

Colyton Parish History Society Newsletter 26 March 2021

Exciting news this month of our plans for a new Facebook page on social media aimed at encouraging and hopefully inspiring people to take an interest in their local history. Also a request for memories of Devon violets from the East Devon AONB saving special species project and Lyme Regis Museum celebrates its centenary.

Sarah Charman, Editor

1. History Society News

The History Society Management Committee would like to draw your attention to the following:

New Facebook Page - We are shortly going to launch a new source of information on social media about the activities of Colyton Parish History Society and items on display in Colyton Heritage Centre. We are setting up a new Facebook Page to encourage and hopefully inspire people to take an interest in their local history. The page will have the latest information about when we are able to open the Heritage Centre again, what the opening hours will be and covid secure visiting guidance and of course for visitors to Colyton, details of where to find us.

There will be information on our new FB page about the history of the medieval Merchant's House where the Heritage Centre is located, details of the items on display there and the various materials available for research in the Centre including books, photographs, maps and of course the digitised version of the Colyton Chamber of Feoffee's historic archive. The Feoffee's archive is of national importance and provides a unique insight into the social and economic history of Colyton over the past 500 years. It was digitised by volunteers from the History Society with the aid of a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

We would love people to share their knowledge about local history, notable characters and events in Colyton's past. We will also be flagging up notable anniversaries and reoccurring events in the annual cycle of life in this community as well as 'then and now' images of local events and places, new finds by local historians and archaeological discoveries in the area as well as details of events and talks organised by other local history societies.

Further details of when we go 'live' will be published in the April edition of the Newsletter. So please tell your friends to look out for our new FB page and encourage them to 'like' us.

2. Other News

a. Lyme Regis Museum celebrates 100th anniversary



<https://lyme-online.co.uk/news/lyme-regis-museum-celebrates-100th-anniversary/?IYA-mail=150ba4ef-6b22-4df2-90bd-d968d76b1065>

3. Other organisations' events

a. Devon History Society

1. Lustleigh Society - all welcome to attend talk by Dr Todd Gray

Dr Todd Gray will be giving a Zoom talk, entitled 'Devon's Greatest Export: Woollen Cloth', for the Lustleigh Society on Tuesday 30th March 2021 at 7:30pm.

Woollen cloth was Devon's most significant export for hundreds of years. It was largely finished and then funnelled through Exeter until 1800 to markets principally in Spain, Portugal, and the Low Countries, Italy and France. The recent discovery of a cloth book of the 1760s has revealed the vibrancy and range of this cloth. This illustrated talk uses 2,475 samples to bring alive an industry which was once the heart of Devon's economy.

If you would like to join this talk you can log in using this link anytime after 7pm on the day: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85878992685>

You have the option whether to be visible (join with video) or invisible (join without video). It's best to keep yourself on mute during the lecture. There will be an opportunity to ask questions at the end.

2. Devon Rural Archive to reopen

The DRA will reopen its library, by appointment only, on Monday 12th April 2021. If you would like to book some time in the Archive please call the office on 01548 830832.

3. Devon and Cornwall Record Society Volunteer Project

The DCRS have launched a volunteer project to transcribe the Dean Milles returns of 1753 in which parish clerics were asked to answer 120 questions about their parish. The returns are owned by the Bodleian Library, and since they were purchased at auction in 1843 a steady stream of Devon historians have travelled to Oxford to use these papers. A microfilm has been available for some time at the Devon Heritage Centre, but it is in a fragile state and many pages are unreadable. To make the returns more widely available DCRS have recently launched a project to transcribe the documents so they can make them available to their members. So, if you are interested in what was happening in your parish in 1753, it may be worth joining the DCRS <http://www.devonandcornwallrecordsociety.co.uk!>

b. Painting Devon Violets

Axminster Heritage Centre has organised an online painting course for beginners on Saturday 10 April - see link below for details.



<https://axminsterheritage.org/axminster-heritage-events/>

c. Saving special species - East Devon AONB's latest project

The Natural History of Violets - Many of our woodlands have lost their violet populations as the woods have become overgrown and too shady - Please if you have a memory of Devon Violets in a local woodland Ruth Worsley, Wildlife Engagement Officer at savingspecialspecies@gmail.com would love to hear from you.

Butterflies - Also please let Ruth know if you see a Pearl Bordered or Small Pearl Bordered Fritillary butterfly and record where and when you saw it. For more information see: butterfly-conservation.org/butterflies/pearl-bordered-fritillary

butterfly-conservation.org/butterflies/small-pearl-bordered-fritillary

d. Lyme Regis Mill to reopen on 12 April

<https://www.bridportnews.co.uk/news/19179183.lyme-regis-town-mill-reopen-april-12/?ref=rss&IYA-mail=150ba4ef-6b22-4df2-90bd-d968d76b1065>

4. Things you may have missed

a. Picasso's doodle of his Devonian muse

<https://www.devonlive.com/news/devon-news/picassos-doodle-devon-muse-up-5065595?IYA-mail=150ba4ef-6b22-4df2-90bd-d968d76b1065>

b. Mary Anning commemorated on new 50p coins

<https://lyme-online.co.uk/news/lyme-regis-news/mary-anning-commemorated-with-new-coin-collection/?IYA-mail=150ba4ef-6b22-4df2-90bd-d968d76b1065>

c. Honiton Shambles

https://www.midweekherald.co.uk/news/honiton-museum-shambles-history-7811392?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=D_M37938