

COLYTON PARISH HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2016

1. Visit to Antony

On 27 July a tour group organised by the History Society had a wonderful day out visiting both Buckfast Abbey and later Antony in Cornwall. The group stopped first for morning coffee at Buckfast, where they had the opportunity to see the beautiful stained glass windows. They then travelled on to Antony via the Tor Point ferry.



stained glass window at Buckfast Abbey

Given to the National Trust in 1961 by Sir John Carew Pole, Antony has particular interest for Colytonians because of its historic Pole family connections with the Shute Estate.



Members of the group strolling through the gardens at Antony



Maureen Turner pointing at the painting on the Main Staircase at Antony of Sir John William de la Pole, 6th Baronet, by Thomas Beach dated 1794.

In the painting, Sir John is pictured in the Library of the new house at Shute, holding the plans for the building. Maureen studied this work during her researches for her dissertation and her eagle eyes discovered the name of the architect.

A great day was had by all. Many thanks to the organisers.

2. Research Inquiry - Can you help?

Dr Todd Gray, who is helping us with the HLF funded Parish History Research Project, has asked if anyone can provide more information about the following people and their local connections: the first Baron Colyton and Theophile Marzials?

i) Baron Colyton (1902 - 1996) Can anyone shed any light on local connections to the first Baron Colyton? Did any of you know him? If you have any information about him - please let me know. (sarah.charman@yahoo.co.uk) Also if anyone can throw any light on his crest, please could you email Jacquie McCullogh with details (jacqueline.mccullogh@btinternet.com)

Hopkinson, Henry Lennox D'Aubigné, first Baron Colyton (1902–1996), diplomatist and politician, was born on 3 January 1902 at 78 Holland Park, Kensington, London, the eldest of three sons of Sir Henry Lennox Hopkinson (1855–1936), solicitor and later almoner of St Bartholomew's Hospital, and his wife, Marie Ruan (*d.* 1949), daughter of Francis Blake Du Bois, of St Croix, Virgin Islands, and New York.

At the age of thirty-seven in 1939 Hopkinson was thought to be too old for military service, but when he was selected to be assistant to Oliver Lyttelton, minister of state in the Middle East, Cadogan reluctantly conceded 'as a patriot, I must agree to the best man going' (*The Independent*, 8 Jan 1996). His further wartime service was in Lisbon, where he was instrumental in securing the Azores air base for the allies and where he was made CMG,

and as deputy British high commissioner in Italy after the collapse of Mussolini. The war years had established his reputation as a smooth and competent supporting diplomat.

When the war ended, however, Hopkinson accepted Anthony Eden's invitation to enter politics, first as a member of the Conservative parliamentary secretariat and research department (where he had an uneasy relationship with the liberal-minded Rab Butler) and then in February 1950 as MP for Taunton. Churchill recognized him as an unusually experienced new MP and promptly made him a member of his government in November 1951, initially as a junior minister at the Board of Trade and then from May 1952 (under his wartime chief Oliver Lyttelton again) at the Colonial Office. He was made a privy councillor in 1952. In the government reshuffle of December 1955 Hopkinson was predictably dropped and, although Eden offered him various overseas diplomatic appointments, he preferred to go to the back benches until the following year when he was created Baron Colyton and began to play an active part in the House of Lords.

Colyton's first wife died in 1953 and on 11 December 1956 he married Barbara Estella Addams, the former wife of Charles Samuel Addams, the *New Yorker* cartoonist. There were no children from this second marriage. They continued to live in the Jacobean manor house in Devon—Netherton Hall—which Colyton had purchased with his first wife and to which he was greatly attached. In the last years of his life, however, he and his second wife moved to Monte Carlo where he died aged ninety-four on 6 January 1996. His son had predeceased him, and the barony passed to his elder grandson, Alisdair John Munro Hopkinson (b. 1958).

ii.) **Marzials, Théophile-Jules-Henri** - Can anyone identify where his grave is in the cemetery at Colyton? Or do you have any more information about him? Again please let me know (sarah.charman@yahoo.co.uk)

Marzials, Théophile-Jules-Henri (1850–1920), poet and songwriter, was, according to his gravestone, born at Bagnères de Bigorre, Hautes Pyrénées, France, on 20 December 1850.

In September 1870 he joined the staff of the British Museum, as junior assistant in the principal librarian's office. From 1897 Marzials had lived, first at Blandford, Dorset, then shortly afterwards with his unmarried sister, Emilie-Louise, at Colyton, Devon, moving after her death to a ground-floor room at Elm Grove Farm, Colyton. He died at Colyton on 2 February 1920 and was buried in the cemetery there, under a stone with his dates and the inscription 'Fight the good fight of faith'

3. Future CPHS Meetings

The next History Society 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*.

Wednesday **26 October 2016 at 7.30 pm** in Colyford Memorial Hall, Roger Hill will speak on *The River Axe Salmon Trap*.

Wednesday **23 November 2016 at 7.30 pm** in Colyton Town Hall, Amyas Crump will speak about *East Devon Railways*.

4. Other Organisations' Events



i)



'Colin presents history in a manner which holds your attention and makes it all so much easier to grasp - his model box of the Axe Valley was marvellous!', feedback from one of the participants.

The **Landscape Detectives walk** on 10 August was very well attended. Beginning at the picnic site above Colyton, participants enjoyed a delightful and informative two hour stroll led by local historian, Parish Counsellor and Feoffee Colin Pady, amidst the glorious and historic scenery of this beautiful corner of East Devon.

With clear and striking views of the local landscape, Colin Pady led a large group on a walk back through the mists of time. With fascinating stops and stories, Colin revealed clues in the landscape to the historic past of Colyton Parish with many farms under the sole ownership of the Pole Family. From Iron Age settlement, to the Romans passing through, to medieval field systems, salt transportation and fairs and much more. A quiet landscape today hides an eventful and active one of yesteryear. A big thank you to Colin for sharing his voluminous knowledge.

5. Legacy to Landscape - programme of events in September

Historic Map Detectives *Wednesday 14 September, 10.30am-3pm.* Historic landscape experts Emma Rouse and Philippe Planel will provide a hands on session on the use of a range of historic maps in providing clues to the hidden past of our landscape. Followed by a chance to go out into the field to look for clues of how the

landscape has evolved and change over time. Peace memorial playing fields pavilion, Coly Road, Colyton, EX24 6PU. Booking essential: Free event.

At the end of the above event at 3.15pm, we are holding a meeting to discuss ‘**Unearthing the hidden history**’, element of the project. We are seeking volunteers to help us unearth the secrets of its fascinating past and help us with investigating historic documents, old maps, visiting heritage centres and researching old books on the area. If you are unable to attend the Map detectives event but would like just to come to the meeting, that’s fine. Please email legacytolandscape@gmail.com; or 01404 310012.

Also come and talk to us at our stall at the **Colyford Goose Fair on Saturday 24 September**. There will be heraldic flag making activity for the children. We welcome adults sharing memories of the changing landscape of the Shute estate over the past few decades as part of our oral history gathering project.

Legacy to Landscape 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.

LEGACY TO LANDSCAPE - FURTHER INFORMATION

Email legacytolandscape@gmail.com, or ring 01404 310012

www.eastdevonaonb.org.uk/index.php?page=news-and-events

6. The Devonshire & Dorset Regiment National Memorial Appeal

The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment has asked us to draw your attention to an exciting new project it has launched to establish a memorial to the county regiments of Devon and Dorset at the National Memorial Arboretum. Some of you may have had a family member in The Devons and may feel you would like to make a donation to this worthy cause.

The memorial, created by renowned sculptor Vivien Mallock, will consist of three bronze figures depicting a Devonshire Regiment soldier fighting on the Somme in 1916, a Dorset Regiment soldier in 1944 at the Battle of Kohima and a Devonshire and Dorset Regiment soldier on patrol in Northern Ireland during the 1970s.

The Regiment needs to raise £140,000 and aims to produce a book listing all donors (not how much they have given) and whether donations have been made in memory of a particular individual so that the booklet becomes something of an historical record rather than simply a list of names. The memorial will be unveiled at the NMA in the autumn of 2017 and donors will be invited to attend.

If you would like to make a donation in memory of a family member you can send a cheque/postal order to the D and D Regimental Charity CBA at The Devonshire and

Dorset Regiment, Block 11, Wyvern Barracks, Exeter EX26AR. Further details are available at www.devondorsetregiment.co.uk

Sarah Charman Editor - CPHS Newsletter