

22 December 2015

## COLYTON PARISH HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Firstly, a very Happy Christmas to you all!



### 1. Launch of Colyton Parish History Project



Colyton Parish History Project was officially launched on 30 November 2015, by local historian Todd Gray. Funded by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Project will tell the history of the Parish of Colyton and will digitize and preserve the nationally important archives of the Chamber of Feoffees.

The event was organized to encourage local people to become involved in the Project. A buzz of excitement and anticipation filled the Town Hall on Monday afternoon, with some 80 people attending the launch. Mr Gray inspired his audience with a brief tour d'horizon of possible research topics including: to what extent this most rebellious town in Devon was involved in or influenced by some of the notable revolts against the established church over the centuries, the influence of leading local families such as the Pole Carews at Shute, the contribution of the Chamber of Feoffees to the development of Colyton as one of the most important towns in Devon and the social impact of Poor Law legislation. Concluding his remarks, Mr Gray said: "This is an enormously exciting project with the scope for research to produce booklet after booklet for the next twenty years."

A small exhibition, arranged by Feoffee Colin Pady, of documents dating from the early 17th century and other items of note such as old corn measuring jugs and an interactive digital display, organised by project consultants Freeline, both attracted considerable interest.

The Project will require a range of skills from primary source research, transcription, proof reading, picture research, organisational ability and film making. Training will also be provided in digitization techniques. - See more at:

<http://colytonheritagecentre.org/2015/12/launch-colyton-parish-history-project>

## **2. Volunteers needed to work on Colyton Parish History Project**

- There has already been a very positive response to the request made at the launch for volunteers to join the Project. But there is still time to do so. A wide range of skills and experience will be required, from doing original research, transcription of old documents, proof reading, picture research, organisational ability and film making as well as staffing the Heritage Centre during the summer months. Training will also be given in the digitisation process. If you are interested in getting involved in this exciting project and can offer any of these skills you can obtain an application form by emailing me Sarah Charman at: [sarah.charman@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sarah.charman@yahoo.co.uk) or you can pick up a hard copy of the form from the Merchant's House Tea Rooms.

For further information about volunteering with CPHS you can speak to Jasmine List on 01297 552313, Jacqui McCulloch on 01297 552626 or me on 01297 553148.

## **3. Christmas Fayre Visitors**

- Visitors to the Heritage Centre during the Colyton Christmas Fayre on 2 December were over 40% up on last year with a total of 101 people dropping in to the Centre during the Fayre.

## **4. Parish History Project Steering Group - 2nd Planning Meeting with Consultants Freeline**

- A second meeting of the steering group with consultants Freeline was held on 17 December in the Feoffees' Board Room in the Town Hall. Discussions included a brief look at possible research topics and some timetable planning with the aim of arranging initial focus group meetings with volunteers around the end of January. (More on this in the next newsletter.) Freeline also took the opportunity to measure up in the Heritage Centre so that planning can begin for the installation of the digitizing equipment and additional display and storage facilities.

## **Looking forward to 2016**

There are lots of exciting things to look forward to:

## **5. Future Meetings**

- The **Members' Evening** on Wednesday 27 January 2016 at 7.30 pm in Colyton Town Hall will include short talks on a) The Landscape Legacy (Shute Estate) Project by Pete Youngman and b) Compyne by Graham Jones.

- The **Annual General Meeting** will be held on 24 February 2016 at 7.30 pm in Colyford Memorial Hall. Afterwards, Joan White will give a short talk on Footprints in the Sands of Time.

## **6. Annual Membership Fees**

- Remember these are due on 1 January 2016. Subscription rates are unchanged at £5 single or £8 per couple and can be paid at the next meeting use the membership form on this website and post it to the Membership Secretary: Glennis Ashbolt at Tritchayne, Colyton, Devon EX24 6SP.

## **7. Miscellanea - History of the Harp Project**

- I recently attended a lecture given by musician Sarah Deere-Jones. She is currently conducting research into the history of the harp in England and is seeking help in tracking down and identifying examples of medieval harps in English churches. These may be found with human or animal figures, at the top of pillars, on roof bosses, in carvings on the side of pews or in stained glass designs or even outside as gargoyles. If you like visiting old English churches and come across any examples of harps (they must be pre-Victorian), Sarah would be very grateful to receive an email from you enclosing a photograph of the item and providing a brief outline of the history of the church where it is located. Her email address is [sarah@sarahdeere-jones.co.uk](mailto:sarah@sarahdeere-jones.co.uk) Or she can be contacted at Sarah Deere-Jones, Trehawsa, Whitstone, Holsworthy, Devon EX22 6TL.

Sarah Charman Editor

Colyton Parish History Society: [www.colytonhistory.co.uk](http://www.colytonhistory.co.uk)

Colyton Heritage Center: [www.colytonheritagecentre.org](http://www.colytonheritagecentre.org)