



## **The Friends of Devon's Archives**

[www.foda.org.uk](http://www.foda.org.uk)

Registered Charity 1107394

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

### **Welcome to the Spring 2019 Newsletter**

In taking up the position of Chair of FODA I should first pay tribute the energy and leadership of my predecessor Ian Mortimer. I cannot begin to emulate this. Indeed I am most grateful that he has agreed to stay on the committee for another year to ease my passage. The FODA Committee is also blessed with a wonderfully efficient secretary in Frances Billinge so no danger of going off the rails But I understand the need to change direction and the decision to restrict the conference programme to the AGM and one or two other seminars in partnership with likeminded organisations is eminently sensible allowing us to focus on and support county wide and local archive projects. We are, after all, the Friends of Devon Archives in the plural. So much has been achieved in local village archives but there is still so much unrecognized and, most concerning many important archives and collections inaccessible due to lack of catalogues and digitisation. I hope to make partnership and access the hall marks of my term in office.

Katharine Chant  
Chair FODA

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## **FODA News**

### **Up-date from the Membership Secretary**

Our year starts on 1<sup>st</sup> January and already, I am happy to say, most of our former members have renewed their subscriptions.

The current paid-up membership is:

Individual members: 102

Family members: 14

Institutions: 9

Life members: 17.

So, counting Family memberships as 2, our paid up membership is now 156.

Those of you who pay by cheque and have not yet paid, please send me your cheques now, while you remember.

I have to report that one of our long-term members, D.J. Cawthron, died last year. I have passed our condolences to his family.

Peter Towey  
Membership Secretary

4 Channel Height, Bleadon Hill, Weston-super-Mare, BS24 9LX. 01934 248399

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## Acquisitions

This is a list of items acquired for Devon's archives in 2018, with thanks to FODA members.

- FoDA contributed £97.50 towards the acquisition of a quitclaim by Rabichia Aptor, widow, of Chagford in the County of Devon and her uncle, Thomas Aptor of Venton, a Tinner. Dated 17th June 33rd Henry VIII (1541).
- FoDA contributed £800 towards the acquisition of five medical subscriptions ledgers from the Devon & Exeter Hospital dating from the 1740s.
- FoDA bought via eBay the following deeds which have been deposited in Devon Heritage Centre:
  1. Indenture dated 29 Sept 12 Chas (1636) between William Parre of the City & County of Exon, merchant, & Bartholomew Parr of Clyst St Mary, Co Devon, Clerke, of the 1st part and Thomas Wills of Brydford, Co Devon, yeoman, of the other part. Witnesseth: William Parre for £143 grants to the said Thomas Wills all the messuages, etc. called Trenchford in the parish of Brydford, Co Devon, heretofore in the tenure, etc of George Wolcott, Susan Wolcott & Johan Wolcott, or one of them, & now or late in the tenure of the said William Parre, to have & to hold for 99 years or the lives of Thomas Wills, Elizabeth Wills & Margaret Wills, sisters of the said Thomas Wills.
  2. Indenture dated 6th January 4 Wm & Mary (1692) between Bartholomew Parr of the city & County of Exeter, Grocer, of the 1 part, & Matthew Wills of Bridford, Co Devon, yeoman, of the other part. Bartholomew Parr for £40 demises to Matthew Wills, his execs & assigns, all those messuages, etc called Trenchford in the parish of Bridford & now in the possession of the said Matthew Wills for 99 years or the life of his son Thomas Wills, to begin immediately after the expiration of the estate of the said Matthew Wills & Martha his wife, now in being and determinable on their deaths.
  3. A memorandum of the Manorial court of Rosse (?) dated 16 Nov 1681. It states that one Raphe Pratherstone(?) of Ellardcombe (?) delivered a tenement & barn, etc. in Ethardwyke(?) in the parish of Malborough, Co Devon, into the hands of the Lady (of the manor?) to the use of Thomas Eliot of Roborough, Clerk, and

Catherine his wife for their natural lives, & after their decease to their eldest daughter Catharine Eliot, according to the custom of the manor, forever. Then comes the proviso that this only takes effect if Pratherstone fails to repay a loan he has had from Eliot, by a set date.

4. Indenture dated 25 March 10 Geo I (1724). Between John Parr of Oakhampton, Clerk, & Thomas Wills of Bridford, yeoman, a messuage called Trenchford in Bridford, now in the possession of Matthew Wills, father of the said Thomas,; 99 year lease for the lives of Thomas Wills, son of the said Thomas, to commence after the expiration of the estate of Matthew Wills and the said Thomas Wills now in being. Counterpart lease.
5. Indenture dated 16th September 1754. Between Arthur Tremayne of Sydenham, Esq. & John Spry of Thrushleton, yeoman, re a messuage called Thrusselball? In the parish of Thrushleton, 99 year lease for lives of William Spry aged 16, son of the said John, John Row aged 2 and grace Row aged 4, son & daughter of John Row of Lamerton, & grandchildren of said John Spry.
6. Indenture dated 20th January 1776. Between Arthur Tremayne of Sydenham, Esq. & Jane Spry of Thrushleton, widow, for the Barton of Wrays in Thrushleton, formerly in occupation of William Spry, late husband of said Jane, for 99 years or lives of Jane Spry aged 6 & Grace Spry aged 8, daughters of said William & Jane Spry. The term to commence from the death of John Teasdale Spry, clerk, Rector of Coryton.
7. Will of Henry Willie of Lifton, husbandman, dated 9th Oct 1644. Probate Act (Latin) dated 8 July 1646 granting administration to Joanna Wyllie [sic] daughter of said Henry Willye.
  - FoDA bought a medical symptoms book compiled by a Sidmouth apothecary in 1830, which has been deposited in the Devon Heritage Centre.
  - FoDA gave £2,000 to the South West Heritage Trust to help conserve the political correspondence of Henry Addington, Viscount Sidmouth, Prime Minister and Home Secretary between 1801 and 1822, held at the Devon Heritage Centre.

A list of acquisitions made since 2005 is available on the FODA website: [www.foda.org.uk/main/acquisitions.htm](http://www.foda.org.uk/main/acquisitions.htm).

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## Friends Reunited

Reference 5203M in the Devon Archives & Local Studies Service is a motley collection of material relating to the Baring-Gould family.

Apart from correspondence and other archival material relating to Baring-Gould, it also contains boxes of books rescued from the cellars of Killerton. These were items not presentable enough to fill the shelves of the library at Killerton, so they did not move to the University of Exeter Special Collections when they were transferred from Killerton a few years ago. The whole lot had been moved from Lewtrenchard Manor in the 1970s when former Plymouth librarian Bill Best-Harris made a selection from the family library there to fill the empty shelves at Killerton when the property passed to the National Trust. As a result sets of volumes had been split between the three locations. It was a happy event to see the books collected from Lewtrenchard and the Devon Heritage Centre unwrapped and placed next to their colleagues on a table in the special collections room of the University, sets of early volumes in French, German and English from Baring-Gould's extensive library reunited after almost half a century. Three other items also

found their place in the Devon Heritage Centre the same day: a typescript account of Edward Sabine's diary of his scientific expedition to Greenland in 1818 and a massive folio volume with the spine title "Misc arms", a manuscript with the bookplate of Carolus Pole and an inscription "Ex libris Edward Pole de Templeton". It contains pencil notes by Sabine Baring-Gould. Some 17th century material appears to have been traced and pasted in, other material was added later, probably in the 18th or early 19th century - but the archivists will know better than I. It contains many delicately drawn vignette symbols, the significance of which escaped me on a cursory examination. These two volumes came from the University of Exeter Special Collections. The third item came from the Shacklock Collection in Lewtrenchard Manor - correspondence linked to the publication of *Cliff castles and cave dwellings of Europe* in 1910/11 as well as a series of SBG's original pen and ink drawings and watercolours. A most satisfactory day of tidying up.

Ian Maxted

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## Know Your Place and Etched on Devon's Memory

Following the concern expressed about the loss of the *Etched on Devon's Memory* website following the transfer from Devon County Council to South West Heritage Trust, there is an exciting new prospect for accessing the images of several thousand early engravings of Devon held in the Westcountry Studies Library.

**Know Your Place**, an interactive map-based website developed by the City of Bristol, has recently been extended to Devon. It is possible to move a slider across the screen between two base layers of mapping and see how any area in the county has changed over time.

For Devon the base layers so far represented are the Ordnance Survey County Series 1:2500 (about 25 inches to a mile) and 1:10560 (six inches to a mile) maps for Dartmoor, the first edition (typically 1885/90) and second edition (typically 1905/06) as well as the extremely detailed 1:500 town plans (1879/88) which can be overlaid against the 2017 Ordnance Survey mapping. Other base layers available for comparison are the manuscript tithe surveys for the years around 1840, the earliest detailed mapping using modern techniques of surveying, which covers the majority of the county, vertical aerial photographs of the entire county dating from 1946 and, for Exeter and Plymouth, the Goad insurance maps covering the period 1888/1931 - probably the most detailed of any early maps with considerable information on the structure of individual buildings. These were updated by visits from Goad and I remember from days working in Guildhall Library in the 1960s an individual turning up at the enquiry desk armed with a set of sheets, a paste-pot and a pair of scissors. The maps would be produced and updated by the careful pasting-on of the ground plans of buildings that had changed since the last visit. To these base maps can be added information layers made up of points, lines or polygons for area information such as conservation areas.

The main information added so far is for the Devon Historic Environment Record (formerly the Sites and Monuments Register) - Exeter, Plymouth, Torbay, Dartmoor and Exmoor maintain their own HER records, so full coverage is not yet available for these areas. There is also a community layer, to which anyone can contribute, entries being moderated by staff at SWHT. There is also a facility for other collections to be added. Devon suffrage activists and Crediton Local History are the only collections featured at present, but this is where *Etched on Devon's Memory* could fit in. It would be possible to click on a point or polygon and see a catalogue entry

for the engraving together with any associated text from contemporary topographical writings and an image of the engraving, much as was done in the original *Etched* project. Of course, this is not the complete answer as it is difficult to provide geo-referencing for landscapes and general town views, so some form of bibliographical access to engravings will still be required. The original engravings and lithographs, being published items, still need to be included in the *Devon bibliography* and it is to be hoped that the bibliographical data held in the SWHT database can be made available to the *Devon bibliography* as it is revised for inclusion in *Know Your Place*.

Ian Maxted

Devon Bibliography: <http://devon-bibliography.blogspot.co.uk>

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# News from Devon's Archives

## South West Heritage Trust

The conservation project on the political correspondence of **Henry Addington, 1st Viscount Sidmouth (1757–1844)** has now just been completed. Conservator Becky Dabnor has been working on the collection, which contains remarkable political correspondence from the Napoleonic era. The project has been made possible by a grant from the National Manuscripts Conservation Trust and support from the Friends of Devon's Archives. See the further article for more details about what has been achieved.

The final events for the **Devon Remembers Heritage Project** took place in November. Four hundred people gathered in Exeter Cathedral for a final event to showcase all that had been discovered and achieved. The evening included music, drama, creative writing, visual art and exhibitions to tell something of the many home front stories discovered during the project. A major exhibition 'Devon Voices: Home Front Stories 1914-1918' was also held at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum in Exeter. Using the archives, objects and stories of individual people it brought to life the varied ways in which Devon people experienced the First World War. One of the many legacies of the project is a book 'Devon Remembers' which tells 22 of the stories that were researched during the project and has just been named as the runner up in the Alan Ball awards for local history publishing.

We celebrated thirty years of the **North Devon Record Office** at a special event on 2 October, which was attended by over 100 people. The occasion included an exhibition of archives, tours behind the scenes, historic films and short talks promoting the achievements of the North Devon service. At the same time we have also been fundraising to enable the archive service to continue in north Devon. The service is funded in part by the generous support of local organisations in the north of the county, and the existing funding runs out at the end of March 2019. We have been working hard with local partners and organisations to ensure that the service can continue to be provided in north Devon over the next three years.

A partnership project with the South West Police Heritage Trust is now underway to care for the archive of the **Devon and Cornwall Constabulary**. The Police Heritage Trust have obtained funding to sort, catalogue and undertake packaging work on the extensive archives of the constabulary. The archive is being gradually moved to the Devon Heritage Centre, where it will

be cared for and made available for researchers. The collection inevitably contains sensitive information, so the detailed catalogue will identify the parts of the collection which can be made available on open access, and the sections to which restrictions will apply.

During 2018 we have been working on two major projects to transform the way in which we are able to look after electronic records. We now have a working **digital preservation** system, linked to a new collections management system which holds all the catalogue information about the collections in our care. We have also completed surveys to identify all the digital collections that we already hold, so that we can move them safely into the new system. This will provide much more secure long-term storage for these collections, rather than holding data on vulnerable discs and memory sticks.

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

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## Special Report: Conserving the Sidmouth Papers

The papers of the Addington family, Viscounts Sidmouth, have been in the custody of the Devon Record Office and its successor, the Devon Heritage Centre, since 1954. While the collection contains a wide range of estate records, title deeds and leases relating to property in Devon and other parts of Britain, the collection's centrepiece is the political correspondence of Henry Addington, 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Sidmouth, which is the most nationally significant collection we hold.

Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer from 1801 to 1804, and Home Secretary from 1812 to 1822, Henry Addington was a prominent figure in public affairs during a turbulent period in British and European history that included the French Revolution, the Napoleonic Wars, unrest in Ireland, growing opposition to the slave trade and social unrest at home, including the Peterloo Massacre. The collection of letters comprises correspondence to and from prominent people in national affairs, including George III, William Pitt the Younger, Nelson, Lord Grenville, Lord Liverpool, Lord Castlereagh, the Duke of Wellington and William Wilberforce. The papers relate to national and international events such as the threat of Napoleonic invasion, negotiation of the Peace of Amiens and repression of the Luddites. Taken as a whole the correspondence provides a unique perspective on the period from the points of view of those close to a pre-eminent politician.

The collection had sustained damp and insect damage before it was deposited, and had remained a priority for specialist conservation treatment for many years. In late 2017, the South West Heritage Trust was awarded £18,861 by the National Manuscripts Conservation Trust to enable the appointment of a conservator to carry out the necessary work, and this was augmented by a generous donation of £2000 from the Friends of Devon's Archives.

The conservator, Rebecca Dabnor, began work on the collection in April 2018, and the project has just finished, with around 900 letters having been successfully conserved using high quality materials and techniques. Handmade Japanese paper with strong and flexible fibres was used to infill losses in the letters by allowing a delicate mesh of fibres to cling and fuse to the edges of the original paper. Also, through the introduction of finer tissues, it was possible to achieve an almost invisible repair without compromising the letters' character and legibility.

The collection provides an invaluable insight into the internal workings of the government, as well as relations between important politicians and members of the Royal family. A letter [152M/C1804/OZ 7] written in May 1804 reveals the high regard the King had for Henry Addington. It was written after his resignation and immediately after the King had finished “a long but most satisfactory conversation with Mr Pitt” who would again take over the role of Prime Minister. The King requests that he attends the Queen’s palace with the seals of the Chancellor of the Exchequer:

“The King’s friendship for Mr. Addington is too deeply graven on his heart to be in the least diminished by any change of situation: his Majesty will order the warrant to be prepared for the creating Mr. Addington Earl of Banbury, Viscount Wallingford, and Baron Reading; and will order the message to be carried by Mr. Yorke to the House of Commons for the usual annuity, having most honourably and ably filled the station of Speaker of the House of Commons. The King will settle such a pension on Mrs. Addington, whose virtue and modesty he admires, as Mr. Addington may choose to propose. George R.”.

The project has been an outstanding success, and has brought excellent publicity to the archive service and the Trust, including a feature on *BBC Spotlight*.

We are very grateful to the Friends of Devon’s Archives for their financial assistance, and we will be celebrating the project in a special event at the Devon Heritage Centre on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August, where many of the letters will be on display and members of staff will talk about the processes involved in their conservation. The event is timed to coincide with the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Peterloo Massacre, to which many of the letters relate.

Further details of this event will be distributed to members in due course.

Brian Carpenter  
Community Learning Officer  
Devon Archives and Local Studies Service

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## **Plymouth and West Devon Record Office**

The most important announcement from PWDRO is the restricted access to the building from 1 April 2019. From this point until the early autumn the building will be open to the public for research Tuesdays and Thursdays 9.30am til 5pm. We would very much appreciate bookings in advance so we can be best prepared for you. The preparations for the move to The Box is now underway in earnest and staff need to focus on packaging the collections and undertaking catalogue updates behind the scenes. We appreciate your understanding during this very busy time.

We had a visit from the South West Engagement Manager from The National Archives on 6 February and he was bowled over by the progress on The Box project and to quote ‘the way archives are embedded in everything’. It was hugely gratifying to hear him talk so positively about all our hard work. If members are interested in seeing the progress for themselves, hard at tours are still taking place so check <https://plymhearts.org/thebox> for more information.

Our moving image archives have also had some positive news in the last month. At a meeting at the British Film Institute in London, many of the tapes from the latter half of the 20th century will be digitised thanks to a grant from the BFI. Tapes are one of the most fragile kinds of archives and the content on this media would otherwise be lost. This digitisation will take place later this year.

The new MA Archival Practice with the University of Plymouth goes from strength to strength. One of the current cohort has already secured herself a job after the end of her training with another having an interview in the next few weeks. The applications for next year are already coming in, showing the likelihood of a larger cohort than this year which is extremely impressive given that the course is still not accredited by the Archives and Records Association (only once the course has run for a year are we eligible to apply for accreditation). We are delighted to be at the vanguard of archive education in the 21st century.

Louisa Blight  
Collections Manager

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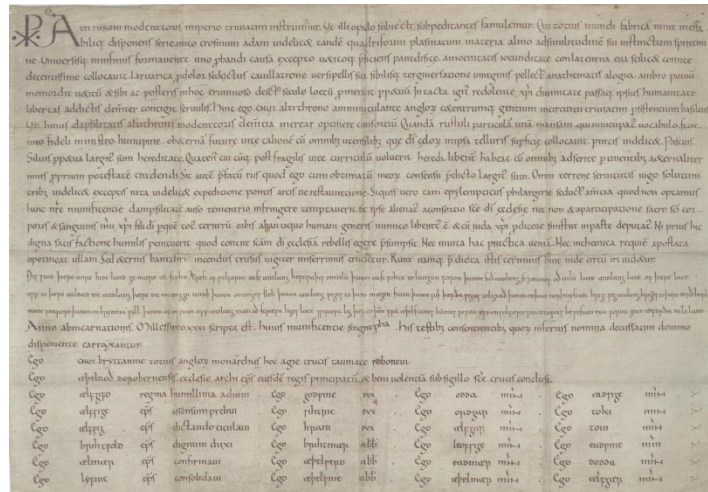
## Exeter Cathedral Library and Archives

February 2019 saw the return of three star items to the Cathedral Library & Archives from their turn at the British Library's excellent **Anglo Saxon Kingdoms** exhibition. We sent the Aethelred or Golden Charter (so called because of its unique gold lettering), a quire from Exon Domesday, and the Exeter Book. The exhibition brought together some 180 Anglo Saxon treasures. Amongst a long list of highlights, for us one of the most significant displays was the one which brought together – probably for the first time ever – the world's only four known surviving codices of Old English poetry. It placed the Exeter Book alongside the Vercelli Book, the Nowell Codex (containing Beowulf) and the Junius manuscript. That is something we won't forget in a hurry.

We were thrilled to learn that the exhibition far exceeded the British Library's expectations for visitor numbers, totalling in excess of 108,000 visitors in the four months it ran from October 2018 to February 2019. We are not currently in a position to host an exhibition on such a scale at the Cathedral, but never fear, there is always something from our collections on display! There is a display case in the south transept for visitors to the Cathedral to enjoy, as well as the entry hall to Library & Archives in the West Wing of the Bishop's Palace.

Throughout the year the Library & Archives also hosts a number of 'spotlight' exhibitions in which one or more items from the strong room are brought up to the Cathedral for a limited period. In March we celebrated British Science Week with a spotlight on the 17<sup>th</sup> century navigator, explorer and buccaneer William Dampier. On 23<sup>rd</sup> April the Cathedral Library's 2<sup>nd</sup> Folio Edition of **'Mr. William Shakespeares comedies, histories, and tragedies; published according to the true originall copies'** (1632) will be on display for its annual outing in celebration of William Shakespeare's birthday. On 29<sup>th</sup> May the **Exeter Book** will make its first public appearance at the Cathedral for the year (other dates will be available during the summer).





D&C 2525: King Canut to Hunuwine, minister;  
grant of one hide at Stoke Canon (1031)

Continuing the Anglo Saxon theme, we are delighted to be staging an exhibition – **‘Forging the Past in Medieval Exeter’** - which focuses on the Cathedral’s Anglo Saxon charters. The exhibition, which runs in the Cathedral Library & Archives from 13<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> May, follows on from the research of Dr Levi Roach at the University of Exeter, and has been curated by his RA, Dr Jennie English. Dr Roach will be giving an evening lecture entitled **‘Fake Founders and Counterfeit Claims: The Forged Documents of Medieval Exeter’** on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May. Further details of all these events, and others throughout the year, can be found on the ‘What’s On’ pages of the Cathedral website: [www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/news-events/whats-on/](http://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/news-events/whats-on/).

Ellie Jones, Cathedral Archivist

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## University of Exeter Library Heritage Collections

### Special Report: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Libraries Project - The Northcott Theatre Archive

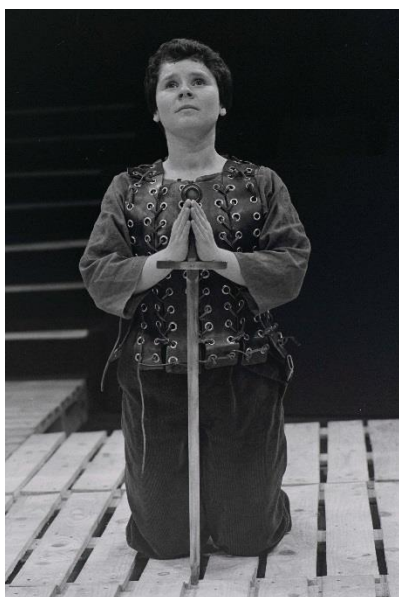
Exeter University’s 21<sup>st</sup> Century Library initiative has funded three temporary Project Archivists to catalogue a number of important archives within its Special Collections. One such archive is the Northcott Theatre Archive (EUL MS 348).

The archive contains a wealth of records relating to the Northcott's productions and administration. Including show files, prompt books, administrative records, programmes, posters, photographs, press cuttings, design plans and much more. These records provide a rich resource for research into a wide range of themes; helping chart the development of regional theatre in the South West, illustrating the work behind bringing a production to the stage, and showing changing trends in theatre going.



*Assorted programmes from the Northcott Archive (EUL MS 348)*

The Northcott Theatre repertory company fostered a wealth of young acting talent, many of whom have gone on to become household names. These include Celia Imrie, Robert Lindsay, John Nettles, Imelda Staunton, David Sterne, Lesley Joseph, Geraldine James and David Suchet, among many others. These early performances, and the wonderful set designs and staging, are captured in the production photographs taken by the theatre's photographers. We are lucky to have the archive of one of the photographer's, Nicholas Toyne, which contains his negatives for all the productions he photographed over nearly twenty years working with the theatre (1967-c1986). Toyne's archive (EUL MS 383) has also been catalogued as part of the project and, with his kind permission, our colleagues at the University Digital Humanities Lab are helping us to digitise many of these fascinating images to create an online exhibit. Though some of these photographs provide details of the actors shown, a large number have no identification and once the exhibit is live we would love the public to share their knowledge by commenting on the images, sharing their reminiscences and helping us to put names to all the faces. A number of university and am-dram productions also feature in the images, so you may even spot yourselves in there!



*Imelda Staunton in Saint Joan 1979 (EUL MS 383) ©Nicholas Toyne*



*Opening Night at the Northcott Theatre (EUL MS 383) ©Nicholas Toyne*

The archive of arts and environmental charity Common Ground and several of our smaller Middle Eastern archives are also being catalogued as part of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Libraries project. You can find out more about all of these projects by following our twitter feed @UoEHeritageColl or visiting our blog at <http://specialcollections.exeter.ac.uk/>

Caroline Walter  
Project Archivist (Northcott Theatre Archive)

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## Pictures from the 2018 AGM



Thank you to everyone who came to the autumn 2018 FODA meeting at St Katherine's Priory – it was an excellent turnout for an excellent day.



John Allan presented a specially commissioned sgraffito-decorated jug from the Bideford Pottery to Ian Mortimer in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the society during his time as chair.

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## **A date for your diary**

### **Advance notice of the FODA AGM 2019**

The FODA AGM will take place on the morning of Saturday, 21st September 2019 in St Nicholas's Priory, Exeter. Further details will appear nearer the time.

Details of FODA events are also available on the website: [www.foda.org.uk/main/events.htm/](http://www.foda.org.uk/main/events.htm/).

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