

COLYTON PARISH HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER – 23 MARCH 2016



1. Heritage Centre - 2016 Opening Times

The Heritage Centre will reopen for our third season on Monday 11 April, and will be open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 till 4, and 10 to 1 on Saturdays.

We are opening a little later than in previous years as the back room is currently undergoing a refit with the installation of the digitizing equipment and will have purpose built work space, bookshelves and some new equipment, all thanks to the Heritage Lottery Fund Grant. Further refurbishment - including the installation of an interactive touch screen in the front room - is scheduled for the latter part of the year. The screen will be used to show the results of our researches.

2. The Display

This season we will also have some new information on display: Colin Haynes has kindly let us have copies of some research he has done on - Colyton's Inns, Pubs & Beer House. Colyton's Oak Bark Tannery. Folletts - Grocers, Ironmongers and Iron Founders. All three works will be in the Heritage Centre for people to browse through. And we will have a resident medieval merchant in the costume kindly made and presented to the Centre by John Forrester Addie! David and Heather Sibbald and Carol Woodward are all in the process of moving and so will sadly no longer be involved in the Heritage Centre; many thanks for their help in the past.

3. Weekly Walking Tours of Colyton



Click the Tours button on the menu for full details

Weekly walking tours of Colyton with experienced local guides begin again on Thursday 7 April and run through to 29 September 2016. The tours take place every week regardless of weather. This year there will be a special heraldic banner display in the town centre.

4. Colyton Parish History Project



The research team had a further meeting with Professor Todd Gray and our consultants Freeline on 4 March in the Sunday School Building. Research team members were allocated topics to study as diverse as agricultural patterns, the Civil War, lace making and Church relations and received a background reading briefing pack from Todd Gray and guidance on how to take forward and present their research. Freeline also gave a brief interactive display of how various types of information could be displayed on screen.

The team will be having a further progress meeting with Todd Gray and Freeline at the beginning of April at the Devon Heritage Service Centre in Exeter.

We are still looking for someone who would be interested in managing the collation and cataloguing of all the images found and collected by the research team. These could be photographs, drawings, paintings and maps. If you would find this an interesting challenge and/or have experience in doing this kind of thing please do speak to Jasmine (552313) or me (553148) - we'd be delighted to have you on board.

5. Voluntary Vacancies

Our History Society is flourishing and lots of exciting things are happening - which means we need more people to volunteer to do things. Please do think about whether you would be interested and could spare a little time to take on one of the following roles:

a) Social Secretary - CPHS Steering Committee - The Steering Committee are very keen to find someone - or a couple of people - who would enjoy organising a programme of visits and events for the Society this summer. If you like organising social events and fancy the idea of taking on the role of social secretary for the History Society please do let Jacquie McCullogh (552626) or me know.

b) Front of House volunteers - Heritage Centre - We already have a dedicated group of volunteers who act as friendly welcomers, greeting visitors and showing them round the

Heritage Centre. But we can always do with more. We will shortly be opening for our third season and as our research project develops there will be more and more to show visitors so if you like the idea of welcoming people and telling them about the stories we have uncovered do please speak to Jasmine about joining the team.

c) Digitizing Records - Heritage Centre -The new equipment is being installed in the Heritage Centre and we will shortly be looking for volunteers to be trained in digitizing the Feoffees' records. This will be a lengthy and rewarding task and you will be contributing to preserving a unique collection of records for future generations to study. If this is something you would be interested in doing please do contact Jasmine and register your interest in being trained.

6. Nigel Speller Thanksgiving Service

Members will be sad to learn of the death of Nigel Speller on 9 March. His family has asked us to say that a Thanksgiving Service for his life is being arranged at St Andrew's Church at 12.30 pm on 18 May 2016 and members of the CPHS would be most welcome to attend.

7. Future Meetings: Click the Programme button on the menu for full details.

The last meeting before the summer break will be on Wednesday, 27 April 2016 at 7.30 pm at Colyford Memorial Hall when Martin Watts will give a talk on *Devon Mills*.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday **28 September 2016 at 7.30 pm** at Colyton Town Hall when East Devon Metal Detecting Club will give a presentation on *Metal Detecting and the Portable Antiquities Scheme*.

9. Annual Membership Fees

If any of you haven't paid your membership fees for 2016 yet please remember to bring them to the next meeting. Subscription rates are unchanged at £5 single or £8 per couple and can be paid at the next meeting or posted to the Membership Secretary: Glennis Ashbolt at Tritchayne, Colyton, Devon EX24 6SP.

Happy Easter everyone!

Sarah Charman
Editor