

COLYTON PARISH HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER 17 Jan 2018

Happy New Year everyone! Hope you all had a good Christmas and that you are now looking forward to the Spring with lots of things to see and do. Don't forget the Members evening tonight. It should be good fun! Alas I can't be there.

Listed below are the dates for the opening of the Heritage Centre for its fifth season at the end of March - in time for Easter. Also for the weekly walking tours. How time flies!

2018 marks the centenary of a number of significant historic events and CPHS is planning some activity to commemorate both the end of WW1 and the passing of the Representation of the People Act 1918. See below for more information.

If anyone does know of any stories in their family history relating to suffragettes or the anti-suffrage league or if you happen to have any family accounts of what it felt like to get the vote for the first time in 1918 (both men and women) please do get in touch with me. (sarah.charman@yahoo.co.uk)

And CPHS needs you: we are looking for a volunteer co-ordinator.

Sarah Charman

Editor

1. News

a) Volunteer Co-ordinator Vacancy

- As many of you will know, Jasmine List has done a sterling job over a number of years co-ordinating all our volunteers in their various different roles. She has now decided she would like to take a step back and we are therefore looking for someone to take on this important role. If you are friendly and outgoing and like working with people and are well organised and fancy the role please do get in touch with Jacquie McCulloch (01297 552626 jacqueline.mcculloch@btinternet.com) or me - Sarah Charman (01297 553148 sarah.charman@yahoo.co.uk) Training and support are available.

b) End of WW1 and Representation of the People Act Commemoration

- 2018 marks the centenary of the ending of WW1 and the passing of the Representation of the People Act 1918 when 5 million men and some women got the vote for the first time. CPHS is planning to mark these milestones of social change with a number of events including an 'archive day' in the Spring (date to be confirmed) to which we would like to invite local people to bring us any family diaries, photos, newspaper cuttings, memorabilia and letters recording personal accounts of life in the trenches, or the problems of keeping

a farm going during the war or what it was like to be either a suffragette or a member of the anti-suffrage league. We would be delighted to digitise them for you and they can then become part of the Colyton historical archive for future generations to read. If you know any of your neighbours and friends have such records and would be willing to share them please do ask them to get in touch with us.

- Some of us are planning to visit the Imperial War Museum <http://www.iwm.org.uk/visits/iwm-london> probably in February to do some research. If you are already doing related research or just fancy a day trip to the IWM in London to see their World War One Galleries in company with other History Society members then do get in touch with Jacquie McCulloch or me.

c) Annual Membership Fees are due

Just a wee reminder that CPHS membership fees for 2018 are now due. If you would find it easier to set up a standing order (£8 per couple or £5 per individual) then CPHS bank account details are as follows : Lloyds Bank - sort code 30-90-37 account 00992240. If you wish to do this then please notify Roger Hutton: roger.hutton1@btopenworld.com You may like to note that our Charity Commission Registered Charity Number is 1167230.

2. Forthcoming Events

a) CPHS Programme of Meetings for 2018

- Wednesday, 21 February – **Elizabethan Lyme Regis** – with a biography of Sir George Somers by Peter Lacey Preceded by **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** – at Colyford Memorial Hall
- Wednesday, 21 March - **Exploring the History of Colyton's Shops and Businesses** - Exhibition 7.00pm. Talk at 7.30pm by Cathy Ilsley - at Colyton Town Hall
- Wednesday, 18 April - **Chard and its Victorian People** by Vince Lean - at Colyford Memorial Hall
- Wednesday 19 September - **Royal Clarence Hotel Fire** by Dr Todd Gray – at Colyford Memorial Hall
- Wednesday, 17 October – **Taking Some of Your Own Medicine** by Jon Pratt and Kevin Budden – at Colyton Town Hall

- Wednesday, 21 November – **Devon’s Orchards: A Hidden History** - by Michael Gee – at Colyford Memorial Hall

NB. In previous years the lectures have generally been held in the following week but for diary reasons they have been organised to fall on the above Wednesdays in 2018. We will revisit the meeting timetable again for 2019.

b) Heritage Centre – opening hours 2018

We will be opening the Heritage Centre to the public for our fifth season on Monday 26 March until Friday 26 October. We are now attracting over 2500 visitors each season and are looking to build on this in the coming year.

The permanent displays in the Heritage Centre are now complete and the interactive screen has had a wealth of information and pictures uploaded to it over the winter months. Work is carrying on a pace on digitizing the Feoffees’ archive – so do come and see for yourself and encourage visitors to Colyton to come and see what we are about. Later in the year we are also looking at mounting some temporary displays to commemorate the centenary of both the ending of WW1 and the passing of suffrage legislation.

Opening hours for the Heritage Centre in 2018 are Monday, 26 March – Friday 26 October:

Monday	10.00 am – 4.00 pm	Thursday	10 am – 4.00 pm
Tuesday	10.00 am - 4.00 pm	Friday	10 am – 4.00 pm
Wednesday	Closed	Saturday	10 am – 1.00 pm

c) Walking Tours of Colyton 2018



Weekly walking tours of Colyton will once again be offered every Thursday afternoon from 5 April to the end of September 2018.

The tours take place regardless of weather and start at 2.00 pm from the town car park in Dolphin Street and last approximately an hour. It is a gentle stroll with frequent stops around the town and ending up at the Heritage Centre and adjacent tea rooms.

Booking is not required. All profits go to support our Heritage Centre and other local history projects. Cost £3 per person – under sixteens go free.

During the tour the friendly guides will aim to explain:

- Why is Colyton known as the 'most rebellious town' in Devon?
- What is behind some of the high stone walls?
- What are the origins of the Chamber of Feoffees which was established in 1546 to do 'good, godly and commendable deeds' for the Parish of Colyton – which it continues to do to this day?
- What part did Colyton play in the Saxon, Roman, Norman, Tudor and Civil War Periods?
- What industries contributed to the development and wealth of the town?
- Learn about the C15th Merchant's House – where the Heritage Centre is based – with its medieval wall painting and historic features
- Learn about St Andrew's Church origins and its fine octagonal lantern tower
- Learn how Colyton's architectural features can unlock the history of so many buildings.

At other times (not Thursdays) organised guided walking tours for groups of ten or more can be arranged by telephoning 01297 552514 or by contacting us through the website – colytonheritagecentre.org

d) Other Organisations' Events

- i)  **Legacy to Landscape Project News - Events for January 2018:**

1781 Estate Map - Shute Medieval Deer Park



Unearthing hidden history project workshop

Friday 19 January 11.30am – 2.30pm (event was postponed from 14 December 2017) **PLEASE NOTE THE REVISED STARTING TIME**

Catch up on progress with the historical research of the Shute Estate landscape. A chance to pour over the old maps, hear about and discuss findings so far. An increasing number of potential sources of material have come to light - help needed with further research. Also please do bring any old photos of the landscape of the historic Shute estate. A picnic ... wildlife ... working on the farm ...picking apples? Calling.. our budding paleographers, we now have some scans from the Anthony House – Pole archive, of some of the leases and other documents which may give us clues to the land use of the estate. Please can you help?

Free – Also hot drinks provided – bring your lunch

Colyford Memorial Hall, Swan Hill Road, EX24 6QJ, Grid Reference SY249924

ii) Other Events

a) Exhibition of photographs of Colyton Tannery

Did you know the only traditional oak bark tannery still working in Britain is here in Colyton? Indeed there has been a tannery here since Roman times but for the last 150 years it has been owned by the Baker family and produces high quality leather products. An exhibition of black and white photographs by Paul Glendell illustrating the daily working life of the tannery, is now on display at the Devon Guild of Craftsmen's HQ <http://www.crafts.org.uk/Exhibitions.aspx> at Riverside Mill, Fore St, Bovey Tracey, Newton Abbot TQ13 9AF from 5 January to 4 March 2018. It is open daily from 10 am – 5.30 pm.