

COLYTON PARISH HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER 23 July 2018

Message from the Chairman, Mrs Marian Sydenham and the Management Committee of Colyton Parish History Society:

With great sadness we have to record the sudden passing of John Cochrane at the end of June. He was a lovely man and will be greatly missed. John was a leading member of the History Society since its foundation in 1987. He was initially involved - along with the late Pat Goate - in exploring possibilities for establishing a Museum in Colyton but when no suitable accommodation could be found it was decided to form a local history society. From the start, John took a leading role in establishing CPHS, both as a member of the Management Committee and indeed for several years as Chairman.

He was instrumental in setting up and acting as the lead contact for a Family History Service Point, from which perspective he helped countless researchers from all over the world trace their family history and connections to Colyton. He also spent much time managing the Society's archive where his academic approach to all the records of scrapbooks, pictures, family history files, etc became the basis of what we value now. John was also in the forefront of researching into and lecturing on local history issues such as the mills in the Parish and regularly contributed to organising exhibitions in both Colyton and Colyford. His meticulous approach to research was one of the great strengths of the Society. Even as the years advanced and he grew physically frailer, John always retained a healthy curiosity about the history of the Parish and was still researching and writing until very recently.

His love of flying and sense of 'daring do' (he is still fondly remembered for his heroic efforts in gamely clambering up through the church bells at St Andrews onto the roof to remove the bird 's..t' in buckets which he then carried down to ground level), his positive attitude, sense of humour and above all his kindness and courteous nature has meant that over the years he became in the very best sense of the word a 'local treasure'. His unique accumulation of knowledge of local history coupled with rigorous research and analytical skills meant that he helped establish the Society on sturdy foundations where his influence will long be felt.

Elizabeth Cochrane has asked us to let members of the Society know the arrangements for John's funeral service which will take place at **3pm on Thursday 26 July 2018 in St Andrew's Church** here in Colyton. Afterwards there will be tea on the green outside.

1. News

CPHS Annual Summer Outing - Wednesday 1st August 2018 –

Mapperton House & Gardens plus a visit to Bridport Museum and escorted walking tour

Have you booked your ticket yet? Better hurry up – **the closing date for signing up is Thursday 26 July**. Anyone is welcome to come along – they don't have to be members of the Society.



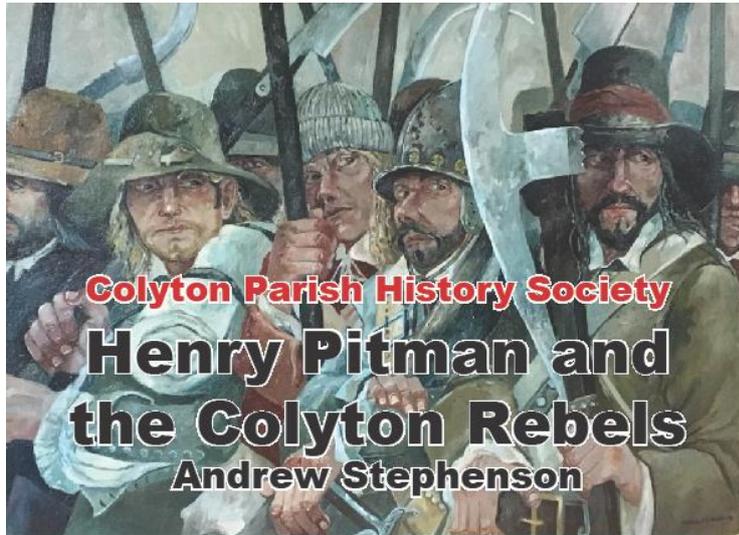
Our Annual Day Trip will begin with the coach departing Colyton at 9.15am outside Lloyds Bank:

- **First stop Bridport Museum** with a walking tour lead by popular local historian Bruce Upton - An easy stroll visiting historic rope making sites. Or a visit to the Museum.
- **Midday to Mapperton House** where you can enjoy a picnic in the shade or enjoy locally prepared food in the newly opened Sawmill Cafe.
- **Afternoon Guided Tour of the House & Gardens** - Mapperton is one of the oldest Dorset Manors. The Tudor manor house was built in c1540, with later Georgian additions such as a classical front, Georgian staircase hall and formalised front courtyard - it is charming and very much a lived in family home. The important and distinctive gardens are Grade II* famous for their romantic setting and varied planting including Italianate garden, Fountain Court and wild gardens. For more information about the property see <http://mapperton.com/>

Cost - £23.00 per person to include coach travel, Bridport tour & Museum, Guided tour of Mapperton House & Gardens. Sign up sheet in Heritage Centre – **Final numbers must be confirmed by 26 July**.

2. Forthcoming Events

- a) *Henry Pitman and the Colyton Rebels* – book launch 3pm
15 August 2018, Sunday School Building**



Colyton Parish History Society
Henry Pitman and the Colyton Rebels
 Andrew Stephenson

Book Launch
Wednesday, 15th August
3.00pm at Sunday School
St Andrew's Church, Church Green

Come along and enjoy a Cream Tea and Pimms and meet Andrew Stephenson who will be coming to Colyton to give a short talk and sign copies of his latest book

Henry Pitman was a West-country doctor who found himself caught up in the Duke of Monmouth's 1685 rebellion. Along with hundreds of other prisoners his punishment was commuted to ten years' penal servitude in the colonies, in his case in Barbados.

Also available - a new edition of Andrew's booklet on the famous smuggler from Beer, Jack Rattenbury - whose 1837 memoirs were written with the aid of the Colyton preacher and poet, John B Smith.

Both books are illustrated with images of local and historic interest.

All profits are kindly donated to the Colyton Parish History Society.

Local author Andrew Stephenson will be signing copies of his new book on '*Henry Pitman and the Colyton Rebels*' at a launch party in the Sunday School Building at 3pm on Wednesday 15 August. Do come along and enjoy a cream tea and pimms. All profits are being donated to CPHS.

b) CPHS Programme of Meetings for 2018

The next meetings of the History Society are in the autumn, beginning with a presentation by renowned local historian Dr Todd Gray on 19 September who will be speaking about the devastating fire at the Royal Clarence Hotel in Exeter.

- 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.

3. Other CPHS/Heritage Centre matters

- i) **CPHS requires a new secretary**

Our current secretary Sue Wooding has kindly agreed to take up the role of CPHS Treasurer following Roger Hutton's untimely passing. This means we are now looking for a new Secretary to join the Society's Management Board. We are a friendly bunch – there is much merriment during discussions at our meetings which are held monthly during the afternoon. If you have a couple of hours to spare each month and would like to get involved in steering our dynamic History Society please do get in touch with Jacquie McCulloch tel no 01297 552626 or me - Sarah Charman 01297 553148.

ii) Annual Membership Fees

If you haven't yet paid your 2018 CPHS membership fees you may find it easier to set up a standing order (£8 per couple or £5 per individual) the CPHS bank account details are: Lloyds Bank - sort code 30-90-37 account 00992240. Our Charity Commission Registered Charity Number is 1167230.

4. Other Organisations' Events

- i) **Colyton Christmas Lights Appeal** – Christmas may seem a long way away on these hot summer nights but don't forget to claim your token and vote for the Colyton Christmas Lights Appeal whenever you go into either of the Tesco stores in Seaton or Sidmouth over the next few weeks. The campaign will feature in the stores from 1 July to 31 August.



- ii) **Legacy to Landscape Project News - Events for July and August 2018:**

Turning the wheels of history, Colyton: Thursday 26 July , 2pm – 3.30pm A talk and tour to discover and learn more about this traditional rural craft and expert skill with Greg Rowland of Mike Rowland and Son, Wheelwrights By Appointment To Her Majesty The Queen. They craft high quality wooden wheels and horse drawn carriages. Rowlands will not be charging but welcome donations to the Devon Air Ambulance. No booking required. No 1 Wheelers Yard, Road Green, Colyton, EX24 6DT Grid Reference 246 941. For further information tel no 01404 310012, legacytolandscape@gmail.com

Mighty Oak Mobiles art workshop, Seaton Jurassic café Tuesday 31 July 10.00am – 11.45 am

Make mobiles using natural materials from the landscape to celebrate the nearby Shute medieval deer park which is ruled by a tree super hero, King John, 900 year old oak tree with artist Ruth Worsley, from the Legacy to Landscape Shute Estate project. Free family workshop. No booking required. Free drop in workshop. 01404 310012, legacytolandscape@gmail.com

All of a Flutter, Bolshayne Farm near Colyton Saturday 4 August 2pm – 4pm Painted Ladies, Peacocks, and Red Admirals are just some of our beautiful British butterflies to be seen feeding and flying in the meadows, hedgerows and orchard at Bolshayne Farm. Explore these wild places with butterfly expert Paul Butter to discover and record this year's butterflies for the Big Butterfly Count project. No booking required. Free Legacy to Landscape event. Suitable for all ages. Bolshayne Farm, Southleigh Road, Colyton. EX24 6RX. Grid Reference 221 937. Further info: 01404 310012, legacytolandscape@gmail.com.

Dragons and Damsels, Whitford Bridge Saturday 11 August, 2pm – 4pm Come and help at the 'Big Dip' for mini-beasts in the River Axe at Whitford Bridge. With insect expert Martin Drake we will be surveying the depths for the fearsome dragonfly larvae and other water loving mini-beasts. Dipping nets provided. Wellies recommended. No booking required. Free Legacy to Landscape event. Suitable for all ages. Whitford Bridge, Whitford village near Musbury. Grid Reference 262 954. Further info: 01404 310012, legacytolandscape@gmail.com

Legacy to Landscape is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund with support from the East Devon AONB Partnership, Colyton Parish History Society, Devon Wildlife Trust, Botanists and farmers Marian Reed and Phil Wilson, and the Axe Vale and District Conservation Society.

Ruth Worsley, Legacy to Landscape Project Co-ordinator, 01297 489741
mob: 07765126565. Full events programme or further information about the project: legacytolandscape@gmail.com; 01404 310012 or www.eastdevonaonb.org.uk/our-work/wildlife/legacy-to-landscape