

Colyton Parish History Society Newsletter 23 January 2021

Happy New Year everyone. I hope you are all keeping safe and well. Let's hope life in 2021 gets better and better as we move into Spring, more people are vaccinated and hopefully the pandemic subsides!

The History Society's management committee has been giving some thought to arrangements for the coming year and when we might be able to open the Heritage Centre again – see details below.

In the meantime there are lots of interesting things to keep you entertained and informed this month; either to watch on tv or lecture sessions to engage in online. These include a new run of the Channel 4 series on *Devon and Cornwall*, lectures by Dr Todd Gray on Zoom and the release of a film about fossil hunter Mary Anning to look forward to in March.

Sarah Charman

Editor

1. History Society News

- i) The History Society Management Committee has recently met via Zoom to discuss and agree arrangements for 2021.
 - a. **Annual subscriptions:** In view of the ongoing uncertainty over the covid pandemic - and when it will be possible to resume monthly meetings and talks - the Committee agreed to inform Members of the Society that they did not deem it appropriate to collect annual subscriptions for 2021. Anyone who normally pays by standing order will be offered the opportunity to be reimbursed or to have their subscriptions held over to 2022. Please contact the Treasurer if you would like a refund.
 - b. **Annual General Meeting:** The Society's Constitution requires an AGM to be held annually in February or March. There is no provision for postponement. However with government lockdown arrangements currently in place it is clearly not possible to hold such a meeting at this time. In these extraordinary circumstances, the Committee therefore agreed to keep the situation under review and to inform Members accordingly as soon as it appears practicable to organise such an AGM.
 - c. **Reopening of the Heritage Centre:** As Members will be aware, we normally open the Heritage Centre from Easter until the end of October each year. However the current restrictions and uncertainty over the future course of the pandemic makes it unlikely that we will be in a position to open from April this year. The Committee will keep the situation under review and will inform members if it appears feasible to open later in the summer. It would be helpful to hear from our regular volunteers if they would be prepared to return to the rota in the Heritage Centre in due course, once it is safe to do so and to let us know of any particular concerns they may have? Obviously the Committee will undertake a risk assessment and produce health and safety guidance for the use of the Centre before we reopen.

- d. **Town/Tram Walks:** Again planning for guided walks around Colyton is difficult at the moment given the current lockdown restrictions. However some dates have been pencilled in for walks in May, June, July and September – more information about these in future newsletters should it prove possible to go ahead with them.

2. Other Matters: things you may have missed

- i) Rare 18th Century Book of Devon Cloth samples found in London



An historic book of samples of Devon cloth, dating from the 1760s, has been found in archives in London and analysed by experts from the University of Exeter.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-devon-55629277>

- ii) **Devon and Cornwall, Channel 4**

A new run of the Channel 4 series on Devon and Cornwall has just begun on Monday nights at 8pm. If you missed it catch up on All4.

<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/devon-and-cornwall/on-demand/71743-001>

- iii) **Dr Todd Gray online lectures**

Online Courses: Dr Todd Gray is running a series of online courses using Zoom. Each lecture will be illustrated and will be followed by a question-and-answer session. Each course has a featured book which could be read alongside the lecture. The books are available at discount to course members. For more information about the courses please visit <https://stevensbooks.co.uk/events/>

- iv) **Mary Anning film 'Ammonite' set for March release**



The film '*Ammonite*' that is based around the life of fossil hunter Mary Anning and filmed largely in Lyme Regis in 2019, which was delayed because of the covid pandemic is now set for release on 26 March <https://lyme-online.co.uk/news/lyme-regis/ammonite-release-date-announced-for-march/>

v) **Campaign for Statue to Commemorate Mary Anning a success**

Four years ago, Evie Ryder from Lyme Regis, then just nine years old began a campaign to have a statue of her heroine, fossil hunter Mary Anning, raised in the town because she was outraged that there wasn't one! Thanks to a successful crowd funding appeal, the now teenager, Evie's target of £70,000 needed to commission the statue has been achieved. It is hoped that it will be ready to erect in 2022.



A sketch of the Mary Anning statue design by the sculptor Denise Dutton, which will be placed somewhere on the sea wall in Lyme Regis. Photograph: c/o Mary Anning Rocks

<https://www.maryanningrocks.co.uk/about>

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/jan/19/statue-fossil-hunter-mary-anning-erected-campaign-lyme-regis>