

FRIENDS OF DEVON'S ARCHIVES NEWSLETTER, SEPTEMBER 2013

AUTUMN AGM AND CONFERENCE "What's New in the Archives?"

Saturday 19 October 2013 at the Devon Heritage Centre.

This year's Friends of Devon's Archives conference will be held at the Devon Heritage Centre, focusing on recent additions to the Centre's collections, and new ways in which the archives are being made accessible. Heritage Centre staff will give talks on new acquisitions at the North Devon Record Office, developments to the online catalogue (and discoveries among the archives resulting from this work), insight into how new deposits are processed and a look at the Merivale collection, a fascinating piece of social history recently purchased with help from the Friends [see article below].

The AGM and conference will take place on Saturday 19 October, starting at 9.30am (AGM itself 10.00am) and finishing at 4pm. The cost is £18 for members, £23 for non-members, which includes lunch and morning/afternoon tea or coffee. The booking form and further details can be found enclosed with this newsletter.

Stuart Tyler
Secretary

MEMBERSHIP

Annual Subscriptions are due on October 1st. Please check your bank statements before sending a cheque made out to "The Friends of Devon's Archives" to The Membership Secretary, c/o Devon Heritage Centre, Great Moor House, Bittern Road, Sowton, Exeter EX2 7NL. Rates are: Individual £5, Family £8, Group/Organisation £10, Overseas individual £7, Life £100. If you are not sure whether you pay by standing order or not, there will be a list available at the AGM or you can contact me on claregreener@talktalk.net or 01626 867700 to check. Please also let me have your e-mail address if you have not already done so. Thank you.

Clare Greener
Membership Secretary

LAUNCH OF BRUNEL BOOK

Brunel's Atmospheric Railway was successfully published on 8 June in what was probably the most unusual book launch to happen in Devon. A group of members of FoDA along with those from the Broad Gauge Society took the train from Exeter to Totnes and viewed the line painted by William Dawson some 150 years ago. Paul Garnsworthy has to be congratulated on what is a magnificent book and FoDA members will be proud to be associated with it as co-publishers. We have sold our 700 copies and at the time of writing this a new printing is taking place. One of our main aims as a society is the promotion of Devon's archives and this book does it very handsomely. Copies of the new printing can be obtained from any book seller or direct through our distributor, Stevensbooks which can be found at www.stevensbooks.co.uk or at 01392 459760.

Todd Gray
Acting Chairman

ROLL OF HONOUR PROJECT - Update from report in Spring Newsletter 2013

Since the initial surge of volunteers resulting from Peter Towey's article in *The Devon Family Historian* things have quietened down somewhat and volunteers are still needed. Of the 418 parishes with names recorded, almost 45% have been transcribed or are in the process of being transcribed with approximately 4,500 names now in the database. The target date for the website to be up and running is August next year, with all outstanding parishes to be completed prior to that date. The list of the parishes for which volunteers are still sought is updated regularly and can be found on the website.

Pete Best
Project Co-ordinator

PAPERS PURCHASED WITH FoDA FUNDS

The Merivale Collection

Samuel Merivale (1715-1771) was a dissenting minister who came under the influence of Philip Doddridge and spent most of his working life in Tavistock and Exeter. He married first Elizabeth Schellaber and following her death he remarried, this time to Betsy Manning. Their son John Merivale (1752-1831) married Ann Katenkamp (1754-1829). The only son of this marriage was John Herman Merivale (1779-1844), lawyer and literary scholar, who married Louisa Heath. This couple were to have six sons and six daughters, the oldest being Herman (1806-1874), followed by Charles (1808-1893), dean of Ely and historian of the Roman Empire.

In the twentieth century several members of the Merivale family fought in the First World War, so the collection also includes diaries and scrapbooks detailing their experiences of the conflict. More generally, the papers also include correspondence, watercolours and sketches, poems and genealogical notes.

The collection was purchased at auction in May, with funds being contributed by the Friends of Devon's Archives, and [private donors / Rachel Knowles and Richard Stephens].

Stuart Tyler

PLYMOUTH AND WEST DEVON RECORD OFFICE

Members will be pleased to hear that on 3rd September the Plymouth City Council Cabinet endorsed the Council's proposals for a "Plymouth History Centre" which will include a new home for the Plymouth & West Devon Record Office. The History Centre is intended to be within an expanded Plymouth Museum on North Hill but the record office will be fronting onto Tavistock Place. The Council is intending to contribute £3.5m of the £21m total and will be submitting a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for much of the balance in November. We understand that the National Archives have been involved in the planning and support the proposals. FoDA will be submitting a letter in support of the bid when it goes to HLF.

Peter Towey

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

FoDA Plymouth History Day: "Plymouth in the First World War", will be held on Saturday 29 March 2014 at the Sherwell Centre, Plymouth University, North Hill. Speakers will include Todd Gray on Plymouth War Memorials and Cmdr Crighton on the RN & Dockyard. There are two other speakers though the titles of the talks have yet to be agreed. There will also be updates on FoDA's roll of honour project and on the Record Office. Peter Towey is organising it and aims to send members fliers with full details and the cost this autumn.

PLYMOUTH COMMITTEE MEMBER

Peter Towey will shortly be moving from Devon and FoDA would welcome someone to replace him on the Committee to represent the Plymouth area. Anyone interested in fulfilling this role should contact Peter at 20 Skylark Rise, Plymouth, Devon PL6 7SN, Phone: 01752 310852, E-mail: ptowey@sky.com A replacement will not be committing to take over organising the history day; only to attend the four committee meetings in Exeter each year.

Sue Jackson

FoDA Newsletter Editor, September 2013.

This newsletter is produced by the Friends of Devon's Archives, c/o Devon Heritage Centre, Great Moor House, Bittern Road, Sowton, Exeter EX2 7NL.

www.foda.org.uk

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DEVON HERITAGE CENTRE NEWS - APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS

From the Grassroots

Over the next eighteen months the Devon Heritage Centre will be collaborating with the History of Parliament Trust on a project entitled **From the Grassroots: An Oral History of Community Politics in Devon**.

Financed by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the objective of the project is to create an oral history archive of the recorded memories of people involved in politics at grassroots level in Devon since 1945. Once the project has finished - just before the 2015 General Election - the archive will be stored at the Devon Heritage Centre.

While the project will be co-ordinated by a part-time employee who will be based at the Devon Heritage Centre, the interviewers and interviewees will all be volunteers. If you would like to volunteer to take part in either capacity, please give your details to Brian Carpenter at the Devon Heritage Centre:

Brian Carpenter
Community and Education Development Officer
Devon Heritage Centre
Great Moor House
Bittern Road
Sowton
Exeter EX2 7NL
brian.carpenter@devon.gov.uk, 01392 380573

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Name(s)

Address

Contact email:

Contact telephone:

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Lunch plus morning and afternoon coffee/tea is included.

For information on getting to the Devon Heritage Centre, see:

[www.devon.gov.uk/index/councildemocracy/record_office/record_offices_in_devon/visiting_us
.htm](http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/councildemocracy/record_office/record_offices_in_devon/visiting_us.htm)

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