

## **Colyton Parish History Society Newsletter 19 March 2020**

Unexpectedly this month we find ourselves at the heart of a global pandemic and I know it is difficult sometimes not to feel depressed and a little scared by the uncertainty this new coronavirus emergency is causing. But from an historical perspective just remember as a country we have faced great challenges before and survived. We will get through this. We just need to “keep calm and carry on”, be positive and help one another.

So during this period of self-isolation why not do something positive and creative - like researching and writing about your family tree or some aspect of local history that has always intrigued you? There is so much information to be found on-line these days. Or you could sort through those old photograph albums and family letters tucked away in the loft. You never know what you might find! If you come across an interesting historic snippet about local people or events or a lost treasure or would like to invite others to contribute ideas and information you could email me a hundred words and/or a photo and I will include them in the next newsletter.

Stay safe and be productive!

Sarah Charman, Editor

### **1. |News**

#### **a. Coronavirus - cancellation of Events:**

On government advice - because of the risk of infection - a number of events and activities organised by Colyton Parish History Society have unfortunately had to be cancelled or postponed. These are:

- Colyton Heritage Centre will remain closed until further notice.
- Town Walks are also cancelled until further notice.
- March & April History Talks are cancelled.

We will keep under review for the time being the plans for the History Society's annual summer trip - which this year is scheduled for **Wednesday 15 July** to visit Plymouth which was planning to celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower. We will issue further guidance on this trip as we see how the coronavirus situation develops over the coming weeks.

#### **b. Do you know these men? - WW2 East Devon Auxiliary Units – The Untold Story of Colyton's Unit**



For those of you who were able to come to last month's talk on Auxiliary Units you will know what a fascinating evening it was. The Auxiliaries were highly trained civilian volunteers and would have disappeared to their secret underground operational bases when the Germans arrived. These units were trained and prepared to come out at night to blow up bridges, railways, transport, airfields and assassinate high ranking German officials and British collaborators. Most went to their graves without telling their families or friends what they were trained to do.

Such a patrol existed in the Colyton area, and archives have been discovered giving more details of members, training and locations of secret operational bases. There is still much to be researched and discovered about members of the Auxiliaries and the Coleshill Auxiliary Research Team (CART) are very keen for any information local people can provide about the following individuals:

If you do recognise any of these names and can provide information about any of these individuals please contact Andrew Chatterton at email: [cartpress@gmail.com](mailto:cartpress@gmail.com)



## 2. CPHS

### a. CPHS Programme of talks for 2020

- Wednesday, 23 September – ‘**Black People in 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Century Pre Colonial England**’ by Peter Lacey – at Colyton Town Hall
- Wednesday 28 October – Archive Film Show ‘**Austerity to Affluence in Post War Britain**’ by Greenpark Archives – at Colyford Memorial Hall
- Wednesday, 25 November – ‘**A Lost Chapel in Colyton**’ by John Torrance – at Colyton Town Hall

All talks start at 7.30pm. The attendance fee for each talk is £2 for Members and £4 for Non-members, and includes refreshments.

### b. Membership fees

Remember that your annual membership fees were **due from 1 January 2020** and rose this year **to £8 for an individual and £12 for a couple**. For those of you who pay by standing order or BACS, payment can be made at Lloyds Bank, Sort Code 30-90-37, Account Number 00992240. If you have any queries please email [treasurer@colytonhistory.org](mailto:treasurer@colytonhistory.org)