

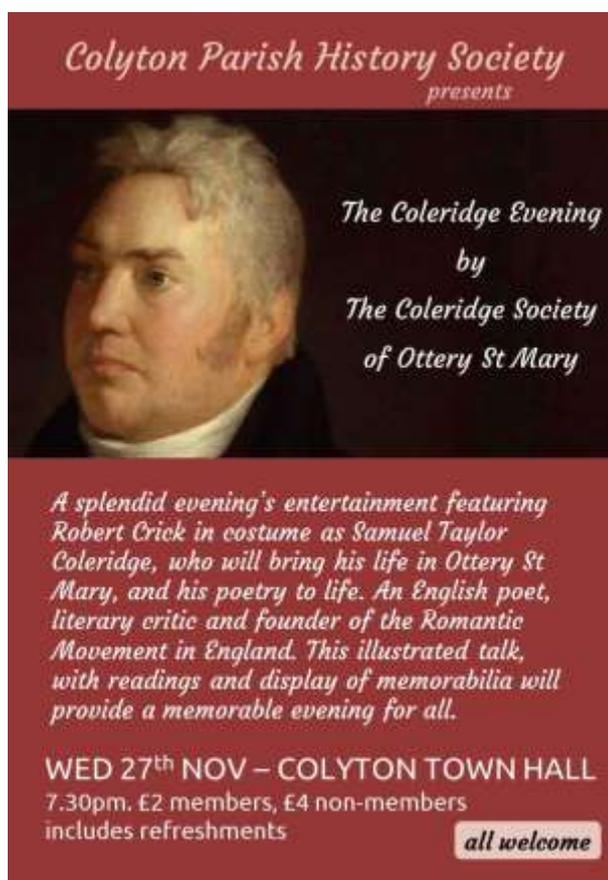
## Colyton Parish History Society Newsletter 14 November 2019

This month significant new historic discoveries in Devon and near Stonehenge in Wiltshire; a jolly Coleridge evening is the last in our programme of talks for 2019 and we're delighted to announce that a record number of visitors came to the Heritage Centre this year. Sarah Charman, Editor

### 1. News

#### a) CPHS November talk

The final CPHS talk for 2019 will take place on: **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.



*Colyton Parish History Society*  
presents

*The Coleridge Evening*  
by  
*The Coleridge Society*  
of Ottery St Mary

*A splendid evening's entertainment featuring Robert Crick in costume as Samuel Taylor Coleridge, who will bring his life in Ottery St Mary, and his poetry to life. An English poet, literary critic and founder of the Romantic Movement in England. This illustrated talk, with readings and display of memorabilia will provide a memorable evening for all.*

WED 27<sup>th</sup> NOV – COLYTON TOWN HALL  
7.30pm. £2 members, £4 non-members  
includes refreshments

*all welcome*

#### a) Roman town discovered near Okehampton

The most south westerly Roman town in the British Isles is believed to have been discovered at Romansfield near Okehampton during a housebuilding scheme. A Roman fort was already known to exist and the town probably developed around it to supply the needs of the soldiers garrisoned there. This is the first time such a settlement has been excavated in Devon.



Source:

[https://www.devonlive.com/news/devon-news/unique-roman-town-discovered-homes-2187462?utm\\_source](https://www.devonlive.com/news/devon-news/unique-roman-town-discovered-homes-2187462?utm_source)

## b) Britain's first 'city' discovered near Stonehenge

Archaeologists excavating near Stonehenge have discovered what they believe to be Britain's first 'city' close to an ancient spring on Salisbury Plain at Blick Mead. More than 70,000 stone tools have already been found at the site, as well as an intriguing ceremonial platform suggesting the area held ritual importance for prehistoric hunter-gatherers who lived there 10,000 years ago. Archaeologists believe its inhabitants probably built Stonehenge.



Source: The Telegraph 2 November 2019

<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/uknews/britains-first-city-discovered-as-archaeologists-say-it-was-home-of-people-who-built-stonehenge/ar-AAJK79a?ocid=sf>

## 2. CPHS Information

### a) Record Visitor Numbers to Heritage Centre in 2019

A record number of people came to visit Colyton Heritage Centre this year. Final figures for 2019 were 2709 - up 143 from last year's total of 2566. The Centre has now closed for the winter but will open again in Spring 2020.

### b) Membership fees

A brief reminder that 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)

### 3. Other Organisation's Events

#### a) Axminster Historical Society - Winter Talks 2019-2020

**4 December 2019 - The History of Axe Harbour – Nigel Daniel** grew up on the edge of the harbour 'messing around in boats' which led to some twenty years in the merchant navy as Captain of various cable laying and repair ships. Following extensive research, Nigel has written a history of the harbour which portrays a more informed and chronological perspective and includes some information not previously published.

**8 January 2020 - A History of Shute House** \_ Historian BijanOmrani reveals the romantic and tempestuous history of Shute House and the families who lived there. The secret lives of the Victorian and Edwardian gentry, their lost writings, and the tragedies which made Shute national news in the 19th century; a brilliant and extraordinary story which has partly been forgotten and partly suppressed.

**5 February 2020 - Devon Festivals - Robert Hesketh** delves into the origins of Devon's rich variety of festivals, many deeply rooted in the county's history and folklore. He tells of Flaming Tar Barrels, Hot Pennies, Wassailing, Raising the Glove, Ale Tasting, Tip Tip Toeing and much more besides.

**4 March 2020 - Exeter Before the Railway** - Alan Rosevear paints a picture of how people travelled before railways; of coach travel, which appeared in the 16th & 17th Centuries, but was very costly and limited by the state of the roads. How Turnpike Trusts improved the infrastructure and cities like Exeter were forced to widen streets and city gates.

**1 April 2020 - Parish Records and What They Tell Us** – Jane Ferentzi-Sheppard tells us where to find parish records, when they started and what they look like. They record Baptisms, Burials and Marriages and Parish chests can include vestry minutes, rate books, removal and settlement orders, bastardy bonds etc. giving a much wider picture of what was happening in the Parish.

**6 May 2020 - to be Confirmed**

**Meetings held 7:30 pm at The Bradshaw Room, Axminster Heritage Centre, Thomas Whitty House, Silver Street, Axminster, Devon EX13 5AH**

Membership £10 includes entry for all talks. Non Members £2 a talk

For latest info see: <https://axminsterheritage.org/axminster-heritage-events/>

#### b) Somerset Archives (South West Heritage Trust winter events)

## Researching Carnivals

Monday 18 Nov 10.00 am - 12.30 pm



[Explore documents](#) in our collections featuring Guy Fawkes carnivals. There will be a talk on archival sources, a small exhibition, a tour of the strong rooms and a chance to learn how to get the most out of the online catalogue with a guide.



## Behind the Scenes Tour

Tuesday 26 Nov 10.00 am

A chance to see [behind the scenes](#) at the Somerset Heritage Centre, including the strongrooms and stores.

These events are free but booking is essential.

Email [somersetarchives@swheritage.org.uk](mailto:somersetarchives@swheritage.org.uk) or call 01823 278805

## Visitor Information

Visit Somerset Archives and Local Studies at [the Somerset Heritage Centre](#), Brunel Way, Norton Fitzwarren, TA2 6SF