

COLYTON PARISH HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER 23 Sept 2017

Editor's note

There are lots of requests for help this month. What do you know about Devon's orchards? CPHS has received a request for help from Michael Gee who is researching their history for a book.

Are you a technical whiz, good at image processing? Then please see advert below re help needed with the HLF Colyton Feoffees' Archive project. Also a couple of books have gone missing from the Heritage Centre library – have you seen them?

Remember the first of CPHS's autumn lecture series begins next week with a talk on the 'power of advertising' presented by Bruce Upton on Wednesday 27 September at Colyton Town Hall.

Sarah Charman **Editor**

1. News

a) Devon's Orchards – can you help?

Michael Gee

Writer and conservationist Michael Gee has contacted the Society asking for help with research he is doing into Devon's Orchards. He is well known for his work on the conservation of orchards in Devon:



<http://www.brauntoncountrysidecentre.org/tag/north-devon-orchards>

"I am looking for any old references to orchards, apple varieties, and anecdotes about management and harvesting and the importance of orchards in the life of the village. Old photographs would be interesting too.

"Colyton made 1500 hogsheads of cider per annum according to the brief response to Dean Milles's survey in 1757, so orchards must have been very important in the local economy. The price it commanded at the pound's mouth varied from 40s to 5s, so even allowing for annual variations some must have been very good and some

really awful! Acreage figures from the tithe surveys confirm the importance of orchards, making Colyton one of the top dozen orchard parishes in the county, so historically you were in the Orchard Premier Division!"

Do you perhaps own an historic orchard around Colyton? Do you have any old records relating to its cultivation over the centuries? Then do please get in touch with Michael at m.gee320@btinternet.com

b) Can you please help us find some missing books?

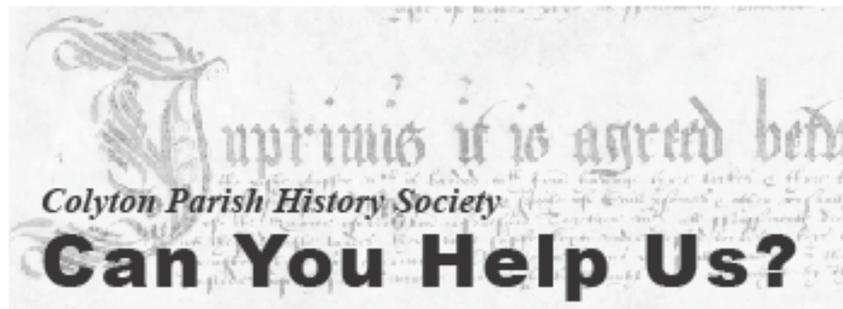
Two rather important books have disappeared from the Heritage Centre library. Have you seen them?

Have you possibly borrowed one and forgotten to bring it back? Please check your bookshelves! Can you recall when you last saw either of them? Any information you might have could be really helpful in tracking them down. You can either email me on: sarah.charman@yahoo.co.uk or ring Jacquie McCulloch on x

1. A dissertation by David Gunn-Johnson, subject Mamerto Guerritz a large blue bound volume.
2. A large volume on The Tannery.

c) Do you love information technology?

Are you interested in history, do you have image processing skills and some spare time which you would be prepared to offer to our exciting HLF funded Colyton Feoffees' archive project? Or indeed would you like to get involved in digitising some of the historic Feoffees' records. Then please see advert below and get in touch with either Jon Pratt on 01460 221405 or Jasmine List on x552313.



Colyton Parish History Society is leading a significant National Heritage Lottery funded project aimed at digitising, preserving and making available the important archive of Colyton Chamber of Feoffees documents which date from the 16th century to the present century.

Colyton has an international reputation for the quality and quantity of its historical records and archives and this project will add great richness to this heritage.

We want to increase our current team of volunteers to meet our targets of digitising and storing the archive of over 1000 documents by April 2019.

Specifically, we need:

Digitisers

Working in Colyton Heritage Centre you will use a professional digitising set up to copy a variety of historical documents into digital format.

Full training in operating the equipment and in document handling will be given.

We are looking for volunteers to offer a half-day session for most weeks.

Image processors

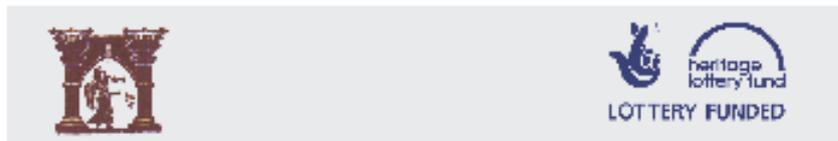
Working in Colyton Heritage Centre you will use Adobe Lightroom and Acrobat professional software to adjust digitised images for clarity and legibility and then create Acrobat pdf files of complete documents.

You will use a high specification PC and very high resolution screen to enhance this important work

Any previous photographic software experience would help but full training will be given to volunteers

If you are interested in Digitizing, contact Jas List on 01297 552313 • jasmine_mike.list@yahoo.com

If you are interested in Image Processing, contact Jon Pratt on 01460 221405 • japratt@btinternet.com



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



Legacy to Landscape Project News - 2017 Events for October:

Managing meadows – Saturday, 7 October, 10.30am -3.30pm
 Pennyhayes Farm, Umborne nr Shute, EX13 7QP Grid Ref SY 241971
 Practical task –learn about wildflower meadow management from ecologists, Phil and Marian at Pennyhayes Farm and lend a hand conserving a flower rich meadow on their farm - controlling spread of bramble that can smother the less vigorous meadow grasses and flowers. Stay for as long as you like and bring a packed lunch if stopping all day. Gloves, tools and drinks provided. Free event. Booking essential: Pete.youngman@eastdevonaonb.org.uk or 01404 310012

Devon's amazing hedges – their history, wildlife and management
 Friday 27 October, 7pm Colyford Memorial Hall, Swan Hill Road, EX24 6QJ, Grid Reference SY249924 Talk from hedge expert Rob Wolton, Chairman of the Devon Hedge Group. Devon has the best hedges in the world! Hear about their long history, rich wildlife and management techniques from expert. Event is part of Devon Hedge Week. Further information on Hedge Week events : www.devonhedges.org/news-training-eventsdevon-hedge-week/
 No booking required. Free event.



Lending hedges a helping hand Saturday 28 October, 10.30am-3.30pm
 Pratts Hill, near Colyton We are improving the quality of the hedgerows between Holyford Woods and the neighbouring hedgerows and copses to the north. This will improve the ability for a whole range of wildlife from bats, dormice and insect life to move around the countryside. Stay for as long as you like and bring a packed lunch if stopping all day. Gloves, tools and drinks provided. Free event.
 Booking essential: Pete.youngman@eastdevonaonb.org.uk or 01404 310012

More information about this community heritage project : www.eastdevonaonb.org.uk/our-work/wildlife/legacy-to-landscape

- For more information on events and how you can get involved:
www.eastdevonaonb.org.uk/our-work/wildlife/legacy-to-landscape
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mobile: 07765126565