

# Colyton Parish History Society Newsletter 19 Sept 2021

We have a mystery for you to help solve this month: can you help track down the nameless evacuee in the account below?

Sarah Charman Editor

## 1. News

### Nameless Evacuee: Can you help give her a name?



Mr and Mrs Warren outside their retirement home in Hillhead

At the beginning of September 1939, a 9 year old girl and her brother John, who was twelve, were brought to Colyton with other evacuees from St Jude's School in London. The little girl was lodged with Fred and Alice Warren who lived at the time in Station Road. Today their grandson Clive Warren is trying to track her down.

Some years later the girl wrote a poignant account of how she was first brought to Seaton Junction on the train from Waterloo and then conveyed to Colyton church hall by car where "*the ladies of the village came and picked out all the pretty girls. The farmers picked all the Big Boys*". The little girl was clearly self-conscious about the fact she had ringworm on her face at the

time and was taken by Mrs Warren to see Dr Maclean.

She describes how she was escorted by a boy scout called Frank Gooding to her new home which was “*two miles away*”. It was a smallholding and her job everyday was to collect the eggs. The evacuated children attended school in the Town Hall and they appear to have been made very welcome by the community, particularly the headmaster Mr Lancaster and his wife.

Her best friend was a girl from the farm next door. The little girl explains how her new friend asked if she could ride and she confirmed she could ride a bike. The Colyton girl took her down on the farm and gave her a horse to ride.

For the rest of the war she only saw her own parents six times in four and a half years – four times when her mother came down to see her and twice when the girl returned to London. However it was such a different way of life and she was so well looked after and loved that she professes not to have missed her parents.

The girl also describes how she was given a shilling a week pocket money of which she had to save sixpence and how she used to spend 3d to go to the cinema in Seaton and three pence for a one way trip on the bus – so she either had to walk there or back!

*“I was so lucky” she concludes: “By being an evacuee I saw a different way of life. It taught me an awful lot – to walk everywhere, to save, to share, to do a good deed whenever I could, and to be happy.”*

Can you help us name this girl? Are you by any chance the girl from the next farm along who became her best friend? Do you know the helpful boy scout Frank Gooding? Were you perhaps friends with her brother John? If you have any bright ideas for how we might help Clive Warren track her down please do let us know.

## **2. CPHS News**

### **a. CPHS AGM for 2021 will take place at 11 am on Saturday, 23 October**

This year’s AGM, which was delayed by the pandemic, will now take place at 11 am on the morning of Saturday, 23 October in the Town Hall and will be preceded by a coffee morning from 10 am. Papers will be sent out on 7 October and nominations should be returned by 15 October.



## b. Living Memories Invitation

During lockdown, Colyton-based social enterprise Living Memories CIC has created a unique interactive online streaming service currently offering over 2,300 unique archive documentary films and newsreels covering all decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, thanks to support from the Community Lottery Fund and the David Gibbons Trust. You can view the service at <https://livingmemories.imagencloud.com>

Living Memories has kindly offered CPHS members a one year free subscription to this on-line archive. You will need to register your personal details in Create A Free Account at <https://livingmemories.imagencloud.com/user/create> and for the entry "Partner Code" put **CPHSAxe21**

If you have any queries about this archive please contact Brian Norrris direct (01297 552358)

## 3. Other Organisations Events in October and November

### East Devon AONB

- a. **Saturday 23 October, 2pm – 5pm - Trees Autumn Wardrobe**, Woodend Deer Park, Shute

A chance to see the amazing ancient trees in their resplendent finery of autumn colour and find out more about this historic landscape with Graham Jones, local tree expert and enthusiast on a guided walk in this historic medieval deer park, little changed in centuries and home to the 900 year old King John's Oak. The Deer Park was part of the Pole family's large Shute Estate which remained in their ownership for several centuries until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. **Booking Essential** – parking and meeting point details given on booking.

- b. **Saturday 20 November 2pm – 4pm - Bud and Bark Detectives**, Holyford Woods, Colyford

Trees now in disguise without their leaves – Graham Jones shows us how we can identify trees from their buds, twigs and bark. Explore Holyford Woods, one of the oldest woods in Devon, magical - full of oak, ash and hazel. Birds

nest and many bats roost here. A 'goyle', a sunken stream runs through the heart of the woodland. **Booking Essential** – parking and meeting point details given on booking.

## **Saving Special Species**

These FREE events are part of East Devon AONB's Saving Special Species Project – part of a nationwide AONB major nature recovery initiative to improve the conservation of and safeguard their areas' threatened wildlife. More information: [www.eastdevonaonb.org.uk](http://www.eastdevonaonb.org.uk)

This summer we have been exploring areas where these species have been recorded in the past and promoting habitat management to encourage these species. Many groups have been learning about them – from Colyton Brownies, local schools to Honiton Memory Café and with over 250 children at the Donkey Sanctuary making bat masks too, at the Creative Cabin.

Heath Lobelia Champions volunteers have been busy doing the annual count of the sole population of Heath Lobelia in East Devon between Kilmington and Shute – and also planting a second population at Kilmington Common, parish council open space. Fingers crossed they will thrive!

Last month one of a series of bat walks took place at Bolshayne Farm near Colyton – an extraordinary number – 10 species recorded on a farm that demonstrates excellent habitat management from wet meadows, woodland, thick hedgerows, and orchard. After the walk one of the attendees rescued a stranded bat on a bingo machine in Seaton Arcade – she now volunteers for Devon Bat Rescue. We all can do our bit to help wildlife!

## **Bat Chat**

One of the species – The Grey Long-eared bat – a talk is available to groups – where people can learn more about one of UKs most threatened bats which is present in East Devon and West Dorset and how we can help increase its numbers.

For the younger generation a creative art day is on offer for local schools – 'A night in the life of the Grey long-eared bat' shadow puppet workshop. These are Free – funded through the governments Green Recovery Challenge Fund.

For talks or school workshop please contact Ruth. Ruth Worsley 01297 489741 or [savingspecialspecies@gmail.com](mailto:savingspecialspecies@gmail.com)

## **4. Items you may have missed**

- **'Mary Anning Lost in time' – a new play coming to Lyme Regis on 6th October**
- <https://www.bridportnews.co.uk/news/19584494.mary-anning-lost-time-coming-lyme-regis/?ref=rss&IYA-reg=849809d2-783c-47dd-98e3-4c821c95cf93> - **Fossils, Fish and Feathers exhibition – Lyme Regis Museum** - <https://lyme-online.co.uk/lifestyle/fossils-fish-and-feathers-at-lyme-regis-museum/?IYA-reg=849809d2-783c-47dd-98e3-4c821c95cf93>

- **Shute Festival Autumn Walking Talks**

- [https://www.midweekherald.co.uk/news/shute-festival-autumn-talking-walks-8262574?utm\\_source=Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_campaign=DM4543](https://www.midweekherald.co.uk/news/shute-festival-autumn-talking-walks-8262574?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=DM4543)

[4](#)

- **Weather in Honiton over the years**

- [https://www.midweekherald.co.uk/news/weather-in-honiton-over-the-years-8261086?utm\\_source=Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_campaign=DM4543](https://www.midweekherald.co.uk/news/weather-in-honiton-over-the-years-8261086?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=DM4543)

[4](#)

- **Art History Talks, Thelma Hulbert Gallery**

- [https://www.midweekherald.co.uk/news/thelma-hulbert-gallery-art-history-talks-8281080?utm\\_source=Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_campaign=DM45721](https://www.midweekherald.co.uk/news/thelma-hulbert-gallery-art-history-talks-8281080?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=DM45721) -

- **Annual Jurassic Coast Art Exhibition**

- <https://www.dorsetecho.co.uk/news/19570867.annual-jurassic-coast-art-exhibition-returns-weekend/?ref=rss&IYA-reg=849809d2-783c-47dd-98e3-4c821c95cf93>