

COLYTON PARISH HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER 18th Feb 2019



A breath of spring this month with snowdrops and early daffodils making their first appearance. Sad to mark the passing of David Butler. Take a look at the Devon History Society newsletter and website – details attached. They have lots of interesting events lined up. And CPHS dates for your diary - do come along to our AGM on 27 February and also to hear John Dover's exciting tale of local Colyford lad made good - Sir Thomas Gates - who became the first Governor of Virginia. And you are welcome to come along to the volunteers' annual tea party on 4 March – particularly if you are thinking of becoming a volunteer! There are so many different opportunities with the History Society from leading walking tours around the town to welcoming visitors to the Heritage Centre to summarising old documents. Finally, a reminder to anyone who has not yet paid their annual membership fees – these can be paid at the February meeting.

Sarah Charman, Editor

1. News

a. David Butler

We are very sad to report that David Butler died last week. He had been a stalwart supporter of Colyton Parish History Society and a volunteer in the Heritage Centre for some years, where he was utterly reliable and always happy to step in if someone had to drop out. He enjoyed studying the records if it was quiet but also thoroughly appreciated the conversations with visitors from far and wide, with which he would often regale his family. He was always interested in people and their lives and experiences.

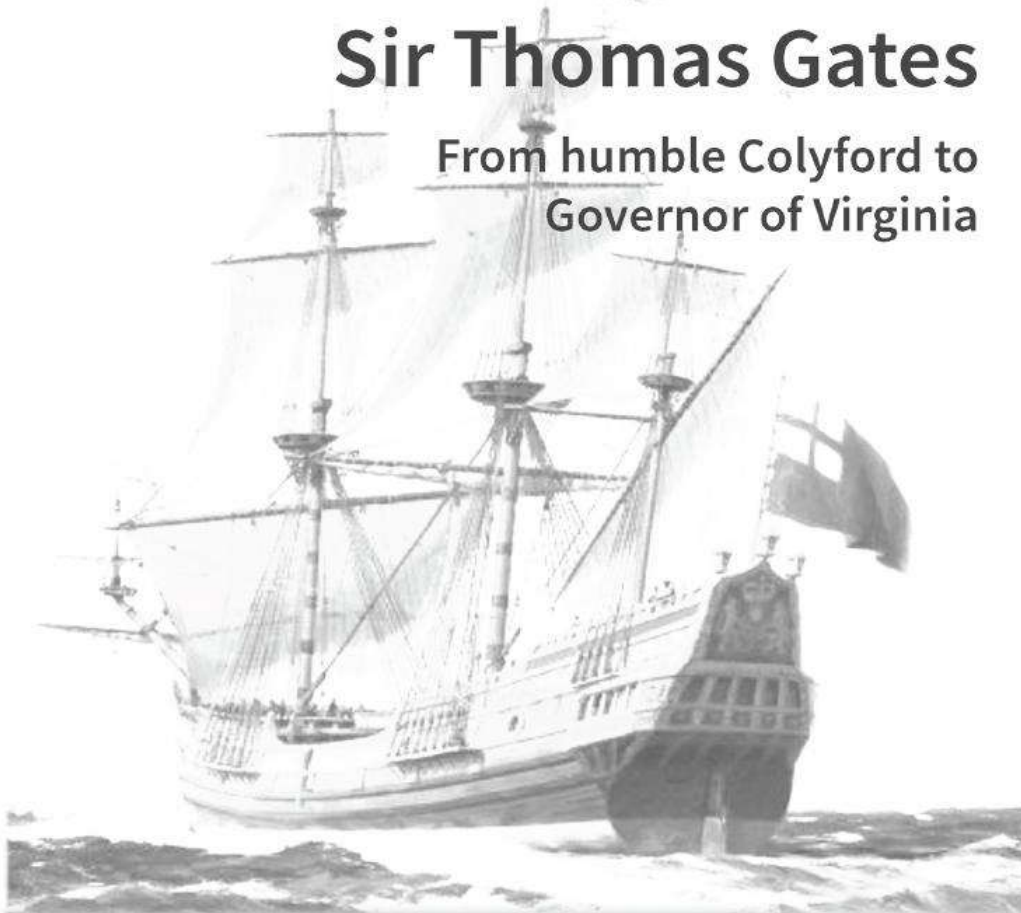
A service to commemorate and celebrate his life will be held at St Andrew's Church in Colyton at 2.00 pm on Thursday, 7th March, followed by tea in the Feoffees Town Hall to which all are welcome.

b. February Talk - by John Dover at Colyford Memorial Hall Wednesday, 27 February at 7.30 pm preceded by the AGM

“New World Adventurer”

Sir Thomas Gates

From humble Colyford to
Governor of Virginia



Come and hear how a boy from Colyford ended up as the first Governor of Virginia... Surviving shipwreck, discovering Bermuda, and saving Jamestown on the way.

Wednesday, 27th February | 7.30 pm | Colyford Memorial Hall

(Preceded by the Annual General Meeting of the Colyton Parish History Society)

£2 members | £4 non-members | Includes refreshments

A short AGM will be followed by an illustrated talk given by John Dover, who has visited Jamestown and Bermuda to research the fascinating history of both Sir Thomas Gates and Admiral Sir George Somers.

Thomas Gates was born into humble circumstances and baptised in Colyton Parish Church in 1561. He became a well-respected and brave soldier and leader. He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth I for his service in the Cadiz expedition of 1596, and together with Admiral Sir George Somers of Lyme Regis became a founder member of the Virginia Company in 1606.

Come and hear how he survived a shipwreck, discovered Bermuda, saved Jamestown (*the first permanent English settlement in North America*), arguably helping to lay the groundwork for the foundations of the British Empire and much more.....

All welcome - £2 members, £4 non-members, includes refreshments

c. Volunteers Tea Party

A very big thank you to all our volunteers who we are looking forward to welcoming to the annual volunteers' tea party in **St John Hall on Monday 4 March at 2pm**. Do you fancy becoming a volunteer? We are a friendly group and there are so many different roles you could become involved with - from leading walking tours around Colyton to welcoming visitors to the Heritage Centre, to summarising old documents, organising events, fund raising or helping enquirers with their local research. Why not drop in and talk to some of the volunteers about what we do. You never know you may decide to join us!

2. CPHS Matters

a. 2019 CPHS talks programme

Our wide ranging CPHS 2019 programme of talks and events continues with:

- **Wednesday, 27 March** begins with an exhibition on '**East Devon Floods of the Past**' which will be **open from 3pm and talk at 7pm** at Colyton Town Hall
- **Wednesday, 24 April** at 7.30 pm will mark St George's Day and Shakespeare's birthday with an '**Evening of Music and Verse**' by **Adrienne Hesketh** at Colyford Memorial Hall
- **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.

b. CPHS Annual Membership Fees due

- A gentle reminder to those of you who have not yet paid your annual membership subscription (including me!) There will be another opportunity at the February meeting for you to pay up (£5 individual and £8 joint membership) with cash, cheque made out to Colyton Parish History Society or by a BACS transfer or standing order into this account: Lloyds Bank, Sort Code 30-90-37, Account 00992240. You will also need to complete the GDPR (data protection) form. Please note that without your signature on the form we will be unable to email you a newsletter in future as without your signed agreement we can no longer hold your email details.

3. Other Organisations' Events

a. Devon History Society

- **Tuesday, 26 February 2019 at 10 am** - at Shute Barton for a morning's work - **King Johns Oak**. Having cleared all the bramble from around this magnificent 800 year old oak tree we are going to spread some wood chips around its base. These will help keep the soil moist and stop the roots drying out too quickly in the summer.
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- **Tuesday 19 March 2019 from 10.00 am – 3 pm** - **Rowlands Orchard, Shute**. Help restore this ancient orchard. We will be planting some apple trees including our local speciality the Crimson Victoria. We will also prune some of the older trees.
- For more information or to book onto one of these events please contact Pete. At Pete.youngman@eastdevonaonb.org.uk or phone: 01404 310012