

Colyton Parish History Society Newsletter 25 July 2021

Summer has been in full swing here this month with a heatwave and thousands of staycationers heading to the south west. There have been lots of events happening in the area with more to look forward to in August. Details of some of these events are given below.

Also in this month's newsletter, thanks to Brian Boyt for his account of a talk he gave recently to local primary school children on the history of trade in Colyton.

Sarah Charman, Editor

1. News

a. Annual Somers' Day Parade – Lyme Regis, 21 July 2021



Somers Day parade – Lyme Regis, 21 July 2021

Last week the annual Somers' Day parade took place in Lyme Regis. The parade began in front of the statue of Sir George Somers and wound down to the Cobb where a service of commemoration took place. As in previous years the official party welcomed a delegation from Bermuda with which the town is twinned. (There is also a tripling with Jamestown.) The service commemorates the historic journey of locally born Sir George Somers from Lyme Regis, accompanied by Sir Thomas Gates from Colyton Parish, who in 1609 led a supply fleet to the then struggling, newly founded colony at Jamestowne, Virginia. Both men were on the *Sea Venture* which was wrecked on Bermuda where - thanks to their naval and leadership skills - all on board

were saved and where they organised the building of two new ships which months later sailed on to Jamestown where Sir Thomas Gates had been appointed Lieutenant Governor of the new colony. Their story is thought to have inspired William Shakespeare to write '*The Tempest*' – a timely production of which was staged at Burrow Farm Gardens this week. <https://burrowfarmgardens.co.uk/>



Start of parade



service on the Cobb



Production of Shakespeare's '*The Tempest*' at Burrough Farm Gardens

b. Historic 'cry' in Beer Quarry Caves



Town Crier Ed Christopher from Bermuda

Members of the official delegation from Bermuda, who attended the Somers Day parade in Lyme Regis last week, took the opportunity to visit some local sites during their stay including Beer Quarry Caves. Ed Christopher, Town Crier from Bermuda used his vocal skills to demonstrate the impact of sound reverberating around in the caves by crying out in what is thought to be the first official 'cry' ever recorded down there!.



Fine medieval window of Beer Stone originally carved for St Andrew's church, Colyton

The quarry, which was first developed by the Romans 2000 years ago, has a long and fascinating history. Visitors are able to see how the skills of stone cutting and masonry developed over the centuries from romans, through the anglo saxon period and up to more recent times. On display in the quarry is a fine example of the stonemason's work from the late fifteenth century which was originally created for St Andrew's church in Colyton. It was removed during 'restoration' in Victorian times and is now back in the quarry from whence it was first hewn.

<http://www.beerquarrycaves.co.uk/>

2. Trade in Colyton Town – How & Why It Has Changed Over Time

Sandy Evans from Colyton Primary School recently asked CPHS to give a guided walk to students on how trade in the town has changed over the decades. Jacquie McCullough prepared notes based on Jim Board's 'A Postman's Round 1930-1970', accompanied by a selection of fascinating old photographs from our archives. Brian Boyt, a member of CPHS, very kindly offered to lead the walking tours. Following is Brian's account of the walking tour and of a further talk he gave on the Monmouth Rebellion:

"I was also asked by a Year 5 teacher if I could give a talk on the Monmouth Rebellion as this was their area of study. I gave two talks on 11th June but these took part in the school playground. The Monmouth Rebellion talks were very successful - top Junior children love a bit of blood and gore!

“For safety reasons we had to split the Year 6 class into two. I took half of the class around on 9th June and the second half on the 22nd June following half term and a hold-up due to rainy weather.

“I gave a general talk in the playground before setting out on the walks. This only took about 10 minutes and went very well. I mentioned the wool industry and the wealth it brought, farming, the mills, markets, the impact of cotton, the coming of railways, cars and buses allowing people to travel and shop outside of Colyton, the impact of supermarkets and more recently internet buying.

“I particularly mentioned how busy, flourishing and self-sufficient the town was even in the time of grandparents, when Jim Board was the postman. I said that he had seen 73 shops and businesses and asked each child to remember three different trades as we set off on our walk-at least one of which was no longer in existence.

“During the walk, I stopped twice in the Church Grounds near the old fire engine building. The first time I asked the children to imagine a bustling town a few hundred years ago on a market day, with dusty roads, smoking chimneys, poor air quality, thatched roofs, horses and carts and throngs of people shopping for all they needed in Colyton. The second time, just before entering the Marker Square, I asked them to imagine a busy day in the 1950’s, right in the middle of Jim’s postal days. Just about every building in the square would still be a shop but roads would be of tarmac, there would be a few cars but still the occasional horse and cart, roofs would be tiled etc. Despite these changes, prior to the introduction of supermarkets, Colyton would still have been a busy, self-sufficient town.”

Sandy Evans email of thanks to Brian Boyt:

“What a wonderful and informative walk this afternoon. Thank you so much for leading this for us. The children got back and told their peers all about it and started writing down all the trades they could remember (in their playtime!!)”

3. Other Organisations Events in August

East Devon AONB

a. Heath Week 2021 - Sun 25 - Sat 31 July

East Devon Pebblebed Heaths - The Pebblebed Heaths is one of Europe’s rarest habitats and newest National Nature Reserve. Visitors can join self-led and bookable events throughout the week. They include our butterfly events as well as walks, talks, a nightjar safari, pond dipping, family creative writing sessions, a ‘waggy walk’, book trail and ‘twilight zone’ storytelling sessions. [Find out more](#)

b. The Big Butterfly Search - Wed 28 July, 2.00pm - 4.00pm

Aylesbeare Common RSPB, is one of the few places where the Pearl Bordered and Small Pearl Bordered butterfly have been seen in recent years.

Join butterfly expert Paul Butter for a guided walk around this rare piece of Devon heathland in search of these elusive insects.

Booking essential - link to book: [The Big Butterfly Search](#)

c. Great Summer Plant Hunt – Sat 7 August, 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Shute Woods - In search of Heath Lobelia, first discovered growing in the UK at Shute Common in the 1760s and only grows in five southern counties.

Guided walk with members of the 'Heath Lobelia Champions' volunteers. Walk will start from parking at Shute Pillars (near A35). This event is also part of Shute Festival of Literature and Landscapes Talking Walks programme.

Booking essential. Please click link to book: [Great Summer Plant Hunt](#) Or ring 01297 489741 07765 126 565

d. Completely Batty - Mon 9 August and Tues 10 August, 11.00am – 3.00pm

The Donkey Sanctuary, Sidmouth - The Grey Long Eared Bat Project and The Creative Cabin will be visiting The Donkey Sanctuary on Monday 9 and Tuesday 10 August to run 'Completely Batty' fun activities for all the family. Everyone is welcome at the FREE drop-in sessions, where they can get creative and celebrate East Devon's rarest bats, including the Grey Long-eared bat. Bats are nocturnal and choose to hunt and feed at night, but on both days between 11am and 3pm we plan to create our own day-flying bats by inviting children to come to the creative cabin and create bat masks.

The Creative Cabin - a space to create, explore, learn and discover. These are FREE drop - in activities. Donations always welcome. No need to book. Come at any time between 11am and 3 pm. These events will be run on covid-safe guidelines and we would appreciate your patience if you have to wait before you can take part.

Creating connections between wildflower meadows across the whole of East Devon is vital for the protection of the endangered grey long-eared bats, so visitors to the Creative Cabin will also have the chance to make wildflower seed bombs to help kick start wildlife gardens at home and help bats too. The Donkey Sanctuary, Slade House Farm, Sidmouth EX10 0NU (A3052 between Sidmouth and Seaton)

The Grey Long-eared bat project is funded by the government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund and is one of East Devon AONB's 'Elusive Eight' threatened species chosen for nature recovery. For more information visit [Saving Special Species](#) [Grey Long Eared Bat Project](#)

NOTE TO EDITORS

For further information - Ruth Worsley Wildlife Engagement Officer for East Devon AONB - 01297 489741 or 07765 126 565

4. Items you may have missed

a. RAMM exhibition

<https://www.devonlive.com/news/devon-news/priceless-treasures-sat-middle-exeter-5604030?IYA-mail=849809d2-783c-47dd-98e3-4c821c95cf93>

b. 200 years of West Bay inspired art

<https://www.bridportnews.co.uk/news/19460860.book-details-200-years-west-bay-inspired-art/?ref=rss&IYA-mail=849809d2-783c-47dd-98e3-4c821c95cf93>

c. 800th anniversary Honiton Hot Pennies

https://www.midweekherald.co.uk/news/honiton-hot-pennies-800th-anniversary-8154198?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=DM43798

d. Missing Harry Baines Lott sculpture – Honiton Museum

https://www.midweekherald.co.uk/news/the-missing-harry-baines-lott-bust-8153076?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=DM44007

e. Mystery still hangs over crash of RAF bomber 60 years ago

https://www.devonlive.com/news/devon-news/mystery-raf-bomber-crashed-over-5658138?utm_source=devon_live_newsletter&utm_campaign=western_morning_news_newsletter2&utm_medium=email&pure360.trackingid=58001004-5f32-4d84-890b-1117d9df12eb

f. Battle of Trafalgar Medal

https://www.midweekherald.co.uk/news/chilcotts-auctions-trafalgar-medal-8134988?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=DM43640

g. St Petroc

https://www.devonlive.com/news/devon-news/cornwall-pinched-patron-saint-devon-5543572?utm_source=devon_live_newsletter&utm_campaign=western_morning_news_newsletter

h. Plymouth vr

https://www.business-live.co.uk/technology/plymouth-tech-teams-create-vr-20957866?utm_source=devon_live_newsletter&utm_campaign=western_morning_news_newsletter2&utm_medium=email&pure360.trackingid=58001004-5f32-4d84-890b-1117d9df12eb