



The Friends of Devon's Archives

www.foda.org.uk

Registered Charity 1107394

c/o Devon Heritage Centre, Great Moor House,
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Welcome to the Spring 2020 Newsletter

This is the first and, I hope, last FoDA Newsletter to come out in a period of national “lockdown” and as such our welcome is very sincere and I hope its content offers you some solace as FoDA plays its part in keeping the Devon archive community in touch. Some good news to cheer us up - toward the end of February FoDA was awarded a grant of £21,000 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund for the Norden Survey (more below). This project is a perfect exemplar of how modern technology enables archive research, training and communication to go on undaunted. The DRO, DRA, DHS and community archives across the County more than ever offer a sense of stability and belongingness underpinning the County's well-being. What an archive for the future is being accumulated right now in every town and village.

Katharine Chant, FoDA Chair

We start, however, on a sad but celebratory note :

Death of Margery Rowe, Devon County Archivist, 10 March 2020

Margery was involved from the very start of the Friends of Devon's Archives in 1996 and retired as a Committee member in 2012. Her very good friend, Dr Todd Gray, former Chairman of FoDA delivered the following eulogy at her funeral service held on 3 April at the Exeter and Devon Crematorium. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

**“Margery Rowe
3 April 2020, Exeter Crematorium**

Margery defined herself as an archivist. She came to Exeter in 1956 and spent the next forty years happily working first in the Exeter City Record Office and then eventually in what became the Devon Record Office. Her time as Devon County Archivist is remembered with considerable fondness and gratitude not just by her fellow archivists but by historians across England and by others in many other countries across the globe. And always with a sense of humour, cheerfulness and a decided lack of pretension. It was not surprising that when she retired her colleagues presented her with a *festschrift*.

Margery was an archivist's archivist. She took tremendous joy in manuscripts and willingly regularly worked on weekends and in her evenings. She had what she called 'an archivist's nose', the ability to find documents. Margery knew her collections and until this past year could remember individual documents by their long reference numbers – one could test her by asking the citation for an obscure manuscript and she never failed. She adored her records.

One of Margery's archival legacies stems from her devotion to having satellite archive offices at Plymouth and Barnstaple. She also established service points in libraries across the county. Margery felt Devon was too large to expect researchers to travel to Exeter from all its corners and her priority was service to the public. She established the North Devon archive in 1988 and it was because she had the foresight to arrange a long lease for the Athenaeum that it became impossible years later for Devon County Council to dislodge that institution from the Barnstaple building during the recent austerity cuts. Her actions ensured the survival of the North Devon Record Office.

During her working years Margery acted as editor of *Devon & Cornwall Notes & Queries* (twenty-four years) and edited three volumes for the Devon & Cornwall Record Society. She was active in a great range of other societies as well – the Devon History Society, the Centre for Maritime Historical Studies, Devon Gardens Trust and the Association of County Archivists amongst others.

Upon her retirement she worked on two very different series of books. First, she was general editor for the four volumes of the editions of Reverend Swete's journals and then embarked upon a number of books on Devon maps. In this she worked with Mary Ravenhill and they went by the name of MR2. Their catalogue of Devon's manuscripts maps is a masterpiece. Margery had a great sense of public duty.

Her home life was important to her and she took particular joy in a series of cats: Susie and Oliver come to mind but there were others, all of whom gave Margery great joy. A keen tennis-player when she was young, Margery went to ground during Wimbledon fortnight and seldom answered her telephone.

Margery was proud of her Manchester roots and was devoted to her family. It was a great joy to her when her brother Geoff and sister in law Claude travelled from France when her colleagues organised a celebration of her life's work in 2018. Margery spoke without notes for more than an hour and presented an unforgettable insight into the running of Devon's archives after the war. It was inspirational. A particular joy for her that day was having in

attendance Jan Wood, a current staff member of the record office; this made Margery feel she was not forgotten.

The last year had been difficult for Margery. A stroke in July 2018 had gone undiagnosed and her health afterwards had sharp ups and downs but over the last 6 weeks there was a sharp decline. This was all the harder to bear for her because some ten years ago an unrecognised tumour left her with mobility problems from which she never fully recovered. Margery's recent life turned inward. We spoke nearly every day for these last 10+ years – and others had their time slots (Joan on Sunday mornings, Geoff on Sunday afternoons, Minda on Saturday afternoons) which kept Margery in touch with the world; a small circle of her friends were faithful to the end. Those who knew Margery recognised her kindness and strength but also a personal integrity. When she arrived in Exeter sixty-four years ago Professor Joyce Youings gave her one piece of advice - make yourself useful. Margery was certainly that and some researchers for many years to come will unknowingly be in her debt. But beyond the public persona was an individual that her friends cherished and will sorely miss."

Plymouth Update: The Box

In recent weeks we've been monitoring the fast-changing health situation regarding Covid-19 and taking regular advice from the Director of Public Health. We've been trying to remain positive but, based on the most up-to-date advice from the government, we've decided to postpone our launch on 16 May. We'll be reviewing the situation regularly and will announce a new opening date as soon as we can.

We'll also be postponing our Preview Weekend on 2 and 3 May but still intend to hold this later in the year. If you live in the PL1-7 or PL9 areas please continue to register for our ticket ballot with your preferred Saturday or Sunday time slot. We'll confirm the new dates as soon as we're able.

Where possible we'll be doing what we can to continue with our planning and preparations behind the scenes so we're ready to open when the time is right.

We'll also be continuing to share content about our collections, figureheads and artists online in the hope it will provide you with some enjoyment and something different to read about during these difficult times.

After all our hard work over the last few years this is a hugely difficult decision for us but the welfare of our staff, partner organisations, suppliers, contractors and future visitors is our top priority.

We hope as many of you as possible stay well and look forward to welcoming you all to The Box when this is over.

Our historic properties, Smeaton's Tower and the Elizabethan House will also remain closed for the time being and we will update you about opening dates for these when we can.

We are also exploring options to postpone the History Festival to later in the year or take it online for 2020.

Plymouth City Council Leader, Tudor Evans OBE said: "We understand the immense disappointment after all the extraordinary work that has taken place to bring this world class project to fruition. Once these dark times are over The Box will open and I feel sure it will be a shining light that everyone can look forward to experiencing and enjoying."

For the latest government information on Covid-19 please visit www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-health-and-social-care

To stay up-to-date with The Box visit www.theboxplymouth.com

About The Box

The Box is a major new cultural and heritage attraction set to open in Plymouth's city centre on 16 May 2020 [now postponed] as part of the Mayflower 400 commemorations. The Museum and Art Gallery, former Central Library and St Luke's Church buildings have been transformed into a venue and visitor experience fit for the 21st century with a series of large-scale galleries will highlight the city's fine art, decorative art, natural history, human history, film, photographic and archive collections.

Additional galleries will be dedicated to a changing programme of exciting temporary exhibitions that mark key anniversaries and showcase the work of high-profile artists. There will also be café, retail, education and research spaces, an ambitious events programme, plus a new outdoor piazza.

The Box is led by Plymouth City Council in partnership with the University of Plymouth and the National Museum of the Royal Navy. It is supported by a range of funders including Plymouth City Council, National Lottery Heritage Fund, Arts Council England and the British Film Institute.
www.theboxplymouth.com

Update from the Membership Secretary

So far this year most of our existing members have renewed their subscriptions and we can welcome three new members: Abi Gray, Marion Hardy and C. D. C. Pound.

Our paid up membership now stands at 157 made up of 100 individual members, 14 family members (counted as 28), 11 institutional members and 18 life members.

Not bad but it would be nice to increase the numbers.

Many of you may be members of other societies with an interest in local history and archives. Why not ask them if they would join and support Devon's archives directly?

Peter Towey, FSG, Membership Secretary, Friends of Devon's Archives

SW Heritage Trust Report

The current crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic has had a significant impact on the Devon Archives & Local Studies Service. The Devon Heritage Centre and North Devon Record Office closed to the public on 18 March for the foreseeable future. It has been a busy period for us as we ensure the security of the collections and buildings and adjust to home working. We are also keeping abreast of government information as it emerges and implementing that which is applicable to the Trust. We are aiming to answer enquiries, although our response may take longer and there may be some enquiries that we are not able to answer due to not being on site. We are also only able to offer a restricted research service. We have unfortunately had to postpone all events and talks scheduled to take place over the next few months. At the time of writing the decision has been taken to postpone all public events up until the end of May in the first instance.

Prior to the current restrictions it had been a busy few months for the Devon Archives & Local Studies Service. In the autumn we were sorry to say goodbye to Stuart Tyler, Public Service Team Manager, but have been pleased to welcome Scott Pettitt into his new role as Senior Archivist, which he started in January.

Work is underway on a number of projects. The South West Police Heritage Trust have appointed an archivist to work on the collection of the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary now housed at the Devon Heritage Centre and we are working collaboratively to ensure preservation of this key collection and access to it. We are also working with Bristol Culture and the British Library as part of a national project to contribute copies of some of our extensive oral archive for preservation in the national collection. The initiative is part of the Unlocking Our Sound Heritage project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund to address the threat facing the UK's sound heritage. For more details see <https://www.bl.uk/projects/unlocking-our-sound-heritage>.

The Trust is also a partner in 'Devon in the 1920s', a new collaborative project being led by the Devon History Society. It aims to explore the distinctiveness of the history of Devon during that decade, through research carried out by individuals and organisations. This will then be shared and celebrated at planned events. The launch event was due to take place on 30 March at the Devon Heritage Centre and will now be rescheduled.

The support for the North Devon Record Office continues to be strong. We rely on financial contributions to enable us to run the archive service in north Devon. It is thanks to the generosity of town and parish councils, local organisations and Devon County Council that the North Devon Record Office can continue. There has been a huge response to our appeals for financial help and we are delighted that a total of 46 organisations in north Devon have pledged their support in the past year. We were due to hold an event on 24 March to thank funders, but this has had to be postponed.

We are very pleased to be working in closer partnership with the North Devon Athenaeum. We have recently signed a joint agreement which will lead to a number of benefits for local researchers. This includes making the catalogue of the North Devon Athenaeum available in an integrated way with the catalogue of the North Devon Record Office, so creating a one-stop shop for people wanting to find out about the archive collections held by both organisations.

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

News from the Devon Heritage Centre

As an unavoidable result of the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic, the Devon Heritage Centre closed to the public until further notice from Thursday 19 March. Staff from the Heritage Centre are now working from home, and this also applies to staff from all the other institutions that are run by the South West Heritage Trust: the North Devon Record Office, the Somerset Heritage Centre and three museums in Somerset.

Although this extended closure is an unscheduled response to tragic circumstances, it has given staff from the Heritage Centre the opportunity to get on with elements of our work which are normally hard to fit in around our usual public service commitments. While it isn't possible to undertake any direct work with collections of records, some staff will be engaged in entering details of collections of records onto our accessions database. As the Heritage Centre and its predecessor institutions have been collecting records since the 1930s, there is a substantial backlog of such information, and a key benefit of doing this is the fact that once details of collections are on our database they are generally available for the public to locate via our online catalogue, thus enhancing remote access to the

service's collections. Staff will be using the period of closure to make helpful inroads into this backlog.

Aside from that, staff will be answering enquiries and undertaking research where possible, but the extent to which they can do this will necessarily be limited by lack of access to the Centre. We will also be posting a lot of online content about what is going on around the Trust, so keep an eye on the 'Projects, News and Blogs' section of the Trust website (<https://swheritage.org.uk/news/>) and also the archive service's Facebook page and Twitter feed.

Obviously everyone's lives are filled with uncertainty at the moment, and it's difficult to make detailed plans for the future, but we look forward to welcoming everyone back to the Heritage Centre as soon as we can.

Brian Carpenter, Community Learning Officer
Devon Archives and Local Studies Service

Volunteer Work at the Devon Heritage Centre

As always, there has been a wide range of invaluable volunteer work going on at the Heritage Centre over the past year.

Several of our archive volunteers spend their regular sessions with us working on collections of records which require sorting and cataloguing. These can include collections which have been with us for many years and newly-acquired ones, of which there's never a shortage. Except at the moment, when we're closed, which probably means that a lot of records are going to come in when we re-open and we'll need our volunteers more than ever.

Collections which volunteers have assisted in processing recently have included the White Collection, a miscellaneous collection acquired from a very regular donor, which is full of interesting local history items from many parts of Devon, and the Tiverton War Memorial Trust collection, which comprises material from local organisations in Tiverton as well as some of wider interest. This collection includes personal letters from Viscount Palmerston dating from 1859, and a file of ninety letters from British captives held in France in 1805 and 1806. Two other volunteers are working their way through a series of deposits of archive material which came to us from Torquay Library over many years, including World War Two air raid wardens' records for the area, and also original plans and drawings of Oldway Mansion, built at Paignton for the Singer family of sewing machine fame. Other volunteers have more specialised cataloguing jobs, and several have been working on collections of faculties from the records of the Diocese of Exeter, which have never been catalogued in detail before. One of the volunteers has just begun work on faculties relating to Cornish parishes, Cornwall having been part of the Diocese of Exeter until 1876.

Our longest-serving volunteer, retired archivist John Booker, has been working since 2013 on our ongoing project to catalogue the records of the Devon Quarter Sessions courts. This project, which was originally called *The Right to Remain Silent?*, was initially funded by a grant from the National Archives, and the first year's work, which began in the summer of 2012, was undertaken by an archivist called Bob Bennett. Once Bob left, John took over, and he has been working diligently on it ever since. The cataloguing of what are known in the office as the 'Quarter Sessions Bundles', because they are literally bundles of documents, began in 1733 and has now reached 1770. In terms of trends which he has recently noticed, John says that 'more people are being sentenced for transportation to the Americas, even for as little as milking someone else's cow in the dead of night'. Two volunteers, Christine and Stafford Cavill, have now been working for more than two years on the photographs which are part of the records of St.Loye's College, the pioneering Exeter establishment where they were both pupils.

We are also currently hosting a small team of volunteers who are working for the South West Police Heritage Trust on records of the Devon and Cornwall Police which are being transferred to the Heritage Centre.

Last but not least, our Conservation Unit has a very reliable band of volunteers who are engaged in a range of tasks, including cleaning, packaging and surveying the Quarter Sessions records which John Booker is cataloguing, making calico packaging material for the protection of rolled documents, maps and seals, and cleaning twentieth century photographic material from our collections. Conservation volunteers are also working on material from other locations, including a collection of glass plate negatives from the well-known Barnstaple furniture company Shapland and Petter, which have come to us from the Museum of North Devon, and another two volunteers are working on items from the Devon and Exeter Institution. A small group of volunteers who are all members of the Arts Society's Exeter branch are working on drawings from the collection of Herbert Read, the Exeter firm of ecclesiastical woodcarvers.

Unfortunately, we have no current vacancies for volunteers, but this could change in the future. Keep an eye on the South West Heritage Trust website (www.swheritage.org.uk) for details.

Brian Carpenter, Community Learning Officer
Devon Archives and Local Studies Service

Dates for your Diary – Forthcoming Conferences

Plymouth Octopus Project, 17 April and 15 June 2020, Devon Family History Society - **NOW POSTPONED**

Plymouth History Festival Local Studies Day, 9 May 2020, Devon Family History Society - **NOW POSTPONED UNTIL MAY 2021**

Opening of The Box, 16 May 2020 **NOW POSTPONED**

Mayflower 400 event, August 2020, Devon Family History Society – **IT IS HOPED THAT THIS WILL GO AHEAD**

Joint presentation FoDA/DRA/DHS, 3 September 2020, at Devon Rural Archive – see below

FoDA AGM & Conference, 24 November 2020, at Devon Rural Archive

Joint presentation:

The chief rents of Moretonhampstead, 1639-1840: how to use a problematic source

An illustrated talk by Dr Ian Mortimer, Historian and Writer

THURSDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 7PM

Imagine you had an annual directory listing everyone who owned or lived in every property in your town from the early seventeenth century to the nineteenth, how wonderful that would be! In borough rentals we have almost that – a list of all the freeholders, leaseholders or tenants paying the chief rent on a property – EXCEPT that none of the said rentals state exactly who was paying for each house. Sorting out who lived where is thus a problem of immense complexity. However, the potential rewards are so great that it is worth the undertaking. If we can interpret these documents accurately

we can work out much more than simply who lived where. We can chart the expansion of the town and the subdivision of individual properties. We can date the built fabric of subdivided plots with greater accuracy. We can start to provide a social context for the houses – who built which structure and when and why. This, therefore, is a talk about overcoming very difficult archival research problems as much as it is about borough rentals.

Dr Ian Mortimer has edited two volumes of 17th century documents, and written 11 history books, the guide to the literary archives in the University of Exeter Library, 28 peer-refereed research articles, one volume of poetry, four novels and a book about the meaning of running. Between 1991 and 2003 he worked for a succession of archive and historical research organisations, including Devon Record Office, the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts and the universities of Exeter and Reading. He has also served as a member and officer for many heritage organisations. Ian is best known, however, as the author of The Time Traveller's Guides series, the fourth of which, *Time Traveller's Guide to Regency Britain*, is nearing completion.

Tickets: £5 each

All lectures are held at the DRA, in the grounds of Shilstone House near Modbury.
Complimentary refreshments are available from 6:30pm, when the Archive opens.

To purchase tickets please contact Abi Gray on 01548 830832, or email office@dra.uk.net.
Tickets are in high demand and are allocated on a first come first served basis.

Devon Rural Archive, Shilstone, Modbury, PL21 0TW
A part of The Fenwick Charitable Trust, Registered Charity No. 1007957

Norden Survey

‘17th Century Communities in Devon: People and their Landscape in the Norden Survey of 1613’.

FoDA is delighted that the bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund has been successful. The launch of the project which was due to take place on 24th March 2020 at Devon Rural Archive had to be postponed. But David Stone, who is leading the project for FoDA has now adopted this approach to the first stage of the project: contacting groups and individuals by email as and when required so if people have any queries, however small, about the Latin and palaeography of the Norden survey they can contact him. We do all have access to the whole of the document online, via the London Metropolitan Archive. David is also drawing up and circulating some written guidelines about the presentation and format of transcriptions and translations. The postponed launch meeting will now become a progress meeting!

All members are welcome to be part of this project and if you are interested please contact:
davidstonemedievalist@gmail.com

A reminder that the manors covered are: Bovey Tracy, Ashburton, Bradninch, Buckfasrleigh, Dunkeswell, Exeter Castle, Heathfield in Aveton Gifford and Ottery St Mary.

There will be full progress report in the next Newsletter. Further information provided by Dr David Stone accompanies this email.

Devon Bibliography

With the start of the new decade and with the designation of Exeter as UNESCO city of literature, which places much emphasis on Exeter as a publication centre, the *Devon bibliography* looked back over the last decade to survey and analyse the publishing landscape in Devon. During the decade the *Devon bibliography* listed just over 4,000 published documents relating to Devon. To these must be added several hundred periodicals, newspapers and maps. These publications were issued by 1223 identified publishers. A [complete listing](#) is given in the bibliography and there is a brief analysis in the February issue of the [Westcountry Studies](#) newsletter.

[Devon Libraries local studies website](#) has been recently been unearthed for the period 1997 to 2005 in an unusual exercise in digital archaeology. Devon County Council's local studies library website disappeared from the open web when the plug was pulled by the County Council in 2015 after the Westcountry Studies Library had been transferred to the South West Heritage Trust. It was thought that all had been irretrievably lost, but Brian Randall located some pages from a web archive for the [Genuki](#) website and some had also been used for work on the *Devon bibliography*. Digging has retrieved more than 5,000 web pages posted during the period from 1997 to 2005 when the local studies catalogue database was finally transferred from the original d-Base files to System Simulation software. While the text appears to have been well archived, unfortunately many of the images have been lost. The present version of the South West Heritage Trust on-line catalogue does list 806 web pages produced by the Westcountry Studies Library but cannot display or link to them. An interim set of links is now provided on the [Devon bibliography website](#) but more have since been located. The listings on the web pages include an [author listing](#) of some 50,000 books relating to the Westcountry, Devon, Somerset, Dorset, Cornwall, Bristol and the Channel Islands. Most of these records are also presented in a [listing by place](#) and some also by subject. Many of them give locations in Plymouth and Torquay, which are no longer included in the SWHT catalogue. There is also a place listing of about 8,000 [periodical articles](#) and 3,500 [topographical prints](#) dating from between 1660 and 1870 which are listed by place, subject and engraver. The monthly [Annales occidentales : a bibliographical newsletter](#) is also archived from 1999 to 2005 and gives some indication of the level of activity in Devon's local studies libraries at that time as well as a monthly list of recent publications.

The pages on maps in the *Devon bibliography* have now had a wholesale recasting with clickable maps leading to listings of [national grid](#) maps and the earlier [county series](#) sheets. The national grid sheets for each 10Km square are introduced by images of the area from Saxton (1575), Donn (1765), Greenwood (1827) and later boundary maps. This is not yet complete as much previous work was lost but work is also in hand to identify edition sheets of the large-scale plans and to integrate onto the national grid base the Devon road maps of Ogilby (1675) the first to adopt the one inch scale. These homespun presentations do not replace the excellent interactive map coverage to be found in the [National Library of Scotland](#) Ordnance Survey website, the [Old Maps](#) nationwide coverage or Devon's [Know your place](#). While these provide marvellous opportunities for research across seamless mapping, they do not always make it easy to run to earth the original maps on which these resources are based. When complete the map listings in the bibliography will provide details of locally held copies of more than 17,000 Ordnance Survey maps and plans. The early 1:500 surveys of Plymouth in about 1860 and Exeter in 1876 are also being added as are the Goad insurance plans. These were published at a scale of 1:480 for Exeter from 1888 to 1962 and are in many respects more detailed than the OS 1:500 plans, giving a wealth of information on the construction of individual buildings, but only for a restricted central area. Copies are held in the Devon Heritage Centre and they are also available for Exeter and Plymouth on aperture cards. The base sheets for 1888 are accessible on-line at the BL website but they were regularly updated. The compiler is long enough in the tooth to remember visits from staff of Charles E. Goad Ltd who would arrive with paper and paste-pot at Guildhall Library in London in the 1960s to carefully cut out areas to be updated and paste them over the buildings that had changed. For this reason it can be difficult to know exactly which dates the copies in Westcountry Studies cover but this will be made clear in the listings.

Finally, thought is also being given to how the chronological listings for the 1920s might assist in the *Devon in the 1920s* project soon to be launched. A quick glance seems to indicate that the records are still somewhat skeletal but there may be ways of improving them – not least by adding records for items unearthed by those participating in the project. At the very least the listings give an insight into some of the issues that were exercising the minds of people in Devon during the post-war years.

Ian Maxted

Other News Items

From Devon & Cornwall Record Society

Members may be interested to learn that in the autumn of this year the Devon & Cornwall Record Society will publish a new volume about the Exeter cloth industry in the 18th century. Edited by Todd Gray, it arises from his recent discovery of a book which preserves an exciting collection of 18th-century Exeter cloth samples, with examples of the merchants' trade symbols and much new information. It belonged to Claude Passavant, best known as the man who ran the Exeter carpet factory, whose beautiful products are now very rare. Hitherto, examples of Exeter cloth surviving above ground have been extremely rare. The volume includes over 2000 Exeter cloth samples, much the largest selection surviving today, so this is an important find.

Todd has also brought together 13 other contributors who offer essays on specific areas of the Exeter cloth trade, including dyeing and fulling, merchants' marks and cloth seals. Among the contributors are our own members Martin Watts, Tony Collings and John Allan, and Mike Nix, Peter Maunder and Mike Patrick, members of the Tiverton Archaeological Society and Topsham Museum.

The volume, entitled *The Exeter Cloth Dispatch Book, 1763–5*, will be published in the autumn of this year. It is available to members of the Devon & Cornwall Record Society at £16.50 or after publication at £30. If you would like to join the society and receive this volume on publication at the reduced price, please visit the DCRS website, where a form will be found with which you can join the society and get a copy @ £16.50. Alternatively, use the form accompanying this newsletter.

From Devon Family History Society

Plymouth Local Studies Day postponed to May 2021.

Mayflower 400 event, August 2020: [Mayflower International Genealogical Conference 2020](#), booking is now open.

Mayflower International Genealogical Conference

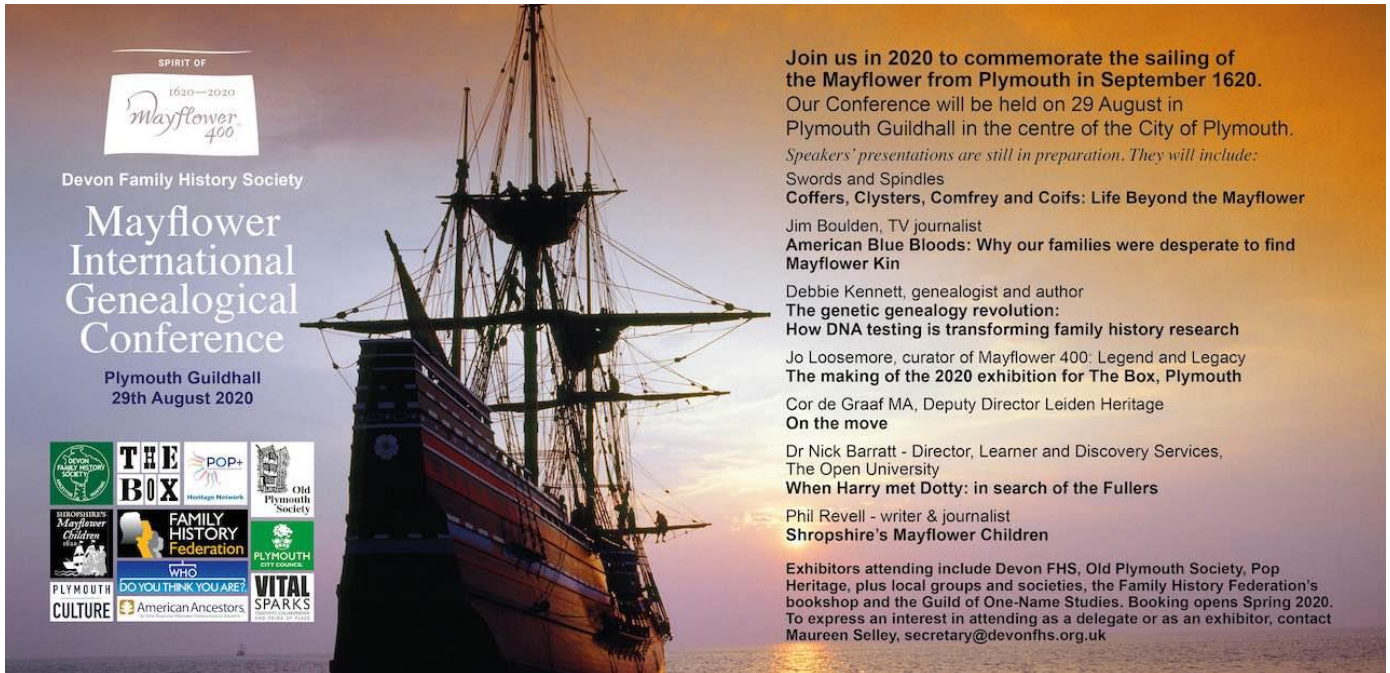
Everyone has a history. Your own ancestors were alive when the Mayflower sailed - otherwise you wouldn't be here.

They have experienced wars, epidemics, changes in their ways of life, perhaps wealth or poverty. Their children survived and you are here.

With some guided research and possibly a DNA test, you too could name your ancestors, perhaps back to 1620.

The Mayflower passengers decided to undertake a voyage which contributed to the development of today's United States of America.

Their reasons were varied. Those later called Pilgrims escaped religious persecution; servants hoped to improve their status; tradesmen had skills to share; merchants sailed to find new sources of trade and wealth; the captain and crew had a job to take all safely to their destination - although the Mayflower didn't arrive where they had planned.

The poster features a large image of the Mayflower ship sailing on the ocean at sunset. On the left, the text reads: "SPIRIT OF 1620-2020 Mayflower 400", "Devon Family History Society", "Mayflower International Genealogical Conference", "Plymouth Guildhall", "29th August 2020". Below this is a grid of logos for partner organizations: Devon Family History Society, THE BOX, POP+, Old Plymouth Society, Plymouth City Council, Plymouth City Museum & Galleries, Plymouth City Library, Plymouth City Archives, Plymouth City Council, Plymouth City Museum & Galleries, Plymouth City Library, Plymouth City Archives. On the right, the text reads: "Join us in 2020 to commemorate the sailing of the Mayflower from Plymouth in September 1620. Our Conference will be held on 29 August in Plymouth Guildhall in the centre of the City of Plymouth. Speakers' presentations are still in preparation. They will include: Swords and Spindles, Coffers, Clysters, Comfrey and Coifs: Life Beyond the Mayflower, Jim Bouden, TV journalist, American Blue Bloods: Why our families were desperate to find Mayflower Kin, Debbie Kennett, genealogist and author, The genetic genealogy revolution: How DNA testing is transforming family history research, Jo Loosemore, curator of Mayflower 400: Legend and Legacy, The making of the 2020 exhibition for The Box, Plymouth, Cor de Graaf MA, Deputy Director Leiden Heritage, On the move, Dr Nick Barratt - Director, Learner and Discovery Services, The Open University, When Harry met Doty: in search of the Fullers, Phil Revell - writer & journalist, Shropshire's Mayflower Children. Exhibitors attending include Devon FHS, Old Plymouth Society, Pop Heritage, plus local groups and societies, the Family History Federation's bookshop and the Guild of One-Name Studies. Booking opens Spring 2020. To express an interest in attending as a delegate or as an exhibitor, contact Maureen Selley, secretary@devonfhs.org.uk".

Many of the Mayflower passengers have descendants today who are proud to tell their stories.

Well-known and entertaining speakers will share some of their research and also encourage those attending to consider investigating their own family histories - not just a list of names and dates, but the stories of the lives that they led: where they lived and worked, why they moved from place to place, their families, their occupations and their beliefs, their highs and lows.

You may solve a family mystery or uncover a skeleton or two!

Thanks to the generosity of grants from the Mayflower 400 Community Sparks Fund, Plymouth Octopus Project, Devon Family History Society and the Lady Neville Charity, the [Devon Family History Society](http://www.devonfhs.org.uk) is offering an entrance fee of just £5, for a whole day of lectures.

Family History Talks and Help Desks during May, June and July 2020 are available to local Societies and Groups, to inspire an interest in those who made us what we are today.

- For more information please email secretary@devonfhs.org.uk
- To book your ticket visit <http://www.devonfhs.org.uk/shop/mayflower.php>

Devon History Society/Devon Family History Society/South West Heritage Trust

Devon in the 1920s – A new research collaboration

One of the victims of the coronavirus epidemic was the launch (planned for 30 March) of the new 'Devon in the 1920s' research collaboration. Hosted by Devon History Society, Devon Family History Society and the South West Heritage Trust, this project aims to engage local researchers in bringing to life the history of the county during the 1920s.

The 1920s often appears as a 'forgotten' decade, sandwiched between the dramas of the First World War and the Great Depression. It was a time of reconstruction and hopes for a better life; of promises made and broken; of the fruition of new technologies such as motor transport and the wireless; of the British Empire at its greatest extent and yet challenged as never before by its subjects; of 'flappers' and the final grant on equal terms of the Parliamentary vote.

The research project offers opportunities for anyone to contribute stories of their families in Devon in the 1920s, or to research areas that contribute to specific themes, or histories of their own communities in the 1920s. Our planned themes are: Legacy of the First World War; Growing Up; Rural Life; Progress and new Technologies; and Holidays and Leisure. We are looking to draw out what made Devon distinctive in this decade. We're also interested in retrieving research already undertaken on the county in this period.

We very much hope that members of FoDA will be interested in contributing to the project with the history of Devon's archives in mind. As a starting point would anyone be interested in reviewing what was happening about archives in Devon in the 1920s? Were there individuals – amateurs or professionals - whose interest in archival collections laid the foundations for the present service and whose work should be commemorated? Then there are the archives themselves. Could the research collaboration and FoDA combine to seek funding for work on any collections with particular resonance for the 1920s?

The restrictions under which we are operating have meant a delay to the launch and the opportunity to set the course for the project, and of course restrict physical access to many resources. But work behind the scenes can and does go on. If you would be interested in contributing to any aspects of the research outlined above, please contact Dr Julia Neville, the Project Manager, on j.f.neville@btinternet.com to discuss your idea.



Family picnic on Dartmoor in the 1920s. Photograph courtesy of Alick Lavers:

Accessions & Reports from Archives around Devon

Devon Heritage Centre

Please see attached Excel spreadsheet kindly supplied by Irene Andrews.

North Devon Record Office

AccNo	Collection Reference	Title/Description	Date	Date received	Extent
ND/2019/62	3398A	Marwood Parish registers of marriage	1983-2002	05/11/2019	2 volumes
ND/2019/63	B1400	Research papers re water mills and sawmills in North Devon and Cornwall	1960s-2014	15/11/2019	1 box
ND/2019/64	B1401	Passmore of Ilfracombe release of property in Helston, Cornwall	1824	22/11/2019	1 parchment
ND/2019/65	B1394	Tom Evans Collection: diaries, history files and accounts	20 th century	26/11/2019	2 boxes
ND/2019/66	B1402	Papers re Private Stanley Bowden and Horace Symons	1923-1974	28/11/2019	1 bundle
ND/2019/67	B1403	North Devon Ordnance Survey maps	1840-1938	17/12/2019	11 maps

Plymouth & West Devon Record Office

See above for The Box update.

University of Exeter Library

No report for this Newsletter

Exeter Cathedral Library & Archives

Exeter Cathedral Library and Archives is very pleased to report that we have reached the Accreditation Standard for a second time. We will continue to try our best to ensure the preservation of our collections, and to do all we can to provide access to them. At the time of writing, our ability to provide on-site access to the collections is limited. The reading room will be closed to the public for

the time being, and all public events have been cancelled. However, we have not stopped work and will continue to do our best to answer as many enquiries as possible and to provide access to content online. Some of the team will be working mostly from home, so please bear with us as there may be delays in responding to some enquiries. Keep checking Exeter Cathedral's website and social media platforms for updates, information, articles, activities, and mini-online exhibitions in the weeks to come.

Ellie Jones, Archivist

Devon & Exeter Institution

Our region revealed: Unlocking the treasures of the Devon and Exeter Institution Illustration Collection

Our region revealed: Unlocking the treasures of the Devon and Exeter Institution illustration collection project was created to digitise the large collection of 9,000 illustrations, previously uncatalogued. The project will make the rich collection accessible to a wider audience via a programme of preservation, conservation and digitisation.

The Devon and Exeter Institution holds a rich and eclectic mix of prints, paintings, photographs and engravings. Political posters, Exeter Diocesan Architectural Society scrapbooks, Exeter Trade Cards, Edward Ashworth's sketchbooks and illustrations of buildings and landscapes to name but a few. These collections provide a fascinating glimpse into the history of our region.

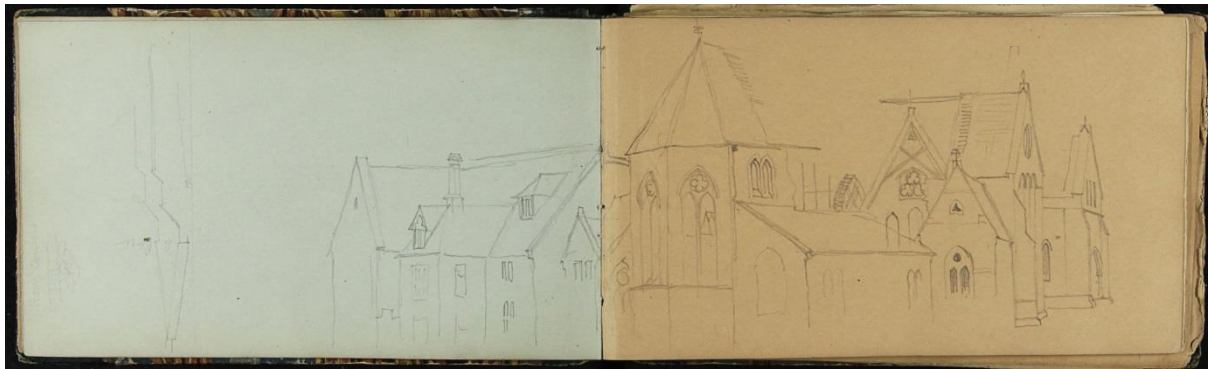
The project is progressing well. With the help of volunteers, we have cleaned, rehoused and catalogued the collection. To date we have scanned and digitised 300 images onto our content management system PastView. Best practice has been established for digitisation of different items (e.g. sketchbooks, wax seals, illustrations etc.) and for key digitisation procedures (e.g. file naming conventions). Attributes, Attribute Sets, Entities, Watermarks and Tags have been set up. This has allowed us to streamline the cataloguing process and will make the items more accessible when users will eventually be able to search for collections using the web interface.

Insight has been an important element in the DEI's attempt to create wider accessibility to its collection. There are many items that few people have seen. There are also many works that are too fragile for display, so by digitising the collection we are making it more accessible than ever before, while continuing to conserve the works themselves. This will allow for new connections to be made within and between DEI's collections. With this in mind we plan to increase access, learning and participation. The collections will be incorporated into future activities, talks and displays. We have had stunning results of scanning the illustrations and sketchbooks. A PastView feature is Book Explorer. This is an intuitive, interactive 3D page turning interface, which enables fluid browsing. Book Explorers turning functionality allows pages to be smoothly and elegantly turned through flawlessly rendered graphics (images below). The digital metadata will allow items to be searched thematically and across collections (e.g. it will be possible to search across collections for topics such as 'Churches', 'Exeter', 'Landscapes', etc.).

We have a new Prints and Drawings page on our website, keeping everyone up to date on what is happening. We will also have a link to the Past View front end site when it is ready.
<https://devonandexeterinstitution.org/about-us/the-library/our-region-revealed-the-illustration-collection/>

We would like to thank FoDA for your generous support for the project. If you would like to know more about the project please contact Carol Anderson: carolanderson@devonandexeterinstitution.org

Carol Anderson, Digitisation Coordinator, Devon and Exeter Institution



Edward Ashworth Sketchbook



Edward Ashworth Sketchbook



Exeter Diocesan Architectural Society scrapbook

Brixham Heritage Museum/ Torquay Museum/ Tiverton Museum of Mid Devon Life

The above Museums have been unable to send reports for this Newsletter.

Totnes Archives

News from Totnes Archive.

Sue King and Jill Drysdale of Totnes Archive are mounting an exhibition in Totnes Museum from April to October 2020.

The Exhibition entitled “Devonians who helped build America” consists of panels describing Totnes and other South Hams persons who went to America in the early 17th and 18th century and made a considerable impact on the early development of the country.

The panels depict a convict who was transported, an indentured servant, Thomas Kellond and Thomas Kirk Regicide Hunters, Christopher Babbage who settled in Salem and was there during the Witch Trials, Francis Champernowne an adventurer who had an island named after him, Nicholas Trist whose grandson married the granddaughter of Thomas Jefferson. Henry Burt who was co-founder of Springfield Massachusetts with Deacon Samuel Chapin all residents of Totnes and District. Samuel Chapin had 60 grandchildren some of the descendants of whom became very famous indeed.

Clint Eastwood and Warren Buffet are both descendants of Samuel Chapin.

The Archive has been busy with many requests for information about diverse topics from the origins of the Brutus Myth to Paranormal investigations.

We are also busy writing and collecting articles for the next edition of our yearly magazine “Totnes Review.” Life is never dull in the Archive.

Devon Rural Archives

We have closed the Archive to the public until further notice, in response to the government advice, and have therefore cancelled or postponed all events and projects until we reopen.

I hope we will be open again by the next newsletter and that I will be able to reveal all the exciting things that we were about to do!

Abi Gray

And Finally ...

FoDA

Our Treasurer gritted his teeth after yet another cheque made out to FODA was returned to him by the bank. When a corrected version was paid in at the Exeter branch he was told that an abbreviated form of the payee's name was not acceptable because of possible confusion. So he went on a search to see exactly what confusion might arise. The Florida Operator and Door Association is unlikely but what of the Federation of Disabled Associations. These have been found for Ghana, Algeria and Togo but

not the UK. The Formula One Drivers Association is not really a group of kindred souls. There are a number of other Friends Groups though. FODA is used by Friends of Delapre Abbey (a house in Northamptonshire, so remote from Devon), Friends of DeKalb Animals (stray dogs in Georgia USA), Friends of Doylestown Airport (in Pennsylvania - USA, not Exeter). Lloyds Bank in Exeter are also unlikely to intercept cheques intended for Friends of Delaware Archives, actually Lloyds seem themselves to be suffering from FODA - fear of doing anything, a widely accepted abbreviation for this distressing condition. He has also discovered why we are not getting any Portuguese subscribers. So, in view of all the above, please ensure that any cheques are made out in full to "Friends of Devon's Archives".

Ian Maxted, Friends of Devon's Archives Treasurer

Blogs:

<http://bookhistory.blogspot.co.uk> Book history

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

<http://manholemiscellany.blogspot.co.uk/2007/04/introduction.html> Manhole miscellany

<http://mayamiscellany.blogspot.co.uk/> Maya miscellany

Contributions to future Newsletters

If you would like to contribute an article to the 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