme Regis and Charmouth during filming last week. Colin Haynes, our

local historian, has been helping the programme makers by providing local colour and information.

Book Launch – Heritage Centre – Thursday September 18 at 10:30

Joan White, whose husband Roy was the leader of Colyton YMCA Youth Club, has written a history of the Youth Club and its time in George's Meeting House. She has called the book "Footprints in the Sands of Time" and says that "The people written about in this book have all walked before us on the streets, fields and buildings of Colyton and have shaped its life and are the threads of its history".

The book will be launched on Thursday, Sept 18 at 10:30 and Joan will be available to sign copies of her book. She has generously decided that all profits will go to Colyton Parish History Society.

Monmouth Rebellion Re-enactment - Saturday, 13th June 2015

To follow on from the note in last month's newsletter, this will be a community event to mark the 330th anniversary of the Rebellion in Colyton's history.

There will be an historic re-enactment of the life and times, led by the Taunton Garrison in full costume. A street market, living history camp, pike and musket drill and Drum Head Service will be among the attractions to be enjoyed. Further details of the day's events will be published on www.colytonheritagecentre.org over the coming months. Anyone who would like to get involved in helping or organising next year's event should contact Jacque McCullough by calling 01297 552626 or email jacqueline.mcculloch@btinternet.com

Town Walks

The last couple of scheduled walks for this year are on Thursday Sept 18th and 25th (2pm at the Car Park and ending in the Heritage Centre - £2 per person) but extra walks can be arranged at any time by calling Jane Dauncey on 01297 552514. The numbers walking during this year have been very good and it looks as if we will pass our previous record of 200. We have put some extra effort in publicity this year and it seems to have paid off. We do see these walks as a good public relations exercise for Colyton generally and the walkers are normally impressed by what they see. A recent comment from a visitor was "I didn't realise that there is so much to see in a small town like this".

Membership

Just a reminder – I attached a membership form for Gift Aid to last month's newsletter – there will be more available at the meeting on September 24 – please fill it in and return it to the Heritage Centre

Meetings/Events

Next meeting – September – Living the Poor Life – The Poor Law System in East Devon – June Wellington will be the speaker at our meeting on **Wednesday, September 24** in **Colyton Town Hall** at 7:30.

October – Devon Farmhouses – Tom Coleman on **Wednesday, October 22** in **Colyford Memorial Hall** at 7:30

Future Meetings – Next year's programme is being organised – we would appreciate hearing about any subjects that members would like to see/hear about – please contact Shirley Campbell-Brown (01297 553557 or s.campbellbrown@btinternet.com) who will be glad to discuss all suggestions.

Website - www.colytonheritagecentre.org