

Friends of Devon's Archives

Report from the Chair

My report this year will be brief not least because the bulk of our activity this last year has been the Norden project and David Stone will be briefing us all at the end of the meeting.

This has not been an easy year for any organisation so I would like to start off with thanking committee members who have kept us well and truly afloat – special thanks to Brian Carpenter for keeping us connected on-line and managing today, to our efficient, as ever, Secretary, Frances Billinge, to Ian Maxted for his equally efficient treasuring and to Abi Gray for calmly managing the programme changes and working on the promotion and, finally, a big thanks to Sue Jackson for her ceasing the moment with the newsletter – so informative. Ian Mortimer has continued kindly as webmaster but really now has to give up and we are seeking someone else – offers please. This year committee member Richard Spear is standing down – he has done a magnificent job keeping The Box progress firmly on the FODA agenda – thank you

In pursuit of our mission -the preservation and use of historical records throughout Devon and to raise public awareness of their importance for research and education – we have this year:

- made a further grant of £1K to the Devon and Exeter Institution for ‘Our region revealed – Unlocking the treasure of the Devon and Exeter Institution illustration collection’. You will have seen in our last newsletter and, if you are also member of DEI, in their newsletter and webpages the fantastic progress Carol Anderson has made both cataloguing but equally important bringing alive on-line this magnificent collection; this grant has enabled them to purchase a scanner which will greatly speed up this work.
- gave a grant of £1K to the Devon Heritage Centre and were the major funders of their purchase of the Bampton Court Roll of 1549. This was written up in the last newsletter, of course.
- Not in the last financial year reported to this AGM but very recently we made a grant for the purchase by Devon Heritage Centre of the account book of the Walrond family of Bradfield, c.1647-1660 - a fine volume, with detailed entries relating to the running of the estate, improvements to the house and details of those employed by the family complementing other records held relating to the Walrond family.
- Last but not least we successfully bid £20K to NLHF and the Norden Survey Project got underway not quite as we had planned due to the Pandemic - we will be hearing about this soon. We greatly look forward to next year picking up the project seminars in person at the Devon Rural Archive at Shilstone,

And finally I would like to say how delighted we are that the Plymouth & West Devon Record Office has managed to re-open in The Box - can't wait to visit.

Katherine Chant,
Chair of FoDA