

Colyton Parish History Society Newsletter 30 October 2020

News this month of a new constitution for Colyton Parish History Society, a report on the exciting things to see on a day trip to Plymouth to visit the Mayflower 400 exhibition at the Box and publication of a new book on the history of the Axe Vale point to point by Jacquie McCullogh and also a revised edition of Todd Gray's book on Devon and the Slave Trade.

Sarah Charman

Editor

1. News

Watch out for this: New draft constitution for Colyton Parish History Society

Early next week commencing, 2 November you should receive an envelope in the post containing a letter from the Chairman of CPHS, Marian Sydenham, a copy of a new draft constitution for Colyton Parish History Society and a voting form.

CPHS was founded over thirty years ago in 1987 and was subsequently registered as a charity with the UK Charity Commission. Over the years our History Society has developed and it has become clear that the original constitution now requires modifying to reflect current Charity Commission requirements. The need for a new version of the constitution was flagged up to Members earlier this year at the AGM meeting in February. The Committee has now produced a new draft which you will see incorporates the original aims and objectives of the Society and the protocols now required by the Charity Commission.

The adoption of a new constitution requires a vote by Members of the History Society. In normal times we would have called an Extraordinary General Meeting at which Members could vote in person but because of the current covid 19 public health emergency it is not possible to convene such a meeting. The Committee have therefore consulted the Charity Commission who have advised that we should conduct a postal ballot.

The envelope you receive will contain a copy of the draft revised constitution, a voting form and a stamped addressed envelope in which you can return your signed ballot paper.

Please note that to be valid your voting form must be signed and dated and a tick/cross placed in the box indicating your voting choice. It must arrive no later than 28 November 2020.

If you have any questions these should be submitted to the Secretary either by email to Jacqueline.mccullogh@btinternet.com or by letter addressed to the Secretary, CPHS, Colyton Heritage Centre, Market Place, Colyton, Devon EX24 6JR. Please note **these should arrive no later than 10 November 2020** and the Committee will reply by **18 November 2020**.

2. Mayflower 400 Exhibition, The Box, Plymouth



The special *Mayflower 400: Legend And Legacy* commemorative exhibition is now open at the newly refurbished Box in Plymouth. Hopefully we will be able to organise the History Society's annual summer outing there next summer, which we sadly had to cancel this year.

There is lots going on in Plymouth and much to see associated with its long maritime history in the Mayflower Museum at the Barbican and with the plaques along the harbour wall near the Mayflower Steps marking the spot where many emigrant voyages began including that of the Sea Venture which in 1609 – 11 years before the Mayflower - carried Lieut Governor designate of Virginia, Sir Thomas Gates who was born in Colyton Parish and Admiral Sir George Somers from Lyme Regis!

As you will doubtless know, the Sea Venture was wrecked on Bermuda and it is claimed the tale later formed the basis of Shakespeare's play *The Tempest*. The passengers all survived and eventually arrived at the struggling colony in Jamestown Virginia in 1610 on new ships constructed on Bermuda. Bermuda or the Somer Isles as it was often known (after Sir George Somers) became our oldest colony.



The Box, Plymouth



Lady Nancy Astor, The Hoe

At the moment the Elizabethan House in New Street in Plymouth where building commenced in 1584, is still being renovated but should be an interesting place to visit when the refurbishment is complete.

And there is also the new statue of Lady Nancy Astor to see down on the Hoe, which was erected a century after she was elected to represent the city of Plymouth.

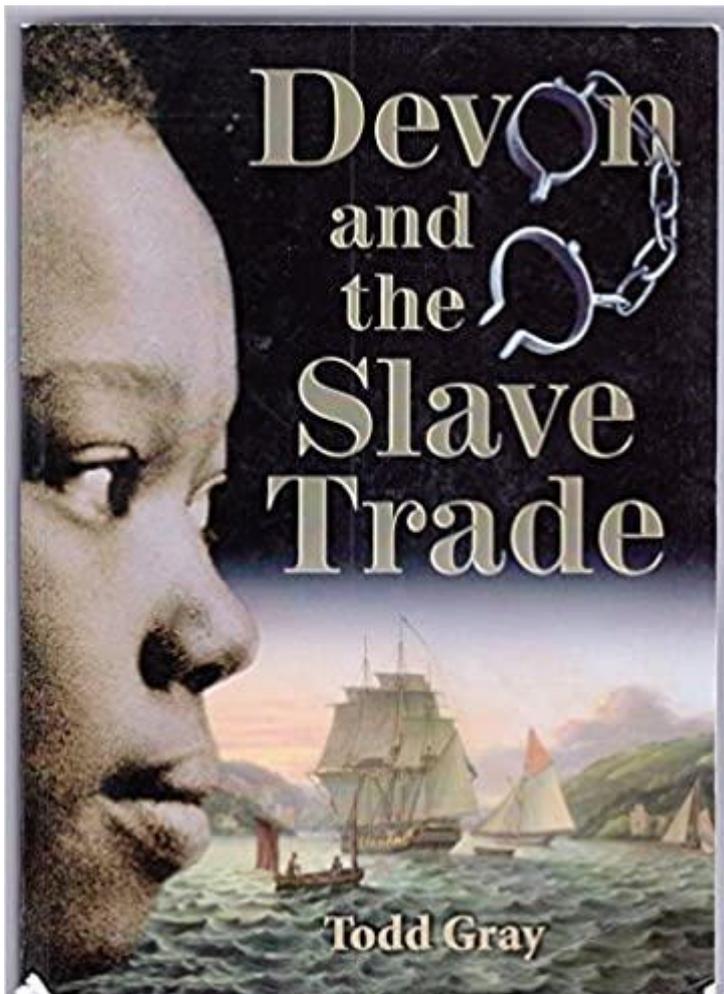
3. Publications



a) *The Axe Vale Point to Point: An Illustrated History from 1947* by Jacquie McCullough - with contributions from Granville Taylor - has just been published. A well documented social history covering the past seven decades, the book contains many colourful and historic photos. Jacquie has written and published this as a fund raiser, with proceeds going to help support the local point-to-point meeting held at Stafford Cross each year in May.

A limited print run is available at £20.00 per copy: please contact Jacquie to order a copy by email: jacqueline.mccullogh@btinternet.com

b) A revised and updated version of Dr Todd Gray's *Devon and the Slave Trade* has been published and is available price £14.99 from <https://stevensbooks.co.uk/product/devon-and-the-slave-trade/>



4. Recent News Items of local historic interest which you may have missed

a) Anita Corbin: 100 First Women Portraits

RAMM is open again and from 24 October 2020 to 3 January 2021 will be hosting an exhibition of portraits by renowned photographer Anita Corbin. These hundred powerful images celebrate the achievements of British women over the past century. They feature a cross section of the pioneering women who have changed British society for ever. The

South West boasts of fifteen of the 100 First Women ranging from Dame Hilary Mantel, the first woman to win the Man Booker Prize twice to Exeter's own Bellatrix, the first UK woman Beatbox Battle World Champion.

Timed entry tickets are free but must be booked in advance via rammuseum.org.uk/entrytickets