

## Colyton Parish History Society Newsletter 22 September 2019

This month – interesting news about recent Roman finds at Ipplepen and their implications for understanding the extent of Roman influence in the South West; a curious tale from a visitor to the Heritage Centre about the national impact of a Victorian burial in Colyton; information about Shute Apple Day and creative writing sessions at Lyme Regis Museum in the Autumn.

Sarah Charman

Editor

### 1. News

#### a) Recent finds at a dig at Ipplepen are leading to a revaluation of the extent of Roman Britain



Intriguing new evidence that the ancient Roman Realm of influence extended further to the south west of Exeter than has previously been known has been uncovered in a recent archaeological dig at Ipplepen near Newton Abbot. The remains of a high quality Romano British butcher's business and a craft centre have been uncovered. Previous digs there have unearthed Roman coins and fragments of storage jars for wine, olive oil and fish sauce from the Mediterranean. An account of the recent discoveries in 2019 was reported in *The Guardian*, 16 September: <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/sep/16/remains-of-ancient-butchers-beef-up-case-for-redrawing-map-of-roman-empire>

The project also has its own blog:

<https://www.megalithic.co.uk/modules.php?op=modload&name=a312&file=index&do=showpic&gid=102&pid=202428&orderby=dateD>

#### b) Colyton Burial Case 1864 led to Reform of Burial Laws

A recent visitor to the Heritage Centre – Judy Francis - brought news of a further example of Colyton's influence and impact on our national way of life. It concerned a Victorian burial case in Colyton which involved the controversial local Vicar, the Rev Mamerto Gueritz. It was reported by the *London Daily News* 3 November 1864, p6 quoting *The Nonconformist*

“About the beginning of September last, John Pavey, a parishioner of Colyton, Devon, died. According to the testimony of his pastor, he had been ‘an exceedingly worthy man – humble, diffident, and tenderhearted.’ Whether he was visited during his last illness by the vicar of the parish to whom the law had assigned the ‘cure of his soul,’ we have no positive information; but soon after his death, the vicar, the Rev. Mr. Gueritz, called upon the bereaved family, and told

the daughter of the deceased that 'as he might probably be expected to bury her father, he felt very uneasy, and hoped she might be able to tell him anything of his faith which might take away his scruples.' To his inquiries the only answer was that John Pavey had died a decided Unitarian – a fact which the vicar regarded as imposing upon himself 'a very difficult and unpleasant' duty.

The friends of the departed, however, do not appear to have thought that Mr. Gueritz's private feelings were to be set up as the rule of his official conduct as a public officer, and hence on their behalf he was requested by the Rev. A. M'Combe, Unitarian minister at Colyton, to state whether they might expect him to perform the last sacred offices of the church over the remains of their relative on the following Saturday. The vicar replied that it would be necessary for him to be furnished with legal proofs of his (Pavey's) baptism, but that under any circumstances the notice given would be insufficient, as not allowing him time to receive an answer from the bishop, to whom he had written by that day's post. ... (Readings 223.)

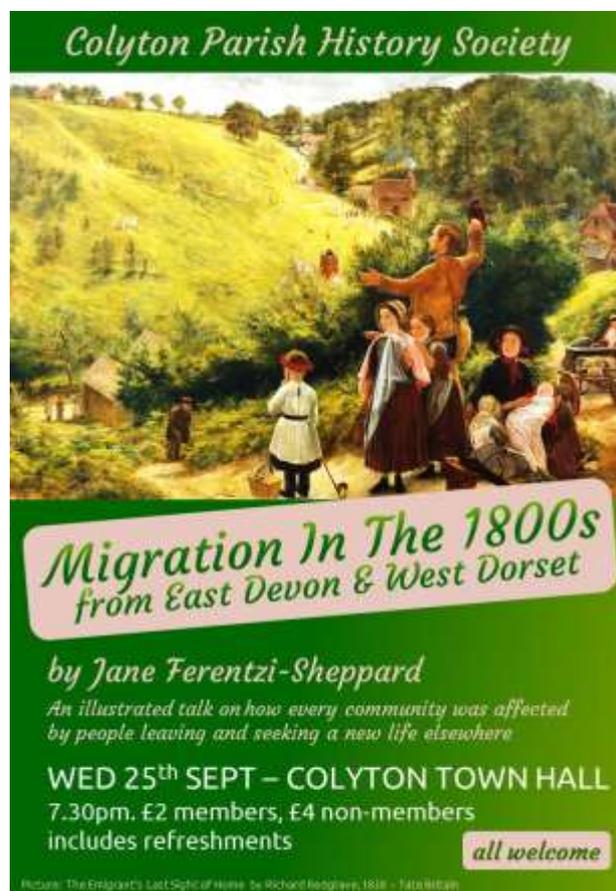
The vicar acknowledged receipt of the certificate, confessed that it gave the deceased a right to a place in the churchyard, and stated that he should not object to his interment therein at the appointed time, but declined giving him 'a Christian burial, by using the burial office of the church,' ... Mr. M'Combe then formally claimed ... that 'the free use of the church, and of all its services, is the common right of every parishioner, and this right does not depend upon the contingency of a letter from the bishop, nor upon any other contingency.' This elicited the following final reply from the incumbent: – 'The late John Pavey having died a unitarian, denying the divinity of our Lord, and the Atonement, I cannot conscientiously read over him the burial service of the church. His right of interment in his parish burial ground I do not deny, and his friends may exercise that right, if they please, by interring him in the consecrated portion of the cemetery.'

Ms Francis points out that in this case, Gueritz's refusal to conduct the burial of John Pavey meant that the Rev. McCombe had to do it standing in the lane outside the churchyard. This would no doubt have been distressing Mr Pavey's family and friends as well as the non-conformist community generally.

From 1861, Nonconformists mounted a campaign for reform of the burial laws but it was not until 1880 that a burial act was passed allowing clergymen of any Christian faith to conduct a burial using their own services in Anglican churchyards.

Thanks to Jane Dauncey for passing on this tale.

### **c) Migration in the 1800s from East Devon and West Dorset**



An illustrated talk presented by well known old Colytonian, Jane Ferentzi-Sheppard, a Bridport based local historian who has been researching migration for over 20 years.

The 19<sup>th</sup> century brought huge social, political, religious and economic changes to the West Country. Come along hear the migrant's story of why and where they went. How every community was affected by people leaving, seeking a new life somewhere else. Wednesday, 25 September – Colyton Town Hall - 7.30pm, All welcome. £2 members, £4 non-members - Includes refreshments.

## d) Colyton Town History Walks – Help needed for 2020 Season

New Guide - We are still looking for a new volunteer to join our group of 8 guides.

The skills needed are:

- an interest in Colyton's history
- a wish to promote Colyton
- an ability to lead a group of people. Training is given.

The commitment is to lead a walk 6-8 times a year on a Thursday afternoon. The season is from April 1 to September 30. We are very flexible with our rota.

If you are interested in learning more please contact Jane Dauncey  
[jdauncey1@gmail.com](mailto:jdauncey1@gmail.com) 01297 552514 or 07885 597779.

## 2. CPHS - 2019 talks programme

The CPHS 2019 programme of talks and events for the rest of the year

- **Wednesday, 23 October** at 7.30 pm a talk on ‘**Chard and Its Victorian Heritage**’ by **Vince Lee** at Colyford Memorial Hall
- **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.

### 3. Other Organisation’s Events

#### a) Legacy to Landscape – Event in October 2019

**SHUTE APPLE DAY - Sunday 20 October 2019, Rowlands Orchard, Shute 12pm – 4pm.** Shute celebrates National Apple Day with its Community Apple Day celebration on Sunday 20th October from 12pm until 4pm at Rowlands Orchard, Little Orchard Alpacas, Haddon Road.

Orchards have been a significant feature in the landscape of the historic Shute Estate for many centuries but now sadly very much absent. The event aims to celebrate this rich heritage, encourage more orchard planting and also to celebrate the Crimson Victoria apple that was first discovered at Shute. It’s a cider apple but palatable and originated from Rowlands Orchard which was discovered in the walled garden of the historic Shute estate. The orchard was planted with many local Devon varieties of fruit trees by Courtenay Pole in the 17th century. However earlier records of its existence have been discovered in the 16th century Shute estate inventory by William Petre, Secretary of State, who acquired the estate when it was confiscated from the Grey family who lived there at that time, when relative, Lady Jane Grey lost her head. There will also be Apple Pressing, where the public are invited to bring apples and bottles. Also apple variety display, tasting and sales.

If you know the varieties in your garden please bring along and labelled to add to the display. Fruity fun games include the longest peel competition, apple bobbing and apple and spoon race. Free admission to Apple Day event - Rowlands, Little Alpacas, Haddon Road, Shute EX13 7QR.

Refreshments will be served in the church as part of Shute Barton Open weekend. Also a chance to see inside Shute Barton, now owned by National Trust and originally the manor house for the Shute Estate. Organised guided tours of the house commencing at 10.30am. They last 45 minutes and depart every 15 minutes throughout the day. The last tour departs at 3.45pm. Shute Barton, Haddon Road, EX13 7PT. <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/shute-barton>

At 4.30pm, the event will finish with a special guest appearance from James Crowden, West Country writer and poet, author of Ciderland which charts the development of cider making in the West Country, from the sixteenth century monks to the diverse industry of today. He will talk in Shute Church.

Further details: Samantha Knights, Shute House: [samanthaknights@gmail.com](mailto:samanthaknights@gmail.com), or Ruth Worsley, Legacy to Landscape Project Coordinator: [legacytolandscape@gmail.com](mailto:legacytolandscape@gmail.com)

#### b) Lyme Regis Museum

**Sunday Afternoon Tea at the Museum - *An opportunity to meet, discover and share at Lyme Regis Museum.***

In a new exciting weekly programme starting this Autumn, Lyme Regis Museum is working with poet, writer and creative facilitator, Sarah Acton, to offer creative writing afternoons that will bring to life the heritage of Lyme Regis town and coastal landscape and encourage writing inspired by objects in the museum collections.

# Sunday Afternoon Tea at the Museum

*an opportunity to meet, discover and share*



Explore Lyme's fascinating history with poet Sarah Acton and create your own writing inspired by the museum collections.



**£5.95 (Includes all sessions, refreshments and museum entry for a year)**

**2.15pm-3.45pm**

**September 15th, 22nd, 29th  
October 13th, 20th, 27th  
November 10th, 17th, 24th  
December 1st**



Please book online at [www.lymeregismuseum.co.uk](http://www.lymeregismuseum.co.uk)  
or t: 01297 443370 or pop in to the museum

Lyme Regis Museum, Bridge Street, Lyme Regis, Dorset DT7 3QA

The afternoons focus on socialising with tea and cake, exclusive up-close access to selected objects and discussion about these, plus fun and inspiring prompts to get started or continue writing at all levels and abilities.

The programme will see Sarah based in the Museum most Sunday afternoons from 15 September to 1 December 2.15 - 3.45pm. If anyone wants to join the group it's easy, just pop into the museum, call or book online. A one-off payment of £5.95 includes the opportunity to book any/all of the ten sessions in advance, refreshments, museum entry for a year, and time in community together in the museum's fully accessible education room.

Everyone is welcome to come and participate, and the museum is encouraging local visitors and residents to bring someone along who might enjoy meeting new friends, an afternoon of chat, and gentle writing activities for fun and wellbeing. The project is open to everyone but places are limited. All materials will be provided.

Sarah Acton is the Jurassic Coast (UNESCO) World Heritage Site poet-in-residence. Sarah is an experienced facilitator who creates participatory poetry and creative writing activities under the name Black Ven, to invite participants into an active and enquiring relationship between their creativity and the natural landscape.

For more details or to book, please visit the front desk of the Museum or call 01297 443370 or go online: [www.lymeregismuseum.co.uk](http://www.lymeregismuseum.co.uk)

**Event Dates** - Sundays 2.15-3.45pm – 29 September, 13, 20, 27 October, 10, 17. 24 November and 1 December 2019. If you have any questions you'd like to ask before booking, please email Sarah direct: [blackvenpress@gmail.com](mailto:blackvenpress@gmail.com)