



The Friends of Devon's Archives

www.foda.org.uk

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Welcome to the Autumn 2017 Newsletter

The first important piece of news is that Ellie Jones is editing this newsletter for the first time. Ellie will be known to everyone as the Cathedral Archivist and a FoDA committee member. I am very grateful to her for taking on this responsibility – and I hope everyone supports her enthusiastically in supplying copy for this and future editions.

As most members will already be aware, last week the Friends of Devon's Archives published *Devon Deciphered* by Dr John Booker. This is a palaeographical guide with a difference: it concentrates purely on Devon documents. The twenty examples selected for the volume range in date from the early fourteenth century to the mid-eighteenth, and thus permit readers access to a wide range of forms and hands. Furthermore, by juxtaposing a photograph of the original document and a transcript on the facing page, and adding notes and translations where necessary, the book allows readers to work their way through each document regardless of their knowledge of Latin or previous palaeographical experience. It thus promises to be THE palaeographical guide for people employing Devon manuscripts in their research. The Friends are very grateful to Dr Booker for making his text available to us and being so patient with the terribly slow editor (me). Copies are available direct from Devon Heritage Centre for the price of £10. They can be sent to you for an additional £2.80 postage and packing.

Recent items of business conducted by your committee have included a meeting with a small group from the Devon History Society about our closer working relationship going forward, and in particular our producing a joint programme of events from 2018. In addition we have discussed the future accessibility of local studies resources in the new Plymouth Heritage Centre; the

improved running of some of our own online information services; and the further development of the Devon finding aids on the SWHT website, including the West Country Studies Library's resources. These all remain ongoing issues.

Our April meeting went well with about forty people attending. Robin McInnes lectured on visual sources in Devon for the changing history of our coastline. Deborah Phillips demonstrated how you should best look after your own historical documents at home; and I gave an A-Z talk on themes covered in my new book, *The Time Traveller's Guide to Restoration Britain*.

As reported in the last newsletter, earlier this year we were successful in bidding on a number of items in an eBay sale, which included some printed election material relating to Totnes elections in 1832 and an interesting advertisement for medical care under the Poor Law in 1847, as well as numerous testamentary papers relating to the probate of John Churchward of Totnes, miller, 1789-90, and John Full of Ugborough, yeoman, 1807. These have now been deposited in Devon Heritage Centre with the collection reference ZAKV. In addition, some stray early photographs of the Exeter Chiefs rugby team were located in East Devon by Graham Parnell and handed back to the Chiefs, who were very grateful (but still didn't give Graham a free pass to any future games...)

One item of business that did not work out so well for us was the sale by auction in Ottery St Mary of five eighteenth-century subscription registers from the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital. Unfortunately we only found out about these on the day before the sale. We were thus unable to view the manuscripts in advance and, despite our support and that of the Devon Family History Society, the bid by the SWHT was not high enough to secure the items. If we had had more notice, the outcome might have been different. This loss emphasises the importance of people acting as our eyes and ears – the committee cannot do everything by themselves. If you do hear of Devon manuscript material being sold, please do get in touch with one of the committee as a matter of urgency.

Our next meeting will take place in Barnstaple on 30 September. We will gather at North Devon Record Office at 10:30 am for the AGM and a tour of the newly laid out record office, plus an introduction to the North Devon Athenaeum. After lunch (which will be self-supplied or purchased in town, if you prefer) we will have a tour of the town by our president, John Allan, the leading expert on the historic fabric of Devon, who has arranged access to several historic buildings. The day will end with the last stop of the tour, at the Museum, at which we should arrive about 3:45 pm. The cost has been kept to a minimum £5 for members or £10 for non-members to encourage as many people as possible to come. Please do! You won't get a better guided tour of the historic town from anyone. Bookings should be made by contacting Stuart Tyler at Devon Heritage Centre: email: stuart.tyler@swheritage.org.uk; tel. 01392 888710 (or contact him via the Devon Heritage Centre main line 01392 888700). Payment can be by cheque payable to the Friends of Devon's Archives; alternatively it can be provided on the day (so long as prior booking has been made). The deadline for bookings is Monday 25 September. I look forward to seeing you there.

The last thing I need to mention is that Stuart has indicated that he is going to stand down as secretary from this AGM. We are enormously grateful for all the work he has done for FoDA over the last 5 years: his efficiency has made the job of chairing this organisation considerably easier. However, we are going to be in need of a new officer. It is absolutely essential that this post is filled. We need someone who is efficient and well-organised, and able to attend committee meetings in Exeter. You do not need to be an archival expert. And FoDA's committee meetings are constructive and enjoyable. If you or someone you know could do this, please could you get in touch and let me or Stuart know as soon as possible.

Ian Mortimer, Chairman

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Up-date from the Membership Secretary

As at 18th August our membership consists of 109 single members, 16 family members, 11 groups, and 17 life members. Counting family members as 2, therefore, we have a total of 169 paid-up members. So our membership is edging up!

I hope that, as we settle into the new pattern of meetings, more people will be encouraged to join us. Would it not be really beneficial for the Friends and our aims if we could reach a total membership, of 200? If we could also encourage more younger people to join, it would help to secure our longer-term future.

Peter Towey, Membership Secretary

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South West Heritage Trust

We were very pleased to learn in March that we had been successful with our Accreditation application for the Devon Archive Service. The summary of the report that we received emphasised the significant amount of work that has taken place in the service since the Trust came into being:

‘After many years of uncertainty and difficulty, the service’s move into Trust status has had a transformative impact on Devon Heritage Centre, enabling opportunities for cross heritage connections and the sharing of expertise, a strengthened service offer across the county, and a strategic approach to collections management. In particular, the Trust should be commended for its work in securing and developing an active, positive future for the North Devon Record Office. Both staff and partners deserve congratulations for securing the future of the North Devon site, as well as for their model of cross-county partnership working.’

The Trust now has a **new independent ICT system** with the final work towards this taking place in Devon during January and February. Following the work, staff based in Devon migrated to the new system during the closed period of the Devon Heritage Centre. The new system has been very well received and work between the two counties is much easier now Devon and Somerset staff are on the same system. The closed period also provided the opportunity for work on boxing collections in the strongrooms and adding entries to both the online catalogue and location index.

A **research service** for people unable to visit in person was introduced in February. This has been modelled on a similar service which has been running in Somerset for many years. It is already proving popular, with a number of requests having been made.

The **Devon Remembers Heritage Project** has continued, with several well-attended events. The project supported the Devon History Society to organise a symposium at the University of Exeter on 13 May, which was attended by 65 people. *Oats, Sprats and Barley Bread – feeding Devon in World War I* showcased the research undertaken by the Farming, Fishing and Food Supply Research Group. On 18 May 70 people attended a talk in Dartmouth by Dr Jane Harrold which explored

the role of the town's Britannia Royal Naval College during the First World War, and in particular the stories of 15-year-old cadets sent to war at sea. The project has also supported exhibitions about inshore fishing which is now on display at Sidmouth Museum and Teign Heritage Centre, and on South Hams wrecks, which is on display at Salcombe Maritime Museum.

May was a busy month for events, as we also celebrated the completion of the **Devon Manorial Document Register Project** with an event at the Devon Heritage Centre. As well as representatives from The National Archives, who had funded the project, we were pleased to welcome Dr Nat Alcock, who gave a very informative talk about his extensive experience of manorial document research. The Devon manorial index is now available on TNA's online Discovery catalogue and index system.

This year's first Spotlight Loan at the Museum of Somerset was **Exon Domesday Book**, kindly lent to us by Exeter Cathedral Library & Archives during the months of February and March. The loan was a remarkable success with the public who were fascinated to see a written record of such antiquity and of such significance in English history. Two associated talks were sold out. A Supporters' Event on 9 February offered an opportunity to hear about the recent work of the Trust and to see Exon Domesday.

Over 500 people visited the **Pathways to the Past** map exhibition, which took place at Exeter Guildhall on 22 June and at Wells Town Hall on 28 June. Due to popular demand almost 200 additional visitors had the chance to see the exhibitions on two further days at the Somerset Heritage Centre and Devon Heritage Centre.

We were honoured that Thórdur Aegir Óskarsson, Icelandic Ambassador to the UK, opened our exhibition entitled **Finding Pike Ward: An Icelandic Adventure**. With the help of grants from the Icelandic Embassy and other funders this exhibition tells the story of Pike Ward of Teignmouth, a sea trader who was influential in developing the fishing industry in Iceland. His detailed scrapbooks are held at the Devon Heritage Centre. The exhibition is open at the Teign Heritage Centre, Teignmouth from 27 July until 10 September.

Janet Tall, Head of Archives & Local Studies

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Accessions at the Devon Heritage Centre, Exeter

Select list for the period 1 January to 30 June 2017:

- **Littlehempston History Archive:** DVD containing digital images of material collected over 10 years by a Littlehempston history group, comprising 800 pieces of material, text and photographs about the parish of Littlehempston, arranged by subject. (ref: ZAJY (acc D2017/1))
- **Manor of Totnes:** Totnes rent roll, 1441, with typed transcription in Latin and translation in English (30 pages) and typed research notes (5 pages) on the document. (ref: ZAKA (acc D2017/3))
- **Tilley Collection:** Three files of archaeological survey records of vernacular architecture of the East Devon Pebblebeds, comprising descriptions and photographs of pebble structures, e.g. walls, paths, gutters and buildings built in the 19th-20th century in the area between Ottery

St Mary, Budleigh Salterton, Exmouth and Woodbury. Files arranged by parish. (ref: ZAKC (acc D2017/6))

- **George Carter Collection:** Research papers, photographs and archaeological drawings of George Edward L. Carter of Budleigh Salterton, concerning his archaeological and folklore studies in East Devon and other localities, mainly from the 1930s to the 1950s. Include manuscripts of unpublished research, site reports, excavation photographs, drawings, maps and plans of sites such as Woodbury Common, Jacobs Well, Aylesbeare Common and East Devon Pebblebeds. (ref: CAR (acc D2017/7))
- **Devon Remembers First World War Collection:** Local news relating to Belgian refugees in Hele, visiting injured soldiers from Exeter VADs. (ref: DRP/43 (acc D2017/12))
- **Records of Sidmouth Chapel Street United Reformed Church, 1815-2016;** including registers, minutes, list of members, correspondence, newsletters etc. (ref: 5784D (acc D2017/24))
- **Devon Remembers First World War Collection:** 1. Information on the British Ship SS Galicia that sank off the coast near Teignmouth 12th May 1917. 2. World War 1 ship wrecks off the coast of Teignmouth. (ref: DRP/46 (acc D2017/30))
- **Royal British Legion, Women's Section (Devon County):** Records of the Devon County section of the organisation, now closed, and of various branches in Devon, now closed, 20th-21st century (ref: ZAKH (acc D2017/32))
- **Wartime memorabilia of Jean Winifred Burnell** (born 1928, died 2016) evacuated to Seaton during the "Phoney War" of 1939 at the beginning of the Second World War with her cousin from Essex, including correspondence, printed material, photographs. (ref: ZAKI (acc D2017/33))
- **Tiverton Poor Law Union:** Tiverton Union medical relief return, 8 November 1869. (ref: PLU/Tiverton (acc D2017/34))
- **Exeter St Thomas Parish:** Records of St Thomas the Apostle parish church, also registers and records of Emmanuel church (now closed), and St Andrew, Alphington Road (now closed), 1910-2016 (ref: 4781A (acc D2017/35)).
- **Records of E. and A. Diggins of Paignton, carpenters and builders from 1923-1973, and funeral directors from c. 1945 - c. 1975,** comprising examples of invoices and costs, business correspondence mainly of letters of thanks, funeral books detailing burials and cremations carried out, some Rights of Burial Certificates, examples of office stationery, history of the Company. (ref: ZAKK (acc D2017/39))
- **Booklet, "Rules and orders for the Devon Constabulary",** 1882. (ref: ZAKP (acc D2017/49))
- **Deeds and papers relating to properties in Chudleigh,** including conveyances, mortgages for dwellinghouses, 18th-20th century (ref: ZAKR (acc D2017/51))

- **Axminster Remembers Project:** Betty Harrad's Second World War memories of Axminster (handwritten notes). (ref: ARP (acc D017/53))
- **Devon Remembers First World War Collection:** The 1918 diary of Faith Lowe, a rector's daughter from the parish of Throwleigh. (ref: DRP/52 (acc D2017/56))
- **Additional records of Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital,** including inpatients register, 1911, index of inpatients surgical cases perpetual register, hospital outpatients, Dr. Gordon, volume 1, notes on inpatients, Dr Gordon 1918-1919 and Mr Domville, 1911-1912. (ref: 1260F (acc D2017/60))
- **Glass plate negatives and associated papers, correspondence and newspaper cuttings, relating to the career of photographer Ernest Oddy of Exeter,** in Exeter and Devon, between c. 1932-c. 1939. (ref: EOD (acc D2017/63))
- **Deed relating to assignment of Holsombe, parish of Diptford, Foss to Cranch,** 1748; testamentary papers including inventory, relating to the probate of John Churchward of Totnes, miller, 1789-1790 and of John Full of Ugborough, yeoman, 1807; poster, elections in Borough of Totnes and Bridgetown, 1832, printed handbill, Lord John Russell's address to electors, southern division, County of Devon, 1832, table of quay dues, Manor of Totnes, n.d. (c. 1830s); poster, Totnes Poor Law Union advertisement for medical care and treatment of the poor, 1847. (ref: ZAKV (acc D2017/64))
- **Widcombe-in-the-Moor Parish:** Tithe apportionment 1843, deed of customs recording payment by parishioners of tithes, 1585-1586, feoffees' deeds and papers relating to parish lands, including note of lease of church house and Butpark, 1608, feoffment of church house, 1636, surrender, Lady house and meadow, Dunstone, 1684, lease, church house and Henhay [formerly known as Butpark], 1703, lease, Lady house and Lady land, Dunstone, 1703, lease, Lady land, 1733, lease, platt of land at Dunstone, 1749, transfer of church house and parish lands [Lady house, Lady land and Henhay] to new feoffees, 1759, lease for Lady Meadow, 1779, 1636-1779, other papers, copy extract from will of Sampson Jerman/German of Ashburton, legacy to the poor of Widcombe, 1669, with typed transcription and notes, c. 1947, typed extract from Charities Commission report of 1830 regarding Sampson Jerman's legacy, 1947, agreement, Joseph Winsor Senior and Junior, concerning administration of William Winsor's estate and effects, 1852, notice to quit Jordan Mills, addressed to Edwin Greenslade, 1862, empty envelope, 1952. (ref: 2955A (acc D2017/66))
- **Colaton Raleigh Charities:** The ledger of Balaman's (Bellamont's) Charity, recording the distribution of the income of the charity to recipients. (ref: 7239F (acc D2017/67))
- **South Brent Parish:** Tithe apportionment, 1839, parish copy, complete, originally sealed. (ref: 3250A (acc D2017/72))
- **Paignton School:** Log books, 1874-1900, 1901-1939, Paignton Girls' School; admission register, 1941-1960, Paignton Senior Girls' School, Curledge Street; file of admission forms (5), 1959-1960, letter relating to admission to Paignton County Secondary School for Girls, Curledge Street, 1961. (ref: 2731C (acc D2017/74))

- **Ladysmith Middle School [now Ladysmith Junior School], Exeter:** Records of Ladysmith Schools, Heavitree, comprising admission registers (14 volumes) 9 March 1908 - 19 January 1978; numerous loose sheets from admission registers in 4 sets; log books (4 volumes) 3 August 1937 -- 8 April 1987; 'Celebrating Life at Ladysmith - photos and newspaper cuttings 2005 - 2009; 4 books, printed, The New Pictorial Atlas of the World, c. 1945 , 'With the Flag to Pretoria' A history of the Boer War 1899 - 1900, Vols. 1 and II, by H.W. Wilson, Empire Youth Annual 1946; 2 large framed photographs of famous former pupils, photograph albums, other loose photographs. (ref: 6294C (acc D2017/76))
- **Kelland Collection:** Promotional election card, Exeter Municipal Election, St. Matthews Ward, 1900, with photographs of candidates R. M. Challice, Philip Kelland and Charles Baker, 1900; Exeter Cathedral service sheet, Thanksgiving Service, for the Relief of Mafeking, Boer War, 1900; 32 postcards, black and white and colour, of Exeter, other parts of Devon, Camelford, Cornwall and Zig Zag Road, Boxhill [Box Hill] Surrey, mainly 1904-1907. (ref: ZALB (acc D2017/83))
- **15th Exeter (Bishop Blackhall School) Guide Company:** Records of guide company, including 2 log books of camps, 1945-1946, with photographs, enclosed correspondence and papers, Guide Captain's diary of meetings, 1961. (ref: ZALC (acc D2017/84))
- **Thorverton Parish Council:** Meeting minutes and agendas and various documents, 1987-1996. (ref: 5747A (acc D2017/86))
- **South-Western Naturalists' Union,** comprising editorial proofs of articles written by Edwin John Beer, other papers relating to events, including correspondence with Edwin and Phoebe Beer, 1958-1959, description of career of Phoebe Beer, 1998, copy of "Devon Life" article on Edwin Beer, November 2014, book, "The Beginning of Rayon", by Edwin Beer, published by Phoebe Beer (1962). (ref: 7505G (acc D2017/87))
- **Carew of Haccombe:** Game book, Walter Palk Carew - an account of game killed at Haccombe, dating from two years before he left Eton. (ref: ZALE (acc D2017/88))
- Deeds relating to Devon, including Stoke Damerel, Plymouth and Devonport, 1832-1880 (1 bundle), Kenbury, Kennford, Modbury, Kingsteignton, Combeinteignhead and Stokeinteignhead, 1776-1916 (5 items), Market Street, Torquay, 1877-1981 (1 bundle), Bovey Tracey, 1703, Ilfracombe, 1891, sale catalogue, Challacombe Estate, part of Exmoor Estate, 1959, parish magazine, St Jude's Church, Plymouth , 1923 (1 item), probate, Arthur Holdsworthy of Dartmouth: property and Widecombe and Stokenham, 1787, parish magazine, Plymouth St Jude, 1923. (ref: ZALF (acc D2017/89))
- **William Sturges & Co., Solicitors:** Marriage settlements, Reginald Courtenay, Bishop of Kingston, nephew of Earl of Devon, 1842-1906, Mrs Evelyn Albina Dickinson nee Bronham and the Reverend George L. Dickinson of Broadclyst, 1891?-1952; other records relating to Devon, including marriage settlements, property deeds, probates of wills, map, lease, insurance policy, other papers, 17th-20th centuries. (ref: 5258B (acc D2017/91))

- **Cannon Cottage, Budleigh Salterton:** Deeds, comprising leases and mortgages, 1796-1823. (ref: ZALI (acc D2017/94))
- **Carden and Godfrey, Architects:** File of correspondence and drawings, Canters, Culm Davy, Hemyock, 1948. (ref: ZAKY (acc D2017/95))
- **South Devon Photographs:** Black and white photographs and negatives, coastal scenes at Torquay, Brixham, Paignton and Teignmouth Piers, Dart River estuary at Dartmouth, also Yealm, c1939-c1951 (ref: ZALJ (acc D2017/96))
- **Devon Remembers First World War Collection:** Posters relating to farming, fishing and food supply, 1914-1918 (ref: DRP/57 (acc D2017/97))
- Deeds relating to dwelling houses and premises at Dawlish belonging to Jacob Cooke, 1814-1855. (ref: ZALL (acc D2017/100))
- **Community of St. Wilfrid, Exeter:** Records of the order of Anglo-Catholic nuns, including novice registers, list of chaplains, journals, photographs, printed books, and personal collection of papers, books and photographs formerly belonging to Mother Lilian, the last member of the order and the last Mother Superior. (ref: ZALM (acc D2017/102))
- **Smithers Collection:** Material compiled by Jean and Alan Smithers, local historians of Germansweek, in the course of research on Germansweek parish and for an exhibition held in the village hall; also folders of material relating to other Devon parishes, e.g. Broadwoodwidge, Northlew. (ref: ZALN (acc D2017/103))
- **Uffculme Parish:** Parish magazines, bound and loose, with gaps, 1879-1889, January 1952, March 1956; conservation report, rood screen, by Hugh Harrison, 2006; CD-Rom containing images of rood screen as used in reports concerning repair and refurbishment, from Hugh Harrison and Elizabeth Cheadle, n.d. (c. 2006). (ref: 1920A (acc D2017/107))
- **British Rail:** Agreements with Great Western Railway Company, Southern Railway Company and British Transport Board. Consist of wayleave agreements regarding electricity cables, wires and gas pipes with Great Western Railway, Southern Railway, Railway Executive, British Transport Commission and British Railways and permits with the same organisations for game preserving, rabbit trapping, fishing and walking, 1877-1974. (ref: ZALP (acc D2017/109))
- **Dartmoor Landscape and Mining:** Photographs of Dartmoor, and other Devon sites, comprising black and white photographs of Meldon Quarry and Meldon Quarry Railway, including some taken by Southern Railways, 1946 and by British Railways (Southern Region) in 1962; black and white photographs of various numbered sites in Devon, pasted on to scrap paper sheets, showing geological formations by rivers and coast, Dartmoor tors, old quarries, former mine workings, disused mine processing plant, taken in 1981. (ref: ZALQ (acc D2017/110))

- **Pike Ward Collection:** Digital images in .jpg format of the contents of eight Icelandic (general) scrapbooks of photographs, illustrations and cuttings. Searchroom production set. (ref: PKW (acc D2017/114))
- **Devon Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs:** Meshaw Young Farmers' Club: minute book, 2007-2012; Records of the Federation, including South West Area Committee minute books, 1948-1984 (4 volumes), South West Area Committee and National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs correspondence, 1980-1990, National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs Area Constitution, February 1987, South West Area Staff Committee meeting/conference, 1984-1986, National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs Staff/Area Conference, South West Area Committee Attendance, 1981-1987, County Members meeting committee minutes, 2008-2015, National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs Annual Reports, 1951-2009 (incomplete), Annual General Meeting, 1948-1959 (incomplete), Yearbooks, 1971-2016 (incomplete), Annual Rally Schedules: results and attendance, 1948-1981 (incomplete), Devon Young Farmers' Clubs History, 1932-1982, 1932-2012, Devon Young Farmers' Clubs History, Aims and Objects, 47 One-act play books. (ref: 2696G (acc D2017/115))
- Share certificates and debentures, various companies, including Plymouth, Devonport, and Stonehouse Cemetery Company, Torquay New Golf Course Company Limited, Chagford and Devon Electric Light Company Limited, The Army and Navy Cooperative Society Limited, Exeter Cash Bakery Company Limited, etc. (ref: ZALX (acc D2017/119))
- **Holne Parish, 1940-2007:** Records including registers of services, accounts, Rural Dean's inspections, history and descriptions, photographs, original coloured watercolour of armorial bearings, copy of Charles Kingsley's baptism entry, list of duties of Sexton etc. (ref: 1249A (acc D2017/120))

Information supplied by Stuart Tyler, Archivist, SWHT

Edited by Ellie Jones

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Volunteer Work at the Devon Heritage Centre, Spring-Summer 2017

Among the records on which volunteers have worked over recent months have been two deposits of material which were purchased by the Friends of Devon's Archives. The first of these (Collection Reference ZAKV) is a collection of deeds and other papers relating to parishes in south Devon, including Diptford, Totnes and Ugborough, and includes some items relating to elections in the Borough of Totnes and Bridgetown in 1832, an example of which is a printed handbill of an address to electors by Lord John Russell. The second of these only comprises one document, which is a 1751 lease of property in Werrington, a parish which is now in Cornwall, but which was part of Devon until 1966 (Collection Reference ZALU).

Volunteers have also worked on most of the other accessions which have been deposited over recent months, notable examples of which include some architectural plans from Carden and Godfrey, a London firm of architects specialising in historic buildings (Collection Reference ZAKY), a large and varied collection of records relating to the St.Loye's School of Occupational

Therapy in Exeter (Collection Reference ZAKZ), and records of the Exeter branch of Amnesty International (Collection Reference ZAMO).

In addition to this, the more extensive projects which I last reported on in the autumn of 2016, have continued. These are the cataloguing of the Marriage Bonds and Allegations for the diocese of Exeter, and the listing of the Devon Quarter Sessions records for the period between 1734 and 1804. John Booker, the retired archivist who is working on this, has now reached the early 1760s, and a large number of records, relating to the myriad judicial and administrative responsibilities of the Quarter Sessions courts, now have discrete references and can be ordered in our searchroom, something which was not possible before this project began in 2012.

The Devon Remembers Heritage Project has also continued to benefit from the assistance of volunteers, and the project to digitize and catalogue the albums of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century Teignmouth fish merchant Pike Ward, has also continued to progress. This culminated in the opening, in late July, of an exhibition relating to Ward at the Teign Heritage Centre in Teignmouth, to which we were proud to welcome the Icelandic ambassador to the United Kingdom.

As you will have read elsewhere in this newsletter, the Conservation Studio is playing host to the Beaford Arts *Hidden Histories* project [see report by Emma Down], as well as a range of specialist volunteers. However, opportunities exist for additional volunteers to assist in various areas, including a new project to repackage medieval deeds from the Exeter Cathedral Archives, the Quarter Sessions project, *Hidden Histories*, and an ongoing condition survey of the Acland collection. If anyone is interested in assisting with any of these, please contact me in the first instance.

We are very grateful to all the volunteers who have contributed to our work so far in 2017, and we look forward to it continuing over the next six months.

As ever, details of most of the collections which volunteers have recently worked on can be found on our online catalogue:
<http://devon-cat.swheritage.org.uk/>

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

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Accessions at the North Devon Record Office, Barnstaple

A selected list:

- **Rolle Estate Sale:** maps of Chittlehampton, Warkleigh, Umberleigh, Huntshaw, Weare Giffard, Great Torrington, Frithelstock, Langtree, Petrockstow, Buckland Filleigh, Sheepwash, Marland, Little Torrington, Beaford, Merton, Yarnscombe, Swimbridge, Thornbury, Barnstaple and Bideford, 1958 (ref: B1290 (acc ND/2017/02)).
- Title deeds and associated documents for the Swan Inn on Holland Street, Barnstaple and 73 High Street, Barnstaple, 1771-1945 (ref: B1296 (acc ND/2017/11)).

- **Shebbear and Newton St Petrock Council Schools:** Shebbear and Newton St Petrock Council Schools Managers' minutes, 1903-1939; Shebbear Council School log book, 1919-1927; workman's diary, 1910. (ref: B1300 (acc ND/2017/20)).
- **Reed of Torrington:** Reed family business and personal accounts, cash books, sales books, receipts, wages books, day books, shipping papers, correspondence, insurance papers, journals, Brent/Reed family wills, rent books, Great Torrington and Shebbear tithe apportionments, miscellaneous title deeds, Staple Vale title deeds and maps, miscellaneous papers; published volumes with hand written annotations, school bills, school work books, sketch books, recipe books, poetry books; Coppard and Forster family papers including W J Coppard's journal of a visit to France and Belgium after the Battle of Waterloo (1815); Turner family papers, two small boxed seals, 1760-1982. (ref: 3579B (acc ND/2017/25))
- **Barnstaple Project Plans:** Plan of new roads and new downstream bridge at Barnstaple, 1999; location plans re Anchorwood Bank and Seven Bretheren at Barnstaple, 2000. (ref: B1305 (acc ND/2017/29))
- **Lundy St Helens:** Marriage register, 1916-1997. (ref: B1307 (acc ND/2017/31))
- Election and EU referendum flyers, 2017. (ref: B783 (acc ND/2017/36))
- **Great Torrington Town Lands and Poor Charity:** Town Lands and Poor Charity wills, 1547-1672; Charity Commissioner's Report, 1905. (ref: B1310 (acc ND/2017/38))
- **North Devon Football:** Matchday programmes, 2009-2017. (ref: B1021 (acc ND/2017/40))
- **Great Western Railway Company:** Agreements with Great Western Railway Company relating to North Devon Parishes. (ref: B1319 (acc ND/2017/52))
- **Alwington Parish:** Alwington Parish Church Book 1797-1826; Poor Book 1804-1826; Poor Book 1829-1836; Land Tax Rate Book 1811-1825; Highway Book 1820-1836; Church Rate and Accounts Book 1824-1863; Church Rate Book 1864-1888; Vestry Book 1828-1856; Vestry Book 1871-1881; Parochial Church Council Minute Book 1920-1928. (ref: 266A (acc ND/2017/56))
- **Barnstaple Amateur Operatic Society:** Collection of souvenir programmes for productions by the Barnstaple Amateur Operatic Society and the Barnstaple Musical Comedy and Dramatic Society at the Queen's Hall, 1963-1980. (ref: B1323 (acc ND/2017/58))

Information supplied by Stuart Tyler, Archivist, SWHT

Edited by Ellie Jones

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The Beaford Arts' Hidden Histories Project

Beaford Arts is England's longest running rural arts initiative and also home to a photographic archive of over 80,000 negatives of North Devon, taken by James Ravilious between 1972 and 1989. The Royal Photographic Society has described the collection as 'a unique body of work, unparalleled at least in this country for its scale and quality'.

The Archive and its origins

The archive's beginning dates back to 1971 when Roger Deakins, now a famous cinematographer, was commissioned by Beaford Arts to take photographs of north Devon. Deakins was followed in 1972 by James Ravilious. For the next seventeen years James documented the people and places of north Devon to 'show north Devon people to themselves'. He photographed all aspects of local life and the traditions which were part of it, including local fairs and carnivals, farming practice, industry, individuals, schooling, landscape change and scenes of everyday life. Working by available light only and composing at speed with a Leica camera, auxiliary viewfinder and pre-war uncoated lenses, James created an 'endless tapestry' of the rural community in which he lived.

The Project

In 2016 Beaford Arts launched the project 'Hidden Histories'. The three year long programme, supported by the Heritage lottery Fund, will conserve, catalogue and make available online around 10,000 unseen images from the archive. An oral history strand also forms part of the project, which will record the memories of local people, some of whom were photographed by James and appear in the archive. The project is well under way - digitisation of the negatives began in November 2016 and cataloguing commenced this spring. Throughout the summer term local schools have been getting involved through 'community trails' which follow the footsteps of James around their local town or village, visiting the sites which he photographed. In the Autumn our new website will launch with the first tranche of digitised images, accompanied by a fully searchable catalogue. This will be updated throughout the project as more images are digitised and catalogued.

Get involved

'Hidden Histories' aims to inspire communities, schools and visitors to re-connect with the past, present and future of their surroundings, and we are always keen for people to get involved.

Look out for our upcoming 'New Perspectives' events which showcase some of the images you can find in the archive. Our next events are at South Molton Guildhall on 2nd September from 11am-2pm and at 'The Plough' in Torrington on 17th September from 2-5pm.

We also have some opportunities for volunteers to help create the catalogue to accompany the digitised images. If you're interested or want to find out more then please email us as at archive@beaford-arts.org.uk. Alternatively you can visit our website www.beaford-arts.org.uk/archive or find us on Facebook to find out about our upcoming events.

Emma Down, Project Cataloguer, Hidden Histories
Devon Heritage Centre

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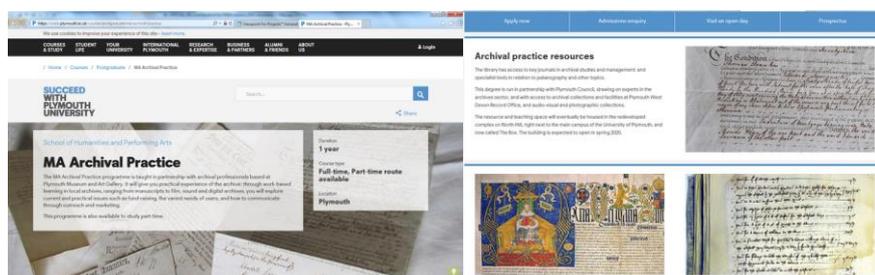
News from Plymouth and West Devon Record Office
A New Course for a New Institution

As you will no doubt be aware, the Plymouth and West Devon Record Office is on a very exciting journey towards becoming a key partner in the future 'Box, Plymouth' project, previously known as the Plymouth History Centre. By 2020 all the collections at PWDRO will transfer to the new building which is a development of the existing Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery and Plymouth Central Library buildings. Since the last newsletter, the name of the building has been launched too which has attracted a lot of media attention. We are very proud of the name that reflects not only the new architecture but of course the fantastic collections. Across the partnership there are over 100,000 boxes which will come together under one roof. If you want to find out more about what's going to be 'in The Box' there is more on the Plymouth Arts and Heritage website at <https://plymhearts.org/thebox/>.

There are a myriad of projects underway to make The Box a reality and one of those is something which PWDRO has been closely involved with; a joint MA programme with the University of Plymouth. The new 'MA in Archival Practice' is an exciting new course which will have its first intake in September 2018. The course is available as full time over one year, or part time over two years. The course will comprise six modules, of which five are core modules: The Management of Archives; Audiences and Users in Archives; Placement; Business of Archives; Dissertation. There are also three optional modules on Palaeography, Sound and Vision and Display and Interpretation. The Business of Archives can be taken separately as either a credit-rated and non-credit rated module, by professionals or para-professionals wishing to enhance their competencies in archives and records. We are conscious that the Archives and Records Association are changing their continuing professional development programme this year (to be launched at the 2017 conference) and we have deliberately developed the new MA to reflect these changes.

We expect applicants to have undertaken a three-month paid or voluntary period of employment in an archive or records service, or have experience in a post where archive or record management is a substantial responsibility, prior to starting the programme. We are very happy to help with finding a suitable pre-programme placement and prospective candidates can request more information about the latter via Rebecca.Wickes@plymouth.gov.uk or Anne.Morgan@plymouth.gov.uk.

More information can be found on the University of Plymouth website here: <https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/ma-archival-practice>.



Louisa Blight
Collections Manager, Plymouth

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Accessions at Plymouth & West Devon Record Office

The following is a 'selected highlights' of archival items:

- **Plymouth Freemasons, Lodge of Sincerity, Holy Royal, No 189 [formerly 224],** 1847-2014: Including minutes, declaration books, attendances, returns book, accounts etc. (ref: 4126)
- **Fox and Goodbody Family Papers,** 1785-2009: Fox family papers include: epistle from French Quakers to a member of the Fox family, 1785; notes on Fox family history by E B Fox, 1920s-1930s; letters (including letters from the front during WWI) and postcard, 1896-1941; Western College Preparatory School, notice of hours and fees, circa 1933; specification, accounts and rating assessment of 'Gorvena', 12A Lockington Avenue, Plymouth, 1938-1939; notebook kept by E B Fox, Plymouth ARP [Air Raid Precaution] firewatching duties and guidance, early 1940s; sale particulars of Battsborough House and South Battsborough Farm, Holbeton, 1933; statement for E Bonville Fox, Fox Roy and Company Limited, 1941; diaries kept by E B Fox, 1910-circa 1918; loose photographs, circa 1887-circa 1930; album containing photographs, watercolour drawings, postcards and ephemera of and assembled by E B Fox of the Haxby Road Military Hospital, York, also images of York Minster and other buildings in York, 1915-1916; printed publication 'Two Quaker Ladies - A Family Story' by Pamela Richardson, 2009, relates to Gulielma Maria (Richardson) Fox and Ethel Gladys (Fox) Richardson. Goodbody family papers include: pencil sketch possibly of Charles Arthur Goodbody, 1886; postcards and photographs relating to Goodbody's Cafe, Plymouth and Torquay, 1900s-circa 1930; letters, many with cartoon drawings, 1886-1918; loose photographs, 1890s-1927; press cutting on the death of C A Goodbody, also giving a potted history of the company, 1938; autograph album belonging to Doris Goodbody, mainly comments, verse and artistic drawings by her friends at Plymouth High School for Girls, 1908-circa 1912; photograph albums, including family holidays, late 19th century-1919; scrapbooks/journal kept by Doris Goodbody, 1914-1915. (ref: 4127).
- **Plymouth, Derriford 'E' Townswomen's Guild,** 1967-2015: Minutes (all meetings for guild and committees), 1967-2005, 2012-2015, with gaps. (ref: 4130).
- **Devon Mines, Photographs,** Late 20th-early 21st century: Album of colour photographs of mine structures and buildings in Devon, with some loose photographs. (ref: 4131).
- **Plymouth, Millbay Docks Plan and Official Secrets Act Poster,** Mar 1841; c1950: Colour plan of Millbay Docks, Plymouth, by James M Rendel, Civil Engineer, with additions for the proposed line of wharves, March 1841; Official Secrets Act Poster, c1950. (ref: 4134).
- **Plymouth and District Disabled Fellowship Club,** 1950-1968: Printed magazines. (ref: 1886).
- **Margaret Brooks Papers,** 1946-1964: File of notes, example of teacher training work and printed information from the Royal Society of Arts in relation to Margaret Brooks' training as a teacher in typewriting, 1963; letters relating to the application and employment of Margaret Rook as a junior clerk with the City of Plymouth [council], includes references from Plymouth High School for Girls, 1952; Plymouth High School for girls, Speech Day programmes, 1947-1953, Secondary Schools Entrance Examination, forms and information, 1946, 'O' level examinations, timetable and exam papers (English Language, English Literature, Geography, Biology, British History), 1952, and Margaret Rook, school reports, 1946-1952; Hoe Theatre, Plymouth, programme for 'Cinderella', 1964. (ref: 4137).

- **Devon Area Meeting, Religious Society of Friends [Quakers]**, 1820-2013: Devon and Cornwall Quarterly Meeting: lists of members, 1916-1961 (with gaps), later General Meeting, 1971, photographs taken at Launceston 1991 (no names given). Tabular statements (statistical returns): Devon and Cornwall Quarterly Meeting and Monthly Meetings, 1922-1943, 1948-1964; Devon and Cornwall and West Devon only, 1965-1967, 1970-1979; West Devon only, 1944-1947, 1968-1969, 1980-1987.
- **Plymouth Citybus, formerly Tramways**, 1896-early 21st century: Files of correspondence, statistics, reports, committee and sub-committee minutes, financial and other papers, 20th century. (ref: 4141).
- **Mayflower Commemoration and Tamar Secondary School for Boys**, 1962-1970: Colour brochure to commemorate the sailing of the Mayflower with the Pilgrim Fathers from Plymouth in 1620, 1970; black and white photograph of the boys and teachers, Tamar Secondary School for Boys, March 1962. (ref: 4142).
- **Plymouth, Millbay, Great Western Docks, Plans**, 1882-1989: Plans of docks, warehouses, pier, wharfs, passenger and ferry terminals and other building structures. [This collection has not been catalogued and is therefore closed public access unless there are exceptional circumstances]. (ref: 4148).

Information supplied by Alan Barclay, P&WDRO

Edited by Ellie Jones

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Brixham Heritage Museum

At Brixham we take our 'heritage' role very much to heart. Among the documents the Museum holds, and not available in the National Archives, are records of the British Seamen's Boys Home which was situated here for many years and began life as the 'Seamen's Orphans Home'; also the committee minutes of our annual 'Royal Regatta'; details of fish sales in the market and the minutes of the Harbour Commission in 1882 when we were the largest fishing port in England. There is a record of all sailing trawlers built here and huge, fragile complete volumes of the Brixham Western Guardian together with various local diaries and memoirs.

But, we do not see ourselves as simply repository for archive material; our team is engaged in active research. Currently a Lottery Grant is enabling us to carry out detailed work on the First World War, when a third of the town's entire population volunteered for service – mostly in the navy of course. This, in turn, has led to a number of publications by the Museum, among them illustrated extracts from the diary of Frederick Lake a naval radio operator: the illustrations include his own drawings. whilst our 'Writer in Residence', Samantha Little, who is also our new chair, has written three short books on the 'Great War', all mainly based on primary sources. 'Through Cloud and Sunshine' covers the impact of the war on the town; more recently 'Battling Onwards' is specifically about the fishing fleet during the war and their confrontations with enemy submarines, whilst 'Writing Home to Brixham' is the first of two volumes, directly associated with the Lottery Grant, and made up of often newly discovered letters home from service men and women. The second volume should come out later this year.

Another recent Museum publication is 'Voyaging over Life's Sea': a revised history of the Seamen's Boys Home by Chris Potts. His earlier book 'The Brixham Branch' tells the story of our train service, closed by Doctor Beeching in 1963 whilst Samantha Little's previous publications are a

Second World War book: 'Keep Smiling Through', and her '**Medicinal Purposes – Public Health and Primary Care in Brixham since 1890**', all soundly founded on contemporary documents. I cannot claim the same for my own just completed 'Brixham: Its History and Its Place in History'. It is essentially just a basic summary, though I have used some previously unpublished material.

Meanwhile our volunteer archaeologists have been hard at work on projects as diverse as Neolithic remains at Ash Hole Cavern and a Victorian Temperance Teacup they unearthed in the rubble of a house on Berry Head, and which would seem to be unique. And finally the experts of our family research unit are busy digging out applicants' backgrounds. I was amused to find that my maternal great-grandfather appears in a nineteenth century census as a 'rag-picker': so much for dreams of former greatness!

John Scotney
Vice-Chair, Brixham Heritage Museum

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Exeter Cathedral Library and Archives

It is always with a mixture of delight and caution that I receive the news that my colleagues at the cathedral are about to move offices again. This usually means another forgotten cupboard gets cleaned out. Fortunately, my colleagues are very good at letting me know about the moves; my advice to them is always ask me, no matter how uninteresting a document might appear. Correspondence about car parking in the 1970s – yes please! Recently all this has yielded some interesting goodies: VHS tapes of events at the cathedral, cassette tapes of guided tours for the visually impaired and a play from 1992, some general correspondence, some copies of leases etc. The highlight is an as yet unidentified photograph of a gathering of people outside the west front of the cathedral at the turn of the 20th century. There are plenty of clues in the picture, but so far the event remains unconfirmed. If anyone has any suggestions, please let us know.



This year we have also been hearing more from former choristers and their family members records. We are actively seeking more chorister records, and contacts from people who might like to join an oral history project relating to choristers, so if you or anyone you know was a chorister at Exeter Cathedral, please let us know.

Ellie Jones, Cathedral Archivist

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Tiverton Museum of Mid Devon Life

Some recent notable acquisitions so far this year include:

- Vote for Troyte election poster from 1929 (2017.2).
- Articles of apprenticeship at the Heathcoat factory, 1965 (2017.14).
- Programmes from rugby matches in Tiverton 1940s and 1950s (2017.18).
- Collection of photographs of Tiverton in the 1930s and 1940s (2017.37).
- Collection of papers from Tiverton branch of British Royal Legion Women's branch (2017.53).
- Articles of the Union Society of Tiverton for relieving each other in sickness and burying their dead, established 1716, printed 1855 (2017.67).
- Tiverton Year Book, 1916, 1924, 1925, 1933) (2017.68).
- Scrapbooks from Tiverton Townswomen's Guild 1961-2006 (2017.80).

The museum's Research Library is open Monday afternoons and all day on Wednesdays with a range of unique resources for undertaking research (booking is advisable).

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

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Totnes Archives

News from Totnes. We are very busy collecting documents photographs and artefacts for an Exhibition next year commemorating the end of WW1. It will be demonstrating the contribution made by the VAD hospitals and the Women's War work in Totnes. There is now a permanent photographic exhibition of Totnes supplied by the Totnes Image bank in the Museum. We have recently acquired some very dirty and possibly verminous ledgers, found on a building site. These have been transferred to the Devon Heritage Centre and quarantined. They were Pearl assurance ledgers from the early 1900's and once they are cleaned should be quite interesting. We have also acquired a bundle of letters dated 1808 -1817, the correspondence between the Windeatt and Amery families. Thirty five deeds and plans of Lakemead, a house in Maudlin Road Totnes, kindly loaned for photocopying by the owners. We now have the will of Stephen Boon and also Richard Harris Watson in the Archives. A Survey of the boundary stones around Totnes has been carried out by Sue and Walter King and a short film made of the findings. We have been busy with Family History work and have found some very confusing and complicated relationships which needed untangling. All in all we keep busy!

Jill Drysdale and Sue King, Totnes Archives

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University of Exeter Library Heritage Collections

We are busy cataloguing on our two major projects: Ronald Duncan Archive and Syon Abbey archive (more on that follows).

We are reviving our website and hope to launch this in the early autumn. The new site should be clearer and easier to negotiate. In addition we will be launching a new digital gallery and an updated catalogue in the near future.

Christine Fauch, Head of Heritage Collections,
University of Exeter

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Annie Price Introduces the Syon Abbey Archive at the University of Exeter



Annie Price started work as the project archivist for the Syon Abbey Archive in November 2016.

Syon Abbey was a monastic house of the Order of our Most Holy Saviour (also known as the Bridgettines), and the only English community to have existed without interruption since before the Reformation. The house was founded directly from the Mother House in Vadstena in Sweden in 1415, and the community followed the Rule of St Bridget of Sweden. This enclosed Bridgettine community – comprising both monks and nuns and governed by an abbess – was renowned for its dedication to reading, meditation and contemplation. In the course of Syon Abbey's almost 600-year history, the community faced great upheaval and demonstrated remarkable strength. In the wake of Henry VIII's Dissolution of the Monasteries, the community split into smaller groups and continued their religious practice, with some remaining in England whilst others sought refuge abroad. Although Syon Abbey was restored in England under the Catholic rule of Mary I, following the accession of Elizabeth I and the return to Protestantism, the community went into exile. The community then spent over half a century wandering through the Netherlands and France, experiencing, at times, extreme poverty and hunger, and along the way encountering rioters, war, and even pirates. The community eventually found a new home in Lisbon, Portugal in 1594 and remained there until 1861, at which time the sisters (the last brother of Syon Abbey having died in 1695) were able to return to England, initially residing in Spetisbury, Dorset. Following a further relocation in 1887 to Chudleigh, Devon, the community finally settled in South Brent, Devon in 1925. 86 years later, in 2011, on account of the decline in numbers and age of the remaining community, the decision was made to close Syon Abbey.



Photograph of the community in 1961. From 'The Poor Souls' Friend' 1960-1, p. 178.

Of course, the archive – deposited for safekeeping with the University's Special Collections in 2011 – has many more fascinating stories to tell from Syon Abbey's extraordinary history than have been briefly summarised above. It currently spans around 114 boxes and comprises material from the 16th to the early 21st century, although the majority of records date from the 19th and 20th century. The archive is large and complex, containing a range of different records relating to daily life; worship; religious rule; the management of land, property and finances; relations with other religious communities; and much, much more. Once catalogued, the archive has the potential to be a rich and powerful resource, particularly for anyone interested in the history of women religious, ecclesiastical history, and women's studies.

When I arrived, my first priority was to look at different material from the Syon Abbey archive and to learn as much as possible about the community and its history. This understanding then enabled me to draft out a hierarchical structure for the archive that reflects the main functions and activities of the community and provides context for how the records were originally used. Although an original order can be identified in several of the boxes in the archive – for example, some related papers have been kept together in chronological order – in other boxes the records are a little more jumbled up. Consequently, the arrangement of the archive that has existed up to now has meant that it would be difficult for both users (you!) and the archivist (me!) to find the information we are looking for within the archive and to understand how one record relates to another. My job as archivist on this project, therefore, is to arrange and describe the archive in a way that will make the records easier for you to search, find, understand and use.

Over the next year I will be re-boxing, cataloguing and promoting the archive, with an aim to make it more discoverable and accessible, and to encourage its use in teaching, learning, research and innovation. By the end of March 2018, the archive should be catalogued to at least file level, and be searchable using the online catalogue. I hope you will join me on this exciting journey as I share my progress, as well as highlights from the archive, with you via this blog and on Twitter @UoEHeritageColl.

From an original blog post from June 2017:

<http://specialcollections.exeter.ac.uk/2017/06/05/introducing-the-syon-abbey-archive/>

Annie Price, Archivist, Syon Abbey archive

Dates for your diary

For Devon History Society events, click on the link for further information and details about how to book.

Monday, 25 September 2017, 19:00 – 21:00

Devon History Soc. Lecture at Devon Rural Archive, Shilstone, Modbury, PL21 0TW

Ghee Bowman – Crossing the Imperial Colour Bar: Muslim Indian Soldiers in Devon in World War II

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Saturday, 30 September 2017, 10:30am–3:45pm

The 2017 FODA AGM and Autumn Conference in Barnstaple

The 2017 Friends of Devon's Archives Autumn meeting will take place in Barnstaple, on Saturday 30th September. It will begin with coffee at the North Devon Record Office at 10:30 am, and after the AGM, it will involve two tours, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. The morning one is an introduction to the new layout of the North Devon Record Office and its resources, including a view behind the scenes and an introduction to the North Devon Athenaeum in the same building. After lunch, attendees will be treated to a tour of Barnstaple and some of its most historic buildings by Devon archaeologist and historic buildings expert, John Allan, FSA. The afternoon tour will aim to arrive at its last destination, the museum, at 3:45pm.

The cost for the day will be £5 members of FoDA and our partner organisation, the Devon History Society, and £10 for non-members. The cost has been kept to a minimum in order to encourage as many people as possible to come. Please do! You won't get a better guided tour of the historic town from anyone.

Bookings should be made by contacting the Secretary of FoDA, Mr Stuart Tyler, at Devon Heritage Centre, Great Moor House, Bittern Road, Sowton, Exeter, Devon EX2 7NL. Tel. 01392 888710 (or the Devon Heritage Centre main line 01392 888700). Payment can be by cheque payable to the Friends of Devon's Archives, or payment can be provided on the day (so long as prior booking has been made). Deadline for bookings is Monday 25 September. Email: stuart.tyler@swheritage.org.uk