

Colyton Parish History Society Newsletter 29 July 2019

Happy summer holidays everyone! Lots to report in this month's newsletter. The Heritage Centre has welcomed a record number of visitors this year since we opened for our sixth season. CPHS members enjoyed a lovely day in Lyme Regis and later in Whitchurch Canonichorum on 24 July celebrating Somers Day. We have a request for help from Bijan Omrani who is seeking information about the Shute Estate and the de la Pole family. There is a delightful new book on sale in the Heritage Centre: '*Memories of a Wheelwright*' by Colyton's very own Master Wheelwright Mike Rowland. And there are more books missing from the Heritage Centre

Sarah Charman - Editor

1. News

a) *A Celebration of Somers Day 2019 in Lyme Regis and Whitchurch Canonichorum*



CPHS members who joined the Society's annual summer outing on 24 July were treated to a perfect English summer's day when they attended the 2019 Somers Day parade in Lyme Regis.

The colourful annual parade - which processes down through the town and out on to the end of the Cobb for a commemoration ceremony - celebrates the life and achievements of Admiral Sir George Somers KT, Elizabethan seafarer and politician who was born in Lyme Regis in 1554 and is commemorated today as the founder of Bermuda. His ship the Sea Venture was wrecked there in 1609 and he died in Bermuda in 1610. His heart was buried in St George's while his body was pickled in a barrel and returned to the Cobb from where it

was taken for burial to the church of St Candida and the Holy Cross at Whitchurch Canonorum.

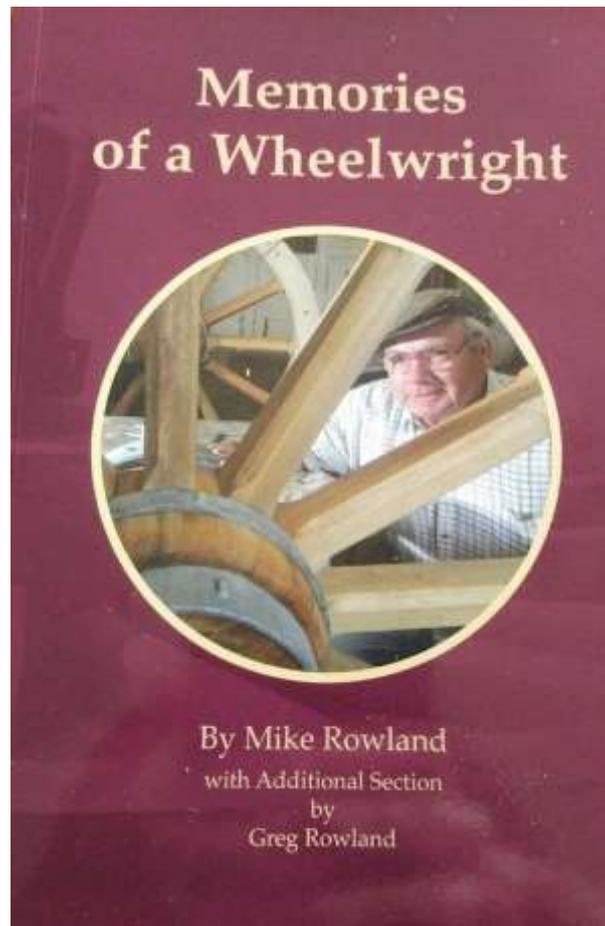
In 1996 Lyme Regis was 'twinned' with St George's Bermuda and in 2015 'tripled' with Jamestown, Virginia to form the 'Historic Atlantic Triangle.' Representatives including the town crier from St George's and Jamestown regularly attend and participate in the parade.



After the parade CPHS members joined the overseas representatives for coffee at the Atlantic Hotel before boarding the coach to Whitchurch Canonorum where they were given a guided tour of the church of St Candida and the Holy Cross to learn something of its fascinating history. Later they participated in the Somers' Day thanksgiving service celebrating the historic links between Lyme Regis, Whitchurch, Bermuda and Jamestown.

Mrs Marian Sydenham, Chairman of CPHS, joined the Mayors of Lyme Regis and St George's in the unique 'Ceremony of Placing Crowns in Remembrance of Admiral Sir George Somers' in the church. This was followed by a procession to Whitchurch War Memorial for 'the Cry from the Cross.' Afterwards they were treated to a delicious afternoon tea provided by the Church's 'cake squad'!

b) New publication - Memories of a Wheelwright - by Mike Rowland with additional section by Greg Rowland



'Sharpen your chisel so it will shave a dead mouse without waking it'

This vividly evocative and long anticipated book celebrates Mike Rowland's 65 years as a highly skilled wheelwright, together with his son Greg's story of learning his craft and continuing the family tradition as Master Wheelwrights. Lavishly illustrated the book, with a foreword by the Venerable David Gunn-Johnson, is available for £10 direct from Mike Rowland & Son, Wheeler's Yard, Colyton and in Colyton Heritage Centre and The Little Shop, Market Place, Colyton.

c) Record numbers visit Colyton Heritage Centre

Since the Heritage Centre opened for its sixth season at Easter we are excited to have welcomed a record number of visitors. To the end of July 2018 we had 1236 visitors. By this Wednesday over 1500 visitors will have come into the Centre in this 2019 season.

d) Colyton Connections – Information wanted about Shute and the De La Poles



Portrait of a footman in Pole Livery - C19th watercolour – by kind permission of the Pole Estate, Antony House

We have received the following request from Bijan Omrani: - Do you have old photographs or papers about Shute House, Shute Village, and the De La Poles?

“I am doing some research into the history of Shute House, and am looking to see if anyone has any historical material about the house, or the local village, and also the de la Pole family.

“I would be very eager to see any old photographs, drawings, paintings, papers, diaries, letters, postcards, printed material or anything else about Shute House, Shute Village and Church, and also the de la Pole family who lived there and owned the estate until the mid-1920s.

“I would be happy to see material from any historical period (including the time when the house was a girls' school). I would be particularly interested to find anything from the time of 1895-1926, which is a particular focus of the research. This was the time when Sir Edmund and Elizabeth de la Pole owned the house, and then afterwards Sir Frederick de la Pole. I would also be particularly interested to see any material about the house theatre in Shute House.

“The House was frequently used during this period for grand local gatherings (fetes, parties, entertainments, etc) to which many local people at the time were invited, so I am hopeful that photographs or written/printed material from this period has been preserved somewhere locally.

“This research is going considerably beyond the standard historical work "The Story of Shute" by M.F. Bridie, and I hope I shall be able to present my findings to the CPHS in due course.

"I look forward to hearing from anyone with any material, and will be very grateful for any help. My email address is bijan.omrani@btinternet.com
- many thanks!"

e) Missing Books

Work is progressing on cataloguing the Society's archive and it would appear that a couple more bookings are missing: '*Slip on the Pavement*' and '*The Deaf Adders*'. Both of these are by Christopher Leech and are the first two volumes of his trilogy set during the period 1450-1590 - a time of religious turmoil and witchcraft. Please could you check your bookshelves. Also Jacky Roberts-Wake paper on '*Colyton Mills*' is still missing.

2. CPHS Matters_ -

a. 2019 talks programme

The CPHS 2019 programme of talks and events will return in September

- **Wednesday, 25 September** at 7.30 pm there will be a talk on '**Devon and Dorset Migration in the 1800's**' by **Jane Ferentzi** at Colyton Town Hall
- **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 August – September 2019

- **Landscape Detectives, Colyton - Saturday 3 August, 2pm – 4pm**

Travel back into the mists of time on a slow and gate leaning amble to see clues in this marvellous landscape that reveals the intriguing history of the Shute estate in Colyton Parish with local historian Colin Pady. From Iron Age forts, ancient salt routes, to medieval fayres and ox roasts, Colin has extensively researched this fascinating corner of the historic Shute Estate owned by the Pole Family for over three centuries. *No booking necessary. Free event.* Fairly level terrain, using public footpaths and country lanes. Meet Colyton Picnic Site, Hillhead, Colyton, SY244 934

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

Explore Woodend Park, the medieval deer park and meet the ancient and stately 900 year old King John's Oak, to launch the Shute Literature and Landscape Festival. If conditions wet, shorter walk to visit the Turkey Oak at New Shute House. Please wellies or stout boots strongly advised – fields can be really muddy at this time of year. Parking Shute village, Haddon Road, EX13 7PT. GR 253 975. Meet on green in front of Shute Barton Gatehouse entrance (at start of Haddon Road.)

No booking necessary. Free event.

Full festival programme: www.shutefest.org.uk

Legacy to Landscape community heritage project celebrates a hidden area of landscape in an area of East Devon, based on the 1781 map of the Pole family estate at Shute. This

historic map covers the landscape of the Colyton and Shute area, west of Axminster. Further information, please contact, email: legacytolandscape@gmail.com; or ring 01297 489741 <http://www.eastdevonaonb.org.uk/our-work/wildlife/legacy-to-landscape>

b) South West Heritage Trust - August 2019 Events

Exploring Historic Devon Maps - 6 August 2.00 pm at North Devon Record Office



Discover the historic maps of Devon and how they show the changing landscape of the county. Find out about how to use and interpret them for family and local history and how to access various online resources. A selection of local north Devon maps dating back to the eighteenth century will be on display. Booking essential - £5 including Devonshire cream tea. To book call 01271 318795 or email northdevon@swheritage.org.uk

i) Peterloo and the Viscount Sidmouth Archive – 19 August 2.00 pm Devon Heritage Centre, Exeter



Join us for an event to celebrate our successful project to conserve the political papers of Henry Addington, First Viscount Sidmouth. A selection of letters will be on display, including items which cast light on the Peterloo Massacre and the government's response. There will also be short talks about the political and cultural significance of the letters, and demonstrations of how we conserved them.