

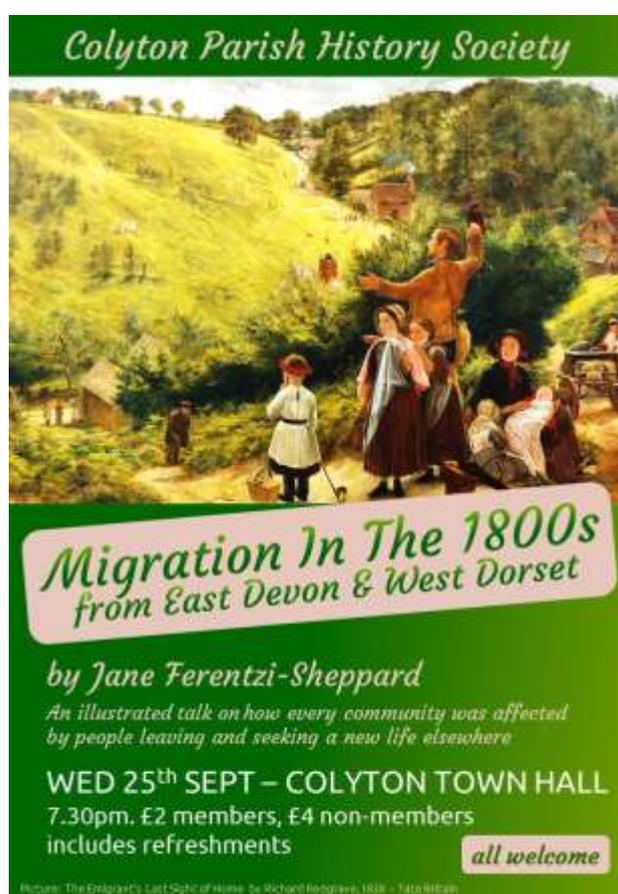
Colyton Parish History Society Newsletter 21 August 2019

Lots of titbits this month: An account of a delightful afternoon stroll around Colyton Parish, notice of two talks i) on recent discoveries at Shute including intriguing video footage and ii) the first of the History Society's autumn programme of talks is on migration in the 1800s. An advert seeking volunteers to be a new guide to lead town walks in 2020, visitor numbers are up again and spooky tales in the Heritage Centre!

Sarah Charman - Editor

1. News

a) Migration in the 1800s from East Devon and West Dorset



An illustrated talk presented by well known old Colytonian, Jane Ferentzi-Sheppard, a Bridport based local historian who has been researching migration for over 20 years.

The 19th century brought huge social, political, religious and economic changes to the West Country. Come along hear the migrant's story of why and where they went. How every community was affected by people leaving, seeking a new life somewhere else. Wednesday, 25 September – Colyton Town Hall - 7.30pm, All welcome. £2 members, £4 non-members - Includes refreshments.

b) Shute History Talk - New Discoveries in the history of Shute - Thursday 29 August at 7.30 pm in Shute Church



On **Thursday 29 August, 7.30 pm, in Shute Church**, Bijan Omrani will be giving a talk on new discoveries in the history of Shute. The talk will be focused on the Victorian and Edwardian history of the Shute estate, and in particular will look at the romantic and tempestuous history of Shute House and the families who lived there - a brilliant and extraordinary story which has partly been forgotten, and partly suppressed. Find out about what really happened to the boy who had the famous ox-roast, the secret lives of the gentry, and the tragedies which made Shute national news in the 19th century. You will be able to view copies of archive documents, old photographs and newspaper clippings at the talk. Refreshments will be served.

Entry is free. A collection will be taken, and all proceeds will go to the Devon Historic Churches Trust, which has generously supported the restoration of the Church Windows.

Historic cine footage from the old Shute School for Girls, which was at Shute House from the 1920s-1974, has recently been discovered. Bijan has put this on youtube and he would be delighted to hear from anyone for whom this provokes old memories.

bijan.omrani@btinternet.com

The footage covers life at Shute School from 1933 to the late 1960s, and contains many scenes of school life, Shute House, Shute Barton, and local life and landscape. Links to the two sets of footage on you tube are

below: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2OEPgvl7dXM> and
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Ptz-Ek9SFs&t=>

c) Detecting Colyton's Landscape – Thanks to Sam Knights for penning this article.



Landscape Detectives walk led by Colin Pady

Bronze age swords, iron age hill forts and medieval waterways were just some of the glimpses into the ancient history of the landscape that local historian Colin Pady offered on a Landscape Detectives walk around the old byways and track ways of Colyton on Saturday 3 August.

The walk was organised by Legacy to Landscape, a local community heritage initiative organised by East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty project. It focuses on providing opportunities for the local community to engage in all aspects of the history, landscape and wildlife of the former Shute estate. This latest event of the project attracted a huge amount of interest with a large number, about 40, who were treated to a colourful and insightful talk which revealed many facts and stories about the history of the countryside around the Colyton area. The walk began at the Hillhead, the Colyton Parish Council's site, a picnic spot which affords far reaching views of the Axe Valley and surrounding hillforts and then followed lanes, ancient drove routes, green lanes and public footpaths, Colin leaned on gates to unearth the history of many fields and views and regale the audience about a number of discoveries including Bronze age sword shards, coins and other objects that have recently been found. Many of these are now with the Royal Albert Memorial Museum Exeter for conservation, research and display.

Colin Pady, a local farmer and landowner has been exploring the history of the area for decades carrying out meticulous research in the landscape itself and in local archives and records. "It was a wonderful event, bringing in walkers of all ages from 6 years upwards, into a landscape little changed in several centuries. Colin took us back in time and inspired and informed us enormously by his detailed account of the area," said Ruth Worsley, Legacy to Landscape project coordinator.

d) Spooky tales in the Heritage Centre!



Mrs Joy Chick

I was doing my stint in the Heritage Centre yesterday morning when Mrs Joy Chick walked in with some friends and proceeded to regale me with tales of spooky experiences in the building. She explained she had worked there back in the 1980s when it was a Law Chambers. Her office was in the front room which was then dark and gloomy with the lower portion of the window covered up. She never liked the atmosphere there and hated to go up the dark stairs to the bathroom on the first floor where she sensed a presence.

It was explained to her that this had at one time been the bedroom of a lady who haunted the place because she didn't like her room being disturbed. A man had also described to her how as a child he recalled an old man regularly coming to sit on his bed. The figures of an old man and a young woman have also apparently been seen sitting outside in the garden. Does anyone else have similar tales to tell? If so do let me know! (sarah.charman@yahoo.co.uk)

e) Visitor Numbers to the Heritage Centre in July



A busy morning in the Heritage Centre

Once again visitor numbers to the Heritage Centre are up on last year. We had 561 visitors in July – a hundred or so up on 2018 and the total of visitors this season is around 20% up at 1500 compared with 1230 last year. Book sales are also up.

f) Colyton Town History Walks – Help needed for 2020 Season

Is this you or do you know anyone who might be interested in being a town guide?

i. New Guide - One of our members, Katie Darby is retiring at the end of this season. She has been a guide since 2010 and during that time the numbers of people attending has risen from 152 for the season in 2010 to 163 so far this year. Many thanks to Katie. We are now looking for a new guide to join our group of 8 guides.

The skills needed are:

- an interest in Colyton's history
- a wish to promote Colyton
- an ability to lead a group of people. Training is given.

The commitment is to lead a walk 6-8 times a year on a Thursday afternoon. The season is from April 1 to September 30. We are very flexible with our rota.

ii. A crucial member of our team, is the person who markets the walks to the local tourist industry at the start of each season. The marketing material is provided. The skills needed are

- an interest in promoting Colyton
 - basic computing skills – the data base is already set up
- If you are interested in learning more please contact Jane Dauncey
jdauncey1@gmail.com 01297 552514 or 07885 597779

2. CPHS - 2019 talks programme

The CPHS 2019 programme of talks and events for the rest of the year

- **Wednesday, 23 October** at 7.30 pm a talk on ‘**Chard and Its Victorian Heritage**’ by **Vince Lee** at Colyford Memorial Hall
- **Wednesday, 27 November** at 7.30 pm there will be a ‘**Coleridge Evening**’ offered by the **Coleridge Society** from Ottery St Mary at Colyton Town Hall.

3. Other Organisation’s Events

a) Legacy to Landscape – Events in September 2019

Leaf through the past landscape walk - Friday 13 September, 2pm to 4pm

Step back in time and enjoy a rare chance to explore the medieval deer park and meet celebrated 900 year old veteran oak, King John’s Oak on a guided walk with local ancient tree Graham Jones, local ancient tree enthusiast. The medieval deer park is part of the once large estate at Shute which covered land as far as Colyton, Southleigh, Widworthy and Kilmington. Enjoy the sights and sounds of autumn wildlife and hear more about its fascinating history. If raining, fields get very wet, so walk will be to the 18th century Turkey Oak at New Shute House. It’s the opening event to the Shute Literature and Landscape Festival 2019. Full Shute Festival programme: www.shutefest.org.uk_No booking required. Free event. Further information 01404 310012, or legacytolandscape@gmail.com_Parking Shute village, Haddon Road, EX13 7PT, and Grid Reference 253 975. Meet on green in front of Shute Gatehouse.