

COLYTON PARISH HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER February 2018

It is the CPHS AGM meeting this coming Wednesday 21 February 2018 at Colyford and we have a last minute change of speaker. Bruce Upton has kindly agreed to come and talk about 'Keeping the Home Fires Burning' during WW1. On the subject of meetings just a little reminder that the meetings are on the 3rd Wednesday of the month for this year only! Normal service will resume next year.

We are planning a number of events during the coming year to mark the centenary of the end of WW1 beginning with an archive coffee morning in April – see below. I am still looking for stories relating to suffragettes or the anti-suffrage league. If you do have any family accounts of being a suffragist/suffragette or a member of the anti-suffrage league and 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)

We are still looking for a new volunteer co-ordinator.

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.

Sarah Charman, Editor

1. News

a) Bruce Upton on Keeping the Home Fires Burning

Life on the Home Front during the Great War. We leave idyllic pre-war days and move into the heady jingoism of "it'll be all over before Christmas". Gradually the grim realities of a war of attrition become all too apparent, all seen from the perspective of the families left at home. We touch on censorship, rationing, helping the war effort, and making mountains of knitting!



b) World War 1 – A Parish Remembers

WORLD WAR 1

Colyton Remembers

Colyton Parish History Society

Coffee Morning

Saturday, 14th April 10.00am – 1.00pm

Sunday School, St Andrews Church

An opportunity to share your family WWI memorabilia and help build a commemorative archive for the Parish of Colyton.

The Royal British Legion WW1 Commemorative Book will be available to view.

All are welcome, please drop in for a cup of coffee and chat with our researchers.

For more information please contact Colyton Parish History Society

Jacquie McCullough tel: 552626, or Sue Wooding email suew@thewoodings.com



- Colyton Parish History Society, together with other local groups, are planning various events throughout 2018 to commemorate and explore the ways in which The Great War impacted directly upon the communities within the Parish of Colyton.
- We would like to compile a permanent archive for reference by future generations; this archive will be housed in the Colyton Heritage Centre. In addition, we are planning to create a Remembrance Map of the Parish and mark on it those places where volunteers and conscripts lived, or people were associated with the war effort, and detail their contributions.
- We will be interested to talk to those whose families were affected by the war either through serving overseas or because of the impact of the war upon life at home, particularly in Colyton Parish. You may have family records of letters, photos, newspaper cuttings, and memories of life on the home front during and after the war years.
- The first event will be a coffee morning, Saturday 14th April in the Sunday School. Please come along and bring whatever memorabilia your family may have. We can talk to you about recording, digitising or photographing your items so that you may retain the originals.
- All are welcome, please drop in for a coffee and chat with our researchers.
- For more information, please contact Colyton Parish History Society – Jacquie McCullough, Tel 552626 or Sue Wooding email suew@thewoodings.com

c) John Cochrane celebrates 70 years since the first flight of the Brabazon

For anyone who missed John Cochrane's interview on BBC South West or would like to see it again – please click on the link below.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-bristol-42968569/brabazon-veteran-celebrates-70-years-since-first-flight>

d) Volunteer Co-ordinator Vacancy

- We are still looking for a volunteer coordinator to take over from Jas Little. As you know the Heritage Centre opens again next month and we are desperately looking for someone to take on this role. So if you do have a little time to spare, are friendly and outgoing and like working with people and are well organised 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.

e) 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 –**Keeping the Home Fires Burning** - by Bruce Upton. 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



Colyton Heritage Centre

Learn about this ancient and beautiful Devon town
at our exciting interactive Heritage Centre



Town Walks

Take a guided stroll around the old town and discover Colyton's many fine buildings and rebellious past. Thursdays 2.00 pm
Dolphin Street Car Park

Opening Hours:

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri. 10.00-16.00
Sat 10-12.30
April-October
Free Admission
www.colytonheritagecentre.org

Family History

Volunteers are on hand to help with local family and house history research. An extensive collection of resources and digitised records is available.



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 2,500 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.

c) Other Organisations' Events



i) **Legacy to Landscape Project News - Events for February and March 2018:**

Linking King John's Oak to the Future – Wednesday 21 February 2.30 pm

An illustrated talk about the project by Peter Youngman, East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Event organised by Devonshire Association, Axe Vale Branch. Free event. No booking required. Entrance donation £1 for DA members, £3 for non members. Contact Brian Denham 01297 551529 or brian_denham@talk.talk.net Pavillion, Peace Memorial Playing Fields, 37 Coly Road, Colyton EX24 5PU

Tree Grafting Workshop, King John's Oak at Woodend Deer Park, Shute – Sunday 25 February 2pm – 4pm

Learn the tricks of the useful propagation technique and help grow on an identical new generation of King John's Oaks to keep the genes of this tree alive in the landscape, with nurseryman Pete Wells and Jill Butler, Woodland Trust. Booking essential, free 01404 310012 pete.youngman@eastdevonaonb.org.uk Location map sent on booking.

Tithe Maps and East Devon - Tuesday 20 March, 2pm – 4.30pm

Dr Richard Oliver, Honorary Research Fellow in the History of Cartography at the University of Exeter, will speak on what tithe maps are, and how they can be used in the reconstruction of past landscapes. The presentation will include specimens of several East Devon tithe maps, and will particularly focus on the map for the parish of Colyford. Free event. No booking required. Colyford Memorial Hall, Swan Hill Road (A3052), EX24 6QJ.

The Making of the Landscape, Musbury Castle Hill Fort - Sunday 25 March, 2pm - 4pm.

Guided walk with geologist, Richard Edmonds, to see how the rocks, geology and structure beneath our feet, millions of year ago, has made the 'Legacy Landscape' we enjoy today. Steep climb in places and be prepared for mud! Bring binoculars. Free event. No booking required. Park/Meet Musbury Village Hall car park.

Calling Paleographers – recently, the project was delighted to have had access to the Pole archive at Anthony House in Cornwall. Please we are looking volunteers who could help transcribe some of these historic documents from the 16th and 17th centuries that we have been able to scan. We are hoping these documents might reveal clues as to how the extensive Shute Estate landscape looked then.

Legacy to Landscape community heritage project celebrates a hidden area of landscape in an area of East Devon, based on the 1781 map of the Pole family estate at Shute. This historic map covers the landscape of the Colyton and Shute area, west of Axminster.

Further information on any of the above, please contact, Ruth Worsley, Legacy to Landscape Project Co-ordinator, 01297 489741, or 077 65126565

www.eastdevonaonb.org.uk/our-work/wildlife/legacy-to-landscape
email: legacytolandscape@gmail.com;

ii) Other Events

.Somerset Heritage Centre courses and events this Spring

Somerset Archive Courses and Events

How to Read Old Handwriting

Wednesday 28 February 9.30 am to 4.00 pm

The course will focus on English documents from the 16th to the 18th centuries and is suitable for people starting to use original documents held in record offices for family, house and local history research.

The cost of the course is £20 per person (£10 concessions).

Resources for Local History

Tuesday 20 March 9.30 am to 4.00 pm

A day course looking at archival and printed resources available at the Somerset Heritage Centre and online for researching local history, looking at land, buildings, people, and social history.

The cost of the course is £20 per person (£10 concessions).

Common Phrases in Latin and English: How to Understand Parish Registers and Other Documents

Wednesday 16 May 10.00 am to 1.00 pm

This half-day course looks at phrases often found in documents used for family, house and local history research. It includes dating, Roman numerals, deeds, parish registers and probate records, church records, the records of the poor law and the workhouse, reading old handwriting and understanding common Latin phrases.

The cost of the course is £20 per person (£10 concessions)

Archives for Family History: A Two-day Course

Tuesday 17 and Wednesday 18 April 9.30 am to 4.00 pm

The course will focus on how to use and interpret key archive sources for family history and is designed to help researchers feel confident about visiting an archive and exploring the documents they will find there. Topics covered will include document handling, census and church records, the records of the poor law and the workhouse, reading old handwriting and understanding common Latin phrases.

The cost of the course is £48 per person (£24 concessions).

Talk and Tea: Research Your House History

Friday 9 March 2.30 pm

With Esther Hoyle from Somerset Archives. This talk covers some of the main sources available for house history research in the archives and suggests what information may be found in these sources. Part of the BBC Civilisations Festival. Followed by tea and cake.

Booking is advised, tickets cost £5

Booking Information

For archives courses booking is essential as space is limited:

Call 01823 278805 or email somersetarchives@swheritage.org.uk

Venue: Somerset Heritage Centre, Brunel Way, Norton Fitzwarren, Taunton, TA2 6SF
Concessions: Students / those receiving state benefits (including pension credits)

For Talk and Tea:

Call 01823 255088 or email museumofsomerset@swheritage.org.uk

Venue: The Museum of Somerset, Taunton Castle, Castle Green, Taunton, TA1 4AA

Help! History of the NHS

My name is Tom Macrae and I'm a researcher at a London-based TV Production company called 7Wonder.

We are currently making a new documentary series for BBC4 titled The People's History of the NHS. This three part series is a crowdsourced history of the health service, told through treasured mementos and objects from both its staff and patients through the ages. Using these fascinating objects and personal stories and made in partnership with the University of Warwick's History department and the Wellcome collection, these films will uncover a seventy year history of the highs and lows, triumphs and catastrophes of the NHS, which together paint a vivid, and often conflicted portrait of Britain.

We are trying to speak to as many people as possible who may have a story to tell or an interesting object to show us from the last 70 years and I am getting in touch to see if you and your society might be able to help us with our hunt. For example, perhaps you might know of someone who migrated here to work in the NHS in the mid 20th century and has a fascinating story to tell? Or maybe you know of someone who was affected by the Stafford Hospital scandal? Or perhaps you know someone who still has a set of spectacles that were available for free on the NHS before payment was introduced in 1952? It's worth stressing these are just examples of the kind of thing we might be interested in; we are casting our net high and wide for potential stories and we are interested in any stories from 1948 to today that can reflect positive or negative experiences related to the NHS!

If there is any way you could share this message with your members that would be brilliant. There is a link here to our very recently set up twitter page and our flyer: https://twitter.com/stories_NHS.

Any help/ideas/pointers would also be greatly appreciated. If you or any of your members would like to discuss the project in more depth then I can be reached on this email address or on 020 3701 7615. I hope to hear from you soon and thanks for your time! Kind regards, Tom Macrae, Researcher 7 WONDER Main Office: +44 (0) 203 701 7615 Mobile: +44 (0) 7787423594 Email: tommacrae@7wonder.co.uk