

## **Colyton Parish History Society Newsletter 24 August 2021**

Another bumper crop of stories for you this month with contributions from Colin Pady on his family's historic links to the Methodist Church in Colyton which has closed, from Sue Rumney on helping people research their family histories and Jon Pratt on the Feoffees Archive project and information on bat walks.

Sarah Charman, Editor

### **1. News**

#### **a. Methodist Church in King Street, Colyton closes**



Daguerotype silhouette of the Rev Jacob Pady taken at the end of his Ministry in Colyton

On Saturday, 7 August 2021 the last Service was held in the Methodist Chapel in King Street, Colyton. Formerly the Congregational Chapel and before that an early Baptist Chapel built by farmer/pastor the Rev. Jacob Pady – born in the 1760s

Jacob married Florence Underdown and they had six children, one girl and five boys. Farming first near Sidbury, he later moved to Tritchayne Farm, Colyton where he became a pastor to a Non Conformist group of people – sometimes attending the Loughwood Meeting House but generally hiring a room in Colyton. The congregation grew and in 1814 the Rev. Jacob Pady built the Chapel in King Street and was pastor there until he retired in 1852 – dying in 1854. His son Thomas became a deacon and built a 'manse' next door – now the private home known as 'Quince'.

The Rev. Jacob Pady was my three times grandfather. His son Joseph (my 2 x grandfather) married Rebecca Power and Jacob (my 1 x grandfather) was born at Weekshayne in 1832. My father – Harry Jacob was born as the last son of Jacob and Ellen (nee Collins) in 1899. I was born in 1943 and have three sons (1 deceased) and two daughters and one son fostered.

The closure of the Methodist Chapel marks the last Non-Conformist Chapel in Colyton to have had 207 years of continuous worship. There used to be four: two now converted to dwelling houses and the former Guides headquarters up for sale in Rosemary Lane. Colyton was for two and half centuries a stronghold of Non Conformity.

An article published in *Pullman's Weekly News*, 18 August 1953 about a book on the history of the Congregational Church in Colyton described the Rev Jacob Pady's conversion as the result of his picking up an old pamphlet on the theme of "Pray without ceasing". He is said to have commented audibly: 'Pray without ceasing. I scarcely ever pray, and if I do it is as a duty which I am glad to get well through.' This old sermon pamphlet was blest to his conversion." As the years went by the Rev. Pady increasingly led services - his sermons were said to be "short, original and to the point" and he attracted more and more "attentive hearers"

#### **b. Family Research at Colyton Heritage Centre**



We get regular enquiries about family records in Colyton. Recently we had an email from a couple from Warwickshire whose great grandfather ran a tailor's shop in Colyton. There were several branches and generations who had run similar businesses in the town.

The earliest baptism record we found is for Margaret daughter of Isacke in April 1663. Because of a large infant mortality names were often carried forward and checking the burial records shows a Margaret daughter of Isacke buried in May

the previous year.

The couple wanted to visit Colyton, having never been and it was arranged for them to call in to collect the information we had gathered together with several photographs and they were delighted to be taken for a walk around the town to see the various sites where the families had either traded or resided.

Photos were taken and we ended up in the Church for a quick look before we retired to the Heritage Centre to view the general information about the town on our display boards on what was the hottest day of the year! They went off happy with several books as well as the family information.

It's lovely to get feedback - and we subsequently we had the following letter of thanks from them:

“Dear Jacquie,

“Many thanks from Christopher and me to you, Sue and all your team for your warm welcome last Tuesday. We were thrilled to get all the information Sue had prepared and very pleased indeed with our tour round Colyton. Sue is a very knowledgeable guide. I've already had a brief look through the books we bought - what an interesting history Colyton has. There are already several leads for me to follow up in both Sue's information and in the books. It will be fascinating to see where it takes me. Again our thanks to you all.”

### **c. Feoffees Archive Project**

The Colyton Feoffees Digital Archive is now available for local history and family researchers!

The 1000+ documents span over 500 years of the history of the Colyton Chamber of Feoffees, recording their day-to-day decisions and actions. Searching these documents may well reinforce or enrich information in your family history research or can provide a detailed and rich resource for local study of topics such as education, poor relief, property ownership and the management and the development of civil services.

You can book a session in Colyton Heritage Centre where you will be supported in familiarising yourself with and using the database that accesses the archive.

You will be able to print pages of documents (for a small materials fee) or download electronic documents for viewing at home.

For information about bookable dates and times please contact: [fb@colytonheritagecentre.org/](mailto:fb@colytonheritagecentre.org/)

If you have any questions about the Archive, please contact Jon Pratt – [japratt@btinternet.com](mailto:japratt@btinternet.com)

## **2. Other Organisations Events in September**

### **East Devon AONB**

**a. Bolshayne Bat Walk - Saturday 4 September, 7.15pm – 9.15pm**

Bolshayne Farm, Southleigh Road, Colyton = Sarah Butcher, Devon Bat Group - leads a walk through the farm's traditional hay meadows including Bolshayne Fen SSSI, ancient hedgerows, and nearby woodland edge - perfect habitat for Grey Long-eared bats. To book click on: [Bolshayne Bat Walk](#) or email [savingspecialspecies@gmail.com](mailto:savingspecialspecies@gmail.com)

**b. Holyford Woods, Colyford - Friday 10 September, 7.00pm - 9.00pm**

Adrian Bayley, local bat expert leads a walk in one of East Devon's oldest woods, perfect habitat for bats. Adrian also plans to show the harp nets, which capture bats safely and carefully for identification. **To book click on:** [Holyford Woods Bat Walk](#) or email [savingspecialspecies@gmail.com](mailto:savingspecialspecies@gmail.com)

**c. National Trust Stonebarrow, Charmouth - Friday 17 September, 6.45pm – 8.45pm**

National Trust Golden Cap estate holds an incredible 15 out of the 18 species of UK bat including the very rare Grey Long-eared bat. Spy on these mysterious flying mammals of the night on a magical bat detecting walk with local bat enthusiasts Mary Anne Crafter and Ruth Worsley. **To book click on:** [Stonebarrow Bat Walk](#) or email [savingspecialspecies@gmail.com](mailto:savingspecialspecies@gmail.com)

**d. Hogchester Meadows, Charmouth - Saturday 18 September, 6.45pm – 8.45pm**

A chance to explore these glorious meadows as part of Hogchester Farms ambitious rewilding project, where Grey Long-eared is known to feed here. Spy on these mysterious flying mammals of the night, with local bat enthusiasts Mary Anne Crafter and Ruth Worsley. **To book click on:** [Hogchester Bat Walk](#) or email [savingspecialspecies@gmail.com](mailto:savingspecialspecies@gmail.com)

The Grey Long-eared bat project is funded by the government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund and is one of East Devon AONB's 'Elusive Eight' threatened species chosen for nature recovery. For more information visit [Saving Special Species Grey Long Eared Bat Project](#)

For further information - Ruth Worsley, Wildlife Engagement Officer for East Devon AONB [savingspecialspecies@gmail.com](mailto:savingspecialspecies@gmail.com) 01297 489741 or 07765 126 565

### **3. Items you may have missed**

**a. Family History exhibition**

[https://www.midweekherald.co.uk/news/family-geology-stratification-of-sarah-at-rotunda-gallery-8217822?utm\\_source=Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_campaign](https://www.midweekherald.co.uk/news/family-geology-stratification-of-sarah-at-rotunda-gallery-8217822?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign)

**n b. Sidmouth Museum**

<https://sidmouth.nub.news/n/up-close-a-look-around-sidmouth-museum?IYAmail=849809d2-783c-47dd-98e3-4c821c95cf93>

**c. Mayflower**

<http://www.torrington-cavaliers.co.uk/bonfire-2020-mayflower-1620>

**d. History of swimming at West Bay**

<https://www.bridportnews.co.uk/news/19508528.new-book-published-history-swimming-west-bay/?ref=rss&IYA-mail=849809d2-783c-47dd-98e3-4c821c95cf93>

**e. Endangered historic buildings**

<https://www.inyourarea.co.uk/news/how-you-could-save-a-threatened-historic-building/>

**f. Victorian Farming exhibition**

<https://www.bridportnews.co.uk/news/19477435.victorian-farming-exhibition-open-lyme-regis-museum/?ref=rss&IYA-mail=849809d2-783c-47dd-98e3-4c821c95cf93>

**<sup>g</sup> Lyme Regis Museum 100th Birthday Exhibition**

<https://www.bridportnews.co.uk/news/19508603.lyme-regis-museum-marks-100th-birthday-new-exhibition/?ref=rss&IYA-mail=849809d2-783c-47dd-98e3-4c821c95cf93>