

COLYTON PARISH HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

23 August 2017

Editor's note

Can you help solve the mystery of the window in St Andrew's Church – see below? Do hope you've all had a lovely summer despite the awful weather in August. There are lots of interesting things to look forward to in September beginning with the first of CPHS's autumn lectures on the 'power of advertising' presented by Bruce Upton on Wednesday 27 September.

If anyone hasn't been in the Heritage Centre since it was refitted as part of our HLF Award with new display boards and lots of new information on the interactive screen - do come and see for yourself. Also do you have some time you could give to helping digitise and summarise the Feoffees' archive? There is lots still to do. We are a friendly team of volunteers and you would be made most welcome (see below)!

Sarah Charman, **Editor**

1. News

a) Relaunch celebration event at Colyton Heritage Centre



Dr Todd Gray speaking at the relaunch of Colyton Heritage Centre on 2 August

“Colyton is one of the most famous parishes in England”, according to Dr Todd Gray speaking at an event at Colyton Heritage Centre on 2 August.

Dr Gray said ground breaking research on the town's historic Feoffees' archive, conducted by Cambridge University academics several decades ago, had led to the town becoming very well known.

The event - to which local history societies and cultural organisations from across Devon were invited - was held to mark the successful completion of the recent refit of Colyton Heritage Centre as part of its planned redevelopment following receipt of the Heritage Lottery Fund grant in 2015.



Guests study the maps on the interactive screen

The Heritage Centre has been kitted out with professionally designed display panels and a large interactive screen now incorporates a vast range of content relating to the historic development of the Parish of Colyton. The information was identified by local volunteers in the course of their researches. Dr Gray said that seeing what others had said about Colyton and learning to interpret their local history had been a process of self discovery for many of the researchers involved.

Mrs Marian Sydenham, Chairman of CPHS, welcomed all the guests to the Centre, thanking them for turning up on such a wet evening to join in the celebrations. "We are thrilled with what has been achieved so far" she said. "Our grateful thanks is due to the many people who have contributed to the successful outcome of this part of the project, in particular to the HLF who awarded the Society a grant two years ago and to the local volunteers who spent last summer researching a wide variety of topics related to the history of Colyton, under the expert guidance and mentoring of Dr Todd Gray, project consultants Freeline and the Devon Heritage Centre at Exeter."

Mrs Sydenham said there was still some way to go with delivering other aspects of the project, but significant progress had been made in preparing the Feoffees' archive for digitising and summarising. Work was progressing steadily on digitising documents and on developing a database to hold and organise them. This would make the historic archive much more easily available to the public and for academic research in future. She also thanked Jon Pratt for the immense amount of work he had put in to designing and creating the database for the Society.

If anyone has some spare time this autumn – a couple of hours a week would be great - and is interested in being trained to digitise or summarise these historic documents please do get in touch with either Jasmine List on 01297 5552313, jasmine_mike.list@yahoo.com or me Sarah Charman on 01297 553148, sarah.charman@yahoo.co.uk

b) Day trip to Moretonhampstead and Cadhay House – 9 August 2017



The tour group listening to Bill Hardiman outside Greenhill heritage centre in Moretonhampstead

A most enjoyable and informative day was had by all who participated in the CPHS summer day trip on 9 August to Moretonhampstead on Dartmoor and to Cadhay House.

In Moretonhampstead, we were cordially hosted by a fellow historian Bill Hardiman who gave us a fact filled tour of the town including a visit to the Church, the town's own cultural heritage centre/art gallery called Greenhill and an enterprising small business - making shrouds!

After a brief lunch we headed off to Cadhay House near Ottery St Mary where we enjoyed an excellent guided tour of this lovely old property and gardens and a delicious cream tea with the best raspberry jam ever.

Many thanks to Maggie Tinsley and Jacquie McCulloch for organising the trip.



Inside Cadhay House

c) Mystery – can you help?



Window in St Andrew's Church, Colyton

Do you know the meaning of this window in St Andrew's Church? The four 'medallions' say respectively: 'Send me', 'Africa', 'Colyton', 'here am I'. The window was installed in the 1930s following the fire at the Church in 1933. It would be lovely to find out the story behind the message – particularly as the Society has received a query about it. If you can enlighten us please email me at sarah.charman@yahoo.co.uk

2. Forthcoming Events

a) Future CPHS Meetings in 2017

Our monthly talks and meetings begin again in September with:

- **The Power of Advertising** by Bruce Upton of Bridport at 7.30 pm on **Wednesday 27 September** in Colyton Town Hall.
- **Buildings of Sidmouth** by Nigel Hyman at 7.30 pm on **Wednesday 25 October** in Colyford Memorial Hall.
- **The Churchills** by Patsy Kingdon at 7.30 pm on **Wednesday 22 November** at Colyton Town Hall. If you do have any Churchill memorabilia, particularly if it has a local connection then please do bring it along on the evening!

b) Other Organisations' Events



i) **Legacy to Landscape Project News - 2017 Events for September:**

25 years on - another walk through time, Cottshayne woodland near Colyton
Saturday 9 September, 2pm – 5pm
How history has helped reveal and enhance the wildlife of Cottshayne, a planted ancient woodland site. Walk led by woodland owner Christina Bows. Adults only, Free event Limited parking at GR 226935 – booking essential, Contact: Christina Bows 01297 23822, tinabows@hotmail.co.uk;

Leaf through the past landscape walks, Shute Literature and Landscape Festival event Friday 22 September, 2.30pm - 4.30pm and Sunday 24 September, 2pm – 4pm
Step back in time to explore the historic estate around Shute and enjoy the wildlife and history of this intriguing landscape.
Part of the Shute Literature and Landscape Festival 2017 taking place at St Michael's Church & Shute Primary School.
Free event, no booking required. Parking Shute village, Haddon Road, EX13 7QR - Meet at village noticeboard at start of Haddon Road, (Shute Barton end)
Full Shute Festival programme: www.shutefest.org.uk

All ages welcome unless otherwise stated. Outdoor walks will not take place if heavy rain forecasted. If in doubt, please contact us. Further information legacytolandscape@gmail.com; 01404 310012

Legacy to Landscape is a three year community heritage project celebrating the wildlife and history of a hidden area of landscape in East Devon defined by the 1781 historic Shute Estate map.

- For more information on events and how you can get involved:
www.eastdevonaonb.org.uk/our-work/wildlife/legacy-to-landscape
Ruth Worsley, Legacy to Landscape Project Co-ordinator, 01297 489741
mob: 07765126565
- <http://www.eastdevonaonb.org.uk/our-work/wildlife/legacy-to-landscape>
email: legacytolandscape@gmail.com; The Landscape to Legacy Project is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund with support from the East Devon AONB Partnership, Devon Wildlife Trust and the Axe Vale and District Conservation Society.

c) Fire at the Clarence – Cygnet Theatre

- Why not try this interesting community theatre production, celebrating the history of Exeter's much loved Royal Clarence Hotel and timed to coincide with the first anniversary of the fire?

