

COLYTON PARISH HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

16th February 2017

Editor's note

Welcome to Spring on this beautiful sunny morning! As I walked down the path just now from the Heritage Centre, the crocuses and snowdrops in the churchyard were lifting their bright little heads towards the sun and the birds were singing in the trees. Lots is happening. We have had a good response to the request in last month's newsletter for information about Madame Wood and even a suggestion of someone who can read Saxon!. And we are finally about to begin training digitizers and summarizers as part of the HLF project. Looking forward to seeing lots of you at the History Society AGM next week. Please think about whether you could spare a couple of hours a month to help run the Society – we are urgently looking for new Committee members brimming with new ideas - and also please remember to bring your annual membership fees if you haven't paid yet.

Sarah Charman, **Editor**

1. News

a) **Stop Press: Civil War event. Find out how you can be involved in this Great Event**

A social meeting to keep you informed

English Civil War

A Day in the Life of Colyton Townsfolk

Saturday 10th June

For more details: 01297 552626

b) **Colyton Cloth and Lace Heritage Event**

Thank you to those of you who responded to my request in last month's newsletter with information about Madame Wood and her creations. **Jan Hedderly** and **Bridget Spear** have been following up these leads and planning is now well advanced for this special heritage event. On the lacemaking side, members of the Devon Lace Teachers group and the Axe Valley Lacemakers are keen to support the day, providing talks, demonstrations particularly aimed at children and displays.

As for cloth, it would be great to know if anyone has old photographs of members of their family or other local people wearing clothing from 1970's and backwards, which they would be prepared to loan for the event. These would be used on a display board of clothing through 100 years.

If anyone still has examples of Victorian and Edwardian clothing previously worn by members of their family - particularly if it was made locally and/or by Madame Wood - it would be great if we could borrow these for the event. Or you may like to come along dressed up in them? Also if you do have any examples of locally made lace which you would be prepared to loan to the event for the day please could you contact Jan Hedderly (hedderly.jan@gmail.com) or Bridget Spear (bianegiles@aol.co.uk). They would be delighted to hear from you.

c) Progress with HLF project: Digitizers and Summarisers wanted.

The hardware and software is finally coming together and we can now embark on digitization and creating a database of Colyton documents. Much thought has been given to creating a database of the multitude of documents held by the Devon Record Office, the Feoffees and the Heritage Centre. This will enable users to search for information by name, date, subject etc. This means once a user has found something potentially interesting they will eventually be able to look at a scanned image of the document and read it. In some cases they will be able to download it or print it. We are not intending to transcribe the documents in the first instance.

There are two activities **(1) Digitization and (2) Creating the Database**; therefore we envisage there being two groups of volunteers.

Digitization involves using the new scanner in the back room of the Heritage Centre. It is a glorified photocopier. It does however require some skill in positioning documents, getting the best focus and the largest picture. The pictures are then given a unique reference number. The digitizer is a little cumbersome so some people may prefer, at least initially, to work in pairs.

Creating the Database is a little more involved. A spreadsheet catalogue with details and a brief summary of all documents in the archive has been created. **Summarisers** working in this team will be asked to take a number of documents, study them carefully and then develop the summary where required and list any people or place names included in the document and check any subjects covered from a list provided. It is this information that will form the database that users will search.

Digitizing needs to be done in the Heritage Centre, at times to suit you. **Creating the Database** can be done in the Heritage Centre or at home, if you have a PC, with data transported to and from on a memory stick. The amount of time you spend will be your decision. We are still keen to find volunteers who are interested in learning **Digitizing** techniques, **Creating the Database** or both. Obviously we will train you, now that we have just about got to grips with both processes ourselves! The first step is to digitize sufficient documents to enable the second phase to commence i.e. creating the database. We are hoping to get going very soon.

Could you please let **Jas List** know on **01297 552313** or email: jasmine_mike.list@yahoo.com if you are interested in learning about **digitization, creating the database, both or neither?** Also any questions, queries and anything else you may want to know about volunteering for the History Society - including

working on the visitor desk in the Heritage Centre during the summer months - do give Jas a ring.

2. CPHS Meetings in 2017

a) Annual General Meeting

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Society will take place at Colyford Memorial Hall at **7.30 pm on Wednesday 22 February**. We are urgently looking for new Committee members to help run the Society. Could you spare a couple of hours a month to act as Secretary to the Committee? Or do you fancy organising social events such as visits to local places of interest or could you put your fundraising skills at the disposal of the History Society? There is so much to be done! If you think you might be interested in any of these roles please talk to members of the Committee at the meeting or contact me beforehand:

Sarah Charman on **01297 553148**.

There will also be a talk, based on his recent researches back through 500 years of history, by **John Forrester Addie** on **Old Church House, Colyton**.

b) Chard and its Victorian People

This talk by Vince Lean will take place at Colyton Town Hall at **7.30 pm on Wednesday 22 March**.

3. Other Organisations' Events



Legacy to Landscape Project News - 2017 Events



In February

'Ancient Tree Hunt in Woodend Park', on **Sunday 26 February** and will be led by Jill Butler, Woodland Trust ancient trees expert. Parking Shute village, Haddon Road, EX13 7QR. Meet village noticeboard at start of Haddon Road, (Shute Barton end) No booking required. Free event. Please bring flexible tape measure, and if you have them a GPS, Smartphone or Tablet. 2pm – 5pm. Further information – contact Ruth on details below.

Ruth Worsley, legacytolandscape@gmail.com 01297 489741

In March

Unearthing the hidden history of the Legacy Landscape:

Devon Heritage Centre Training Session Visit – Monday 13 March 2pm – 4pm

A FREE training session at the Devon Heritage Centre (DHC) in Exeter has now been finalised for the afternoon of Monday 13 March. It will include a guided tour to learn how to access the archives and what possible material there may be to examine, in helping us to piece together the story of this historic landscape.

To book a place and get further details please contact Ruth Worsley, legacytolandscape@gmail.com 01297 489741.

Surveying for Dormice, Cottshayne Wood, nr Colyton, Saturday 18 March, 10am - 3pm

Learn about dormice and help set out dormice tubes to allow monitoring of the expanding dormouse population in Cottshayne Wood. Some light clearance of vegetation also planned. Free event. Booking essential. Christina Bows

01297 23822, email: tinabows@hotmail.co.uk; Cottshayne Wood Parking GR226935

**Introduction to use of OS Maps in historical research, Colyford,
Tuesday 21 March, 10.30am – 12.30pm**

A practical hands on workshop led by Hugh Dyer-Westacott, showing how OS maps can be used to investigate changes in the landscape. Free event. No booking required. Bring notebook and pen or pencil. Colyford Memorial Hall, Swan Hill Road, EX24 6QJ.

**The Making of the Landscape, Musbury Castle Hill Fort,
Sunday 26 March, 2pm – 4pm**

How the rocks, geology and structure beneath our feet have been fashioned by the forces of erosion to make the landscape we see and enjoy today. Geologist, Richard Edmonds explains, from the vantage point at Musbury Castle Iron Age Hill Fort which affords spectacular views of the Umborne and Coly valleys in the Legacy to Landscape area. Bring binoculars. Free event. No booking required. Park/Meet Musbury Village Hall car park.

For more information and for the full 2017 events programme:

email legacytolandscape@gmail.com; or 01404 310012 or contact **Ruth Worsley**, Legacy to Landscape Project Coordinator, 01297 489741, legacytolandscape@gmail.com The Landscape to Legacy 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.