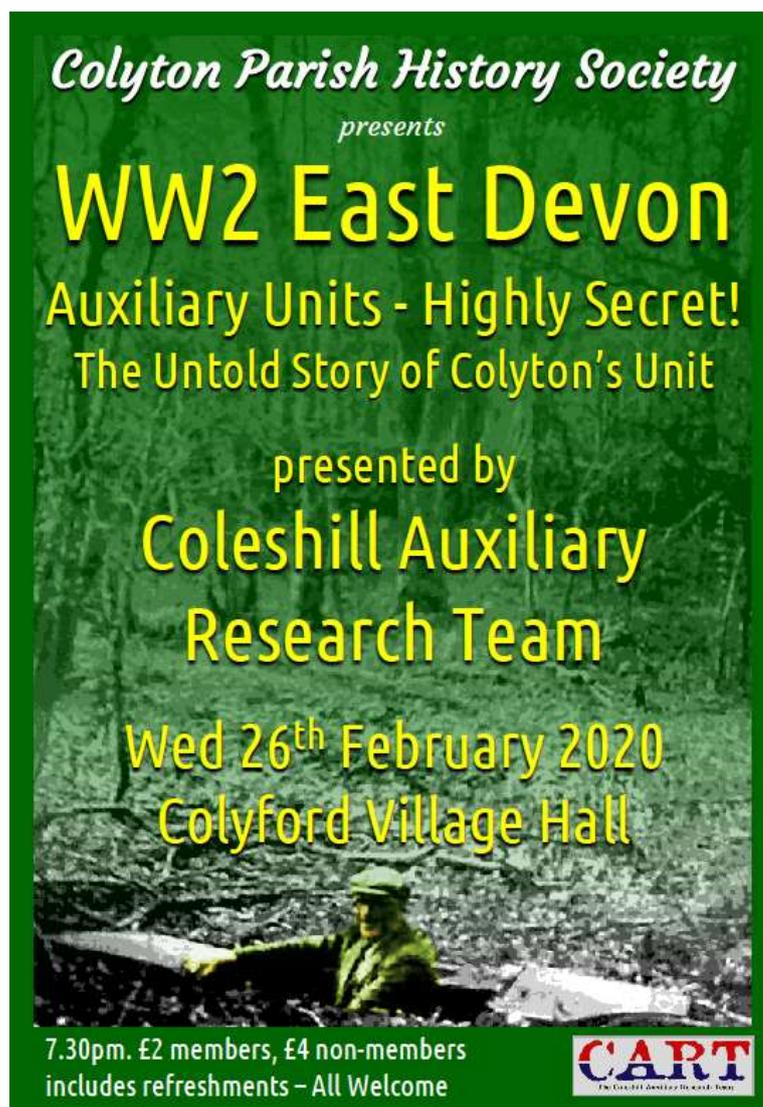


## Colyton Parish History Society Newsletter 21 February 2020

This month – a date for your diary: the Society's annual summer trip; a couple of interesting event and news of how you can get involved in a new research project being led by Devon History Society and finally a reminder that next Wednesday's exciting talk on WW2 Auxiliary Units will be preceded by the Society's AGM.

Sarah Charman, Editor

### 1. |News



*Colyton Parish History Society*  
*presents*  
**WW2 East Devon**  
**Auxiliary Units - Highly Secret!**  
**The Untold Story of Colyton's Unit**  
  
presented by  
**Coleshill Auxiliary**  
**Research Team**  
  
**Wed 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020**  
**Colyford Village Hall**  
  
7.30pm. £2 members, £4 non-members  
includes refreshments – All Welcome  
**CART**  
The Colyton Auxiliary Research Team

### **WW2 East Devon Auxiliary Units – Highly Secret! The Untold Story of Colyton's Unit**

Groups of civilian volunteers were highly trained (all signed the Official Secrets Act) 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 the grave 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.

Presented by Coleshill Auxiliary Research Team - CART would welcome any archive material (which can be copied and returned) and family reminiscences. Please contact [secretary@colytonhistory.org](mailto:secretary@colytonhistory.org) Or Tel 01297 552626. Please come along and take part in what is sure to be a fascinating evening.

## 2. CPHS

### a) Save the Date! – History Society's Annual Summer Trip

- Do make a note in your diary: the Society's annual summer trip will be on **Wednesday 15 July** and will be to Plymouth which this year is celebrating the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower. Programme details to follow next month.

### b) CPHS Programme of talks for 2020

- Wednesday, 25 March – '*The Pilgrim Fathers*' by Mrs Carrie Southwell, Mayflower Society, USA and '*New World Adventurers*' by Sarah Charman and John Dover at [Colyton Town Hall](#)

- For the remaining talks in 2020, click the Programme button on the menu.

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

### C) Membership fees

Remember that your annual membership fees are **due from 1 January 2020** and as agreed at the last annual general meeting will be **rising to £8 for an individual and £12 for a couple**. Fees can be paid at any meeting. 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. Please remember to adjust the sum you pay before the payment is due from your account. If you have any queries please email [treasurer@colytonhistory.org](mailto:treasurer@colytonhistory.org)

### D) Heritage Centre Opening – Summer 2020

The Heritage Centre reopens on Monday 6 April until Saturday 31 October

Opening Times are

10.00 am – 4.00 pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

10.00 am - 1.00 pm on Wednesday and Saturday

### E) Guided History Walks of Colyton

Learn more about the Saxon origins of our town and how Colyton became Devon's Most Rebellious Town. The Society organizes guided history walks around the town

every Thursday from April till the end of September. The walks start at 2pm and leave from the Car Park in Dolphin Street. The cost of the walk is £3 per person, although under sixteens are free.

The Society can also arrange walks for groups at any time during the year. Please pass on the word to friends elsewhere and tell any organizations you think may be interested. If you would like to arrange a group walk, then please call Jane on 01297 552514, or contact us through our website.

### 3. Other Organisation's Events

#### a) Friends of Colyton Library present



**An Audience with Lady Katherine – and peep inside her wardrobe**  
**Thursday 5 March at 2.30 pm in the Peace Memorial Hall**  
– tickets £5 from the Library or The Little Shop

**Colyton in Tudor times.** Come and join Lady Katherine as she reminisces about her life in Tudor Devon.  
Brought to life by Rosemary Griggs - a Costumed History Interpreter- Lady Katherine Champernowne tells tales of her long life during the reign of Henry VIII and Elizabeth I .....of her two husbands and five sons (including Sir Walter Raleigh)

[www.friendsofcolytonlibrary.co.uk](http://www.friendsofcolytonlibrary.co.uk)

#### b) Devon History Society Request

## **– What made Devon Distinctive in the 1920s? A New Research Collaboration**

This is the question at the heart of a new DHS led project to research county life in the decade after WW1. The project is to be in collaboration with the Devon Family History Society and the South West Heritage Trust, and will also offer individual historians and our affiliated societies and their members a chance to get involved. There are a number of ways in which you could help, and these are detailed in the attached flyer from Dr Julia Neville. Please do let all your members know about this exciting new venture, and if anyone is interested in helping in any way, please contact Julia by email on [j.f.neville@btinternet.com](mailto:j.f.neville@btinternet.com).



*Thanks to Alick Lavers and Tony Morris for the 1920s family photographs (above) they've already shared*

What flashes into your mind when you read the words 'The Nineteen Twenties'? The General Strike or the Jazz Age? War Memorials or the Dole? Council houses or the BBC? The WI or the British Legion? Motor bikes and sidecars or Rudolph Valentino? Shingled hair or spats?

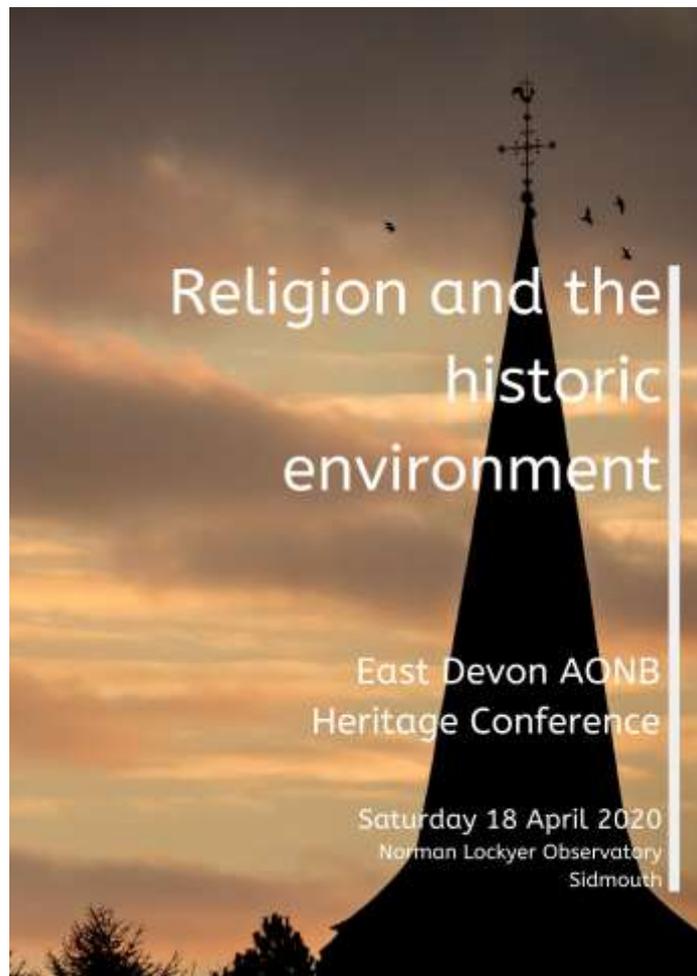


All those things? Correct. A decade of diversity! Could you help research what Devon was like in that decade? Devon History Society in partnership with Devon Family History Society and the South West Heritage Trust is beginning research into the 1920s with a view to countywide celebrations of the history of the 1920s to take place in 2024.

We'd like to tap in to the knowledge, information and research expertise held by all the DHS affiliated societies and their members to make this happen, and there are a number of different ways in which we hope you could help. These are:

- **Telling the history of your own community in the 1920s.** This might be about overall change – perhaps the impact of the loss of the landlord at the ‘big house’ or the greater dominance of the holiday trade. Or it might be about a particular change – the first connection of mains electricity or the setting up of the Women’s Institute.
- **Discovering the histories of local people in the 1920s.** Do you have memories already recorded, or anyone who could recall what their parents told them about the 1920s? Maybe even centenarians who remember their childhood?. We’re looking for family memories in which to ground our research.
- **Bringing out what’s in your collections about the 1920s** – What photographs and pictures are already in the archives. In particular we are looking for five iconic images of Devon in the 1920s that we can use throughout the project – and there’ll be a small prize for the five finally selected (to be confirmed in the next DHS newsletter).
- **Helping shape some of our countywide research.** We’d like to bring together stories from across the county under five headings: Aftermath of War; Growing up in the 1920s; Rural Life; Progress and Technology; Holidays and Leisure, and we’d like volunteers to help.  
We’d like to hear from anyone interested in helping tease out these histories – what made Devon distinctive in the 1920s? Please do let all your members know about this new venture and if anyone is interested in helping in any way, contact me, Julia Neville, [j.f.neville@btinternet.com](mailto:j.f.neville@btinternet.com) or via the Devon History Society website.

### c) East Devon AONB Heritage Conference



- 0.00 - 10.15 Opening remarks and welcome** - Chris Woodruff (East Devon AONB Manager)
- 0.15 - 11.00 Prehistoric religious expression in East Devon** - examining Hembury, the Farway barrows and the Holcombe mirror. Henrietta Quinnell (University of Exeter).
- 1.00 - 11.30 Coffee**
- 1.30 - 12.00 The church in the landscape: the siting of Sidmouth and its Church.**  
Brian Golding (Sidmouth History Society).
- 2.00 -12.30 The parish as a mental landscape in the 19th century.**  
The Rev. Dr. Andrew Jones (Chairman Devon History Society).
- 2.30 - 13.00 Place-based folk beliefs and customs.**  
Prof Patrick Dillon (Emeritus Professor, University of Exeter).
- 3.00 - 14.00 Lunch**
- 4.00 - 14.30 Religion & the historic environment in Branscombe.** Barbara Farquharson (Prof. Barbara Bender) & John Torrance (Emeritus Fellow, Hertford Coll, Oxford).
- 4.30 - 15.00 Religion in 19th century Sidmouth.** Nigel Hyman (Sidmouth Museum).
- 5.00 - 15.15 Short break**
- 5.15 - 15.45 A tent for my people, Chapels in the Landscape.** Jeremy Lake (ex-Historic England).
- 5.45 - 16.15 Shining a light on the gravestones of Ottery St Mary church.**  
Sue Dymond (Ottery St Mary Heritage Society)
- 6.15 - 16.30 Closing remarks.**



## Booking Form and payment .... NOTE EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT

Please enclose a cheque made payable to **East Devon District Council** for the early bird sum of **£18 if received by 28 Feb.** Fee £20 thereafter

Name

Address/postcode

Email

Please contact us if you have any special access needs  
Please note booking fee is **NON RETURNABLE**

**Overleaf >> dietary choices**