



The Friends of Devon's Archives

www.foda.org.uk

Registered Charity 1107394

c/o Devon Heritage Centre, Great Moor House,
Bittern Road, Sowton Exeter EX2 7NL.

Welcome to the Autumn 2019 Newsletter

I am delighted to welcome you to our latest newsletter and the first compiled by our new newsletter editor Sue Jackson. Many thanks to our outgoing editor Ellie Jones for three years of sterling service. Through the newsletter we hope both to continue to keep you up to date with developments and initiatives of the principal archives in our County and to bring you news from the plethora of community archives and archive projects with which our County is blessed.

Katharine Chant, chair of FoDA

The Norden Survey Project

Throughout 2019 first by seminar and now through seed funding we have initiated our very own FoDA led project. The focus of this project is the survey of Devon Crown lands that was compiled by the cartographer and surveyor John Norden in 1613. Norden's survey, which is held in the London Metropolitan Archives (LMA), describes in detail the land and resources belonging to eight Devon manors: Bovey Tracey, Ashburton, Bradninch, Buckfastleigh, Dunkeswell, Exeter Castle, Heathfield in Aveton Gifford, and Ottery St Mary. Each survey provides an exceptional amount of information about local people and their landscape in the early seventeenth century. The entry for each manor begins with a list of manorial resources and rights, including, mills, tin works, woods and parks, commons, and market charters, together with a precise description of the boundaries of the manor. The entries then list the names of each tenant and, for each, details the names of the fields where they held land, the size of each parcel of land, the use to which it was put, the terms on which it was held, and the identity of projected successors. The surveys are, then, a mine of information about the local economy and

society of these eight manors, over two centuries before comparable information is available from the tithe maps and apportionment data of c.1840.

Although the original manuscript of the Norden survey is available online from the LMA, it is difficult to read as it is written in early seventeenth-century secretary hand in a mixture of Latin and English. This project aims to provide training for local volunteers to transcribe and translate the entire description of the Crown lands in Devon, and to publish a definitive edition of the survey. There will be a team of local translators working together on each of these manors. The teams will be trained and overseen by Dr David Stone, a medieval social and economic historian who lives locally. The project opens up many potential areas of study for local and family historians and a further aim of the project is to help volunteers develop the skills to contextualise the information contained in the survey. As part of this, we plan to offer training in the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS), under the supervision Dr Richard Sandover, to enable volunteers to map the fieldscape depicted in these surveys. The ultimate aim of the project is to publish a translation of the whole survey and accompanying maps, in a volume collated, introduced, and fully indexed by Dr Stone. The project also aims to put on a number of talks and events for members of the public, including 'beating the bounds' of the various parishes; events such as these have proved very popular in other local parishes among a wide cross-section of the population.

Whether as volunteers or through public events, a wider range of people would become involved in heritage as a result of this project. Having identified the Norden survey as an unusually important element of local heritage, a significant outcome of the project would be its wider dissemination in a readily accessible form. Manorial documents, fascinating though they are, are often the preserve of academic historians; however, the presentation, interpretation, and mapping of the Norden survey will make this document available to a large and diverse range of people, some of whom will actually be living on land described in its pages. The most important element of the project, though, is the friendship, energy, and fun that would be generated by the translating teams working together; as such, in combination with planned public events, the project would generate a significant improvement in well-being. Moreover, as volunteer training, including Latin, palaeography, the interpretation of manorial records, and the use of GIS, lies at the heart of this project, there would not only be a legacy of interest and well-being, but a legacy of skills as well.

The Friends of Devon's Archives, who are committed to the exploration and wider dissemination of local documents, are supported by a number of partners: the Devon Rural Archive at Shilstone, who have offered to host the whole-project seminars; the Devon and Cornwall Record Society, who have welcomed our application to publish the Norden survey; and the Dartmoor National Park Authority, who have agreed to host training in GIS.

Katharine Chant / Frances Billinge

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Plymouth Update

Members will be aware that the Plymouth & West Devon Record Office is due to move from its premises in the Coxside commercial district of Plymouth to purpose built storage and display facilities within “The Box” on North Hill, which incorporates the old Museum and Library.

“The Box” is to open next Spring as the flagship museum and cultural centre for the region and will house the archives and a dedicated Mayflower 400 exhibition.

Opening hours at the Record Office were restricted to two days a week during the summer and the Record Office is now closed to facilitate the move, to re-open when “The Box” opens next Spring, probably in early April.

All buildings have now been handed over by the building contractors Wilmot Dixon, and the exhibition fitting out is under way. The renovated ship’s figureheads which will be a feature of the entrance atrium are due to be installed this month. Also imminent is an updating of the website of “The Box” which will lead into the announcement later this year of the launch details.

Richard Spear

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Up-date from the Membership Secretary

Our paid-up membership for 2019 is now 169 made up of:

- 112 Individual members
- 14 Family members (counted as 28)
- 11 Institutions
- 18 Life members

Since February 2019 we have welcomed two new members: Mr D. W. Drew from Cheam, Surrey, and the Devon Rural Archive.

This is a welcome increase at a time when voluntary organisations like ours find it difficult to attract and retain new members. However, I would suggest that, if each of us were to encourage a friend or neighbour to join, that would be of considerable benefit. The rates of subscription are on the website as is a downloadable copy of the application form.

Might I also remind members that the subscriptions for 2020 are due on 1st January next. If you have a Standing Order in place, you need do nothing. But, if you pay by cheque, please send it to me in good time at the following address.

4 Channel Heights,
Bleadon Hill,
Weston-super-Mare BS24 9LX.

Peter Towey, Membership Secretary,
12th November 2019

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South West Heritage Trust Report, November 2019

Over the past few months we have been getting used to our new systems. As we reported in the last newsletter, we now have a digital preservation system linked to a new collections management system which holds all the catalogue information about the collections in our care. There is now a huge amount of work to be done to make sure that we get the most out of these new systems, which will transform how we manage archives in the future. The long job of getting all the electronic archives that we hold into the digital preservation system has now started – we expect this to be on-going for several years! It is essential work and will provide much more secure long-term storage for these collections, rather than holding data on vulnerable discs and memory sticks. In March we held an event to demonstrate our new systems to other archivists. It was a very popular event with archivists travelling from as far afield as Manchester, Wales and London, as well as from across the south west, to see what we are doing.

It has been another busy period at the North Devon Record Office. Fundraising has continued to enable the service to continue and we are very grateful to the organisations who are supporting the service financially. An event to thank them was held on 4 June, including a display of documents relating to north Devon during the Second World War to coincide with the 75th anniversary of D-Day. Digitisation equipment has been installed at the NDRO for the first time. It will enable digitisation projects to be undertaken on site as well as the supply of digital copies to researchers and the creation of copies for displays. We have also purchased new digital reader-scanners for the searchrooms at the North Devon Record Office and Devon Heritage Centre to replace obsolete equipment. The new machines, which have been supported by grant funding, allow the public to view digitally, and print, material held on microfilm.

The Beaford archive project has now been completed. The Trust has been a partner in this project which has opened up access to the remarkable photographic archive created by James Ravilious. In particular we have supported the cleaning and conservation of thousands of photographic negatives which are stored in a special cold store at the Devon Heritage Centre. We have also continued to support a project to catalogue the archive of the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary, which is now being cared for at the Devon Heritage Centre.

We have hosted several events in recent months. In June a seminar was held at the Devon Heritage Centre to consider priorities and developments for the South West Heritage Trust in the time ahead, with a particular focus on Devon. In August we celebrated the end of the project to conserve the political correspondence of Henry Addington, First Viscount Sidmouth. The project was made possible by a grant from the National Manuscripts Conservation Trust and support from the Friends of Devon's Archives. The event was timed to coincide with the 200th anniversary of the Peterloo Massacre. Lord Sidmouth was Home Secretary at the time of Peterloo and the papers provide a unique insight into his role in those turbulent events. The theme of 'people power' continued at an event at the North Devon Record Office as part of the national Heritage Open Days in September, told through displays and short talks. Tours behind the scenes at the Devon Heritage Centre were also held in the same week, enabling people to find out more about how we care for Devon's archives.

On 23 September an event was held to celebrate the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the South West Heritage Trust and the University of Exeter. This marks the start of closer collaboration between the two organisations to further research and access to the region's heritage. And finally, exhibitions of Devon collections haven't been limited to our own region. A major display of images from the scrapbooks of Pike Ward, a Teignmouth fish trader, are

currently being exhibited at the National Museum of Iceland in Reykjavik. Ward was important to the development of the Icelandic fishing industry in the early years of the 20th century and took numerous photographs during his visits.

Janet Tall, Head of Archives & Learning
Irene Andrews, Devon Archives & Local Studies Manager

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Accessions at the Devon Heritage Centre, Exeter

The following is a selection of accessions at the DHC in 2019

Harberton Parish Council	Minute book, December 4th 1894 to March 30th 1916, recording meetings of the Parish Council and Annual Parish meetings.	1894- 1916	D2019/4
Baring-Gould of Lew Trenchard	Diary of Voyage to Greenland, 1818, by Edward Sabine; broadside ballads, bound volume; de la Pole Family History, illustrated, manuscript volume		D2019/8
Baring-Gould of Lew Trenchard	Folder of original drawings, watercolours, and black and white postcards, with correspondence relating to the publication, "Cliff Castles and Cave Dwellings of Europe", by Baring-Gould, Sabine [1834-1924]. 1910-1911.	early 20th century	D2019/9
Jean Shields Collection	Records including title deeds, research papers, copies of talks given, photographs, sound recordings and printed material accumulated by the late Dr. Jean Shields, relating to the history of North Tawton, surrounding parishes and Crediton.		D2019/11
North Tawton Parish	Poor rate book, undated (c. 1877-1878), church electoral roll, 1929, churchwardens' account books, including accounts of collections, other disbursements, 1892-1909, 1916-1920.	1877- 1929	D2019/13

[A further selection from the 2019 Accessions will appear in the next Newsletter]

Information supplied by Stuart Tyler, Archivist, SWHT
Edited by Brian Carpenter

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Accessions at the North Devon Record Office, Barnstaple

The following is a selection of accessions at NDRO in 2019

Bideford Parish	Service registers, 1948-2012; Baptism register, 1978-2001; Marriage registers, 1987-2007; Banns registers, 1978-2001; Confirmation register, 1968-1989	1948-2012	ND/2019/01
Barnstaple, Bideford and Buckland Filleigh	Memorial card re Mirhanda Harding of Buckland Filleigh, 1932; postcard re steamship service from Liverpool to Barnstaple and Bideford, 1932; Bideford travelling library service notice, nd; F Dyson, chemist of Barnstaple advertisement re Friar Tucks Cherry Ginger Wine, nd.	Early 1900s	ND/2019/02
Huxtable and Son, Barnstaple	John Huxtable and Son Ltd, Barnstaple: Calendar for 1958 with a Victorian view of the new General Post Office, London	1958	ND/2019/03
Hartland and Georgeham	5 images of Hartland, 1 image of Georgeham. Unused postcards	1920s - 1950s	ND/2019/04
Manor of Braunton Deane	Reversionary Grant of a cottage on Knowle Hill	1822	ND/2019/05
South Molton and Ringsash Methodist Circuit	Record relating to Chulmleigh Methodist Chapel	1985-2014	ND/2019/06
Buchland Brewer Parish	The Village Scene magazine	2018-2019	ND/2019/07
Bratton Fleming and District Flower Club Petrockstowe Parish Council	Bratton Fleming Flower Club constitution, minutes and programmes etc., 1972-2015 Vestry and Parish Council minutes, 1862-1989; notebook re parish meetings etc., 1937-1949; accounts, 1918-1962; 1973-1996; bank book, 1895-1960; notebook re accounts, 1954; letter book, 1951-1968; Treasurer's Bond, 1897; Councillors Declarations of Office, 1894-1987.	1972-2015 1862-1996	ND/2019/08 ND/2019/09
South Molton United Schools	South Molton United Boys School admission register, 1910-1933; South Molton United Girls School admission register, 1915-1933; South Molton United Mixed School admission register, 1933-1950; South Molton United Schools registers of summaries, 1905-1933, 1945; South Molton Junior School admission register, 1950-1965	1905-1965	ND/2019/10
Kentisbury and Trenstishoe Parish Council	Various documents relating to Kentisbury and Trentishoe Village Hall including accounts, licensing documentation, and miscellaneous correspondence.		ND/2019/11
Bishop's Furniture Restorers, Bideford	Bishop's Furniture Restorers, Bideford: Letter Book, 1949-1980	1949-1980	ND/2019/12
Goodleigh Parish	Annotated copy of the Cathedral Psalter	1890-	ND/2019/13

	Chants	1893	
Barnstaple Trade Council Minutes	Minutes of meetings of the Barnstaple Trades Council - dated variously between 1976 - 2009.	1976-2009	ND/2019/14
Goodleigh Parish	Goodleigh Methodist Church Trustees Minutes	1974-2012	ND/2019/16
East Down Parish	Marriage Register, 1989-2017		ND/2019/17
West Buckland Parish	Churchwardens accounts	1745-1840	ND/2019/18
North Devon Deeds	Grant re the Manor of Braunton Deane, 1835; Demise re the Manor of Braunton Deane, 1842; Transfer of a Mortgage re various estates in north Devon, 1849; Appointment re a Marriage Settlement concerning various properties in north Devon (two copies), 1873; Mortgage re a property in Ilfracombe, 1907.	1835-1907	ND/2019/19
North Devon Photographs Tawstock	Black & White and colour photographs of various North Devon sites. Maps of Notson, Roundswell Farm and Runnacott at Tawstock, 1791; maps of Higher and Lower Hollack at Tawstock; annotated Ordnance Survey maps of Barnstaple and Tawstock, 1905; annotated Ordnance Survey revision map of Barnstaple area, 1938; two diagrams showing the ownership of Tawstock Court from 1066-1923.	n.d. 1791-1938	ND/2019/20 ND/2019/21
Manor of East Heales, Fremington	Leases and associated documents re the Manor of East Heales at Fremington, 1722-1878	1722-1878	ND/2019/22
St Marys Church, Lynton	Parish magazines from St Marys Church, Lynton	1984-2015	ND/2019/23
Local Elections	Local election flyers and posters, 2019	2019	ND/2019/24
Bideford and North Devon	Miscellaneous papers	2018	ND/2019/25
North Devon Football	Barnstaple Town FC matchday programmes	2019	ND/2019/26
Clovelly Women's Institute	Monthly Committee Meeting Minute Book, 2009-2015; Monthly Meeting Minute Book, 2012-2016; Attendance Registers, 2002-2011; Report of 1st meeting 11/10/1945, 40th Anniversary 1985, 70th Anniversary 2015; Various celebratory cards from 70th Anniversary celebration, 2015; List of presidents & secretaries, 1945-2019; Atlantic Group Meeting 17/4/2018 - Clovelly WI Report; Home & Country Magazine, 1915-1965; Miscellaneous Newspaper Cuttings 1951-2015; Red & Green Sash	1945-2019	ND/2019/27
Barnstaple Town Council	Letter re Quarter Sessions dates, letter re representation on Council of Governors of	1937-1938	ND/2019/28

	the University College of the SW, letter re shop closing times and a letter from Howard Baker enterprises re representation of bands and other artists, 1037-1938		
Devon Libraries	Various copy photographs of people using library services at various locations	1970s - 1980s	ND/2019/29
Instow Ferry	Photos of Instow ferry boat [19th-20th century]		ND/2019/30
North Devon Photographs	Copy photographs of Lynmouth harbour, Bideford Quay, Dolton and Winkleigh [19th-20th century]		ND/2019/31
Broad Oaks, Combe Martin	Title Deeds and associated documents re Broad Oaks, Buzzacott Road, Combe Martin	1660-2013	ND/2019/32
Beaford Parish	Beaford Parish tithe map	1841	ND/2019/33
Devon County Council	Barnstaple Town Centre Reports	1969	ND/2019/35
Bideford Target Shooting Club	Bideford Home Guard Rifle Club: minutes; subscriptions; accounts and papers re membership, 1945-1955. Bideford Rifle Club: minutes; subscriptions; membership applications; ammunition registers; accounts; papers re competitions; miscellaneous papers; examples of shooting targets; published magazines and newspapers; rule books etc. 1955-2009	1945-2009	ND/2019/36
Walter White of Eastercombe, Atherington	Devon dialect poems and monologues etc. written by Walter White [late 20th century]		ND/2019/37
Barnstaple Title Deeds and Associated Documents	Title deeds and associated documents re properties in Boutport Street, Bear Street and Barum Arcade, Barnstaple, 1806-1996	1806-1996	ND/2019/38
Barnstaple Town Council	Miscellaneous Town Council correspondence	1934-1937	ND/2019/40
Black Torrington School	Managers' Minutes, 1937-1982; receipt for books, 1875; letter re appointment of managers, 1977 and letter from Emma Nicholson MP re the school, 1987	1875-1987	ND/2019/41
North Devon Archaeological Society	Lithic Report from Huish, Merton by Derry Bryant, 2012 and 2016	2018	ND/2019/42
Instow Parish	Instow Parish Magazines	2017	ND/2019/43
Instow Millennium Book	Correspondence, miscellaneous papers and photographs etc. re the Instow Millennium Book	1997-2002	ND/2019/44
Holsworthy/Okehampton Poor Law Union	Guardians' Committee Minutes	1945-1948	ND/2019/45
Atherington, High Bickington and Burrington Parish	Parish magazines for Atherington, High Bickington and Burrington	2014-2018	ND/2019/46
School writing slate and Barnstaple Grammar	Writing slate belonging to B Burgess from Barnstaple Grammar School; copy	early 20th	ND/2019/47

School photograph	photograph of staff and pupils at the old Barnstaple Grammar School, near St Annes Chapel.	cent.	
V E Day Anniversary Celebrations, Barnstaple	Photographs of celebrations at Rock Park	1995	ND/2019/48
Tawstock Parish	Discharge re four poor children in Tawstock who are the responsibility of Barnstaple	1716	ND/2019/49
Tawstock Parish	Notice of Discharge by the Overseers of the Poor of Barnstaple to the Overseers of the Poor of Tawstock, 1716 - admission by the Barnstaple Overseers that four children currently living in Tawstock are the responsibility of the parish of Barnstaple rather than the responsibility of the parish of Tawstock.	1716	ND/2019/49
Parracombe Parish Council	Minutes, accounts, correspondence etc.	1957-2010	ND/2019/50
Derby Lace Factory, Barnstaple	Cloth sample books, building plans, photographs, correspondence etc.	1900-2019	ND/2019/51
Abbotsham Parish Council	Abbotsham School Register 1894-1997, Abbotsham Farewell Album to Mrs Eales, Abbotsham School Album 1961-1977, Unofficial Parochial Church Diary 1916-1959, Schoolboy Scrapbook of John Strick, Poems of John Strick, Abbotsham Playing Field Association Minute Book 1951-1987, Abbotsham Playing Field Association Accounts 1951-1987, Abbotsham Parish Hall Accounts 1948-1983, Social History of Abbotsham 1860-1978, History of Abbotsham by H. A. Lomas 1956	1860-1997	ND/2019/52
Appledore Book Festival	Appledore Book Festival programme	2019	ND/2019/53
Devon Cattle Breeders Society	Davy's Devon Herd Book	2018	ND/2019/54
Loyal Lodge of Freemasons, Barnstaple	Quarterage record, 1802-1842; returns to Grand Lodge, 1863-1875; returns to Provincial Grand Lodge, 1862-1876; returns to Grand Lodge, 1821-1862; Loyal Lodge returns, 1876-1884; The Eight Brothers Lodge no.228 minutes, 1812-1815; Loyal Lodge attendance book, 1875-1900; The Lost Years of Loyal Lodge compiled by Bruce Oliver, 1869-1890	1802-1900	ND/2019/55
Liberal Democrats	Focus news sheet	2018	ND/2019/56
North Devon	Tour of Britain Devon Stage Map	2018	ND/2019/57
North Devon Homes	Home News magazine	2016	ND/2019/58
Barnstaple Baptist Church	Double Cessation Debts Agreement relating to the Baptist Pension Scheme, 16th August 2019.	2019	ND/2019/59
Clovelly School	Infants record book, 1965-1972; Local Studies file, 1999-2000; Save The Orang-	1965-2001	ND/2019/60

	utans workbook, 2001; Cycling Proficiency Test, CD, 1989		
Bideford Methodist Circuit	Instow Methodist Church register of baptisms, 1924-2009	1924- 2009	ND/2019/61

Information supplied by Stuart Tyler, Archivist, SWHT
Edited by Brian Carpenter

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Accessions at Plymouth & West Devon Record Office

The following message has been received from Alan Barclay:
“Whilst we move our collections into our new home in The Box, Plymouth I’m not in a position to provide any reports or updates until late Spring 2020 at the very earliest.”

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Accessions at the University of Exeter Library

Our 21st Century Library project to undertake backlog cataloguing of some of the archives in Special Collections is in its second phase and next summer will see the conclusion of the projects to catalogue The Northcott Theatre Archives, Common Ground Archive, and our Middle Eastern collections (12 archives).

The Northcott Theatre archive project is already providing opportunities for greater collaboration with the Theatre, including publicising the collection and proposals for future joint projects. Newly catalogued archives in the Middle Eastern papers are proving popular in teaching and research.

Colleagues can catch up with the project blogs at <http://specialcollections.exeter.ac.uk/>

From August 2020 we will be entering the final phase of the project by cataloguing a range of literary and historic archives, including the archive of the Powys family.

In July of this year we also welcomed a new Academic Director for Special Collections, Professor Tim Kendall who is an expert on, amongst other writers, William Golding. Tim has been busy raising awareness of the collections by providing seminars on our archives for the Exeter Literary Festival and for our Discovery Series of seminars with schools. He is also hoping to undertake more outreach work and create new podcasts relating to collections of particular interest.

Dr Christine Faunch, Head of Heritage Collections
University of Exeter

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Accessions at Exeter Cathedral Library and Archives

By the end of November the Cathedral Archives will have submitted a new application for Archive Services Accreditation. Back in 2012/13 we were one of the archives involved in the pilot scheme, and then one of the first services in the country to be awarded Accredited Archive status. There was a review after three years, and now it is time to re-submit again, this time with a full re-application. There are 131 questions in the application, covering what we do currently, and what our plans are for the next three years in the areas of: 'Organisational Health', 'Collections' and 'Stakeholders and their Experiences'. Whilst we know there are always improvements to be made, we are hopeful that our application will once again be successful and we will retain our Accredited Archive status.

At the start of November it was announced that Exeter had been successful in its bid to become a UNESCO City of Literature. This was a remarkable achievement, and represents a collaboration between many individuals and organisations in and around the city, including Exeter City Council, Exeter Culture, The University of Exeter, Devon County Council, Libraries Unlimited, Literature Works, Exeter Cathedral and Exeter Canal and Quay Trust. Literature Works, the literature development agency for south-west England, wrote the bid on behalf of the steering group. Exeter Cathedral's Exeter Book - an anthology of Anglo Saxon poetry - featured strongly in the bid, as did other archival, literary and heritage collections across the city. We look forward to further developments and opportunities arising from this new status. Finally, we would like to let members know of our most recent digitisation mini-project. Dr Richard Crangle has just finished digitising our modest collection of glass lantern slides and glass plate negatives. There are just over 200 of these, mostly showing Exeter Cathedral subjects, but some views of Exeter or relating to Bishop Grandisson and other subjects. In due course the digitised images will be made available through the online catalogue and at Lucerna, Dr Crangle's online resource on the magic lantern (<http://lucerna.exeter.ac.uk/>).

Ellie Jones, Archivist, Exeter Cathedral

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Brixham Heritage Museum Archives

At the Brixham Heritage Museum we, like a lot of museums, have fallen victim to our dependence on the goodwill of our volunteers. Don't get me wrong as we cannot survive without them and they are the life blood of our existence but volunteers come and volunteers go and sometimes things that have been set up by one volunteer cannot be followed or understood by their successor especially when it comes to archive work. We, therefore, have taken the decision to radically overhaul our archives both our main archives and our photo archive. This will however take some time as we have a considerable amount of material in both archives. We have also invested in a new map storage system that is less damaging to access them as they will be on hanging frames rather than in drawers. At the end of the project we will have a system that is accurate and up to date, easier to use and all materials accessible.

There is not much point having an archive if people do not know what we hold and so we will be looking at ways to inform people what we do hold via our website, Facebook and updating our lists held at the Devon Records Office

Martin Smith Administrator,
Brixham Heritage Museum

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Torquay Museum

Torquay Museum is 175!

Preparations are beginning in earnest for Torquay Museum's 175th Anniversary. As the oldest museum in Devon, with extraordinary and internationally important objects in its care, there is plenty to celebrate.

Thanks to a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and support from Torquay Museum Society the celebrations will allow the Museum to give the public increased access to its collections. People who live and work in Torbay or who have a link with the Museum will be invited to choose objects for inclusion in a special exhibition. The public will also be asked to submit their photographs of Torbay in 2020 to be added to the Museum's archive and there will be a trail of historic photographs to follow around the Bay.

The 175th Anniversary exhibition held in the summer of 2020 will be a unique opportunity for the huge range of collections held at Torquay Museum to be on show, with 175 objects on display, one for each year the Museum has been in existence. There will also be an exciting level of unpredictability as the public will be choosing many of the objects, so unusual items may surface from the stores.

"We hope that people will be able to uncover for themselves some of the amazing stories that can be told," says Clare Howe, Project Curator. "It is really exciting to have the opportunity to help people explore objects they don't usually get the chance to see because they are hidden away in the stores".



The Museum will also be creating a photographic trail around Torbay, showing historic images in locations close to where they were taken. This will allow everyone to see how Torbay has developed and to appreciate its past. The Museum wants to preserve a record of present day Torbay by inviting the public to submit photographs to be added to the Museum's historic collection. "We really hope this part of the project will help the Museum fill gaps in its collection as we want to target underrepresented subjects. Local people will have the chance to preserve their images of life here in 2020," said Barry Chandler, Collections & Engagement Manager.

For those interested in historic images there will be opportunities available to help with the photography and recording of the Museum's almost 7,000 strong collection of lantern slides. This work will mean spectacular lantern slide shows can be hosted at the Museum and, by

working with Lucerna Magic Lantern Web Resource and the Dartmoor Archive, this important collection will be available online for the first time.

The Museum will be hosting a range of special events, a film production and even a local history conference to celebrate its 175 years and there will even be cake! Keep an eye on the Museum's website and social media to find out more about the anniversary celebrations.

For further information contact: Carl Smith at Torquay Museum,
529 Babbacombe Rd,
Torquay, TQ1 1HG.
Tel: 01803 293975.
Mob: 0775 9216139

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Accessions at the Tiverton Museum of Mid Devon Life

Recent donations to the archive at Tiverton Museum of Mid Devon Life include: a hand written, bound copy of Tiverton Charters which seems to have been used by a local solicitor in the Nineteenth Century; a small number of items relating to the Women's Land Army; notes on the history of Tiverton Grammar School; and a short run of a 1970s community newsletter.

Pippa Griffith,
Director and Mid Devon Museum Development Officer
Tiverton Museum of Mid Devon Life

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Accessions at Totnes Archives

The Totnes Archives has been very busy over the summer, mainly Family Historians trying to find elusive ancestors and house historians researching their houses. We have helped to mount an exhibition in the Museum concerning Eric the first Robot which was made in England. The inventor was William Richards a Totnes man. We also produced a small exhibition using our own prints and photographs of "Totnes Then and Now" which proved very popular with Museum visitors.

One of our triumphs has been the researching and tracing of an Italian man who disappeared 105 years ago. We found him in New York with a wife and a son (although he had a wife and son whom he had abandoned in England) and we were able to answer the question "What happened to Vincenzo?" quite comprehensively.

We also had an interesting time sorting out the scraps of paper presented to us as a family tree and produced a history of several branches of the family which was correct and easy to read. Very satisfying.

We have been involved in work for the St Marys Church Heritage Trust supplying information about the church for a heritage Lottery bid. In our spare moments we have written articles and published our annual magazine the "Totnes Review" which is selling well.

Sue King, Totnes Archives

Devon Rural Archive

A Decade of Discovery at the Devon Rural Archive.

If you are planning to study the history of your home, village, town or indeed any of Devon's landscapes, then you should visit the Devon Rural Archive (DRA). Whether historic or modern, humble or grand the archive's unique collection and its expert team will help you unlock the secrets of your home or village.

The archive is based in the grounds of Shilstone House near Modbury and is dedicated to the study of Devon's building and landscapes. A growing reference library of historic documents, maps, images, books, journals, and periodicals as well as a special collection of artefacts, and unpublished material makes the DRA an invaluable resource for Devon's historians.

The library is also the sole repository for the ongoing research project into the history, significance and development of Devon's manor houses, and their associated landscapes, by the DRA's archaeological team. 'Project Donn', as it is known, was launched in 2006 and uses the 1765 map of Devon by Benjamin Donn to identify sites for inclusion in the study. More than six hundred and fifty gentry seats were represented by Donn, and to date the DRA team has visited, surveyed and recorded over one hundred and fifty of these.

The premise of the project is that by the latter half of the eighteenth century these high-status houses were unlikely to have been constructed on greenfield sites. Instead they occupied long established dwelling sites which could hold evidence from the later medieval period, but possibly even pre-conquest data as well. By studying these sites, the standing structures and their environs, the DRA is able to reveal the evolution of architecture in Devon through the last millennium, and ensure the information is preserved for future generations.

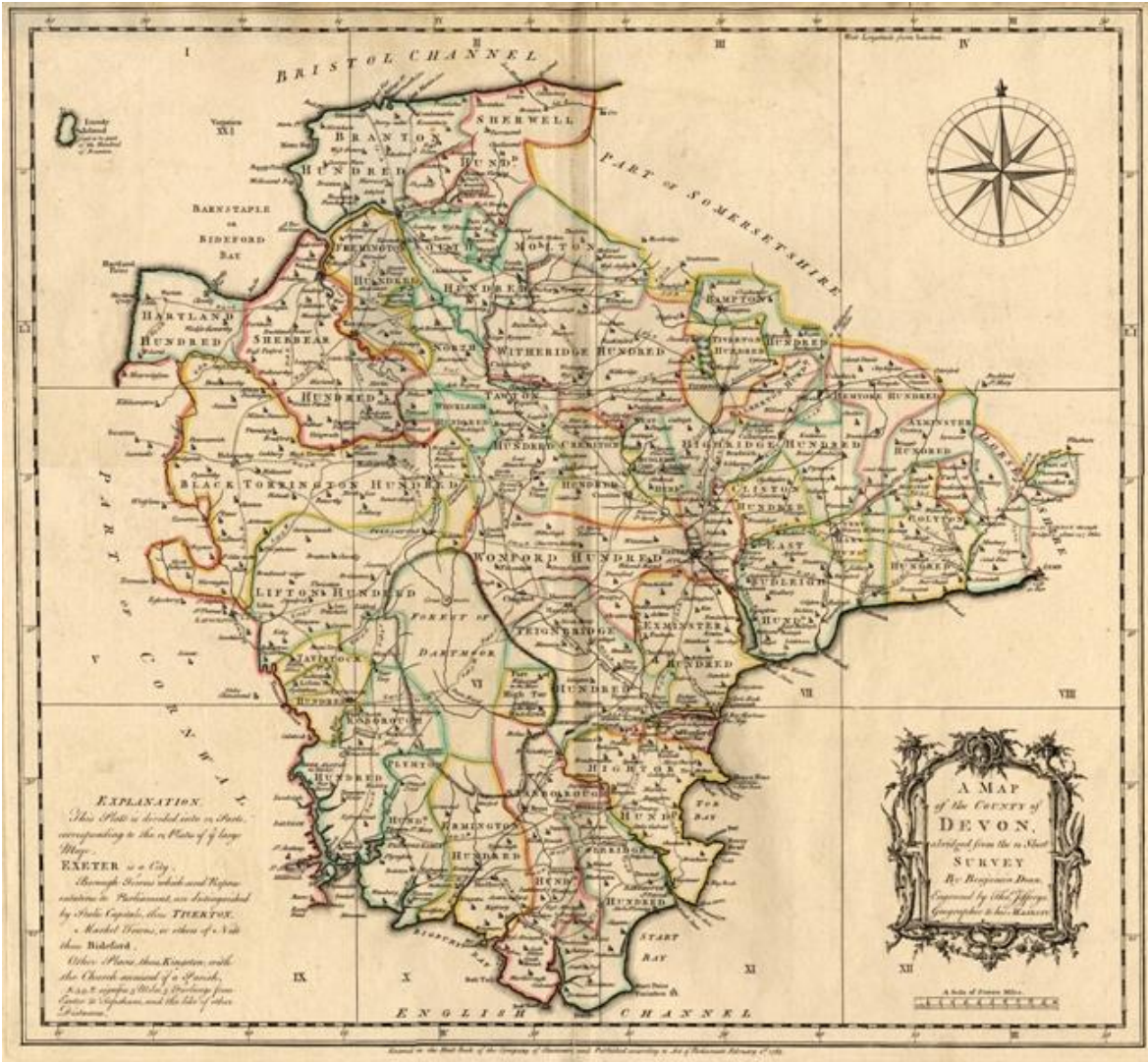
Shilstone, the home of the DRA, is a prime example of the project's success as here there is evidence of occupation from later prehistory to the present day. The earliest known dwelling on the site was an Iron Age farmstead, within an ovoid enclosure, in use from approximately the 2nd century BC to the 2nd century AD. A high-status stone hall house, of 3-room cross-passage plan, was at the centre of the site by the 14th century and, along with 16th and 17th century additions, was the structure recorded by Benjamin Donn. This house was demolished in the early nineteenth century and replaced by a courtyard mansion that was heavily truncated only a few decades later.

In the last few years the current owners have sympathetically restored the house using the findings of the DRA research project.

The archive is funded by the Fenwick Charitable Trust (registered charity number 1007957), and is open to the public every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday between 11am and 3pm (other than Bank Holidays). There is no charge for using the resources and you are welcome to drop in during opening hours. For more information please visit our website or alternatively call 01548 830832 or email office@dra.uk.net.

October 2019 sees the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Archive as a means of promoting the study of Devon's buildings and landscapes, and of providing visitors access to our growing collection. So, if you haven't yet visited the Devon Rural Archive, now is the time!

Abi Gray, Resident Archaeologist and Curator



Benjamin Donn's Map of Devon, 1765



Manuscripts from the Collection



Researching in the DRA Library



Resident Archaeologist Abi Gray examining the Benjamin Donn Map

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The Autumn 2019 AGM & Conference

This year's AGM was held in the magnificent surroundings of St Nicholas Priory in Exeter. Thanks to volunteers at St Nicholas for making us so welcome. The reports of the Chair, Membership Secretary and Treasurer, together with the minutes, are all available on the FoDA website.

After the AGM in the Great Hall members and their guests heard a presentation by Megan Woolley about the Devon and Exeter Medical Society Collection housed in St Nicholas Priory and were able to examine the 1743 Cashbook and Ledger of the Devon and Exeter Hospital. The acquisition of these items had been supported by FoDA and were presented formally to Brian Carpenter of the Devon Heritage Centre – see photo.

The presentation was followed by a tour of St Nicholas Priory Guest Wing led by Ben Clapp, Priory Guide who then took attendees to the Refectory Wing for an illustrated talk on how his tour is based on extensive archival research principally at Devon Heritage Centre, Royal Albert Memorial Museum and Devon & Exeter Institution.

Another successful AGM and Conference which was enjoyed by all.

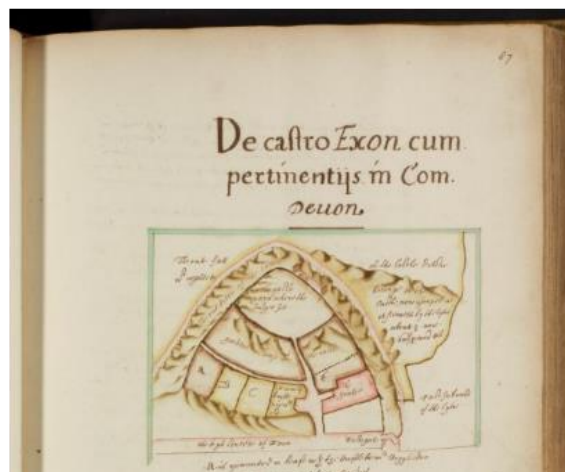


At the AGM and conference, Megan Woolley presents a series of late eighteenth and early nineteenth century ledgers from the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital to Brian Carpenter of the Devon Archives and Local Studies Service. The ledgers were bought by the Devon and Exeter Medical Society with financial assistance from FoDA; they have now been deposited at the Devon Heritage Centre.



Attendees at the AGM and conference of the Friends of Devon's Archives, St.Nicholas Priory, Exeter, 21 September 2019

Seminar on Investigating Medieval and Early Modern Devon: Manorial Records and the c.1613 Norden Survey of Devon Crown Lands.



John Norden's Survey of Various Manors in the County of Devon, Exeter Castle c.1613.
By kind permission of London Metropolitan Archives CLA044/05/041.

In March 2019, FoDA held a joint seminar with Devon Archaeological Society. This proved to be a very popular event particularly for those researching the eight manors covered by the Norden survey. Devon Archaeological Society kindly assisted with the publicity and provided their meeting room as the venue.

Katharine Chant, chair of FoDA, welcomed attendees, who were from a range of Devon societies. The morning proceeded with Dr David Stone, a medieval economic and social historian, describing how to find and identify manorial records and then how to use them to investigate the medieval landscape, economy, and society. Using a wealth of examples from across Devon, David explained how such documents were also useful for local and family historians wishing to search for place names, field names, and personal names. He showed how surprising details about individuals and buildings can be found in the most unlikely places. Do not be put off by the apparent difficulty of transcribing and translating such documents: the more you look at, the easier it gets.

Dr Frances Billinge, a local historian from Bovey Tracey, then described how she had tracked down Norden's survey of Devon Crown lands of c.1613 and set about translating the section on Bovey Tracey with her colleague Penny Martin, who is a Latin enthusiast and tutor. Frances outlined how Norden's survey described the customs and boundaries of each manor, together with its charter. It listed all land holdings - with the holder's name, the fields by name and acreage, the rent paid, and who would succeed to the property – together with information on mills and tin working. It also gave details of any financial mismanagement, making interesting reading when trying to piece together a local community. The survey also covered the Crown Lands/manors of Ashburton, Bradninch, Buckfastleigh, Dunkeswell, Exeter Castle, Heathfield in Aveton Gifford, and Ottery St Mary.

John Allan, president of FoDA, concluded the seminar by saying how fruitful it was for Devon societies to join up in this way to share expertise and research interests. He hoped there would be more opportunities for such collaboration in the future.

A group of volunteers then took up the request to start translating the eight Devon Manors covered by Norden's survey and to research the wider history of these places in the seventeenth century. the coordination of research and its publication.

David Stone has agreed to take on academic oversight of the project and, spearheaded by Katharine Chant Chair of FoDA, an application has been made to the National Lottery Heritage Fund in the hope of securing a grant so that the full survey might be published. This should prove to be an exciting project for FoDA, jointly with other partners including the Devon and Cornwall Record Society, Devon Family History Society and The Devon Rural Archive The project working title is **Seventeenth-Century people and their communities - reconstructing the fieldscape through the Norden Survey c.1613**

Using manorial documents opens up many areas of study for local and family historians and this project will help researchers learn a number of new skills including palaeography and mapping, as well as generating much interest in the local community. The Devon Rural Archive has kindly offered their splendid venue for us to use as a meeting place for this project and the first meeting of the translators and researchers was held there at the end of September 2019. If you would like to be involved in any way please contact Frances Billinge through the FoDA website.

Dr Frances Billinge, Secretary FoDA.

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Ballads and broadsides

Sabine Baring-Gould of Lewtrenchard was an avid collector of broadside ballads at the end of the 19th century to aid him in his pioneering collecting and identification of the folk songs of the West of England, an enterprise that has recently been well documented by Martin Graebe in *As I walked out : Sabine Baring-Gould and the search for the folk songs of Devon and Cornwall* (Oxford : Signal Books, 2017, ISBN 978-1-909930-53-70).

Baring-Gould donated twelve volumes of the broadsheets to the British Library, containing some 3795 items, often with two or more songs illustrated by woodcuts. Two other volumes once owned by Baring-Gould surfaced subsequently, one in the John Rylands Library containing 255 broadsheets, and another, now in the National Library of Wales with 488 broadsheets. There is also one volume which remained at Lewtrenchard with 105 items. The contents of all these broadsheets are listed in the Devon bibliography at <https://bookhistory.blogspot.com/2012/01/baring-gould-library.html>. The Lewtrenchard volume, together with volumes of chapbooks, the three volume master manuscript of folk songs collected in the field by Baring Gould, and interleaved copies of the published volumes were passed to Killerton in the 1970s. They were microfilmed by Wren Music for the Baring-Gould Heritage Project in 1998 and most were digitised, again by Wren, for the Devon Traditions project in 2009/11. This unique collection has now been deposited in the Devon Heritage Centre (ref. 5203/M). One item that was missing from the Devon Tradition project was the volume of broadsides, which was mislaid when the project was in progress. Fortunately it has now been found and deposited with the rest of the collections (ref: SBG/1/2).

The volume is in good condition although some pages are loose. It is approximately 45 x 30 cm in size and is not tightly bound. The 105 items are mounted on 188 pages. Most are mounted flat but some are hinged, particularly one small format 64 page item *Songs of the*

seaports (1861). In some cases SBG collected two copies so that the fragile leaves could be mounted flat. They fall into a number of groups:

- Religious sheets, richly illustrated and sometimes coloured, and including Christmas carols. Most date from the 1820s to 1840s.
- Engraved music, often with charming illustrations. Most date from the 1760s.
- Tavistock elections and related items. Dating from 1857.
- Popular literature, including garlands of songs. Mostly dating from the 1820s to 1840s.
- Popular songs published in London by H. P. Such around 1890. Such was the last of the ballad printers and also printed many of the music hall songs that Baring-Gould so deprecated.

The trustees of the Kent Kingdon Bequest have agreed to make a grant to Wren Music so that they can meet the costs of digitising this volume, thus completing the Devon Traditions project.

There is also other Baring-Gould folk song material, recently identified, which could be included, all of it in the Devon Heritage Centre except for one item, *The bull-finch* (1760) which is at Lewtrenchard. The items in question are:

- *A new song called William and Nancy. To which are added, a weaver's song; and The long lost child.* — [Edinburgh?] : Printed in the year 1827. — 8 pages.
- *Five excellant [sic] new songs: namely, The auld man's mare's dead. General Wolfes song. Three weeks after marriage.* [...] — [Edinburgh] : Printed for the booksellers, [1825?]. — 8 pages.
- *A collection of songs, &c. containing Captain Mulligan, The bold dragoon, Will watch, Ay, my heart, why wildly beating,* [...]. — Edinburgh : Printed for the booksellers, [1825?]. — 8 pages.
- *A collection of old Scottish songs; called, The Haughs of Cromdale, to which is added, Jenny's banbee, and Young Jamie.* — Glasgow : Printed for the booksellers, 1828. — 8 pages.
- *The ewie wi' the crooked horn; to which are added, She lives in the valley below, The star of the east, The mill, mill, O,* [...]. — Glasgow : Printed for the booksellers, 1828. — 8 pages.
- *The bull-finch: being a choice collection of the newest and most favourite English songs which have been set to music and sung at the public theatres & gardens.* — London : Printed for R. Baldwin, in Pater Noster Row, & John Wilkie, in St. Pauls Church Yard, London, [1760?]. — [2],ii,viii,194;viii,192 pages, plate ; 12^o. It is hoped that this last item can be transferred to the Devon Heritage Centre.

It is also envisaged that the Devon Heritage Centre will receive a copy set of all master images that were produced during the project. There is already a set of the microfiches produced by the Baring-Gould Heritage Project in the Westcountry Studies Library.

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Local heritage collections and the Devon bibliography

A home is being sought for the *Devon bibliography* within an organisation which could maintain and develop it for the benefit all those who have an interest in Devon's published heritage. The compiler is anxious that this work is not lost but is no longer able to maintain it in its present

form. It would probably have to be undertaken through a collaborative project involving a wide range of stakeholders. A paper in the latest issue of the Devon bibliography newsletter at <https://devon-bibliography.blogspot.com/2019/09/westcountry-studies-issue-10-september.html> presents the contents and structure of the *Devon bibliography*, a survey of the present state of local studies provision in Devon and suggests a possible way forward. An article entitled 'Re-imagining local studies in Devon: reclaiming the local community's published heritage in an age of austerity' has now been published online at <https://doi.org/10.1108/GKMC-01-2019-0007> in the journal *Global knowledge, memory and communication* in a special issue devoted to community archives.

Ian Maxted

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Global lives

This is the name of an undergraduate module in the Geography Department of the University of Exeter in which students are required to research an Exonian with links across the world. This year some 120 students have enrolled, far more than the Devon and Exeter Institution can cope with, so other collections have been enlisted, including the Royal Albert Memorial Museum and the Westcountry Studies Library. Ian Maxted was enlisted as a "mentor" and is giving guidance on collections in Exeter, notably outlining the holdings in the Westcountry Studies Library. In the past an output was the design of a potential blue plaque. This year it is hoped that a brief biographical note can be prepared for the *Index of Exonian biography* at <https://devon-bibliography.blogspot.com/2019/10/index-of-exonian-biography.html> together with references that can enhance the *Devon bibliography*.

Ian Maxted

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Dates for your diary

Details of FoDA events are available on the website:

www.foda.org.uk/main/events.htm/

- 2020 AGM & Conference: Tuesday 24 November 2020 at the Devon Rural Archive, Shilstone

For **Devon History Society** events, click on the link for further information and details about how to book: www.devonhistorysociety.org.uk

Devon Family History Society

- 29 August 2020 in Plymouth Mayflower International Genealogical Conference (will be sending FoDA an invitation)
http://www.devonfhs.org.uk/mayflower_conference.pdf
- 3 October 2020 AGM/Conference in Plymouth (will be sending FoDA an invitation)

Devon Rural Archive

- 3 September 2020 at 7pm in the Devon Rural Archive: Dr. Ian Mortimer: *The chief rents of Moretonbampstead, 1639-1840: how to use a problematic source*. Organised in association with Devon History Society & Friends of Devon's Archives. Tickets available from the DRA from January 2020. To purchase tickets please contact Archive, www.devonruralarchive.com

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Contributions to future newsletters

If you would like to contribute an article to this newsletter, you would be most welcome. Please do get in touch with the Newsletter editor Sue Jackson via e-mail: sue.pete.jackson@gmail.com

Likewise, if you have any comments to make, please contact me.

Sue Jackson
FoDA Newsletter Editor