

COLYTON PARISH HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2016

Editor's note

This issue focuses on some exciting local discoveries, recent donations to the Heritage Centre and the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

Sarah Charman

1. Swords



Three swords have recently been found secreted in the attic of Court House in Colyton: two rapiers thought to date from the C15-C16 and this sabre, found by Bart Long in the thatched roof and believed to date from the mid C17 - a time of Civil War and later the Monmouth Rebellion. What stories might this lethal weapon have to tell about a tumultuous period in Colyton's history? Further research is underway to try and find out more about them.

2. Recent Donations to the Heritage Centre



Since the Heritage Centre has been open a number of interesting items have been presented by some very generous donors. This postcard is one of five kindly donated to the Heritage Centre recently by Sally Seward, depicting the fire at St Andrew's Church in 1933. This one shows local men with wooden ladders struggling to douse the flames.

Gordon Phillips, a keen local metal detectorist, also regularly brings in finds such as musket balls. Visitors, particularly children, like to handle and feel the weight of the growing collection of musket balls now on display.

We have begun the process of cataloguing all our donations. Anyone bringing donations to the Heritage Centre in future will be asked by the volunteer on duty to complete an accession form giving brief details of the item including: a description; as much information as the donor possibly can about its provenance; whether it is being donated as a gift or a loan and their name and contact details so any queries can be followed up. Items will be assessed and either - space permitting - put on display or stored pending display in a future themed exhibition. All donors will receive a letter of acknowledgement from the Society.

3. Metal Detecting and the Portable Antiquities Scheme

Following a very interesting presentation to CPHS by the East Devon Metal Detecting Club last Wednesday evening, several members approached me and said it would be helpful to include details of the Portable Antiquities Scheme and the definition of 'Treasure' in the next Newsletter. So here they are. With grateful thanks to Club members Brian Denham and Richard Wells for the following information.

What is the Portable Antiquities Scheme?

The Portable Antiquities Scheme is designed to encourage the voluntary recording of archaeological objects found by members of the public in England and Wales. Every year thousands of objects are discovered, many of these by metal detector users but also by people out walking or gardening. Further information is obtainable on the website: www.finds.org.uk

Richard Wells commented "attractive and significant finds which are not treasure may be made all over the place and should be notified so that they may find their way on to the PAS data base [<https://finds.org.uk/database>]. In that way, hitherto unsuspected patterns of historymay emerge."

The Treasure Act of 1996 is an [Act of Parliament](#) designed to deal with finds of [treasure](#) in [England](#), [Wales](#) and [Northern Ireland](#); it does not apply in Scotland.^[1] It legally obliges finders of objects which constitute a legally defined term of treasure to report their find to their local [coroner](#) within fourteen days. An [inquest](#) led by the coroner then determines whether the find constitutes treasure or not. If it is declared to be treasure then the owner must offer the item for sale to a [museum](#) at a price set by an independent board of antiquities experts ([Treasure Valuation Committee](#)). Only if a museum expresses no interest in the item, or is unable to purchase it, the owner can retain it.

'Treasure' is defined as being:

- All [coins](#) from the same [hoard](#). A hoard is defined as two or more coins, as long as they are at least 300 years old when found. If they contain less than 10% [gold](#) or [silver](#) there must be at least 10 in the hoard for it to qualify.
- Two or more [prehistoric base metal](#) objects in [association](#) with one another
- Any individual (non-coin) find that is at least 300 years old and contains at least 10% gold or silver.

- [Associated](#) finds: any object of any material found in the same place as (or which had previously been together with) another object which is deemed treasure.
- Objects substantially made from gold or silver but are less than 300 years old, that have been deliberately hidden with the intention of recovery and whose owners or heirs are unknown.

The Finds Liaison Officer for Devon is Ms Danielle Wootton who may be contacted at the following address: danielle.c.wootton@exeter.ac.uk; or by telephone on 01392 724327. Additional advice is also obtainable from the Royal Albert Memorial Museum in Exeter. Telephone number 01392 265858.

4. New items for sale in Heritage Centre



Attractive bone china thimbles can now be purchased in the Heritage Centre for £1 each and fridge magnets depicting St Andrew's Church for £1.50.

5. Future CPHS Meetings

The next History Society meeting will be on Wednesday **26 October 2016 at 7.30 pm** in Colyford Memorial Hall, Roger Hill will speak on *The River Axe Salmon Trap*.

Wednesday **23 November 2016 at 7.30 pm** in Colyton Town Hall, Amyas Crump will speak about *East Devon Railways*.

6. Other Organisations' Events



Still time to 'vote for the oak' – King Johns Oak

Shute Primary School have nominated the magnificent King Johns Oak, 800 years old, in Woodend Medieval Deer Park. Voting closes October 9th.

<http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/tree-of-the-year/england/>

Legacy to Landscape - programme of events in October

Seed Gathering Safari, Holyford Woods

Sunday 2 October, 2pm – 4pm

Fun safari for all, collecting seeds to grow and help improve the area's woodlands. Refuel with tea and cake. £3 donation towards work of Devon Wildlife Trust.

Booking essential. Meet at Seaton Tower Layby, Seaton Down Hill, EX12 2TH.

Bat Tracking in Devon and Trinidad, Colyford Village Hall, Swan Hill Road, Colyford, EX24 6QJ. Wednesday 5 October, 7.30pm

Adrian Bayley talks about his projects recording the ecology of the rich bat fauna of East Devon and Trinidad. Joint event with Axe Vale and District Conservation Society. £3 admission. No booking required.

Leaf back in time, Holyford Woods, Wednesday 12 October, 2pm – 4pm

Travel back in time to hear Colin Pady's 'tree'mendous tree tales on a fascinating trek through the woodland's past. Free. No booking required. Meet at Seaton Tower Layby, Seaton Down Hill, EX12 2TH.

Please note new times for King Johns Oak events:

Visit King Johns Oak, Sunday 30 October, 10am – 12pm

Exploring the wildlife of these amazing ancient trees, courtesy of their guardians at Woodend Park, Shute, Colyton, with Keith Alexander from the Ancient Tree Forum.

Booking essential. £4 donation towards Devon Wildlife Trust. Parking details and where to meet given on booking.

Help King Johns Oak, Sunday 30 October, 2pm – 4pm

Practical session clearing vegetation choking this magnificent 800 year old tree in the medieval deer park of Woodend Park near Shute.

Booking essential. Parking details and where to meet given on booking.

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.

LEGACY TO LANDSCAPE - FURTHER INFORMATION

Email legacytolandscape@gmail.com, or ring 01404 310012

www.eastdevonaonb.org.uk/index.php?page=news-and-events

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